Thursday
August 16th -

My Darling Wife -

To celebrate V-J Day, today was a holiday. So, this morning I started my day - writing letters and reading. I read one issue of the Dramatic from cover to cover - The Vigil of a Nation, Young Bess, Lower than Angels and Looking In on a Bluebird, plus the back cover which gives facts about the authors, etc. I liked - The Vigil of a Nation" - the inside picture of China - presented by one of its countrymen. It gives another - unknown - side of the country - and was good reading.

There were three letters that I wanted to write today -; two of them are already finished - and the third - I saved the best till last - cause writing to you - it's like writing to nobody else. You're my wife - and I enjoy writing to you so very much - the letters are so much more than letters -. I'm no other letters do I dream - or - oh, just 'let myself go' -. With you, I can discuss anything - no matter what my thoughts - and you understand me -. Pudgie, Darling, I'm so glad we were married - and what we believed then, now we know to be true - that we did do the right thing - that it could have been no other way. Ruth, I love you so very much - you're so wonderful -.

My first letter was to Miss Brownell - and, Pudgie, I was tempted to do something -. She always lets you read her letters - so I was going to put a little note in it addressed to you - as a surprise to both of you. Here's the idea that was forming: somewhere in the middle of her letter I was going to begin a new paragraph this way: Darling, I love you (now Miss Brownell! That's for Ruth when she reads your letter!) -. That was just the beginning of the idea - but before I worked it out, I thought I'd better not -. Wonder if she would ever have written to me again ?! My other letter was to Aunt Nettie and Margaret - telling them the news - the change of camps - how I heard the war had ended - and how anxious I am to come home!

You'll never guess what I did this afternoon - something I haven't done since - I can't remember when! I took a nap! I don't know why - but

for some reason I was so sleepy right after dinner; maybe I ate too much. The meals here are even better than I had before. So far not a day has passed passed without having steak for one meal - three days - three steak dinners! And they're even made with variety, to suit all tastes. The first day they were well done - you could cut them with a fork - and the gravy - umm! Yesterday they were rare - just cooked to the middle - and good exercise for the teeth. Today they were medium - but I like them all three ways. Another good feature - all I could eat. Reminds me of a cartoon I saw somewhere: the waiter asks a customer how he found his steak - this reply, "Very easy, I just lifted up one of the peas and there it was!" (Ours are bigger!) I woke up about four and, as always after I take a nap, I was sleepier than when I went to bed. So, I took a hot shower, finishing off with cold water - and I felt like a new man. Then a shave -, hair combed (still parting it higher on my head), teeth brushed and I was ready for supper.

Now it's after supper - the lights are on - and Ney is sound asleep -. That's another good feature about this camp. In our tent, both of us like to go to bed early and get up early - whereas before, the fellows in the tent stayed up till 9:30 or 10:00 - and just as you dozed off, a conversation would start - and you'd have to start all over again. And now I'm going to, even more, do all I can to make me better for my wife -: more sleep, regular hours - everything I can do to make myself better in every way.

I like your new blue stationery - the paper, its size, everything -. Is this the box you bought while you were in Philly? It feels as though a pen would just glide over it - and I really like the size of the sheets, too. But what makes it best of all - on it are your letters to me - and that would make even this paper look like the finest stationery -.

It's a lot cooler here than it was at the other place - so there's a change in my writing attire that I must tell you about. The place is still the same - I'm stretched out on my bed - on my tummy - but the dress is a little different: in addition to my ring, glasses and shorts, a jersey has been

added - covering more of me - and there are now three changing color combinations - four. 1) Jersey & shorts both white 2) both kahaki 3) jersey white, shorts kahaki and 4) vice versa! The mosquito bar is always down - which reminds me - in Bob Hope's 'I Never Left Home' - did you see his reason why they call it a mosquito bar? Because all the mosquitoes dropped in - and he was the bar! Mine does a better job - keeps them all out.

I can imagine the upset that followed at the hospital when the news was learned about the nurse and the interne -. Have they been married? Must they leave the hospital? Pudgie, in a case like that, I'm afraid they will have no happiness. Perhaps they will be able to work it out - but more probably - their love was exaggerated by the conditions - the way it had to be kept secret and the commotion they knew it would cause - and when the excitement has gone - they will find that it is not really love. Three weeks - and a date with another girl just a week before - how did they ever decide on marriage?

And Pudgie - Mother is reconciled to the fact? Pudgie, Darling, it worked out as I never thought it would. Here's a confession: Remember that Thursday afternoon when we first came home and found her note? Perhaps I didn't show it outside, but when she walked in while we were making supper, I was quaking inside! I was afraid that she would again break down - or Tell me to leave - and I felt, oh, so good - when things happened just as they did. And she asked you what you would have paid for shirts for me - oh, Pudgie - she's grand! The way she felt when we told her our plans - all that I've forgotten - she's treated me so grandly since then - and she couldn't have helped her emotions before - I understand - and I'm sorry that I made her suffer.. But no matter when ~~be~~ we had decided - it would have been the same - but now it is all past and forgotten.

I'm glad you like Assam Mountain Tea - and did I Tell you? There's another pound for you in the bear case! I hope Uncle Sam delivers your birthday present on time - I gave him lots of leeway - and I've already warned you - look out for the sawdust - it'll get over everything - and will probably have to be brushed off all the things --

The third of each month seems to be your payday! Does the hospital always pay then - and do both government checks arrive on the third? Oh, Darling, I hope your auditor can soon come home and check your accounts - and I've already decided how to dispose of all discrepancies -. If you're short $30.00 one month, $10.00 the next - I'll just total all of them and add it to your debt. $6742.49 - and I'll have lots more hugs and kisses to collect - and the interest will grow even more rapidly! I won't let you out of my arms 'till I'm 999 years old - and then only long enough for you to touch up your lipstick - and the second 999 years will begin! I can hardly wait to collect my bill - and all transactions will be strictly personal!

Budgie, I wish so very much that I were sharing it with you - I'm so glad you're having your vacation. A whole month without the six o'clock alarm, the walk up the hill - the kitchen - or any thought of the hospital. But from now on - all of our vacations will be spent together - our whole life will be spent together. Tell me about every minute of your vacation - and I hope you can get films to take pictures of it - and in your letters and pictures, I'll be there with you all the time - and we will have shared your vacation.

The war's over - and Our Day is so very much closer -. Oh, Darling, I'm waiting, patiently, for that day - and when it comes - Mr. and Mrs. Van Brabb will be together - they won't be 'at home' to anybody - for at least a month - nothing is going to invade their privacy -. That cabin will be a love nest - for just Mr. & Mrs. Van Brabb -. Budgie, those days are now really much closer - no more must we say "when the war's over" - it is over - and my next move will be home - to you.

Let's crawl under the blanket - it's grand for cuddling this evening -. I'll love you - we'll have our Goodnight kisses, and go to sleep - close in each other's arms. Goodnight, Budgie - God bless you -

Ruth, you're so wonderful - so beautiful - I'm so much in love with you

Hubby Jerry