

May 10 1943

Most darling Person:

In the early part of a tranquil May evening, I sit at my desk in my room - window open by my side with a cool breeze blowing in. In the corner sits my blue suitcase – against the wall, my [illegible] – Have just eaten some chocolate candy that Anita Barta gave me; have also just taken a shower and washed my hair – so 'tis with pleasure that I commence to write this delayed letter – and resolved that I shall go back to my old bi-weekly letter writing as I think it is as good for me as for you – Since I always feel more myself when writing you than at any other time.

As per usual I shall recount to you my loss of sleep – Friday night was dance night and I did not go to bed at all – changed clothes and went to work; Saturday night I took the troops into Reno; a truck broke down on the way back with part of them and it was 6am when I got to bed; slept until 1030am – Then went back to Reno to surprise and return home the remainder of the troops - Had to wait for our bus to go from Reno to Herlong then back to Reno & then return home – 'twas 5am when I got in bed Monday morning (this morning) Got up at 6am and worked all day in the Magazine area – I believe it is the longest I've ever been without sleep and strangely I don't feel very tired

I felt badly on not sending you anything for Mother's Day; and over not mentioning you sending the pajamas & cake – The pajamas are fine, and just the texture of cloth that I like – you remember that I had some similar to them once before and liked them exceedingly

Mama I wish you could see Reno – Spring is in full bloom here, and vegetation runs riot – In the city proper there are lots of trees & tree covered streets – lots of sycamores Anita Barta and I took some pictures Sunday afternoon which I shall send at the end of the week – The green there, is a fresh, light colored green that is invigorating – The University of Nevada has a beautiful campus – a [illegible] winding through it, and lots of willows [illegible] the hills immediately surrounding Reno & which run into the mountains are covered with smooth English countryside carpet of grass – Its beautiful riding into town – The Truckee River runs through Reno & is a fairly large stream & gushes rapidly – the sound of the rushing water & the breeze rustling through the sycamore creates a pleasant feeling within one

The troops are in the magazine area every day now & we have dropped all training – I go out there & supervise from 8 to 530 each day – the sun had a peculiar biting quality here that cuts into one's skin bones one's lips as sure as a boil – I think the fact that the sand is blowing to a certain degree all time must have something to do with it – I am pretty brown.

The African success certainly leaped forward suddenly did it not? – It smacks of precision, and confidence, of a pretty well oiled group of allied units doesn't it? I hate to think of Philip being in the midst of the melie, and sometimes feel a certain guilt in being here in all safety and his being across; between the two of us life has somehow always given me all the breaks – a little bit too consistently it seems – Even though Philip and I haven't been especially close in the past few years, I have always liked him pretty darn well, and feel that he is really kind to me – Mary Margaret too

In the room above me a Captain Prestroud who has been in Alaska, is playing either a French horn or a flute one. It peats forth an eerie sound – eerie, but pretty

An officers club is being formed on the Post, We had a meeting this afternoon of all the Post officers (about 35 in all) were present. It will be rather nice and will only cost \$2.00 per month – which reminds me that I have been checking on my bank account fairly heavily – The reason being that I haven't been paid for last month yet due to the mix up on my allotment – was only paid half my salary for March on account of it also – shall be paid all eventually however, expect it any day – about Philips allotment to the bank – a class & allotment – He made it about a month and a half ago didn't he? It usually takes about 2 months or a while longer for one to hear from it – then the total amount accumulated is deposited by the government in the bank – If it doesn't [illegible] through, however, I shall send instructions on how to proceed.

Am enclosing a poem "La [illegible]" from a Catholic Magazine called the "Servite" Have we ever read it before? – I like it exceedingly (the last time especially)

Mama, after writing and [illegible], the sign out about your not getting issues & their coming to me, they answered and said apologetically that they were sending me the issues gratuitously, that all anonymous subscriber had bought a subscription for someone in the service that they had sent it to me – shall write them, thanking them.

I wrote Mrs. [illegible], but still haven't written Walter & June Blanche

Your letter dated May 5th has one of the best paragraphs you ever wrote, in it – concerning the Churches attitude towards the war – I think will send it to Bro Duffey

Well sweetest and best of persons – I must catch up with my lost sleep – the flute plays on

I love and adore & cherish only you, the best person in the world

Tell Ed hello for me

You loving son,

J. Harrod

Your typing seems much better to me – is evenly typed