

April 25, 1942
Company B
Camp Upton

My Darling,

Well, here I am in the Army now. I'm all in my uniform and ready to leave for anywheres. We got into camp this morning about two o'clock, and got to bed about 2:30, and then had to get up at 5:30 AM.

We have been going strong all day long. The first thing we done was to take an intelligence test, which lasted for about two hours. Then we went up and got fitted and got uniforms and etc. We also got three hypos in the right arm, and now I can hardly raise it. That is the reason for the poor writing.

Tomorrow morning five of us new ones are on K.P. duty in the kitchen for 15 hours straight, and have to get up at 4 o'clock AM. Not bad for a Sunday's work it is "sweet."

Sometimes I get so darn lonesome I could walk right out of this place. I nearly go nuts. We haven't done any marching at all and were told we can expect to be sent anywheres at a minutes notice. Some of the fellows that came in Friday left this afternoon. I put in for my furlough so well not be sent anywheres until I get a hearing. I hope it will be in a few days darling.

I have got to go and get this off now my darling. So until I can see you or write, I still am very much in love with my darling. Keep your chin up as I am doing. If I can help I will end this war before August. I love you SO MUCH XXXX

Say hello to the folks for me for now. Will write later.

Private Kurt Harlander U.S. Army XXXX

April 27, 1942

Hello my Darling,

Well this is the end of a terrible Sunday. I was in the mess kitchen all day and could look out and see some of the other men out there with their visitors and girls and then did I get lonesome for you. I nearly went nuts a dozen times, and could almost hike right home to you my darling.

I just went down to the canteen and saw Matt Bones and that Maloney kid. Charlie Dillon is here and is in the same tent as Matt. I haven't seen him yet though. We are in regular barracks now with showers and hot water etc. I only wish I had that picture of you now. I sure would feel much better if I could at least see you in a picture.

Mar arm is feeling quite a lot better, but still is sore as hell. We have sort of a game room upstairs here and have magazines and two card tables. Last night we were playing pitch and I really won a few games from the boys.

Here at this camp you don't get off at noon Saturday, but work every day until 4PM. When we get shipped to another camp then we can get off at noon.

We had a movie on sex hygiene yesterday and a few of the boys were carried out. But strong me stayed by the rest of them. I was up at 4:30 AM. Today and got done work around 7 PM. We had to serve 1100 men 3 meals today.

My bedmate next to me is Hugh Armstrong from Camden. He is the only local boy that came down with our gang. That sort of takes some of the lonesome feeling off, but not as if you were here, sleeping next to me and cuddling by me at night. This Army life may be ok for some people, but give me the good old days of sleeping late and going fishing when you want to.

I can only hope those go_ damn Japs & Germans get pushed right into the ocean before long so I can come home again and live right again.

The food here is fairly good, but nothing like we used to have home. I am writing this in the game room at 9:30 and two games of cards are going on, but I am still going to bed and say my prayers like I have been doing.

Will say goodnight for now my sweet darling. I love you so much and can hardly wait to see and hold you in my arms. Good night Darling. Yours always, Kurt.

May 9, 1942
11:00 AM

My Darling,

Here I am again, so very lonesome for you. I can't hardly stand it. I spent one hell of a time coming down, I got so homesick I could shake. I didn't see that clear until we nearly reached New York.

I got into camp at ten o'clock and all lights were out. I couldn't get my blankets so I had to sleep in my clothes. When I got to our barracks there weren't any of the fellows here, they had all been shipped out yesterday. There are three shipments going out today so if you don't hear from me again for a day or two you will know I am on my way.

I can't help feeling about being away from home for Mothers Day, but tell her I am thinking about her tomorrow. When I get stationed, please come & see me my darling because I really can't stand being away from you too long, and in order for me to keep going, I need to see you.

I just went up to mail call and had six letters and your picture there. One was from Aunt Mae, 1 from Evah, 1 from your folks, 1 from the Goldens in Rome, and two from the most wonderful girl in the world. The one I only wish was here right now. Those letters sure are doing things to me. Oh if I only had you here life would be so swell, but here alone I can't seem to make it stick. Now a bunch of fellows are getting leaves to go home from Mothers Day & here I am.

Crying like the devil now & if you see splotches on this paper they are dried tears. If I have to stay here very long I am going nuts because, I just can't stand it to see other fellows have visitors and I just sit around & can't even leave camp.

I am working at the Chaplains today waxing the floor in the church. Four of the fellows from here are going to California tonight, to be in the ski troops.

I am going to sign off for now and darling I adore the pictures & love you. Please please come when I get to another camp. Come if you have to use the money in the bank. Will write soon. Tell mother & dad I am OK. Will write to them soon.

I love you Darling XXXX
Kurt

May 9, 1942
8:30 PM

My Darling,

Well here I am writing to my best girl again. I love you so much I just can't stop writing. I am feeling a little better tonight and was able to eat my supper. I refused to eat at noon.

I just got back from sending the telegram to mother. It makes me feel a little better to think I did something to appreciate her as much as I do. I only hope getting the telegram don't frighten her. Of course the feeling is the same for dad too. Two of the most wonderful people in the world. A couple of angels, whom someday I am going to make proud of me. Of course darling I have also a great feeling for you in a different way.

I was over at the reception hall tonight and heard Irving Berlin, the great musical genius. He is here composing a new army song. He is a great fellow and really can play the piano himself. We also have the former worlds champ table tennis player here in our barracks. He is going to play one of the fellows some night this week.

Upstairs here our barracks there are only six of us out of about thirty. All the fellows I did know have gone. I have met a few new fellows, but hope I get shipped before long. I was reading in this weeks Life about Flying Cadets and it sort of interests me. Only for the foreign service I don't like.

Also when I took my furlough papers in today they told me I could have stayed away until 12 o'clock tonight (Saturday). Boy what a heart break that was. I told them about the thing reading May 9 and they said anytime on the 9th I could have reported. So that is how clear army instructions are.

I got a letter from Bill & Bix tonight at mail time. They didn't have much to say, except to keep my chin up and etc. What the hell do they think I am trying to do?

It has rained all afternoon, but tonight it is clear out and our stars really do shine out here in the remote part of the state.

Am getting ready to go to bed & dream of my darling & sleep with your picture under my pillow. My prayers are being said. I love you my darling. Good night.

Love always
Kurt

May 10, 1942
5:00 PM

Hello Darling,

Just got in from retreat and back from detail. I was up at the reception center today, where all the visitors come & eat with their friends here. I wasn't on KP duty. All I had to do was watch out that too many people didn't crowd into the dining hall at one time. We had chicken ala king on biscuit, mashed potatoes & peas, coffee & ice cream and a drink of soda pop whenever we were thirsty. Not a bad job for today.

I don't know yet but darling I have a suspicion that if you don't hear from me for a while after this letter I may be on my way to some other camp I hope. We couldn't even go to church today & hope when I get to another camp everyone can on Sunday.

The weather was hot here today. But last night the fire in the boiler went out and everyone had to sleep in their woolen undies, but I was warm because I had your picture beside me all night. I hope you had a nice day with your mother and also hope you spent a little while with mine for me. I only hope that next year I can be there myself and make her happy on that day.

All the visitors today had carnations of some color on and the boys were walking around with their mother and boy that sure made me feel down in the dumps. If only I could get somewhere, where some visitor of some kind could come & see me Sunday for a while. In that way looking forward to seeing someone Sunday would make the rest of the week easy to stand. As it is now there is nothing to look forward to from one day to another (Except Dec. 25)

If you hear from me next day after you get this letter you will know I am still here. If not I am on my way someplace. Any is better than this.

I love you my darling. I pray for you every night.

Yours forever,
Kurt

Thursday Evening
May 28, 1942
9:00 PM

Hello My Precious Darling:

Well another day has nearly gone by and I am feeling a little better than I did yesterday.

I received my box of things tonight, and also the registered letter. I went right into the cookies and things. I haven't had anything that tasted so good since I left home. I sure am going to enjoy all of the things you sent. Thank the folks for me for the money. It sure will come in handy as I don't get paid until the middle of June. I went up tonight looking for a letter but they didn't read my name off for one, and then they read it off for a registered mail. I ran way up to the post office to get it, and was so glad when I found it was a letter from you. They are the only thing that keeps me going down in this place. I have been passing some of the nut cakes around in the tent here, and we are having quite a party tonight. The only thing we lack is the Lady of Honor that sent them.

I got a letter from Bill and Bix this noon. They wished me the best of luck and Bix is waiting for his name to be called in the army. Bill also said Bix was sort of peeved because I beat him to the honor of being father before him. I wrote in a letter to Aunt Mae that we were expecting. I thought if they knew they might invite you down this summer before you were too far along to travel. But I didn't tell anyone at home about it, so that's not a story of mine. It's a funny thing that every letter that comes from Yesh has a point on the part I am doing a good for Grandpa. I can't stand that sort of writing. I admire the part I am doing the way he would want me to. But those letters affect me in a much harder way.

I think it's swell of [censored/cut out] send me my share of the money. That is something [censored/cut out] it.

My darling never mind [censored/cut out] money for me. I can get along and you use all you need of [censored/cut out] owe everything you need and please don't worry about my [censored/cut out] the mill sends my money to me I will take out a couple of dollars & then send the rest to you to use for doctor & etc. If the new pay for soldiers goes through, then you will be getting about \$25 a month from them.

Out on the machine gun target range today, some fellow walked right in front of a gun and it cut him right two. That was one way of getting out of this army, but I think I can stand it here for a while yet. Although I am saving all the string that packages are wrapped up in, I can always hang myself if I get too discouraged with life down here.

We were out drilling all day today and they had us running through fields with a full pack on & gas mask, and then fall face down on the ground. We would get up run a

few feet, and then dive onto the ground again. It was so hot today that a few passed out from the heat. I ate salt tablets to make me sweat and that is all that kept me going.

With all that sweat on and falling to the ground, I was dirt from head to foot tonight when I got in here I am so lame I can hardly walk and my hands are all cut up from stones and stumps I fell onto.

They sure are giving us the works here now. The heat makes no difference. We plug along as best we can and maybe get a few minutes rest, and then we start out again. Every night I just read my mail and write to you my darling and go to bed and dream of you. For the past two nights I have dreamed all night of you.

One of the Lieutenants told some of the boys today that one of the twelve regiments in here are going to India and that we might be the one selected to go. I can't believe that, because if that word got around to foreign agents, they would be waiting for us some place and when we came along they would simply do away with us. There are the darndest rumors going on here and everyone is jittery over where we are going. I am trying to be brave and just hoping for the best to come.

I haven't received my metal yet so I can't tell you just what it is like. But when it comes I will take a picture of it and send it to you. Our whole company had a group picture taken tonight and if they are any good, we can get them for \$1 a piece. If I find that I took a pretty good picture I am going to send it to you darling.

I haven't seen Hugh since Monday night, but I am going down to the main part of the Camp for Sunday so I may be able to find him.

I sure can use that clean underwear. I sure use enough of it because of sweating every day I dirty enough of them. Those handkerchiefs sure are going to be of good use, too. I have got the grandest wife and parents there is. I am taken the best care of and everyone is treating me so swell. I can't fail any of you now, but I sure feel like going over the hill sometimes and if anyone ever encouraged me when I have one of those spells, I think I would almost be coming home. But I really wouldn't because my honor to you means more to me than anything. I would really love to see you closer here, and I even looked all through the package because I thought you might have hid in there and come down to be with me. That would be the nicest thing down here in this place. Without you this place and any place is just nothing to me.

Well my darling our stars are right over my tent right now and I took your kiss and sent you one.

Will write again tomorrow evening.

