

17 May 1945.

Dearest, darling:

I longingly wait for the day when I can write you the happy intelligence that my army career is about to come to an end. However until that time does come, I will devote my better writing efforts to telling you how much I love, adore and miss you. The hour or so, that I spend each evening in our own little world, forming my thoughts, my dreams, my adoration of the sweetest sweetheart a fellow ever had, gives me the courage and patience to carry on. Being separated from you for so long has been most trying, and with the immediate future still too uncertain to permit discussing post-war plans; but I draw hope from your reservoir. Between that and my dear love for you, to say nothing of that screwy sense of humor I possess, I've managed to go this far. Now once again I am sweating out the future. Not so much that I fear it, but because I'm so impatiently anxious to be home with you and Jim. Tempus fugit, and I'm not getting any younger. There's work to be done, of a constructive nature, and we must apply ourselves. And yet, there's no purpose in discussing the mystery of the immediate future so let's continue to find strength and hope in our mutual love.

Mailcall 40-day presented me with your elegant letters of May 5th and 6th, a letter from Uncle Harry dated May 9th, and one from Jack Weber dated April 29th. Jack writes that he intends to apply for an "over 42" discharge as soon as applications are available. He's about 44 or 45, and I guess he's had his fill of this mess. Mary wrote that when she heard that Victory was ours she "cried this time for joy." I interpret this part of her statement to mean that she has never cried during this war before. Perhaps still strong display of lack of emotional accounts for Joe's hesitancy to write for several years.

Your letters sounded so enthusiastic, and even tho you are a bit cynical about politicians and their ilk, yet I suggest you write early and often to Congressmen, Senators, and newspapermen about letting the older married men with children out of the army. McArthur has publicly stated he does not want men over thirty-one in the Pacific theatre. Letter writing by you and your friends may help, and there's no harm done, so let me know what you do about this. Incidentally I have all of your letters here, do you want me to return or shall I do as I please with them. Please advise.

It was good to learn that Sheila and Maurice enjoyed themselves, and I do hope she maintains her equilibrium in the future. With her husband so close at hand, perhaps her sex

My dear Mr. Garrison,  
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am  
glad to hear that you are still so active in the cause of  
the oppressed. I am sure that your efforts will be  
successful in the end. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Glauk will help to content her emotional revolution. It pleases me to learn that she is so proud of my letter, but you know that I did not like the circumstances for which it was necessary to write such a letter, and I do hope she does not find time to reply. I feel that perhaps we can continue to be cordial without becoming intimate. In addition to that I have too many correspondents these days, and choose not to add to the list. Please, darling, do not misinterpret my meaning, but it is difficult to be writing the identical facts to so many people. When I return home I'll talk myself silly, but that's not more fun than writing for hours at a time, repeating myself letter after letter.

In a previous letter I suggested that you discontinue sending me any packages except for a request I made. I do appreciate all those wonderful bundles you sent but with summer here it changes matters. Candy get softer melt, I don't need any feedstuffs, and now even have beaucoup films. As soon as I consume all the 116 film I have and will receive I'll return the camera to you. I have a 120 camera and 10 rolls of film, so this should prove sufficient for many months. Still no developing but I'm working on that little detail now. So don't send any more films until I request some - likewise with packages. If you can forward bundles of clothes and candy (chocolate) to Frank I'll be very appreciative. Advise what post-office says. It was my good fortune to have your last two packages delivered by a post who went to Malines. Yesterday's sweaters were mailed to-day, so I have managed to deliver everything you sent, except the lentils.

Now for some more good news for my only girl of girl. The same fellow who delivered the package to Frank also obtained a 2 ounce bottle of Churchill's Royal for you. He could not get two-one ounce bottles as I had requested, but I guess you'll not mind the larger bottle. Am having another fellow who is passing thru Brussels trying to get another small bottle for you. Am waiting to learn what you receive from Joe, and many write that as soon as the package arrives she'll have it delivered to you. If there's anything else you want I'll try to get it for you. I hope to send the perfume to you to-morrow first class mail, so perhaps you'll get it real soon. Also enclosed in the package are two German medals, a letter opener, and a Nazi flag, plus a pamphlet and clipping showing the bridge over the Rhine. I crossed this bridge, and took several pictures of the original German bridge, which you can see wrecked. Save all this junk for me, after I return we'll give some of the souvenirs and trophies away.



Max knows must be temporarily relieved from the worry of Richard's whereabouts and fate. I'm tickled that the lad came thru the fighting in good shape, and sure hope he misses the Pacific show for a long time. I hope you kept a copy of a paper issued on VE Day. I can well imagine how happy you and the folks are now that the Nazis have been ground into the dust; and if you saw the dust and rubble in these towns of former republics you'd know I meant that literally. Of course I don't know what will happen to me but I feel optimistic to a mild degree, so let's keep our fingers crossed, and you do some high class letter writing. The incident about the found wallet was interesting, and I'd like to know how it all turns out. Bob's mail has been infrequent the past 5 or 6 days, but I suppose he has little time to himself. I have not written him since the 13th as I expect he will be transferred from there.

Jim sounds as though he was coming along just fine, and you can hardly realize how pleased I am to learn that he is a saloon and joy to you. By the end of the summer he'll be three years old, and though I may not be there to help both of you celebrate his natal there, he assured daddy is always with him. It's sometimes difficult to envision him growing so rapidly but the snapshots prove it every time. I do hope so much to be with my two darlings soon, but until I am I must continue to restrain my desires. It won't be long, honey, so keep smiling, be of good cheer, and be thankful for our continued good fortune up to this point.

I feel fine and dandy, getting plenty of meat, butter and chicken, but gosh how I miss some good old-fashioned home cooking, or a salad, or even a glass of cold milk and some chocolate cake. Believe you me, dearest, never again will I take everything for granted. We had quite a thunder shower to-night, but we were snug in our fine Beeman house when it came. Finished your quilts to-night, but have plenty of inferior contrab to work on when the desire arises.

Stay well, kiss Jim and the folks for me, give my best to everyone, and I'll kiss you in mind with all my love and adoration,

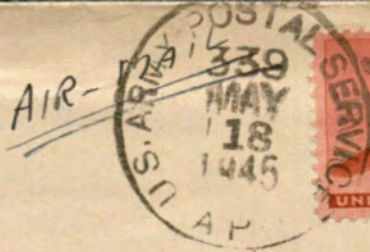
as ever.

George.

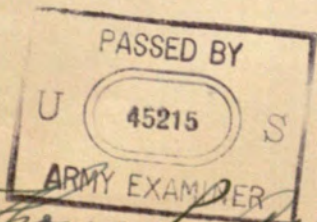
The first of these is the fact that the  
 paper is of a different color than the  
 rest of the book. It is a light brown  
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 is able to withstand a great deal of  
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