Tuesday —
January 22nd -

My Darling Wife —

Elmer arrived today - and I was so glad to see "him"! Remember Elmer in Daisy's family in "Blondie"? Here all of your letters were arriving all in order, but just as Elmer wanders away from his brothers and sisters; your letter that you wrote on the fourth wandered away and just arrived today. But being late didn't detract one bit from its interest, for in it we shared another of these days apart and no matter how long it takes for your letters to arrive their dreams and thoughts of you are tucked inside just waiting to be enjoyed. With your letter came the funnies for the sixth - and just think: soon we'll be reading the papers together again - you by my side - and we can have our discussions - our own commentaries on the news! Darling, everything we do together is special - 'cause I'm with the girl I love - and I'm so glad that I can say - not my fiancée - but my wife. Darling, the end of these days is in sight - I can hardly wait till these days in between pass and we can be together - I want so much to be with you -

Your hubby's getting to be a man of leisure again - living just as though I were on a vacation in Florida! I quit my job at Signal Supply, so now I have all day to myself - do whatever I want! This morning I got up for breakfast and read Newsweek © till the barbershop opened at Ten o'clock - and then I went over and had a trim. I don't know - but maybe this will be my last Indian haircut; I'm counting and noting every milestone! This chap has no thinning shears - and your hubby has a very thick head of hair which needs a treatment with a good pair of such shears - so maybe we'll have a real barber on the boat. This afternoon the Florida vacation started. It doesn't seem real when I hear of snowstorms and cold waves at home - 'cause today I had a long sunbath. All of us here in the Tent have "quit" our jobs 'cause we're leaving on Saturday - so this afternoon we carried our card table out into the "front yard" - got all the component parts: chairs, pinochle deck, score pad, pencil and donned our sun-suits - a pair of shorts. So we spent our afternoon dressed in shorts, soaking up the sunshine - playing pinochle and just taking life easy. The weather is perfect - and we were completely relaxed - not hurrying, and we were all surprised how quickly the afternoon passed. Oh, Cotton, I'm so anxious to get started - I want to get on the boat 'cause once there we will be well on our way. There'll be one more period of waiting - another period to "sweat out" - That stay at Panchapora - I hope it won't be long. The trip will take way too long - and I want to start moving - I don't want to sit around here waiting - I want those miles in between to disappear and see each second bring me closer to you. We may have three weeks to wait there -, Darling, they'd never end, a day is so terribly long when you want it to pass quickly - and I wish that instead of waiting we could get right on the boat and leave. But that isn't the Army -. I want so much to be a civilian again so I can be with you and our life can be our own - to live without thinking of time -. Let's stop talking about the Army - oh, Darling, I'm so sick of it —

I think that history will repeat itself. At Arzao, I was hoping that before I

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got on the boat to come overseas one of your letters would come through telling me that you had received some of the mail I had written there at Anza - but I was there only a week and I had to wait till the boat had anchored in the Hooghly River and our mail was delivered. Just as I would have liked to received a letter, then, telling me that you had had some mail, now I wish that some mail would arrive from you telling me that you received my letters telling you that I would probably be on the boat by the fifteenth - I wish they'd arrive before I leave, but I'll be on my way before they arrive. So often I've had to tell you that plans have been changed - and this time I just have a feeling that I won't have to tell you that plans have been changed and we're staying here. It all leads back to the same thing, Darling - I want to be on my way - to come home to you and be with you, and I'm not going to be settled till I'm out of the Army and home with you.

I wish that you could send me a picture of our new room - 'cause when I come in in the middle of night - well - it sounds as though it's pretty full, and that is one evening that I don't want to wake up the whole house! I wish so much that you wouldn't have had to talk to yourself when you were arranging your room - but I wouldn't have been stretched out in a chair just talking; why there'd be lots that I could do - lights to arrange, furniture to move - and there'd be lots of pauses when Mother would hear no noise in the room! Did you bring any of your furniture along? But before I'll receive your answer, I'll have seen our room - both at night and during the day! And even though I haven't seen it as our room, I just know it's a grand place to have our chats - and I can see you sitting there on your chair - the blue robe keeping out the cold!

We learned today that before we leave here each of us will get a "flat" pay of $35.00, and that adjustments will be made in March. Now I get about $18.00 - so it's just like being paid a months in advance. When payday comes in February we'll be on the boat - so our next pay won't arrive till we're in the States. So in March I'll get full pay, plus about $2.70 - the balance of February's pay, and then we'll be getting those good old dollars and cents again. When we get to Calcutta our money will be switched back to American currency - and, though we'll get the old rate of exchange, the British have changed the values of Indian currency and Indians now get only 90 rupees instead of 100 in ratio to the old scale. I'm not ready to be an international traveler - I want to leave India and all of its problems far behind me - I want to come home to you.

I did no work today - There's no reason to be tired - but I'm almost nodding off as I write - can't write straight - it's time for bed. And now I like to say another day has passed - because we know that Our Day will soon be here and that each day brings it so much closer. Though the days are warm, the evenings are cool and I like so much, to cuddle with you. Goodnight, Darling - God Bless You -

All My Love - For My Mrs.

Yours Hubby

Jerry OX