{ Here are some stamps for Stubbley }
{ I sure cost you a lot of stamps }

I am so proud of you & Miss you so much
I just can't wait to see you again
Goodnight my precious Darling
Kurt

I got the Sentinel today
from last Friday

XXXs & Hugs
I am going to bed now & dream of you

Ft. Dix N.J.

Tuesday June 23, 1942

My dear darling,

Gee darling I feel so much better now that I heard your sweet voice today. Now it is close enough so that we can be together for awhile again. I was going to send a telegram telling you I was here, and then decided to call up the shop. I don't think I can get a pass this weekend, I want to try and get a three day pass the week of the fourth of July. I don't know how I am going to do on the furlough end of it, because I had the one when I first got in the army and that time is credited to me.

We are in barracks now and what a different place to live in. It's really beautiful here. Right in back of our barracks is the U.S.O. Service Club and the Guest House where you can stay. You would be about as far from my barracks as Deweys is to your house. We are ten minutes walk from the main gate and right in the best part of the camp.

We have a day room building here where we can read, write and listen to the radio. There are two ping pong tables here and it's really a great place. Gee darling it would be so grand if you could come down here and stay for awhile. There are quite a few girls at the guest house, and you wouldn't have to be alone when I couldn't be with you.

We aren't sure just how long we will be here, but is probably will be a month anyways. If I can't get a three day pass I will try and get up there for a few hours, and if you want to come back here with me, you could be right here with me. After I got here this morning I pinched myself to see if I really was dreaming because it didn't seem true. This is the best break I have had in a long time. You know darling if you did come down and I am here that long, we could be together on July 20, wouldn't that be the grandest thing there is.

I wrote a 12 page letter Friday night from Claiborne and Saturday morning just as I was going to mail it, we got called out into line, and were told that no more mail would be sent out, they gave us forms to fill out, and that was all we could send. Then I had to destroy the letter I wrote Friday night.

I didn't get any letters Saturday and then we left camp Sunday at 5 AM. When we got onto the train, we were told that we were going on at least a four day trip, that didn't make me feel so good because I thought then we were going west. I kept track of the route on the map and when we headed north & then east I felt better. Right now I feel so happy because I am going to see you again soon.

We had quite a trip on the way up here, and Monday when we were pretty sure we were coming here, all the boys from the east and myself just sang ourselves hoarse, because we were so happy we were coming near home. Now I am only about 300 miles from home, and that seems so much better than 1500. Coming up here there were three

separate train loads of us. On the train we were on, there were two companies, and the company that was riding behind our train lost a soldier last night. He committed suicide by jumping off the train when we were traveling about 70 miles an hour. He got scared that we were heading for the boats.

All our bags and boxes that were marked for the Port of Brooklyn, and were supposed to meet us at the ship, just came in here today after we got here, so you can see what sort of things they tell us in the army.

Darling if I knew for sure that you would be up to folks this Sunday I would call you up there. If you get this letter in time to let me know if you are, we can talk to each other again for awhile.

How is everything going along up there darling? Have any of the boys left there yet? It seems so good to be up here where the weather is the best and where you can really do things and not be all tired out all the time from the heat. It sure was getting hotter every day down there and now all I have to think about that place is just an experience.

Gee my precious darling I can hardly wait, until I can see you again and if there is any chance I think I will try & come home this weekend. I do not want a three day pass and then we don't really know how long we will be here, so I am going to take the first chance I get & come home to you my darling.

Whenever I do come, I will call up Gertie's store so that someone can meet me in Utica or Rome Saturday night. I think I have lost a few pounds, but watch me gain them back now that I can see you, and I am near home again.

We are waiting for our dinner yet and right now it is four thirty and still nothing to eat. They have got to fix up the mess kitchen and now we eat on plates again and not our mess kits.

This place is really heaven compared to Claiborne. If I can't get time off to come up and get you my darling, would you come down here and stay for a while with me? Maybe the folks could come some weekend and leave you here with me, and then in a few weeks, as long as I am here, come down and get you, so that you wouldn't have to travel alone if you didn't want to. We are going to see each other again soon my darling. I think dinner is about ready. I will write tomorrow again. I love you so much my darling. I am going to see you soon.

Always yours my darling

Kurt

Ft. Dix N.J.
Wednesday Eve 8:30P.M.
June 24, 1942

Hello my precious darling,

How is the nicest wife in the world tonight? This has been quite a quiet day here. I was working in the mess hall for a while today. We had another inspection of our equipment today, and this afternoon I got another shot in the arm.

I haven't received any letters from anyone since last Friday. Some of the boys got letters today that had been sent to Claiborne, but there wasn't any there for me. Gee I miss your letters so much when I don't hear from you, but now that I am close, the mail should come faster that it did.

Some of the New York City boys went up to the Lieutenant today and tried to get a weekend pass. He told them that there were no passes or furloughs going to be given. He even told some of the fellows that had told their wives to come down and stay, that they wouldn't be allowed in. We can't even have visitors now. I don't think it will be long before we can get passes and furloughs, I think that the boys got too anxious about going home so soon after we got here, and he told them that, to sort of quiet them down.

After a week or so here I think anyone near enough home will be allowed a pass to go home for a couple or three days. There is one fellow in our outfit who is only twenty miles from home, and he can't even get that far. Believe me if I ever was that close I would find some way to get there or have someone come and see me.

When they told us today that no passes were going to be issued, I was going to write and have you come down here, and then they said no visitors at all, and that put the bottom out of that plan. But in a week or so I am sure we can have passes, and then I should be able to either get a three day pass or maybe a furlough. I am going to try for a furlough first and if that is refused I will try for as long a pass as I can get. They say that anyone that is leaving the country is entitled to a furlough anyways, no matter if he has had one before or not.

The outfit that left Claiborne three weeks before we did and came up here, got furloughs, and now are headed for Seattle, Wash. and Alaska. This Fort Dix is now an embarkation point, and all regiments that leave here are usually due for embarkation. We may move to another camp, because of the small training we have had. We haven't any trucks here so it looks like a short stay here. Most of the boys here think we will just stay here until some outfit up north leaves and then we will take their places.

I woke up last night and was nearly freezing. I had two wool blankets, doubled, over me, and the goose pimples sure were out on me. This northern climate is new to me after living down south for a while. You should have seen the fellows that live down

south. They woke up and were so cold, that they put on their woolen underwear this morning, and wore it all day long.

Last night I went over to the Service Club to write some cards, and as I was writing this, a fellow sat down at the piano and started playing our song "Intermezzo". Some of the fellows in our tent down in Claiborne had remembered me telling them that song was our wedding song, and they thought that my being so near to home, and could get there, that they would have it played for me and make me feel better. It's made me feel so happy and near you.

I am writing this letter in the day room here, and between Eddie Cantor on the radio & the ping pong game I am quite a job of it. There is a big dance at the Service Club tonight, a bunch of truck drivers for another outfit in the air corps are having it and I guess there are about thirty girls over there. This sure is a swell place to be stationed, and I only wish it was permanently, but that is asking too much. It feels just like being back in Upton again, except that is a whole lot better with the club here. At least we have a place to go and buy a good dinner and have sodas & ice cream. We also have a Post Exchange just a block away, and we can buy anything there, even radios and suitcases.

Diana Shaw is now singing "I Miss You" on the Eddie Cantor program, and that goes double here. I am hoping so much to be able to see you, and the first chance I get I am going to come home to you, and if I can't I want you to come here.

Darling I wrote the wrong address on the envelope yesterday. I forgot to put the engineer Co. on it, but the ones from now on have the correct address on them. I will get the mail that is addressed as I had it yesterday just the same. They gave us that address because that is so no one will know where the 344th Engineer Outfit now is, and any agent or spy can't locate us. Your mail I am writing will probably be postmarked New York City and not from here.

Have you received the engineer pin yet darling? I hope it got there OK. One of the fellows that works for the Major just came in and he told me to cheer up, because all the fellows that live near are going to get passes, and I have a good chance for one, because I can get home in a short time.

We are eating on plates now, and not out of mess kits and it feels so different now. After nearly two months of using a couple of pans to eat out of, it seems like something new. About all the boys around here have gone back to wearing their heavy uniforms, and they feel so different, after having worn the light ones for so long. In this camp the light ones aren't considered as a uniform, and just when I got my new shirt too.

Darling, when the two rolls of film are developed may I have the pictures of those fellows. I promised to send the older looking fellow one, because he is the one that has been married for 15 years and has the 9 years old. He stayed in Claiborne because he is trying for a discharge and they wouldn't send him along with us. The fellow that was in

our tent who went A.W.O.L. was also left in Claiborne to await his court marshal sentence.

We are about sixty miles from New York and there are airplanes & dirigibles flying around here all day long. It's about the same distance home as Upton was, and if I get the pass I can make it in just the same time as it took from Upton.

Have they heard anything from Johnny Walker yet? He may be on his way cross country. They sure are moving this army around places fast. I can just imagine that train ride cross country if we go to Seattle & Alaska. It would take better than a week, and two days on a train is too long for me. I haven't gotten the cinders out of my hair and eyes from the last two trips. I sure have had enough train rides to last me for a long time. I have traveled about 4,000 miles in the last seven weeks, and that is too much on a train.

We came back almost the same way we went down, except that we came through Memphis, Tennessee, Louisville, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio. We passed by the Lucky Strike factory and one of the big power dams they are building in Kentucky. The USAO sent two bottles of Coca Cola to each soldier on the train when we got into Memphis. It was kept cold on the train, and really tasted good.

Well my sweet darling it is nearly time for "lights out" here. I will write you again tomorrow night. I can see our stars here too and they look closer together now. I hope to see you my darling soon. Gee I am going to be so happy to see you again. I can't hardly wait for the time to come.

I am going to bed and dream of you my darling. You are always in my heart. Have you heard the new song "Brown Eyes"? It's a beautiful song for us. If we should happen to be moved from here very quickly, and you don't get a letter in two days you will know I am being shipped again darling.

Goodnight you beautiful darling. I love you beautiful XXXXXS & hugs

Yours forever

Kurt

Camp Dix
New Jersey

Sunday Afternoon
June 28, 1942

Hello Gorgeous!

Well darling it's now about the time I would be leaving up there if that damn telegram hand' came. Everyone here is busy packing their things. We are getting more equipment like heavy caps and tin helmets and also our pay for June. We are only getting \$10 today, they are holding the rest up on us for some reason or other. We have been packing our packs with our equipment, such as two blankets, as suit of uniforms, shelter half tent, shaving supplies, mattress covers, and raincoat. The thing weighs enough and sure is heavy.

There sure is a bunch of visitors around here today. I only wish you were here to walk with me. It looks as if we really are going to travel a long ways again. We had to fill out a government card today and it was marked The New York Port of Embarkation War Department. On it they have a brief message which says we have arrived at our destination and are well. It gives the same post office address as I have now. So darling if you don't get any letters for a while, you know I am on my way. If you don't hear from me in quite a while, you will know I am going far away from the only person in the world I care about and with whom I spent the most happiest day yesterday and I was so happy. No matter where they send me darling, I will always be thinking of you and just waiting for the time to come when I can be with you again and be as happy as I was yesterday.

Please don't worry if you don't hear from me often from now on because we probably won't be able to do much writing until we get located again. I only wish that we could be stationed here for the duration and then I could be so happy. This being on the move all the time is getting tiresome. Some of the fellows that were out on leave are not back yet and all of us were supposed to be in by noon. There are some outfits here in camp that were called back from leaves and they are in the infantry and other units.

I dozed off into dreamland after I left Utica and woke up about twelve times during the trip. I would be dreaming about you and I and would wake right up expecting to be with you and I would be sitting there alone. Gee darling I sure was, and still am, lonesome for you.

