First Ruth

Wednesday
July 18th -0

Dearest Pudgie —

The tent looks almost empty! Before there were six fellows in here - but yesterday another tent was put up (complete with electricity, floor and all) and today was moving day. Two fellows moved out of my tent - so now the four of us each have a "quarter of a tent" to live in - more space than I know what to do with!

Today was spent just around here - not doing much of anything - but keeping busy just the same! Now it's about four o'clock - my mosquito bar is up and I'm sitting on the bunk, with my feet stretched out on it - just took off my boots so I'm in my stocking feet - and the rain has finally stopped - no sun - but the clouds aren't dark and the sun's trying to peep out behind them. Just a nice cool day - and no rain for a change.

This evening there's a movie - and as always - no advance notice of what it's going to be - so I'll tell you all about it in our chat after we - you and I - come back from seeing it.

Improvements have been made here, too! Your oilcloth is now nailed down - and everything are in better order. But, Pudgie, that oilcloth is just the thing! Before my desk had a rough wood finish, and when I wrote on it I needed a pad underneath - but now - with its new top - it's grand! Using it lengthwise it just fits except for a little strip at the top - but that is taken care of by that separate little piece - I cut it into three strips and it just covers the bare spot! Like this" [drawing] - and even the design matches!

Today saw the last of the marshmallows and the raisins - and I'm munching the last two grizzels - Darling, the box was grand - every bit of it was used - thank you again - very much - (and I can hardly wait till the next one arrives!) And again I was selfish - but, I don't know - the fellows seem to be different around here - I'm not the only one that has no pin-up pictures on the walls - there's only one picture in the other tent - none of us go in for them - and when packages arrive - the fellows don't scramble - they let each man enjoy his box - none of this helping themselves - nicer this way. —

They really have an assortment of reading material over here. My latest acquisitions are 'The World Almanac - 1945' (!) - fun to look through and filled with loads of information, 'The Keys of the Kingdom' by A.J. Cronin (haven't read it yet - but will, just as soon as I finish) "Blanche Fury" by Joseph Shearing. A.J. Cronin also wrote 'The Citadel' - and I'm looking forward to reading this story. It's the story of Francis Chisholm, Scots priest, in China and I believe it will be quite good. And the nice thing about the books is that they are pocket-size and can be carried in my pocket. In spite of their size, they are complete books - not digests, and they are good for this climate - and handier than a regular book.

You're all bright and shining this afternoon! It was the moon hour, I took your picture out of its frame - dusted it with a piece of cotton - washed the glass, and dusted the frame. Now - oh, it just sparkles - Budgie, I'm so glad you gave it to me - it's the last thing I do in the evenings - roll over, say Goodnight - seeing you smiling over at me - and in the morning you are there to greet me - as soon as I open my eyes I see you -. It's as good of you - just as if you were here on my desk - and we're together all of the time.

Now it's after supper - getting dark - as soon the cinema (British, you know - !) will begin. But supper! Now they've given me something that I really like: fresh pineapple! And they gave me all that I wanted - as I really stuffed! The rest of the meal was so-so, but as the Army's having trouble getting meat - no fresh meat for three weeks was one of the orders issued and it's really taxing all the cook's ingenuity to make the meals appetizing. I wish I could have you as my personal Dietitian! But I do never take you to a country like this - disease-ridden, its climate; Budgie, I'll be so glad when I can come back to you - we'll never come back to India.

While I was at supper, the sun broke through the clouds and there was a half an hour of sunshine! So I took a good look, 'cause

it will probably be a while before it shines again!

I just went out and filled the generator (for the electricity) with oil and gas - and the bugs made it a job! This country has every species of insect that exist - and then some! At home, I'll never again complain about mosquito bites - I'll just tell them, "your brothers and cousins in India have toughened me up - so if you lend your 'stacker' on me - I've warned you!" And they'll soon let me alone!

Now to the cinema (and I've heard my first genuine "Are you there?" over the phone - so it's a fact - that's what they say! - But they explain their reason for using it very simply - "We say 'Are you there?' - then - if you're not there, you don't have to answer!" I'll stop!

Sadaja, we had the grandest moonlight walk - just you and me -. When the movie was over and I walked outside, it was hazy - but the moon was shining through it - and there was our shadow on the ground in front of us. Darling, it's only a short walk to the movies - but my dreams in the movie continued all the way back. The movie? "Delightfully Dangerous" - Ralph Bellamy and Jean Powell. They were fair - but my favorite? - Arthur Treacher - that gentleman's gentleman - for me, he stole the show. I saw him in New York in "Panama Hattie" - James Dunn and Ethel Merman - I don't know - I just like this type of humor -. The first part wasn't so bad - but in the last part they "swing" Strauss - and I am one of the firm believers that putting the classics in 3/4 time should never be done.. Outside of that it wasn't too bad - but all I really enjoyed was Arthur Treacher.

I want so very much to come back to you, Sweetheart - to

Ruth - Mother! (I love you, Pudgie)

take you to plays, to go places with you - Pudgie, your hubby misses you so very much. Lots of mornings I wake up wondering how many days there are 'till Saturday - 'till I can come home for the week-end - our week-end - and then I remember I'm in India - there are no week-end passes - and I can't come home - Pudgie, Darling - it mustn't be long - I miss you so very much - the days are so - oh - so lonely and empty when you aren't with me. Darling, I'm so much in love with you - and I can understand Butch so much better - because before I knew how he felt - but I had to keep up so I could stay in Philly and be with you - but here - oh, Pudgie - the only real thing is you - everything else must just be put up with for these months - they are so unreal - I'm living - dreaming - thinking - you - I bring you here in every way - my only thought is you - you are my prayer - wherever I go, you go with me and whatever I do, you do with me. Darling, I'm so very, very wife-sick - missing you, wanting you - needing you - no other or nothing else could ever do - there is no other as wonderful as you. You, Pudgie - you - you're everything - and I want to be with you so very, very much -.

Pudgie, my sweet - all my Love is Just For You - Forever

Hubby Jerry

Darling, the moon is still shining - I can see it as I lay in bed - so you and I will be here looking at it together, in each other's arms. God bless you, Ruth

Jerry

I love you so very, very much - my wonderful wife -