

7 September 1943

5:30am

My darling Mama:

Good morning sweetest of angels – Have a little time before the days work to pen you a few lines. Part of the company goes on the range to fire today; I take part of it to the Post Magazine area for training in ammunitions supply forms & records. If I could find a place free from the eyes of snooping Battalion officers – I would sleep all day – lack of sleep is assuming, as Pat Cering would say, “gigantic proportions” in my life – It is maddeningly odd that no matter what happens I can never get to bed early; no matter how much I plan & hope – something always turns up

Mama – would you get [illegible] to draw me up a will – I see no reason why it couldn't be drawn up there & [illegible] to here – we were talking about the terms once before – Anyway you have it – that is provisions – will be alright with me – Shall have an allotment out of my pay, (at the next) starting the month. \$100.00 a month – made out to you & shall write you all the particular concerning it. Didn't you say that Nell had still not heard anything from Philips allotment? An airmail letter should be sent to the same place she sent the last letter – There is no excuse for such a long delay – 3 months is about right

I am ashamed to say it but I am running low on money, and I may wire you to borrow \$50 for me at the bank – I believe they would let me have it in view of my allotment which will come to you - May not need it but then I am going to have to buy several articles of clothing – O.D. Trousers long underwear, shoes, field jacket, and maybe a short cont. – Have spent money a bit too lavishly of late

Am mad because I can find no time to take stock of my clothes and separate those which I shall send home – May take my long overcoat with me.

Am finishing this letter out at the Post magazine area - about 3 miles from our company has. 'Tis a typical fall morning – Haze envelopes the trees on the horizon; Bombers drone overhead – even birds twitter – Ten of our men are out here learning ammunition supply forms (I mentioned this in the first part of the letter) We have 4 hours of swimming instruction on our training schedule tomorrow

I picked up “As you Like it” the other night & read about half an hour – It reads right well

Mama, I hope you aren't feeling too upset about me: I feel uneasy every time I think about you concerning it – I adore you beyond all measure

Have any steps been taken concerning finding more out Philip – Like you, it seems to me that news of all the men should have been forthcoming nearly immediately

I darn sure don't believe that the war in Europe will last over nine months longer – Hemmed in from all sides – an army piercing toward this vitals – no hope on the Eastern front - the victim [illegible] bombing – why, no matter if they have an infallible inner defense, they can't & won't continue, Japan will be out of the war within 8 months after the fall of Germany; sooner if allied force could be shifted to that theatre sooner

Read part of Churchill's speech at Harvard – He says nothing as does Roosevelt, but says it much more gracefully – however I never blame any such official for saying nothing – There is nothing to say. I fear & detest Russia still - & wonder how we can ever work out a fast war cooperative [illegible] with her.

Read the article about Ira Eaker - it is beyond me how – the big elk - with so much responsibility; have time to entertain & play poker at night – Personally I think we could run the war a hell of a lot faster if they devoted full time to this work – That condition appalls & bothers me – I don't imagine Ira Eaker is a very interesting person.

Don't work enough to impair your health mother – wish you could get a job teaching in grammar school; don't believe the discipline would be a bother - If there is much of a shortage of teacher, why don't you inquire?

After the war I want to spend at least two months doing nothing at home – Reading – sleeping, talking to you – Readjustment to a less active & less money spending life will be something of a pleasure I think though – overseas – say ten months – giving you \$15 a month – I should say out of my allotment \$850 that aint Hay – Don't think of not taking the \$15 Sending \$100 a month home will still leave me around \$75 a month overseas – even if I am in Melbourne Australia – I am going to get by on that

Well sweetest of persons – close I must – I love & cherish you

Tell Ed hello for me

Your ever loving son,

John M. Harrod