Darling you gave me the happiest day I have had in a long time yesterday. From the way things look around here today, the next time we are together it will be forever. The tailors in our barracks are taking off all the shiny buttons and the Lieutenants uniforms so they will not shine in the sun and be an easy target.

Well sweet they just took me over and had my finger prints and pictures taken. I had to fill out a form stating that I have been given instruction on embarkation, and if I in

any way hold the progress of the company up by being late or anything like that, I am subject to court martial. They say that Sunday is a day of rest, but in here there are no days of rest.

Darling, one of the fellows in our barracks was called in from Connecticut last night and he drove his car down. He went out to the main gate this afternoon and picked up 4 soldiers who were in the infantry. He was telling them how he had been called back and told we were going to move. They told him that they had been here four weeks, and the first weeks they were here they had some passes given to them, and they were all called back and put on the alert. They have had there alerts since then, and they still are here. This maybe a practice for us, but it looks too much like the real thing to me.

We got our \$10 today and now the boys are upstairs in our barracks “shooting craps” and losing what money they have got. You don’t get me in any of those games, because all the extra money I have is going into furniture for that home we are going to have when I get out of here.

My sweet, if we are still here Thursday night, I will call up and let you know if I think we still will be here Sunday & Saturday so that you can come & be with me again.

I can’t figure out what they are going to do with this outfit. This life of always thinking of moving and never staying in one place is getting me. All day long it seemed as if I was just walking around in a fog and wasn’t myself. If only I had some idea where I was going and everything, this is just like living when it was at the time I was waiting for my draft paper, and could not be certain of anything.

I am pretty sure I will sleep tonight and I am going to dream every minute of you. Darling if I didn’t have you, I wonder wheat I ever would do. You are so brave and doing such a grand job at the house there. You sure are doing a fine job helping the folks out.

Well my beautiful darling I think I will go to bed for a nice, long sleep with you. I will write when I can. I love you my precious.

XXXXXs & Hugs

Yours forever & Ever
Kurt

(Inside the envelope:

Hi my sweet poocher

You are always in my heart

No matter how far I am from you my darling)

Monday Evening
June 29, 1942

My dear Darling,

Well sweet, we are still here, but I don't know for how long. Right now we have everything we own packed in the bags and ready to move. We haven't done a thing all day, except for a physical examination, and the rest of the day we played cards & softball. From the looks of things we are really going someplace. They even have shut off the telephone service here, and we can get no word out of camp. I really don't know if this letter will get to you now. They may hold it until we have left.

I got three of your letters today. I got the Wednesday letter I hadn't gotten, the airmail one, and the one you wrote Sunday night. I really think they are holding up our mail because it took 4 days for that airmail letter to come, and that's more than it used to take to go to Claiborne.

I really slept last night, and all night long I dreamed of you, and it was so beautiful. Then I had to wake up this morning, to find myself away from you. I will be so glad when I can wake up in the morning and find myself with you again. It will be such a happy day again, when I can look over at you in bed and watch you in your sleep. You look so gorgeous and I will never forget that night up home in Osceola when I was watching you, and you woke up and saw me. I have got that picture you sent me right in my pocketbook, and it's there with the rest of them forever.

Some of the boys that were out on passes and were telegraphed didn't come in until eleven last night. They told the commander they didn't get them and that was all there was to it. I only wish I had stayed until I had to come back, there wasn't a word said to those fellows. It just goes to show that some fellows can get away with anything. I really tried in sincerity to get a two day pass and did, yet some fellows had a twenty-four hour pass and went out when I did, and they came back last night, and got away with it.

They are still letting visitors come into camp, and I can't figure out how they do that, then don't let them telephone. They gave me some new tags today to wear around my neck in place of the other ones, and they put my blood type on them, and then, they had to write your name wrong on them, and now I have to have another set made. My first sets were perfect and then they have to go and make a mistake on the other one.

When I got in here yesterday morning I had to rush right in here and pack my barracks bag and packs because they were supposed to be ready by 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. After I got them all fixed up that was the end of it, and here they still sit, and no one has looked at them.

You should see me in my new helmet. It is one of the new kinds that fit down by your neck, and I really look like a Nazi. They are very light but will stand quite a lot of punishment. They have an inside shell you can wear and it's just like a sun hat.

Two or three of the boys in our barracks here have gone A.W.O.L. One of them lives in New York City and one lives down in Georgia. They went out Friday night without passes and I guess they are gone for good. Most of the fellows do that because they figure if they are caught they will be sent to the guard house for the duration, and won't be sent over with us, but the regiment headquarters are wise to them, and they are going to send them right along with us.

That regiment that went out of Claiborne ahead of us three weeks ago, and came up here, are still here, and it was just talk about them being in Alaska. They have had no furloughs but have had weekend passes every week. The first week they were here they were all called back by telegrams, and had to pack up and get ready to leave. Then they went on a twenty mile hike and stayed over night, and came back the next day. Now they are on the alert again with us. I only hope we do the same thing, and stay here awhile yet.

I really want to see you again before we move, and if we do get more weekend passes I can be with you longer next time. That time sure flew by this weekend, and while it lasted I had the most wonderful time with you darling. I love you so much darling and only hope I can be with you again soon. I am going to try so hard to get this thing over with in as short a time as I can, so I can be with you again soon..

Darling I have got to stop because of orders but will write when I can. I love you so much darling and you are always in my heart.

Goodnight Darling. You're in my mind always.

Love to the sweetest wife,

Kurt

Tuesday Evening
June 30, 1942

My Precious Darling,

Well my darling this will probably be the last letter from this country. I am writing this letter aboard a ship. We are sailing about Wednesday night so my sweet when you get this letter I will be on my way. I don't know where to, but no matter where they send me, I am always loving you, and thinking of you. I tried to phone you last night, but I couldn't and I even had to get the letter sent from outside camp.

I have had a feeling ever since I got the telegram Saturday that this was going to happen. Please break in gentle to the folks, so that they won't take it too bad. Just as soon as I arrive at the front I will get word to you my darling.

We have nice quarters here to sleep in, and we have a club room where we can go and read. One corner of the room is just full of magazines and books. We are on the top deck, and have the benefit of all the fresh air. All the boys are betting where we will end up. I think it's either England or Ireland. But it makes no difference to me now. They are taking me out of the United States and from the one I love at home, and now I can only follow along.

I sure am taking a fast trip out of this country. In about two months, I was drafted into the army and now it's a boat trip. The only thing I can do now is pray that this war will be over in a short time, so I can come back to you my darling. We sure are getting the tough breaks in this war. First we are separated from each other, then they send me miles from you when other fellows are a few miles from home and the last thing is being shipped out of the country.

I know that you will try and be brave my precious darling but please don't let it get on Mother and Dad's nerves. Tell them not to worry about me. I know just how Dad is, but when he finds out about this, it's liable to make him worse. From the way he acted last weekend I know that this is going to make it worse and if he keeps it up I am going to be worried all the time over him. If he keeps it up he is going to ruin himself, and I want him there when I come back.

You can still write to me as often as you want to, to me and I will get the mail sometime. Every chance I get I will write, and when we get settled across, I will write every night again if I can.

Darling I am so glad I took lat weekend and came home and didn't wait until this weekend to try as some of the boys did. I at least had 1 day with you my precious and it was the happiest day in a long time. Some of them Brooklyn boys didn't get passes and couldn't come home, and now they are only three or four blocks from home, and can't get there. That is really what hurts when you are so near home, and can't get there.

If Dad thinks he can get a good price for our car, then let him sell it darling. You can put the money in the bank what you don't need darling. You can offer him the amount he has paid out for payments on it, and if he refuses I will settle with him when I get home.

We can get cigarettes for 7¢ a package on the boat, but I really don't know how good we will be able to get them when we get off the boat. That is a birthday hint for someone if they want to send those and matches. As yet I have received no word from Jim or Leona.

The only thing that keeps me going in here is your love for me and the part that I won't be in combat duty or near its front. I think if I thought we were going to be right up there I would feel a little different toward this trip.

My precious if I am not able to send any word to you on the 20th please remember that wherever I am at, I will be thinking of you all the time and especially between two and three o'clock, and when I get home we are going on another trip like the one last summer. When I get located, I will get word of some kind for the anniversary.

Well my beautiful darling I think I will have to close for now, as its almost ten, and time for lights out. I will let you know the first chance I get and please don't worry my darling, will you for my sake dear.

I am always thinking of you my poocher and before long I will be coming back to you, and then we will be happy again.

Well my darling I will close for now. I love you so truly and just adore you so much. I'll be back before long sweetheart and in your arms again forever & ever. Will you be mine at 11PM?

Goodnight beautiful.
Your most faithful own.
Kurt

XXXXXXXX's & Hugs
1,000,000,000 XXX for the 20th

At Sea – Monday Evening
July 6, 1942

My Sweet Darling:

Well I am still on my way across, and so far the trip has been a pleasant one. The ocean has been very calm, and there has been no rough weather at all. Today the ship has been rolling a little, and some of the boys have been a little sick, but not much to speak of. I have a feeling in my head that feels just as if my head was swimming around, and it feels just as if I was staggering around. We haven't been able to see much for a few days because of the fog at this time of year. I was out on the deck most of the day, and I had to have my field jacket on in order to keep warm. Some day when this is all over, I am going to take you on a cruise on the ocean, and then we can really enjoy the trip. This trip would be a happy voyage if you were along with me. The ocean air is so cool and fresh, and it really makes you feel like a different person, except that now I don't feel like much of anything. I have caught myself a cold, and can you imagine me with a cold in the middle of the summer?

We had a very good meal tonight down at the mess hall, we had mashed potatoes, chicken, peas, ice cream, and coffee. They are really feeding us very good, and I think by the time that I get off this ship I will have put on some more weight. I am feeling pretty good, but I miss you very much, and only wish I didn't have to be so far away from you. But I guess that in this army we weren't supposed to be close together, as some kind of single fellows are, and can come home nearly every weekend. I will let you tell the folks what address to write to me to, and when I get time I will write some letters to them, and tell them how things are going. I am so disappointed that I could not still be in Fort Dix, so that we could be together on the 20 of July, but my darling I will be thinking of you all day long, and before long I will be with you again, and from then on we will celebrate every one of them in good shape, and really pain the town red. You k now that I am Thinking of you all the time my darling, and no matter how far away they send me, that can't keep me from loving you, and there is never a moment that goes by, that you aren't in my mind, and that feeling for you grows more and more as the time I am away from you passes by. I couldn't get to church services yesterday as I was on guard duty most of the day, and when it was over, it was too late by then, but I said a prayer last night for the both of us, and maybe next Sunday I can attend the services.

Today I didn't have much to do, so I got into a poker game, and I really had good luck and came out with eighteen dollars more than when I started. That is the end of my playing because the next time I might go the other way, and I am not going to get in the habit of gambling like that. Some of the boys have really cleaned up some money on this trip and they already changing their money for English money. I k now that I am going to have an awful time getting used to this English pound and shilling. I won't know what to use, and just how much I am paying for anything. From the looks of the coins that I have seen today, I think I will have to have a reinforced pocket put on my pants to hold the money, because they are so large and heavy. The pennies look like the ones that we have

at home in the coin box, and when you get a few of them in your pockets, you really have a load.

