

Thursday, June 21

Dearest Alared,

This evening I'm in the mood for letter writing and have about four letters more to write after this one. You're first on my list and I don't intend to hurry one bit. In fact, I dream between sentences, moon a bit about you and keep looking at those wonderful snapshots I've secured to-day. You'll turn out to be a professional photographer one of these fine days - not bad as a hobby.

To-day was one of the happiest days here so far only due to your four letters which arrived. They were dated June 6th, 9th, 11th and 12th and 13th and 13 snaps were enclosed. I also had a letter from Bob who is having gravel trouble again. Hope I'm not spilling the beans but to quote Bob - "a good case of gravel could prove to be of much benefit; a stone, might bring untold happiness." There's to the letter - not that I wish him any ill health but a stone may keep him away from the Japs and warfare.

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Nell Bob is worrying about your health
and he's in the hospital for observation.
Cock-eyed, isn't it? Never for a moment
have I doubted the condition of your health.
After all, I know I got the best end
the healthiest of the Shoffs. Better knock
wood so you'll stay that way. I just did.
Your sister-in-law Frances has a case of hay
fever and that's nasty too. They sure haven't
had any dull moments with all the worry
and illnesses thrown in for the past few
years. I guess I'm lucky just to have had
a few miscarriages.

It's really been swell since we're here
and if my mom and Eleanor come back soon
it won't be too lonesome evenings. The daps
are quite full and as long as I'm near
town I'm happy just to shop and go for
the daily newspaper. And don't forget
that ice-cream comes for Jimmie and
me. If you could only see your son's
face when he's about half done with
his cone. I'll make sure to take a snap
of him that way.

The hammock hasn't arrived yet but

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we're anxiously awaiting it. Eleanor and I will
continue some kind of thing for Jim and hang it
from one of the trees. We all expect to have a
good time to-gether here and I mean it.
About the expenses, I don't recall whether or
not I mentioned them. Mom and I are split-
ting on everything - rent, gas, electric, ice
for the icebox and even the newspapers. After
all we have to follow the stock market. The
rent is \$60 a month (\$30 ⁰⁰ for me) and the
house is being installed on my name. Being that
I'm a soldier's wife, I get priority points.
Mom and I are also sharing our guests expenses
and I do hope Mom and Pop come here for
at least a 10 day vacation besides a few
week-ends. Get to work on them and I also
wrote Bob to do likewise. Thanks, sweet heart.

Merling, if you were Private George Staff, I
couldn't stop loving you or worshipping your person.
Don't I know how many jerks are officers and
C. O.'s? Haven't I met some of them and not
one can hold a candle up to you! Are you still
friendly with Van and St. Keller? How
come Oscar is now a Captain. I see ratings
and grades increase - you just stay a Corporal
and come home Mr. George Staff. Jim and

I am proud of you ⁴ without your uniform.

Thanks again for all the packages and I feel funny not sending any parcels to you since May 29th. Let me know if you desire anything. There's plenty of stuff in this town.

This evening we had another storm with sound effects and lightning and Jim kept telling me that the "sheffie's naughty." We've had rain almost daily, just for a short spell so I gather its mountain weather. After to-nights' storm the sun appeared, the sky was brilliantly colored and the sunset was magnificent. Hope to-morrow is sans rain.

While in town to-day, I purchased a new strap for your watch which I'm using at present. Jim annoyed some customers in the shop by pulling their umbrellas, slapping their back sides and running in and out of the shop. Yesterday he threw some stones at a jewelry shop window - it isn't funny and the usual slap dumb when I reprimand him. Naturally, I'm getting a dog chain for him so he'll not be able to get from me at any time. Most of the time he's a honey but out of the house he's so devilish especially when I'm talking to someone or shopping. It isn't really too bad, Bladdy, it's all part

of his growing up. Jim and I are eating well, plenty
of farm fresh eggs, butter, cream and milk. We'll
put on those pounds, don't worry, and you'll not
wear anything off me. I'm fast of you, you can
take it and I can take what you take and more.

Don't you go worrying about it any more for
extra souvenirs - you know very well what happens.
That incident about the gift was terrible and
there'll be more like them in the future - people will
not learn. Be careful, darling, please.

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Went to get more Stationery in Town and meanwhile
I'm using every scrap. (Paper shortage). I'm writing
to Baby, Shiloh, Hilda and Betty soon so
I'll write again to-morrow.

I love you! You are the best sweet heart
a girl can wish for and am I lucky and Jim
says we're all lucky. To say we ^{don't} miss you
and not want you every moment would be
telling a big fib. Very soon we'll be having
fun to-gether, darling and all this will be
in the past. All our love and devotion to you as
always. hugs and kisses from Jim. as always,

Wm. George Skoff
41 Sandfield Ave
Monticello, N.Y.



VIA AIR MAIL

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