

Saturday 2-19-44

Florence, Southport:

It has been my opinion in recent years before I was married, and convinced since then, that a man has to offer something to a woman other than his body or material means. In a similar vein the woman also has to be able to reciprocate in like. It is not always possible to have theory coincide with practice, but most fortunately, you and I were able to fulfill such exacting requirements. We have been deeply in love always, faithful, and proud of each other. You have in addition brought with you courage, an enchanting smile, all the virtues, and a sense of humor. No wonder I have such a wonderful girl. I, on the other, didn't have much to offer, but a multitude of faithful friends and a rugged past. Somehow all of it has blended well, and we have been happy and contented for so many years. Now that we are separated it seems that the combination of your own qualities and my friends are helping to carry you thru. As I sit and write this I marvel at my own good fortune to have found you among so many women in this world; but dearest, I love you so dearly, and hope destiny will soon enable us to be together soon.

Your lovely letter of Wednesday arrived to-day, and it sure was a joy to read, especially so since I had not received one since Thursday, but all is serene again. Also received the pieces of my Times, but as I wrote you the other day, please stop this practice as I now obtain the paper at the library only two days later. Also received a letter from Ralph Winberg, but I know you are familiar with the stories he wrote me. No other mail to-day, and I'm not sorry, as I now have 8 or 10 letters to answer. I have decided to take half a day off Sunday and am going to town for dinner, with naphies. Will write you from my favorite A.B.O. to-morrow.

Had an exam to-day and made only a 92, you know T and - false exams, and I always pick the wrong side - but I'm satisfied. Two more weeks to go, and then

I expect to go to the rifle range in early part of March. after that I am supposed to be then with basic training, see what I mean. Following the completion of basic training the whole battalion is slated for technical training about 13-15 weeks at some camp or railroad center. This, you must understand, can take place anywhere in the U.S. but if I am fortunate perhaps they may send us to a place closer to home. The usual letime rumors have started, but I pay no attention to them, but keep right on hoping - but hard.

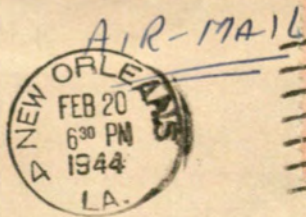
It is encouraging to learn that Jim speaks a bit, and I think if you concentrate on him you will see improvement, so give him a work-out daily. I am awfully happy you have been able to keep him so healthy and away from those children diseases, such as Ralph's kids had. Of course, we must expect our share of trouble, but the longer it is put off, the better we like it.

I wrote Perius and I hope you have been in touch with him. I understand he is quite ill with kidney trouble, as is Bill Fowler with bleeding ulcers. So, even though I'm in the army, and away from home so long, yet we must be thankful that we are all healthy as anything. Give my best to your Knifack, and all the neighbors and my folks. Kiss Jim for me, and I'll kiss you in mind, with love and admiration in my heart

as ever,

W.

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