I heard today that in order for you to get fifty dollars a month from the government, the red cross has to look into the case, and if they think that you are able to take care of yourself, they won't pay the extra twenty eight dollars, and the only amount you will receive is twenty two dollars. If that is the case you wont be able to put that extra money in the bank toward the furniture we are going to buy when this is all over, and we have that little home of our own. But I will send all the extra money home, and if you don't need it, you can put it away in the bank. Now that I am in over-sea duty, we are supposed to get a 20% increase in pay. I don't know of any other fellows that are gout this way, do you my darling, and if there are any of them, will you tell me so that I any some time be able to get in touch with them. As far as I know, I am the first one from home to be sent to this part of the world. I may have it over on some of them by being the first local boy to go this way, and maybe I will get a little publicity in the local paper. I hope that the paper can be sent to me, and that it won't take too long for the mail to reach the place where we are going. It is going to seem so lonesome until I start to get your letters, and every day I am going to be waiting for a letter from home. You can be sure that every chance I get, I am going to write a letter to you, and the folks at home. I know that way over here a box from home now is going to be treasured, and all the mail that I get is going to be helpful. I am going to have difficulty in keeping track of our time at eleven o'clock from now on my darling, because the time over here is five or six hours faster than it is at home, and when it's eleven at home, it will be about four in the morning over here. I am going to think of us at eleven here, and you can think of us at eleven up there, and in that way we will both be doing our best. But no matter what the time is, you are always in my heart, and that feeling will never be leaving me. It's going to be hard for us to be so far from each other my darling, but we are always in each others' minds, and some day we are going to be together again, and all this will just be a memory, and we will be so happy when we are together again.

Have you and the folks been down to the beach lately playing bingo? When you do go down will you play a few games for me, and eat a few hamburg sandwiches with lots of katsup on them. Right about now I wish I had a nice big dish of that on them. Right about now I wish I had a nice big dish of that spaghetti and meatballs that you make. I sure could make a meal of about two or three plates of it. That is one of the dishes I especially want to have the first night I am home, and besides that I want a nice big dish of strawberry shortcake with lots of whipped cream on them. When I do get back I am going to just travel around with you, and just loaf in the sun all day long, and sleep as long in the morning as we want to, with never a care or worry in the world Then after I have had a couple of months of that, I will start to find myself a job, and start to live the life again that I had to leave now.

There are a lot of the other boys here that have left their wives at home, and I know just how they are feeling to have to be so far from home, and then the time can't come to soon when I and the rest of them can come back to our wives, and me especially to the grandest wife in the world who makes me so proud of her, and who is taking the

best of care of the two people in the home that I was brought up in. I don't want them to be worried of me, because I am going to be in the safest place, and it isn't as if I was going to be right in the middle of the thing. If you can convince them of them of that, and I can believe they are not worrying, I will feel better and can do my part over here, and in that way I can be coming home sooner to you my darling.

I guess that this will have to be all for now as it is getting sort of late, and I have got to get my sleep, so that I will be fit to do a job on the Dirty Dutch Bas--- that are making all this trouble and keeping us apart.

Goodnight my darling, and I will again just as soon as I can.

You're always in my heart
Faithfully forever
Kurt

*

*

They still shine over here

At Sea – Thursday Evening – 5PM
July 9, 1942

My Dear Darling:

Well here is another day almost through, and one more less that I will have to be away from you. We have set our watches two and one half hours ahead of the time up there, and still have about the same number of hours to change. I haven't changed my watch yet, and still have the New York time on my watch. In that way I can still tell when it's eleven o'clock over there, and think back to that night on the way to Syracuse, when you told me that you would be mine. I spend about five or ten minutes at that hour every night, to send you my love and millions of kisses by the way of our two stars that are still shining over here. They are still shining as bright as ever, and it won't be so very long before we can look at them together again. It seems so lonesome to be so far away from home, and with all this water between us. When I was in Claiborne it seemed far away but then there was land between us and not water. I only wish I could have spent more time home this last time, but I am so thankful that I could spend at least a day with you, before I had to leave and come across.

I know how some of the fellows felt when they were only an hours trip from home, and they waited until the next weekend to try and go home, and then they moved us out and they could not get home at all. At least I had a few hours with my precious darling, and they can not take those precious hours away from me. But no matter how far I am from you my precious, you are always in my mind, and heart, and that feeling is never going to fade, and I am just waiting for the time to come, when I can be with you again and be happy again.

I am trying to take this on the chin and be brave for you my sweet, because I know there are lots of others like us that were made unhappy and they feel the same way as we do. I do not think that there is anyone that can compare to the strong love we have for each other though. That love is growing stronger every day, and is going to last us both for a life. I do know that when I am home again, there is nothing that is going to take us from each other again, and we will be together for life.

I don't know just how long it is going to take for these letters to come across, but you will be getting them as fast as I have a spare moment, and you maybe getting of bunch of them at once, but just the same you will know that the feeling is still as strong as ever, and I am thinking of you all the time. You know my darling that at least your husband is over there doing his part to make this world safe, and not sitting home like some of those other fellows are, and keeping under their wives' skirts. You can stand right up in front of the other wives and hold your head high and know that some day the rest of them will look up to you. After it is all over we will know that we did our part to win the cause, and have nothing to be ashamed of.

There is only one thing that is bothering me and that is how Dad is taking it now that I am over here. I want you to tell him that he should not feel as he did, because I am

alright and there is no need to be worried about me. He knows the kind of outfit that I am in, and we won't be in any action, and I am going to be as safe as if I were in the mill up home. The chances are that we won't go any further than this stop, and just stay where we are and maintain the place. I cannot tell much about other things, as this is war, and nothing can be said about what is going on where we are. As long as the letters are slow coming, you will know that, No News Is Good News, as they say.

I still have been trying to figure out the English currency today and it sure is a hard job. There are so many different names for the coins that I get all muddled up over them. I think that I will have to carry a list of the different names and values along with me all the time, in that way I will be able to tell just how much in American money the thing costs. I hope to bring you home, many things from here when this is over, and you will have something to show the people up there. I have always thought of visiting abroad, but I never thought it would be without you, an in form of trip as this is. Sometime again in my life, I hope to have you along with me, and make this trip a more pleasant voyage. As far as the trip itself goes, it has been very good, except for the fact that we are apart, and can not enjoy it together, and we are used to doing things.

I have been figuring it up, and since I was inducted into the army nearly three (LONG) months ago, I have traveled nearly nine thousand miles. I hope before long that they start to settle down with us and give us time to breathe, and station us someplace to work. They sure have been giving us good meals, and by the looks of the notch in my belt, I think I must have gained a few pounds on this trip. Tonight they are giving us spaghetti and some other things, and when I am eating it I am going to imagine that you fixed it for me, and that I am eating my supper home with you.

We have been on the ship now just long enough now, so that it is sort of getting tiresome, and things are beginning to bother me. I will be glad when we land and start doing things, because this sitting here gets very tiresome, and after a while it begins to work on your mind. I expect to get my truck-drivers license when we land, and then will have a truck of my own to look after, and take care of. That will sort of occupy my mind and make the time I am away from you go faster and then I can come back to you sooner. It is going to be such a wonderful day for us both, when I can walk up to you and throw my arms around you my darling, and tell you I am home to stay with you forever. That is all that I am looking forward to and when that day comes, I will be happy and can just look back upon this as sort of a dream or something.

Have you been to the doctor lately to start taking your treatments? Please write and tell me how you are getting along, and if everything is going to be all right. Those three that I had when I was home are going to last me for the duration of this thing, and then when I get home I will continue the treatments as they were taken before. I can truthfully tell you that this husband will never take even a speck of anything, and that is going to be the last thought on my mind until I get home again.

I have been getting rid of my cold the past few days and now I have got it pretty well licked, and am feeling better. I went up to the medical room for two days, and they

really fixed me up in good shape. I received my passport picture yesterday and if you ever saw a tougher looking convict, you should see the picture that I took. It is even worse than the one that I had taken up at the mill, and is ever more blacker. I reached into my pocket this afternoon and picked up a package of the gum that I bought for you the Saturday I was home, and then tat feeling of lonesomeness came over me, and then I really was bad off.

Has Betty received her ring from Tony yet? I suppose they will be getting married after this is over, or if he is still as lucky as ever, and stays in Fort Niagara, they might be married be that. He sure has had it lucky to be stationed there as long as he has, and can come and go as he pleased. If anyone had told me when I got into the army that in less than three months I would be across, I would have laughed in their face. But now that it has happened it's just like anything else. The way they have been moving me around lately I really don't know if I am coming or going, and my mind is all muddled up.

Well my darling I guess that this is about all the news there is to tell now, and I have to start to get in line for supper and the spaghetti. I am going to be looking for lots of long letters from you my darling. I will write every time I can, and let you know how I am getting along. Please write often won't you my precious, because that will have to bring us the closest we can be together until this thing is over.

Goodnight by beautiful darling!

YOU ARE ALWAYS IN MY HEART!

THERE IS NOONE IN THE WORLD AS LOVELY AS YOU – BEAUTIFUL

Faithfully yours for ever

Kurt

XXXXs & Hugs

Sunday July 19, 1942
From Somewhere in England

My Precious Darling:

The most wonderful wife in the world.

My thoughts are with you today my darling on our first wedding anniversary. We may be far from each other, but they can't stop our thinking of each other, and our strong love we have for each other. Today I am thinking back at a year ago now, and remember everything that happened that day. It is now ten o'clock in the morning here and four o'clock in the morning over there. I feel so helpless that I can't be near to you today, and it's all I can stand to keep myself going today. I am praying so hard that this thing will be over soon, and I can be coming back to you. When I get back I am going to make up this being away from you today, and for all the other days I have been from you. Tonight at 8 o'clock I will be thinking of us at the church a year ago, as it will be 2 o'clock over there, and I am going to sing Intermezzo and With this ring, I do thee Wed. To take this woman, to have & to hold, until death do us part. To cherish and love and be faithful to her forever.

When I was at Ft. Dix, I had high hopes of being with you today, but it seems that since I have been in here, every time I plan on something, it always turns out to be a disappointment. But my sweet, they can't keep me here too long, and then we will be together and happy again.

I have had all my money changed into English money, and what a mess of it I have got. I still can't figure any of the value out, and I just pay what they ask and take what change they give me.

When I used to talk and kid with Durg about coming into the army and going right to work, I never dreamed that after being in 2 ½ months I would be here. I have sure taken a fast trip so far, and only hope that it's a faster one home.

So far I haven't been able to get a pass to town. It's only about a couple of miles from here, and a very small one at that. The houses all are about the same style and built. They look about the same as the ones in Pennsylvania. I have been drinking so much tea this last week that right now I don't care to see another tea leaf again. The English food is good, but they don't have the fancy dishes we have at home.

We have some British fellows here that are from Canada and who help us cook. Some of them were in the Battle of Dunkirk, and it's really interesting to hear them talk. They have been in here since the war started, and they are ready to go home anytime. I suppose by the time I get out of here I will have acquired a blooming good accent, eh what old chap.

This place around here reminds me of the White Mountain of New Hampshire. The farms are all laid out in about the same pattern, and most of them use stone fences.

There are not many automobiles and about everyone has a bicycle to use, and then they drive on the left hand side of the road.

We took a train ride through Scotland, and there was the most beautiful sight I have seen since I left home. The towns between the hills and every house as spic & clean as can be. I have heard about all this and seen pictures, but I never thought I would be able to see it.

I had quite a time with the boys on the boat about the poem I was always saying about Hello ~~New York~~ America. They thought it was pretty good after they found out where we were and it hits right on the nose.

Darling, will you take some of the money from the mill and buy a box of cigars and some cigarettes and send me some. The cigarettes over here cost too much and there are no cigars at all. We are living in tents again, but in a few days we hope to go on the construction job we are here to do, and then we expect to be living in barracks. This is about the first chance I have had to write and as yet we don't have our barracks bags, and all my writing paper & things are in them, so I had to borrow this. Please excuse the writing as I am laying on my bed and writing that way.

How are all the folks up there? Tell them I said hello and that I will write the first chance I get. I don't know how long it takes for mail, but only hope it isn't too long.

