1 for my discharge

Thursday.
July 12th —

Ruth Darling —

Notice a change already? Ruth, my wonderful Darling, - oh, I'm so much in love with you - my wife -. Right beside your picture - right by my side - are three wonderful love letters - written by the one I love with all my heart and every inch of me - you, Pudgie - I love you so very much. This was just an ordinary day - nothing much doing - and this evening - just before supper - mail call -! Before the truck stopped I was there - grabbed the mail - and there was one on top from you - I couldn't wait - I shuffled through them - and there were two more, further down. I don't know what we had for supper - it was gulped - Sweetest Petition, I know I shouldn't gulp my food - but there is nothing more important than your letters - more time will be spent chewing when mail call doesn't come at mealtime! - I dashed back - settled down in my bunk and just read and dreamed - and read some more and dreamed some more. Darling, you say that I should write a book - but no, Pudgie, you should be the one - you can express yourself - oh, so much better than I - and each letter I read brings the wish that I could write of my love as you do of yours - I can hear you talking with me - and you say so many things that I haven't found the words to say, wanting to say them - oh, Darling, I want to tell you how much I love you - I want to show you how much I love you - and Our Day is always my dream. When I am with you again - Darling, the very first moment you are going to be in my arms -. I've promised that it wouldn't happen in the square - or at the hospital - but Pudgie, you must help me -, when we meet - Darling, it must be where I can hold you close, kiss you -. You know that I have iron will powers - that I would never break a promise that I had made to you - but when Our Day comes - Pudgie, if we meet at the station, my iron will powers would disappear - even promises would be forgotten - I dream now - and I know what will happen then - you will be there - and all of these months, Ruth, I've missed you so very much, wanted so much to be

I'm not dirty!

with you -, to hold you close and kiss you - I could never - nothing would keep you out of my arms - Darling. Darling - Our Day - now dreams - but then no dreams - 'cause my dreams will have come true.

The news again begins to look better - and I pray that the end may soon appear. They have cleared 365 miles of the Chinese coast - their industries are being destroyed - and one article says that the Jap surrenders has risen from 1% to 14% - and General Patterson remarked that this increasing number of Japs that are surrendering "marks progress in wisdom among the general run of Jap soldiers." I read every bit of news that I can - at first I couldn't take the interest in this war that I did in the European. The reason was geographical. When you mentioned Berlin, Paris, the Netherlands - I could picture the map - know their locations - and now, because names such as Myitkyina, Ledo, Kunming, Hellgate, are becoming not just names of places "they're somewhere in Asia - or the Far East" - but - I'll confess - I can reach them from here with more confidence in my ability than I would have starting out from York for Lyon (I have no idea of its location - north, south, east or west of York!) Darling, your hubby is becoming versed in traveling - the East is becoming less mysterious - its mysteries are unfolding - and when I come home you will become tired listening to your hubby's travelogue - but I promise to curb myself!

Over here we have only had fresh fruit ones - plums. all other fruit has been canned - apricots (yum!) peaches, loads of pineapple and fruit cocktail. We have very few fresh foods over here - we're not permitted by our medical authorities to buy bananas or any other fruit or vegetables. The reason being that human fertilizer is used around the plants and trees -. And speaking of farming - I've seen my first rice paddies - just like pictures in a geography book becoming alive. Under water - carbies constantly puttering around, Indians, Burmese, Chinese - all sorts of birds and animals - typical weather - and native villages (seen from a distance - all marked OFF LIMITS) Reminds me of a ditty I read in Yank - two lines - "If it ~~eats~~ catches my whim, it's bound to be "Off limits"!

3 for the cabin

Pudgie, I'm so glad that Uncle Sam hasn't lost any of our letters - you've told me that everyone of mine has come through - and though he did make a late delivery of some of the March and April letters (including that March 20th one!) - he filled in every date that was missing - and now he has delivered them up to the letter you wrote on June 27th - not missing a single one! There are so many times that you've chatted about things that - oh, I thought I just had to talk with you right away - so I could answer - and your question would be answered without you having to wait another second. Each time I mail a letter to you, a prayer goes with it - that it will reach you - that not a single days of its love will be lost on the way - and that you are safe and happy always -.

My new system is now in effect - notice it? Pudgie, I like your name so very much - so your envelopes will no longer be all addressed to Mrs. Jerome D. - but also to Mrs. Ruth E. Van Brakle! And (mercenary thought!) isn't your new allotment made out to Mrs. Ruth E. Van Brakle? So now there'll be me for Mrs. Jerome and Mrs. Ruth! No matter which we use - when we are alone - you shall always be Pudgie - and housecoated, hair rolled up, in pj's - my Lizzie!

That is one man that I want to see -. I've read articles about him - seen pictures, heard stories - and now I want to see Bierer's partner - York's four star general - our York county Dutchman - General Jacob L. Devers (recently promoted from Lieutenant General!) I saw a sign in Moberley, Missouri that it was General Omar Bradley's home town - wonder if they gave him such a reception? I would like to have heard "We're for Jake" - he seems to be a very good chap!

You're modest - and I'm so glad! Even though it was hot - I'm so glad you took off only your shoes when all Cottage Place could look up and see you. (There's a confession - you've probably guessed - but - I just tell my wife everything! (& He blushes while I'm writing this -) I was so glad to hear your new dress had a high neckline - and that - (above) you only took off your shoes - Pudgie. I want everybody to only see my wife's face, and arms -; legs just to the knees! But when other folks aren't around, make yourself as comfortable

DO NOT DISTURB

as possible - panties and bra - pj tops and panties - on your birthday suit -, or a slip -. Guess I'm - jealous ? - selfish ? - I don't know what to call it - I'm just so glad you're modest! We're not going to live in the city - we'll be out in the country - no close neighbors - and we can dress for comfort - without a thought of neighbors or modesty -.

The fellas going to Lititz - & other away - Bridgie, I'll be with you every moment. Oh, how I wish that that could have happened during one of those Camp Murphy furlough weeks! But now - my next trip will be so much better. If it were then, I'd have to think of going overseas - but now every thought is - soon I'll be coming home to you! And we're going to paint the back porch! Tell me all about it - color - what else gets painted in the bargain (whoops! - don't throw it! - now you owe me a spanking!) - all the details —. But I know you will - and as I read your letters I'll spend every moment of that week with you -. Incidentally - is the key still "out there" ?! Hope I can use it soon!

It's time for bed, Old Woman - Old Turnip wants to cuddle up with you so very much - and tonight it's more to where we can see the moon - it's so pretty - and my wife's so beautiful -

I love you, Ruth - you know how much -

Hubby Jerry