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Sunday —
January 13th.

My Darling Wife —

Two letters from you, and we heard something definite. Ruth, I couldn't wait to tell you about them so I sent them first and I'll elucidate further as we chat on! The mail room was open today - first time it has been open on Sunday since I've been here - and there were two letters from you - written the 29th and 30th. And your letters, on top of what I heard first thing this morning - Cotton, I want to dance and sing. I need your hand to quiet my hopes 'cause I'm building way too high on the news. This isn't right - I'm chatting and still haven't told you - :) When I woke up this morning George was here again. He was at the movies last evening and before the picture the Major made an announcement. Here's what he said: There will be a group of men leaving for the states from the 3101st in this shipment between January 21st and February 7th, and the men in that shipment will be all men having 45 to 49 points! Darling, Darling - against all we've been saying - July 1st - moved up to May - I believe this - I'm sure that I will be on my way between those dates. The Major is not at all like Captain Bandy - I believe the Major - he wouldn't make the announcement unless he knew, and he even went further. After he said that this month's shipment would be for 45-49 point men, next month the 40-44 point men will leave and after these first two drops of 5 the points will drop two at a time: 38-39, 36-37 etc. That doesn't mean that I will be on the boat by February 7th - I'll just be on my way from Ledo to Calcutta - and it'll probably be the middle or toward the end of February that I'll sail. I wonder how these dates compare with the date set by your woman's intuition? The 3101st rates pretty high in Ledo so I sort of think that we'll move out in January rather than February. We'll drive the 50 miles to Chabua in a Truck; there get on a plane and five hours later be in Calcutta -; that means that two days after I leave Ledo I'll be in Calcutta - and how much nicer the city will look on my way out than it did on my way in! January 21st to February 7th - maybe by the time you're reading this I'll be on my way, or even in, Calcutta -. Darling, I'm coming home - I'll soon be with you -. Ruth, my Darling - how long I've been wanting to say that - I just feel that this is it - and it'll feel so good to see those miles in between grow less and less.

Darling, do you agree; do you mind if I get rid of all of my extra things - clothing, I mean: - suntans, OD's - Army stuff? Coming home I don't want it to be like the trip over - lugging every ounce that you could tuck and carry - I want only my duffel bag and musette bag and me. I'm not even going to take all my socks and underwear - just two more of each than the required four - six sets of underwear and the two pairs of socks you sent me plus four Army pairs. All in all - even with all of my housecleaning, now since I've packed up all of these things here in Ledo: hospital bed, mattresses, desk, lights, furniture - I'll be taking only a small fraction of the total along - I won't even need a Sasha boy to carry my things to the truck! A week from tomorrow we'll probably know when we're leaving - and even if it is the seventh, it isn't a month off.

The cablegram and air mail letter won't be sent until I'm in Calcutta. The

(SPECIAL DELIVERY)

day or maybe two days, before we sail. I've learned my lesson - orders can very easily be changed - so even though this may all be changed, I want to be sure that when I mail that special delivery and send the cablegram that I will be on the boat when you receive it. So don't take this letter to be it - even though it is official - but you'll know that you can be sure I'm on my way when that cablegram arrives!

Darling, I never thought you'd recognize my attempt at imitating your writing - did I come close to making it appear to be yours? I did. Tell you how I used to do it quite often at the theatre, didn't I? It's a lot of fun - and as long as it's not turned to the wrong ways, it's interesting to see if I can copy fairly accurately (I can see where it would be more profitable for a wife to imitate her hubby's writing!)

A wiggly man's life overseas is a fairly easy one - being able to make trips whenever he wants and declaring, most any day he wants, a holiday - just as long as his work doesn't get ahead of him. When the line was open the trouble crews were on duty twenty-four hours a day. Virgil is on the Leeds line crew - and even though the line between Leeds and Nightingale is closed, the section he works on - from Leeds to Digby and Chatham - is still open and the crew he is on is out every day from eight till five. There are ten men on the crew and they have it arranged so each man gets a half day off sometime between Monday and Friday. Saturday they all go out and Sunday is a day off unless there's trouble. Their stretch of line is a bad one - includes about ten miles of old British line and lots of poles must be replaced, and lots of joins and insulators must be replaced. Virgil will be here on security and continue the same job - so the sooner they get it in shape, the easier the last few months of their stay will be. He hopes to leave here in April or May - so since he'll be here longer than I, I'll give him first choice on any of my things that I'm leaving behind - even Cleopatra II!

No matter what day I come home - I hope we can have a Saturday supper! My mouth waters when I read your menu - but keep on telling me 'cause I know I'll soon be enjoying them, too. Potato chips - I haven't had any for so long - and those from market are tops. Good summer bologna - or butcher's bologna - cheese, cold meat, pickles - and a big glass of milk - Darling, I'll be 300 in no time! I'm glad those meals are easy to get ready 'cause I like them so much and we'll have them often. For Sunday we'll exchange ideas - and new dreams of candied sweet potatoes, red beets, asparagus and brown gravy are floating before my eyes - I'll never run out of ideas for meals. Sour kraut, mashed potatoes and hot dogs - we'll have variety plus. I like to try every new dish that we can both find and invent. And having a wife who recognizes and accepts my two dislikes - Darling - it's another of the ∞ number of reasons I love you - and ∞ means a number unlimited! You've never told me - have you any dislikes - food you don't care for? I remember that you had said there was something you didn't like and I did so when you had lamb I could have it, but I don't remember what it was.

General Wilson, the commanding general of the Leeds area just answered questions in an interview over the radio - questions concerning demobilization - and he reiterated everything said by Major Bundeshaw; in fact, he said more. According to his interview,

not only will all men with 45-9 points in the Ledo area be included in this first shipment, but our quota is large enough to include even most men with 44 and 43 points - so if nothing happens to the program, my 46 makes me comfortably located around the middle - halfway between 43 and 49!

Darling, why did Uncle Morris attempt a trip to Erie - I can see him standing in crowded trains - waiting long hours in a station - but I hope that somehow he missed all that and had a through trip - sitting down! Let's see - Cousin Earl lives in Erie, doesn't he - and Aunt and Uncle - who? When I come home you'll have to teach me - just where Aunts and Uncles are, and where the various nephews and nieces come along - I have a feeling that there are quite a few that I have yet to meet - and I want to meet them all - soon (after our vacation!)

I wonder what we'll know next week at this time - ? Budgie, I'm sure that this time there will be no change - my prayer is that I will soon be on my way - I want so much to be with you - It's time for bed - and we'll have the grandest dreams. Goodnight, Darling. God Bless You -

All My Love - For You - My Wife

Your Hubby

Jerry

Cotton, my Darling, since my very first poem -
I've wanted - always - to say I'm coming home.
And now, almost surely, for the first time I can say -
Our Day - it's coming - just a few weeks away.