Darling have you started taking your treatments yet. I suppose you have, but will you write and tell me if you are feeling all right. It seems so lonesome as I haven't received any mail in three weeks now, and I suppose from now on our letters will be taking longer to reach each other. I saw in the papers here the other night the show with John Payne & Claudette Colbert in it that we saw together where he had to leave her and go far away. (Remember the Day, 1941) Those are about the latest pictures they have around here.

Please tell the folks that I am feeling good and that there is nothing to be worried about. I am going to be safe and I expect to be back to you & them before long. Have them write often as news from home now is going to be welcomed.

Has Durg hear if he is going to be taken yet. I suppose that if he is, he won't be taken as fast out of the country as I was. He will probably be lucky like the rest of them, and be near home. But I can take it, and when I get back I will at least did my part, even though it made my life very unhappy & lonesome while I was away. I am just looking forward to coming home, and spending the rest of those happy years together with you my darling.

Well sweetheart I have got to get ready to go on guard duty and will have to eat before that. I am going to write as often as I can.

I am thinking of you all the time and especially more today on our First Anniversary. I pray I will be with you on our next one. Our stars shine here every night. So long for now my beautiful. I take this lovely person to be my wife forever & ever.

Your faithful husband

Yours forever & ever

Kurt

I miss you so much poocher
It's so hard to be away from you

[Date cut out by censor]

My Own Darling:

Another week is nearly done and that is one less that I will have to be from you. It is almost a month now since I last saw you and it seems like years. Each day I am away makes me miss you more & more, and every moment of the day you are on my mind. There are many mornings that I wake up and start to turn over and look at you, and then I find myself all alone here. It just seems that I can't stay away from you any longer and that I must come right back to you. Some letters came to the camp yesterday from home, but there wasn't any for me. Some were dated the 10th of July, and I can't figure where my letters or papers are. I am so anxious to get my letters from you, and it takes so long now.

Some of the boys got letters dated the 17th of July which were sent by airmail, and they got here quite a bit quicker than the ordinary mail. If you think you can afford to send them airmail you can send them that way and I will get them sooner, because the other way it might take as much as a month for me to get a letter.

When you write you had better only use one side of the paper, as the letter is censored and they might cut something out of it and destroy the writing on the other side.

If any of the folks want to know what I would like for my birthday you can tell them cigarettes, cigars, and matches. You might send my cigarette lighter to me and in that way I will be able to save on matches. Something else that would be good are little nick nacks like sardines or those things and candy. Something like that would taste very good now.

The place we are stationed in now is a very pleasant place, and their English places with the thatched roofs really are beautiful. I have been to town a couple of times so far and it's quite a place. The only thing is that I have lots of trouble with this English money. I get all mixed up with pences and shillings. I nearly got run over with these left hand side of the road drivers, it's so different than what they do at home. Most of the people ride bicycles and you can buy them for a little or nothing. If it were possible, I would send one home for you to ride, but there is not much chance of it right now. I got myself an English haircut. I have just about got enough hair now to cover my head up.

All week long I have thought where we were each day a year ago, and I could tell the exact place each day. It is nine o'clock up home in the morning now, and a year ago today at this time we were just pulling into the yard up at your folks place. It doesn't seem possible that so many things could happen since that day when we said "I Will." When I get back, we are going on the same trip again at the same time of year, and have another happy trip together.

I only hope that this will be the only July I am away from you, because I can't stand those dates all alone from you. When this is all over and we are back together my

darling, we will be happy again, and then we can start living happy all over again. That day when I get off the train and meet you in my arms is going to be one of the happiest days of my life. I only pray that this will be over soon, and that day will come soon when I get off that train and can be with you forever.

I don't want you or the folks to be worried if you don't hear regular from me, because I may not be able to write every time. I am safe and feeling good and I hope to be seeing you before long. I hope Dad is taking it OK now and if he isn't you tell him to come of it for my sake and help me along. It won't be too long before I will be back and I want everyone to be well and there to meet me.

Have any more of the Camden boys gone yet? Have they started to take any of the married ones like Frosty or Jack? They probably will be stationed near home, and have the luck to be able to come home often.

Darling I told Mother before I left that if you didn't hear from me by the 20th of July to pick out something and get it for me, to give you on our day. Now I want you take some of the money that is in the box and buy yourself something very nice that you want and that I would get you if I were there to buy it. Please do that for me my darling and when I come home, you can show it to me as my first anniversary gift to you. If only I could have been near you on that date and at least sent something, but being so far away and not able to, I felt so helpless. When I get back home, we will make up for all this and really get out and go places and have a good time together.

I am looking around and everything that I think you will like I am getting and bringing home to you. I got my barracks bags today and my equipment and now I have my own paper & things. I have been reading over some of the letters I have from you, and it makes me feel so happy at the things you say in them and how brave and patient you are, up there, and me over here and my precious darling I will come back to you again, and then we can plan on doing things together again. I adore you for being so brave and I know there are a lot of girls that couldn't go through what you are, and that makes me all the prouder of you darling.

One of the boys here got a letter from the girl he was going with before he came into the army, and now she wrote and told him she was writing the letter on her honeymoon and that she married another fellow. This boy is really going around here in a day and I don't blame him because someone like that who can't do his part and show some interest in someone that is helping is not worth much.

I guess there are a lot of them that are finding out just how really great their love was before they were married, and there's nothing in the world that can tear or break my Great Love for you darling, and my thoughts are only of you and the time that I can be with you again. If you have any more good pictures, can I have some of them? I want all there is of you and all the latest ones you have taken.

Darling do you know that when you are getting out of work at night, I am going to bed to dream of you my precious.

Well my sweet I must sign off for now and get cleaned up for supper. I am writing every chance I get and loving you more & more each day. I miss your voice, the touch of your hands, but I know that you understand, my darling.

*Our stars even shine
over here.

Goodnight and God Bless you - Beautiful

* XXXXXs
OOOO Hugs for every night.

Yours faithful & forever
Kurt

August 31, 1942
Somewhere in England

Hello My Darling:

Well I finally have had a few minutes to myself after three days of it. Yesterday I went after trucks and drove in a convoy all day long. I sure saw a lot of England on the trip. Saturday night they had a benefit show for our regiment and they had in person Al Jolson, Merle Oberon, Frank McHugh, and Joe Martin, They sure were good, and got a lot of laughs. Jolson sang "Sunny Boy" and "Mammy." They are over here playing at the different American camps. I am sending a little gift that I got in town Saturday and it tells just the way I feel. Saturday I got four letters from you and I sure like to get those long letters from you. The Camden Papers haven't come now in about two weeks, and I still haven't got any of my boxes. I have been saving a certain type of English coin and I am making you a bracelet out of them. They had some in the jewelry store in London and they looked pretty nice.

My darling we are allowed to use cameras and the next time I can get to London I am going to buy a small one so that I can take pictures and send them to you. Your airmail letters got here as fast as the V letters do. Thank you very much my darling for the stamps and now I can write some long letters to you.

Yesterday was another one of those rainy Sundays like we have at home. Most of last week we had nice sunny days, and they were almost as hot as it was in Louisiana.

The last two or three days I have been learning to ride a motorcycle and haven't taken a spill yet. I hope that when I get home I can get one and give you a ride on it. I have yet to find a straight road in this country and every curve has a high hedge around it, and the driving is like going through a tunnel. I saw our little brick cottage with the old English style type yesterday, but it lacked the shutters on the windows.

Are you getting pretty good at your tennis playing? Do you think you are good enough yet to play me a game and try to beat me? You want to get all practiced up, because when I get back, I expect to take a months vacation and just enjoy myself with you. I suppose they are starting up the bowling teams pretty soon aren't they and then you can enjoy yourself some more then sweet. I haven't any idea who that fellow was from the mill that Betty was talking to, maybe if I knew his last night, I would remember him. That penny bank you are starting is a good idea my darling, and that is one of the first things we will have if you want it right away. We are going to have the most grandest time when this is all over aren't we my "poocher." I can use some cotton socks if you want to send a few pairs of them to me.

If those surveyors get monkeying around our rock garden up there, tell them to leave it alone as that is valuable property and worth something. I have been getting some ideas on laying out flower gardens since I have been here, and they really go at it in a big way over here. I have always heard of the box wood trees over here, but as of yet I have

not seen any of them. If you are still getting the Life Magazine you can watch for a picture of some of the fellows in our company in it, as they took some of them over here, and they are printing their pictures in it. I am sending you a clipping from the newspapers we get, and think you might want to put it in our scrap book, as there is something in it that we both think is one of the nicest things in the world.

I don't think I can find that Hague boy unless I accidentally run into him sometime when I am in London. We get every eighth day off, and are allowed a thirty hour pass to go any place. I have a book here with pictures of London in it, and I am going to try and send it home to you. I am looking for things I think will interest you.

Yesterday we went through Coventry where the Jerries came after the big R.A.F raid on Germany when we were in Louisiana, and what a sight that was.

Well my sweet it is nearly time for lights out, as it is now eleven o'clock and "Will you be Mine." I am always thinking of you my darling wife and am just waiting for the day to come when I can be with you again for ever. I miss you so much my darling and only hope I can be with you soon.

Goodnight my sweet darling and please take good care of my wife for me while I am away.

I am just living for that day my darling and yours for ever & ever.

Faithfully yours always
Kurt

You are always in my Heart.

Thursday 6 PM
September 3, 1942

My Dear Darling:

Well my sweet, it is our day off here, and I have been taking advantage of it by sleeping most of the day. I didn't get up until noon. Yesterday I got my box with the sardines, candy, and cigarette lighter. I sure enjoyed the candy and I am using the lighter every time now. I can get the flints and lighter fluid here in town. I also got five letters from you, a birthday card from Betty, two cablegrams from you & mother & dad, and a birthday card from you. Today I got two more letters from you, and one from Dad, and the Camden Paper of July 23. Did you enjoy yourself up at the dance in Osceola that night. I am just waiting for the box with your pictures and the cigars to come. I got a letter from Jim the other day, and he sent a picture he took of you and mother out on the front porch. I also have received the picture you sent of you & I up at your Aunt Evah's that Saturday and I think very much of it. In this months pay and next month's pay they are taking \$44 out for allotment and \$6 for insurance for each month, that leaves \$10 for me for the month and if I was in the USA I would be owing the government for two months. But it's worth it to know that the money is going to the most wonder person in the world. The one I adore most of all.

In your last letter you said something about getting a card from "Buster" and trying to find it on the state map that Mrs. Scoville gave you. When I saw him last he was training just a few miles form that camp that had the pictures of it on the card.

I am getting my first stripe today, and then I will be a private first class and then I will be getting a six dollar increase in pay and a Pfc. in front of my name. I see that I got my name in the Camden Paper at last and the people know where I am at last. I am with all the boys that I was at Louisiana and they are real fellows. Over here we are staying in hutments with fourteen fellows in each one, and we sure have quite a time in here. The hutments on each side of us have radios in them, so we get all the news and entertainment. We have a coal stove in the center of the room and coat hangers over each bed and shelves to put our pictures and toilet articles on. Are Frosty and Pinky really going to go in the air corps, and are their numbers coming up before long. I suppose then that their wives will know what it is to go what you have my darling.

I am glad to see Mother and Dad going out and enjoying themselves now, and hope they keep it up. It's good to know that the girls take you places my darling, and you can do things with them and try to enjoy yourself.

I was going down to town this afternoon to send another cablegram to you, but I just got out on the road to catch a ride when it started to rain, and it's really poured ever since then. So I turned around and came back to camp and read your letters and Dad's and the Camden Paper, and now I am writing to the one and only person that I am so much in love with.

