Monday —
July 30th.

Dearest Budgie —

Today I learned a lesson —: always wear a raincoat when traveling in a jeep when it's raining! This morning when I started out, the day was bright and clear - and looked as though it would stay that way -. But this is India -, and during the monsoon season, as - well - you'll hear! I visited Dido - finished my work and went to the PX. Bought a box of candy and went to the Red Cross Canteen for coffee (I'll never learn to like it) and doughnuts -. Then the sun had gone behind the clouds and it was getting cooler - so when I picked up my cup of what I thought was coffee, it was ice cold. Iced coffee is worse than hot coffee - so I told the Indian behind the counter - no coffee. Then the surprise! His answer - 'not coffee - coca-cola' - and I bought four cups - big ones, and six doughnuts, and filled up! Coca-cola - haven't had any for quite a while! And ice cold - really good! I started back and it began to pour - as it can pour only in India - and there was a wind with it -; I was soaked through. In no time at all it looked as though I had been in swimming fully clad - and it kept on raining. Since I was late in getting back, I stopped at a mess hall with an outfit along the road, and had supper there -. They had a regular Sunday meal -! Sauer kraut, frankfurters, mashed potatoes - and for dessert - vanilla pudding. Did you ever see an army stove? That - what I used as a table, drying out as I ate. After the meal - a dash back to camp - soaked again - but after a brisk rub-down and a change of clothes I was dry again.

Then they said there was a good movie at the theatre this evening, so I went -. Name? It wasn't on the film, but I think it was "Pillar and Post" or something similar, with Sidney

Greenstreet. Lucky woman it with me -. The news and cartoons came along all right - but the feature had hardly started before the screen went dark. There's an old saying in the movie business: If, when the film stops, the curtain is white, the film has torn or some other minor trouble has occurred - but when the screen is dark - something's wrong with the machine -. So -, without waiting, I got up and walked out -. Sudgie, how grand it will be when we can go to a movie together - relax in cushion - slatted chairs - air conditioning in the summer times - no break in the continuity - (two projectors so they can be switched back and forth - the Strand has four) - Darling, everything I do over here, while I'm doing it I dream of how much more wonderful it will be when I'm with you -, we're doing it together.

I was dreaming of our room this afternoon - and I wondered - did you ever find a floor lamp - and did you get out your pillows? Most likely a floor lamp is almost as hard to get as a reservation at the New Yorker (!) -. I wish you had mentioned it while I was at home - and even though it would have been an amateur's job - you would have had one -. They aren't difficult to make - a few pieces of metal, a socket, and a piece of wire - that's about all (plus a lampshade) - and you can make it whatever you want. I'd better warn you -! Your hubby is going to do things like that - putter around - experiment - asking you what you would like to have made - (and making things without asking you!) -. It's so grand doing things for us - for you - oh, Sudgie, I want - so very much - to start our home - and our family -. Each day that day comes closer - I'm waiting so patiently - and when it comes - Sudgie, Darling - it'll be so wonderful -.

One thing I'm sure of - on the trip home I won't be seasick - no matter how rough the sea -. I've diagnosed my case - and others. The first day out, nearly everybody felt wrong - in different degrees -. Some went below (I was in that group) and stayed in their bunks, others went Topside - and stayed there. Now - nearly everyone who stayed below got seasick - and everybody that stayed outside "survived". And that's how I got over my sickness -: the day I felt the worst, I fought (with myself) my way Topside - and stayed there - and before noon I was cured. So - on the way home, I'll stay Topside come what may - and I'm sure no sickness will follow -. Whenever I think of that trip home - Darling, I get excited - have the grandest dreams - Pudgie, I want to be with you so very much - I miss you - how can I tell you how much I miss you ? life can never be what it should until you're by my side -. I love you so very much - with all my heart and all my soul - Pudgie, I'm so very much in love with you -.

This morning it's cool -, we'll put a blanket on top of our sheet and be snug and comfortable - cuddled up ! Even though there is a Time difference [illegible] home and India, it makes no difference in my dreams [illegible] dream of what you are doing at home (accounting for the difference in time) and then when I dream that I'm at home with you - we use this Time over here -, so we go to bed together -, get up together, - do everything together - just as we soon will be doing -. Now - into your pj's - me in mine - and we'll have our dreams and cuddle - Nite -

All My Love, Pudgie - Just For You - My Wife

Your Hubby Jerry