I am driving truck every day now and I at last have been given something that I enjoy doing, and that will make my stay in the army pass more quickly now that I have something to do that I like. Everything around here is beginning to show signs of fall and then that means winter is coming on and that is something I dread to see come, because last winter we had so much fun together hunting and skiing and shoveling the car out of the snow drifts on the road that was always plowed up at "Peakey." The field in back of the farm here is just loaded with mushrooms and how I wish you were only here to mix me a nice mess of them for dinner. Do you remember how we went out last fall looking for them, and then bringing toadstools back home. Those were sure the good old days weren't they darling? And I hope it won't be long before those times are back again. From the way things rattled around here the other day, it looks as if things are starting to put an end to all this mess. I only hope it's fast and quick work, so that by the first of the year we can be together again from another New Years Eve and "Rennay's."

I take a ride on the motorcycle every chance I get and it's quite a thrill to go down the left side of the road and around these narrow roads. I hope that when I get home again I will be able to ride good enough to take you on a spin down the highway. That is if I don't fall and break my neck before then, but that is something I am looking out for, because I now there is someone more dear than anything else in the world that is home waiting for me to come back to her in once piece.

Darling I only wish you could be here to see all the wonderful things there is. There are so many things here that I know you would like, but I just can't figure what you would like the most. They have so many things that you would like for the odds & ends shelf up in our room and I am going to try and send you all that I can of them.

It took just one week for your telegram to get here, and now you can send all you want to sweet, because our post office over here has been established now. I was going to London today and get myself a camera so that I could take some pictures to send to you, but then I decided that day's rest would be better for me. We et next Tuesday off again and then maybe I will try and go up there and see if I can find a cheap one to use. There are lots of things that I could take pictures of and we are allowed to take anything that does not apply to military tactics. When we first came here, the town near here had only the soldiers from our regiment there in the evenings, but now it's about all you can do to walk down the street without bumping into an American Soldier. Well my darling I think I will close for the evening and go to bed and get some more sleep. I don't want you to dream anymore of those dreams you did about finding me in the restaurant, because if the things were packed with people I would be looking for just one person and that would be you. Goodnight my darling and God keep you for me. You are always in My Heart my Precious Darling.

Yours forever & ever.

Love to my only Darling
Kurt

Saturday Evening 8 PM
September 5, 1942

My Own Darling:

Gee sweet I got two letters of Aug 24 from you today, and I sure love to get those nice, long letters. You have my greatest sympathy darling about your grandmother, and mine, by the one person that made her mine also. If nothing has happened when you get this letter, please tell her when you see her that I am praying for her health, and I still am an American, and thank God that she could raise a son, to have a daughter, that said she would be mine to have and to hold forever.

The two letters I have got today make 53 of them that I have received from you since I was ho me that Saturday. I am the only one here in camp that has received that many letters, and I am so proud my darling to be able to say that my wife writes to me every day, and everyone here in envying me for getting so many. I write every chance I get and only wish I could write as many as you do.

I still have my "tash" and no one but you my darling will ever tell me to clip it off or not. Quite a few of the boys in here have started to wear them, and it's getting to be quite a fad over here as quite of few of the Englishmen have them, only they wax the ends of them and curl them up.

In regards to finding out about that girl I used to write to over here that mother was inquiring about, I have no interest in "females" over here or anyplace, except the one and only girl in the world for me, My Wife.

I worked most of last night sewing the stripes on my uniforms. I never thought that there was so much in trying to sew until I really tried it. Now I really have got to get my picture taken for you. I am looking every day for another box, and my darling it sure makes me feel proud to know that you and the folks think so much of me to send me so many boxes.

This is an awful dreary night here, it is raining out and very misty. That is about the only kind of weather we have been getting latterly, and before long the fog will probably be with us. It's a very different night here now, than it was ten weeks ago today when we were out riding and enjoying ourselves together again. But my darling at least this is ten less weeks we will have to be apart, and I can hardly wait for that day to come again, and soon I pray, and I say them every night to my precious and at eleven o'clock over here too. Every night I go out just before eleven, and if the sky is clear so I can see our stars, I take myself up there and home to you my "poocher," and by that way I am there close to you. So when it's six o'clock over there in the evening, you will know I am up there my darling, waiting for you to come up and be with me. I am always up there with you even though the clouds may hide us from view.

Last night I dreamt that I came home and I went right up to your house, because it was Saturday and I thought you would be up there. When I got there, they told me you didn't come up that weekend, so I went down home to you. Mother told me you were working that day, so I went down to the stamp office to get you, and you ran right into my arms, and as we were coming down the stairs, the darn whistle blew this morning and woke me up for reviles. So my darling I am going to look for you the first time I set my feet on the United States again, but I only hope I don't have to find you after I see all the other people as I did in the dream. Now tonight I have to go to sleep and start where I was when they woke me up, and then I can tell you what else happened to us my darling. I have been having the most wonderful dreams of us together, and if that is any sign of something good, it should happen before long too sweet. I don't suppose there are many of the boys down at the "pool room" any more evening now are there. If you see Durg, ask him if the "nine ball" games are over for the duration.

I bet your mother sure likes her new stove doesn't she, and you can tell her that I will be expecting o have a few meals prepared on it when I get back because they are going to see a lot of you and I up there after this is over, and to keep the card table and extra pennies ready for a game of pitch. This place where we are staying reminds me so much of your place up there, that every once in a while I think you should be with me, and then things turn back. You can tell your dad that he had better save a job on the farm for me when I get back, because if things haven't changed down at the mill by then, I may be looking for another job. It won't be driving truck or any job that will take me away from you at any time though.

Darling, before the government starts sending the allotment to you, they will probably send you a form to fill out, and finding out if you are working and really need the money they are supposed to send, along with mine to make it \$50. If you don't get the full amount, will you write and tell me and then I am going to send more, as I think I will be able to now that I am getting a little more. You probably won't get it before November as that is about when they told me you could start receiving it.

Dad was asking me about the money question here, and you can tell him that he is doing enough over there and not to worry because I am fixed, O.K.

Well sweet I guess that I have told you about all the news that I can, so I will end this letter for tonight, and go to bed and have the most wonderful dreams of the one & only girl in the world for me.

Goodnight my Own Darling. Please be brave and before long I will be marching home to you precious.

I am yours for always,
Kurt

Always in my Heart

September 8, 1942
Somewhere in England

My Own Dear Darling:

I received your letter today that you wrote the Wednesday night Sept 3. My sympathy is with you my darling in your hour of sorrow, and I only wish I could have been able to have been there with you. At a time like that I know you needed me, and believe me, if it could have been possible I would have come and been with you. She was a grand person my darling and I know she will get her reward up there in heaven for all the lovely things she has done in her day. I hope she is near my Grandmother and Grandfather, and then, three of the most wonderful people will be watching over us. She raised the grandest family that this world could ask for, and I am proud to say that I had the honor of calling her grandma by marrying her best and most wonderful grand daughter, my wife.

Does Betty still go through her money the way she used to when she is making so much a week now, because you mentioned in the letter that she borrowed fifteen dollars.

Darling, why can't the people in town keep their mouths shut when you are trying to go out with the girls and enjoying yourself. Believe me sweet, none of those thoughts have ever come into my mind and they never will. I know you are the most faithful wife in the world, and I am just as faithful to you and will always be that way. I have gone out with some of the boys and gone to town and had a couple of "what they call beer" and came home. Some of them have even tried to get me to go to some of the homes where they knew girls lived, but I flatly refused, and then later, they said how they marveled at the way I acted. I just show them your picture and say that is the only girl I have a "date" with and there is no one in this world that can come up to her standards. Really sweet, I get more enjoyment staying here in camp and talking to the boys from New York State. We get talking over the places up there and what we are going to do when this is all over, and we really have good times. There is one fellow in particular here, who is from up around Buffalo, and he was married only four months before he had to come into the army, and he & I really have some good talks together. He gets almost as many letters and I do, and we both are sitting here, writing to our wives now.

Yesterday they changed us boys all around in our quarters, and they put me into the headquarters outfit as one of the chauffeurs for that outfit. We are getting one day a week off now and can have a thirty six hour pass then. Our day is every Thursday so that means one day that I can sleep late in the morning, as we don't have to get up until we feel like it.

We are getting paid tomorrow, and your money will be coming to you before long darling. Please let me know when you start receiving the money, and how much you are getting. I have only received the one box so far and that was the one with my lighter in it. I ran out of cigarettes yesterday and went down and bought a carton of English cigarettes, and they cost me \$4 for ten packages. I sold most of them to the fellows here in camp as

they were all out, too. I think I will give up smoking rather than pay that price for cigarettes.

Did you ever receive any of those letters I sent you that I wrote on the boat darling. You never have mentioned them in your letters, and I was wondering if you ever received them.

They sure must be taking them in the army up home now by the number of fellows you say have gone. If you see Luescher, ask him when the "Rookies" over there expect to sail, and come over with us "veterans." I am driving every day now, and you should see me "really tear" through these narrow streets in the town with that big truck. When I get home darling, and can sit behind the wheel of our car, I really will give you "ride."

You know some of the letters I get from you have been censored and opened, and some of them have not. I only got one letter that was tampered with, and that was a Vmail and you wrote something about amusement and entertainment, and they marked out one word in it.

Sunday night and last night I had to take the boys into town in a truck and then go after them so I couldn't write you a letter my darling, but every chance I get, you are going to get a letter from me, because you are so faithful in writing to me every night, and I do so much love to get your long letters. Every time the mail comes in I have from one to five letters in it and boy that makes me so happy then, to sit down and read what my "sweet poocher" has written to me. We are getting oranges and apples to eat now and every two weeks we get four Hershey bars and twelve packs of cigarettes, but our rations don't get here every two weeks, and then we seen low. You can tell your Aunt Evah I haven't forgotten her, and will write to her just as soon as I get a little time. About all I have had time for so far is to write to my darling and then I have to miss a couple of days now and then. The weather here is starting to get colder now, and it feels like November or December now. We had some "visitors" fly over here last night, and I got my first experience of search lights shooting back and forth in the sky. Believe me this boy was all set to dig in if anything happened and I had the nearest hole all picked out to dive into. They passed right over though and nothing happened. We went out to get some trucks the other day and we stopped in one town to eat dinner and while we were eating a lone plane flew in and started machine gunning the town. The only thing that happened was the bullets breaking windows around the neighborhood. You know my darling that this boy's feet never "stood" to see his body mischused.

The news in the paper is getting quite better and better every day, and maybe before long darling I can give you a real live Christmas present. They are taking some of the boys from our company and making MPs out of them, and most of them volunteered for the job. I was thinking about joint up with them, but I found out those fellows stay over here a year or so after this is over to police up and as soon as this is over I want to come home and I don't intend to stay over here any longer than I have to. I still have got the rest of my teeth, and will probably be like this until I come home and then get the rest

of them out myself. They don't bother me any, and as long as they don't, I am going to let them go as they are. I think that I will try and send you a cablegram every week on the day we have off, and you can get that news quicker too. Your last letter I got today came in about six days, and that is almost as quick as the letters I used to get in Louisiana. Tomorrow night we are going out and make a blackout run with the trucks. We can't see any lights and it really does get dark over here in the evenings. The lights in our barracks have blown out tonight, so I am sitting in the mess room writing this letter.

I just looked out and the sky is filled with stars, and our two are the brightest ones up there. They really are giving off a great light for that strong long that we have for each other my darling. The farmers are all cutting their hay and wheat now, and instead of storing it in the barn, they stack it outdoors and make them look like a straw hut or something.

Well my sweet darling, I guess this is about all the news there is around here tonight. I will try and write again tomorrow night if I get back in time from this trip. Anyways, I am sending a cablegram Thursday. I miss you so much "poocher" and wish this mess would be over with before long. I long so much for you and want to come home, and be with you always.

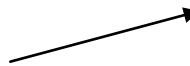
Goodnight my darling, and take good care of yourself for me won't you poocher.

I am always thinking of my wonderful wife and you are Always in My Heart.

Yours forever & ever,

Curt

P.S. I have changed the name for you sweet.



A.E.F

Somewhere in England
September 11, 1942

My Dear Darling:

Well it's back to work again today after a day of rest. I spent most of my day working around camp here driving d\truck to town and taking the boys in and bring the in in the evening. I made out pretty good on the blackout drive the other night and never hit a thing. It was so dark, you couldn't even see the front of the truck and we went all over the country on narrow roads and around sharp curves, just as if it were daylight. The only guide we had was a small red light behind each truck, and no headlights at all. We lost a couple of the boys on the way, but they came in later.

I had another ride on the motorcycle yesterday in my spare time, and I have an idea I might get one when this mess is over with. They really are quite fun to ride, but it might be different after you take a few spills on them. Wednesday I was up around Oxford and the week before I was in there, and saw all of the old universities and colleges there. They really are beautiful, and all of them are very large. I saw the place where some of the scenes of "The Yank at Oxford" were filmed, and I could just remember them. On the way back I passed an air field and bunch of flyers, and there was one fellow there that looked just like Vic Giles, but I couldn't make sure as we were in a convoy and I couldn't stop. I think he is around here somewhere and that may be the place he is stationed at. If I get the chance, I am going that way again and look him up.

Yesterday I got two birthday cards from Rita and one from the Golden family and the Aug 6 Camden Paper. I saw in it where you, Betty, and Eva spent Tuesday up home visiting the folks, and how dad was spending his vacation with you and mother, visiting on side trips around the county. Those trips are just previews of the ones you and I are going to take, just as soon as this is over, and I get home to you. I wonder how Don Walker likes the idea of having to come along with the rest of us now. I suppose before long there will be only wives and girls left in town and the disabled ones. I suppose now that "Homer" is in, we can expect anything to happen now. I wonder if George Feller will have to leave, if they are taking those kind of fellows.

I was in town for a couple of hours yesterday and I bought myself a tin box, like the ones we have at home, to keep all my letters from you in, and they are all locked up tight. We have a company of colored troops stationed near us now, and they go out with the white girls in town, and tell them they are American Indians, and the girls think nothing more of it. In all the big cities you can see one of those boys and a white girl going down the street.

I made a little error on this page, but I hope you can find the right pages. One of the stores in town had a supply of cameras come in yesterday and I waited in line for about an hour, and when I finally was waited on, they had sold all of them, so now I either have got to wait until I get to London again, or until they get more in town before I can send some pictures to you.

We were told the other day that before long we will be able to get 8 day Furloughs over here. I don't see where I am going to benefit by it over here, but if it were back in the states, I could use it very easily and enjoy myself with you. I think that I will just let it pass and save my money for that home and furniture we are going to have when I come back home to you my darling. I saw some pears and peaches at a fruit store yesterday and I thought I would buy a dozen of them and when I asked the price of them, they told me they were 3 shilling and six pence a piece. That would be about seventy cents in our money. I just looked at them and walked away.

I just went up and got my mail and I got the package with the cigars, cigarettes, and candy, and the most important one in the package, the picture of the most wonderful wife in the world. I sure am happy over that picture darling, and I have it right in front of me now, on the writing desk I built for myself here. I got five birthday cards from the folks in Rome, and three letters from my "sweet poocher" and a V letter from Dad. Your latest letter was Sept 4 and that came in a week. Please let me know how you are feeling, and if there is something on the way darling. I hope this mess here gets over with soon, and then we can really be happy and look forward to one.

You don't know how proud I am of that picture you sent me sweet, and everyone here tells me they can't see how an ugly guy like me could get such a beautiful wife as I have. Things like that really make me proud of you my darling and makes life worth living for. I can't think of anything I want for Christmas except a discharge from this army so I can come home and be with you forever and ever. That would be the most wonderful Christmas present I could ask for.

I would like to know what you would like for your present so I can start looking for something for you. I just can't look forward to seeing Christmas come and I can't be with you. Of the two days in the year I want to be with you, and I can't.

I got Stubs letter today, and I sure enjoyed that little "tikes" letter. If there was any way possible I would send him a bicycle. They have them over here that are so small five year olds ride a two wheel bicycle.

I sure am going to enjoy those cigarettes and cigars as I was all out of them, and now I can smoke for a long time. I have received pictures you have sent me darling, and I am getting lots of your letters that haven't been censored, and I would like all that you want to send to me. I have so many of them now, and I think I will buy a small album and put them in that, and all the ones you want to send me. One of the boys here in camp went to London yesterday and bought a camera, and he told me tonight that if I buy the film, he will take my picture and then I can send some home to you.

What does Betty do with all her money if you have to give her some besides. Doesn't she realize that you are the only one that is working in this family, and you need all the money you get to live on.

In the letter I got from Jim the other day, he said they were moving and when you get their address, will you send it to me sweet. I have sent a birthday telegram to Dad tonight. We can send telegrams right from camp here, and they are supposed to get to the states in three or four days.

I am anxious to get the Camden Paper where they have got the news all mixed up that week. I am wondering if Paul Perkins is over in these parts, and if he is, I might try to locate him if I could find out his address. I suppose before long there will be lots of Camden boys around here, and then before too long, we will get this mess over with and come home where we all can be happy again.

Well my darling, I guess this is about all the news there is tonight, and it's almost eleven o'clock, and I am going out now and look up at the two stars that shine the brightest of them all.

Goodnight my "poocher" and please write and tell me how things are coming along.

You are always in my heart darling and there's never a minute of the day that you are not on my mind.

I am yours forever & ever
Faithful for always
Curt

Somewhere in England
Sunday Evening
September 13, 1942

My Own Darling:

Well my sweet, another week has passed by and that is one more less that we will have to be apart. This makes eleven long weeks we have been apart since I last saw you, and it seems like years. For every week I am away from you, I have cut a notch in my pipe, and I hope to be able to stop cutting them before long.

It is now eight o'clock and I have just finished cleaning up and eating my supper. We have worked all day long and I have been bouncing around in the truck all day long. I didn't get any mail yesterday or today, but tomorrow I expect to get two or three of them. I was out on convoy duty yesterday and traveled about 150 miles around England here. I sure am seeing the country over here, but it's no sight-seeing trip over here without you to be with me. The weather here is about the coolest I care to have it, and it's around the fifty mark most of the time now. I received a letter from your Aunt Evah, and she says that just as soon as the pictures come that we took that Saturday, she will send some of them to me. She said in her letter that was dated Aug 10 that you were up home and had just called her up. I'll bet she had quite a time of it when Keith had the whooping cough. I am sitting here smoking one of my cigars and I really am enjoying them. Gee darling, I don't know how I would stand it over here if it weren't for you being so thoughtful and good to me, and doing all the things you do for me.

In Dad's letter, he asked if we were still training over here, and if it was hard. We are right at work building and it's no practice either, it's the real thing.

Are you feeling any better now sweet, and have you had to go to the doctor's anymore? Please let me know just how everything is and how you are feeling. You know darling about every night I dream that I have landed back in the states, and have a leave, and come home to you. I have the same dreams all the time, and I really think that is a good sign that something good is going to happen after we finish what we are building over here. I have heard things to that effect, and with those dreams I am beginning to have faith in them. Boy what I would give to get a furlough to come home to you for Christmas and more than that, a chance to stay home with you for keeps. The way I have moved around in this army, from place to place, nothing would surprise me anymore.

This is the longest we have stayed in one place since I was drafted, and it really feels good to settle down for a while and not be on the go all the time. I see in the paper when they are going to start taking the married men over there around the first of October. I suppose then the fellows in Camden will begin to get worried. Has your Dad ever heard what class he is in?

Do you want to make abet on the Joe Louis & Billy Conn fight in October "poocher." I'll take Conn again and you can name the bet. (The fight was cancelled after

Conn broke his hand in a fight with his father-in-law. When he was healed and ready, the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor and Joe Louis entered the army) I don't know if they will broadcast the fight over here or not, but if they do, you can be sure I will be listening to it with you. I remember the first heavyweight fight we listened to up at your house the time you were home sick was neuralgia in your chest, and we sat in the kitchen listening to the radio, and sitting in the big chair in front of the stove. Give me those good times with you darling, and I will be the happiest husband in the army. I am ready to leave this country any time they want to send me home.

Have they started any of the bowling teams up there yet. Have you been doing any of it lately. You never will hear me cuss anymore when you do your hair up in "pin curls" darling. I won't ever say anything about them if they will only hurry up and let me out of here. It would be heaven to be near you with them on. I got my haircut by one of the barbers here in our camp, and now I have an American haircut again. Before I really felt as if I had been scalped and I began to wonder if I ever would have anymore hair on my head.

The latest picture they are showing in town is Navy Blues and those pictures are about the latest ones they have yet, and we have seen those months ago didn't we sweet, and we are going to see many more before too many months. There is one thing that my being over here has done, and that is the relation in Rome are writing to me, and this is more than I ever got when I was in the states. In the letter Stub wrote to me, he said your mother was making spaghetti and I sure could go for a big plate of that swell kind you can make, and that nice hot sauce to go with it.

Those candy bars sure taste good, as the ones we get are not sweetened and it's hard to get used to not getting sweet things. We are getting some of our American rations in now, and in a few days, we are going to be able to get two or three cans of American Beer a week, and a package or two of chewing gum. I have had one ice cream cone since I arrived over here, and then I had to wait in line for nearly an hour for it.

When they put our car up for the winter, please tell Dad to be sure and take the spark plugs out and put some light oil in the holes and then put them back in that way it will keep the pistons from rusting tight and won't spoil the motor. They may have to take the car out and back it into the garage to get on the right side of the motor to get them out. It would be best if they can take the tires off and put them someplace where they won't rot and crack. If there is anything else they think needs to be done, tell them to go ahead and do it. I suppose Stub has started in school again hasn't he, and how is he doing with the girls this fall. I hope to be able to send him something for his birthday from here, and if you have any idea what he would like, will you write and tell me darling. Have you received the package that I sent you sweet. I hope that you will like it. It shows where my heart and mind really are darling, and that is just the way I feel all the time.

I want so much to be with you again my darling so that we both can start living again and not just existing as we are now. It will be a happy day for us both darling when

we see each other again, and can be together for always. That is the day I really am looking forward to.

Well my darling, I guess this is about all the news there is for now. So to bed and dreams of the “one and only girl in the world for me,” the one that has made my life so happy and worth living for.

Goodnight my “darling poocher.” You are always in my heart, precious. I am yours forever.

Curt

YOU ARE THE ONLY GIRL IN THE WORLD FOR ME

Somewhere in England
September 15, 1942
9PM

My Own Darling:

Tonight I got the box with the coffee, cigarettes, and writing paper. Now I can write lots of letters to my precious wife. Yesterday I got nine letters, four were cards from you and mother and one from Gramp and Gram Elmer. I am saving all the birthday cards I got and will put them in our album. Tonight I got four more letters and two were from you, a letter from Gramp & Gram, and a birthday card from Mrs. Hoffman in Rome. I sure love to get mail, and especially the nice long ones you write to me. I have got one of the letters and cablegrams you have sent to me since the day I was home, and I think I will try and send some of them home, so you can put them up with the others that I sent from Louisiana. I am glad that Verna is staying with you, as it will be company for you now. Tell her not to get too friendly with you, and cuddle too close these cold evenings because that is my place, and no one else can have any part of it.

You are right when you say I will never come across again. The rest of my life is going to be spent with you and our second honeymoon will be spent where you want to go my "poocher." Yes the farmer here has a daughter, but she's about thirty or better, and has a build like Ruth Todd, anyways that doesn't matter, because I have found my one and only wife and I am not looking for anyone else. I came over here for one purpose, and that is all, and when I have finished that job I am coming home as fast as I can you. I hope that my suit isn't moth eaten too much, because I intend to use it very often when I get out of here, and to wear it on that trip we are going to take.

I was just outdoors and our stars are right over my barracks now, and both of them are shining brightly. I am getting more of your airmail letters in about eight or ten days, and when they come that soon, it makes me feel so much closer in distance to you. I hope that my letters are getting there pretty quick, so they won't seem too old. The letters that people wrote around the 10th of August are coming in now, and they came by regular mail.

Last night we got three cans of American Beer, and it really tasted good. I sure could go for some of that cold beer in the refrigerator at home, and sit down in the easy chair with you and have a couple of bottles. I guess you will have to drink with Dad for a while, until I get back. I am still having those dreams about coming home and seeing you, and I begin to think that something good is coming pretty soon. I still think I am going to help trim our Christmas tree this year.

Have you gone back to work yet darling. I hope you are feeling better now. Please let me know how you are, and if everything is all right now. I got a letter the other day from Aunt Carrie in Binghamton, and now I know where Jim gets his handwriting from. It took me an hour to make it out. She writes about the same type of letters Aunt Mae writes, and she hopes that I can visit Gramps home town over here. I would like to go

there and see how it is like. Gram used to hold me on his knee and tell me all about the places with the little ivy covered house up the lane. Now that I am here I should like to be able to see it. I only regret that you are not here with me and seeing all these things too. Then they would seem more realistic and interesting.

I'll bet that your Gram & Gramp will miss your Aunt Evah now that they are going to move to Rome, aren't they. How did Keith stand his siege of whooping cough. Have you made up your mind yet darling, what you would like for Christmas. You sure are going right along with the --- penny bank, and that will be one of the first things we will start on won't it darling. Is that girl that came to work at the mill the same one Betty ran around with up at Adam's this spring? If it is, I'll bet they go to town now don't they.

If the folks have to move our car, you can tell them the reason the front tire on it is flat is because the valve in the tube leaks. The day I was home I found it, and didn't get a chance to put a new one in.

I kind of had an idea that Johnny Carleton would be rejected because he has had that disease since he was in school. How does Durg stand in the list now? I sent a V letter to them about a month ago, but I haven't heard anything from them yet, but I know how funny they are about some things. In the birthday card that I got from the Golden family, they sent one of those pamphlets that they were always sending to Dad. I don't know what the idea of it is but I do know that they aren't going to change me from what I have always been, and always will be. Maybe they changed one man of this family, but here's one that can't be changed.

Some of the city boys here had an experience the other day. One of the farmer's cows here freshened out in the field and they considered it quite a feat. It seemed like back up home to me, and those evenings I used to go out with Otis and wait, and how I wished now that I had spent those hours with you and could have been with you longer than I was.

Well my only darling it's to bed now and long and sweet dreams of you. I miss you so much "poocher," please pray it will soon be over so I can come home to you and be happy again.

I am yours forever
Curt

YOU ARE ALWAYS IN MY HEART

Somewhere in England
September 16, 1942

My Own Darling:

Today I got two letters from you, one of Sept 8 & 11. I also got a letter from Dad that he wrote Sept 9 when you, Mother, and Verna had gone to the show> I also got a birthday card from Durg & Lucy. This noon I also got my package with the cigarettes, coffee, and sardines etc. Now tonight I got another box of cigars. That makes three packages in two day, and I don't call that bad at all. I sure am going to enjoy myself with them, and I just can't say enough nice words to you and the folks for being so good to me. I have all my cigars and cigarettes put in my safe, and that is about the safest thing I could find to put them in. I sure am a lucky fellow to have such a wonderful wife and folks to do so much for me. You and I are sure going to have a wonderful time together when this is all over, and I can come back home to you.

So they elected you captain of your bowling team eh. Well they couldn't have picked a better one for the job if they had looked all over. I guess that the Chevrolet won't be sitting out in front of the bowling alley when you get out from bowling for a while darling, but you can believe that just as soon as I am home to stay, I will be in it and waiting every night for you. I am even going to have you come down there with me, even if we bowl the last game of the evening. You won't be able to get out of my sight after this is over. Some husbands may like one night a week to go out with the boys, but from now on when we are together, I will spend 7 nights with you and you alone.

Tomorrow is our day off again, and I expect to spend most of it sleeping. I may have to drive the truck here and there for a few hours, on special detail or something. Today I had a truck assigned to me, and now I am responsible for it, and if anything happens to it, I am liable for it. I have finally got used to driving on the left side of the road, but whenever I cross the street I always look the wrong way and have nearly got hit five or six times. I wouldn't be surprised that when I get home and go riding with you I will start right down the left side of the road. Right now I am sitting here at the desk, writing to the most wonderful wife in the world and looking at the pictures you sent to me, and wishing so much that I could be in that same pose again only with a brown suit on, and maybe a white shirt. Today has been a real autumn day here and it begins to feel like fall now, but the seasons all seem the same over here now. I am just existing now, but when I get home again with you, I am going to start living again. It is going to be such a wonderful day when we are together again, and all this is just of memory of something that couldn't be helped.

What in the world was Corey fired for. I thought she was pretty well set in the office. Did she have a fight or something? Or was she getting scared that her husband would be called and did something so she would be fired. I suppose there will be more of them leaving there if they find out that their husbands might get called.

Tomorrow I have my wash to do and I really have quite a few clothes to wash out. We can send our clothes out but I would rather do my own and save the pennies for the bank. That is really something to look forward to, and believe me I am.

You can tell your dad that if he needs an extra man to work for him after this, that all he has to do is call on me. I watch the farmers milk every night, and I am almost tempted to start at it myself. I only wish I was up there on the hill right now and having a wonderful time with you. But those good old days are coming, and soon too I hope. Today I signed the payroll and they are taking another \$44 out of it to send home to you my darling, and with what the government puts with it, it will make your bank account swell now.

Some of the boys here in camp are making large bets with other fellows that about the first of December we will be leaving here, and coming back to the states so that we can get a leave to go home for Christmas, and then be shipped to some other place where they are building things. It may be just another story, but the boys seem to have got it from a pretty good source and believe me, it really sounds good and possible too. From all the traveling that we have done in the last four months, anything could be done. I am just praying that it could be possible but am not expecting too much, so that my hopes won't be shattered. That would be the grandest Christmas present anyone could ask for, but it really sounds too good to be true.

I think I will have enough razor blades to last me for a while, because I have used only five blades since I left Dix and that was twelve long weeks ago this Saturday that I last held you in my arms and said "So Long" to you.

Today a funny thing happened. I was talking to one of the boys and he is from out near Connecticut. We got to talking about the place where each of us lived and come to find out he used to work in the beach and has been to Camden and he knows "Big Hearted Leonard" at the beach. He used to run a stand right next to him there in the beach. We really had quite a talk together, and he also used to live up near Old Orchard Beach. Another boy here lives right in the town in Maine where we mailed the letter to the folks that morning telling them we would be home Saturday. His home is just a few miles from the Desert of Maine. I really enjoy talking to those boys, because we have been there together and had such good times. I went through town yesterday and there was a church wedding going on there, and the bride and groom stood outside the church as I went by. But that bride didn't even compare to the one that I stood beside outside the church on July 20, 1941, and was with nine months before I had to leave her. Yesterday I just turned my head away and drove on. They do things so differently over here that I am not even trying to get used to them. I do know that no wife of mine is going to have to work as these girls do.

I tried some of the coffee out this morning for breakfast, and it sure did taste good. I never could go for tea, and that coffee sure does the trick. I think I will go down and make myself another cup before I go to bed. Some of the boys are getting absentee ballots to fill out, so they can vote this year, but as yet, I have not seen any for me.

Well my darling, I think this is about all the news there is for tonight. I am going to bed now and have sweet dreams of the one and only girl in the world for me.

Goodnight sweetheart and You are Always in My Heart. I hope to be able to be with you again soon.

Yours for always darling
Curt

Somewhere in England
September 18, 1942

My Own Darling:

Well my sweet, I got another package yesterday that Dad sent the box of cigarettes in. I sure am going to enjoy my smokes now that you and the folks have sent me so many. I think I spoke a little too soon in my last letter about getting settled down for awhile. Yesterday we got orders to move, and today we left our old camp, and are now stationed at a new camp, and it looks as if we are on the move again. Another outfit have taken over our job, and we maybe going someplace to start a new job. I am going to write every chance I get, and if we do go to another place, I will try and send a telegram just as soon as we arrive there.

Yesterday I slept until almost noon and it seemed like old times again, except I woke up all alone, and in the wrong place. I got almost twelve hours sleep and that is more than I usually get in two nights. Right after dinner I had to go out and service my truck and see that it was all set for the trip today. That was the way I spent my day off, but I didn't mind it, as I didn't want to go anyplace and that passed the time away, as I was doing something I like to do.

I sure saw a lot of England today, and now it looks as if I am going to see something new and different. We are in this place for intensive training, to help better ourselves for protection if we happen to need it. The place is very nice, and we have hot & cold showers, very nice quarters. When we came in today, they had a band playing for us, and after the boys paraded by, we drove by in the trucks and it was a very pretty sight to see.

That is the first time a band has welcomed us since we left Louisiana. Right across the road from us is a large camp of A.T.S. girls that are training to be truck drivers and now the boys here are all set for dates now. But as for me, I will stick to having my dates every night in a letter, and then at eleven I will be up there with her, in one of the two brightest stars in the sky. There is no one that can compare to my Ray-z and you are the only one that is ever going to have a date with me, and that is going to be soon I hope. It was twelve long weeks ago tonight that I left Dix, and was so happy because I was going home to see my one and only darling. And now I am so far from her and want to be with her so much. Behave my darling and I will be coming back to you one of these days, and then we will make up for all these days we have been apart from each other. We had nine months of real happiness together, and there will be many many more of them before long too.

Did you and the folks go down to Ilion last weekend? If you go down there again, tell that uncle of mine that he owes me a card or letter. You remember when we were down there that night, and he said he hoped I would be sent to Africa or someplace, well he almost got his wish, and maybe he will yet. Did Dad get his birthday telegram in time? I sent it early so he would get it in time.

Please tell mother and dad that I am going to write them a long letter one of these days, but about the only one I get time to write to is you my darling, and you can tell them all the news that I write. I am thinking of them and want to thank them from all they are doing for me, to make it easier for me over here. They are two grand folks and believe me I appreciate everything they are doing.

Have any of the folks taken you mushrooming this year yet darling. At the farm where we were last, the pasture was just covered with them, but they didn't even interest me now. You know sweet, coming here today, I would pass by some scenery or place and it resembled some place back home, and the most lonesome feeling you would ever want came over me and I felt so queer. It's funny how something like that will resemble something back home. I don't know for sure, but I think my eyes are going to start troubling me again. For three nights now, I have gone to bed with a headache, and now tonight again I have a slight one. If they begin to trouble me too much I am going to have them tested and get glasses if I need them. My other pair that I have at home would not be any good over here because they would be too easy to break now.

The next time I can get into town, I am going to try and get a pair of colored ones to use when I am driving, and see if that will help me any. How are you doing at bowling now? Are you laying that ball down the right side of the alley like I used to tell you to do. If you do that darling you will have the highest average of any of the girls up there. You just keep up the same game you have always bowled and that is good enough for me darling, and someday we will go up and have some more of those good games.

Well sweetheart I guess I will have to hit the hay for tonight, and get a little sleep as we never know what tomorrow will bring. I am always thinking of "my poocher" and praying I will be back with you soon.

You are always in my heart my darling.

Yours for always,
Curt

Somewhere in England
September 20, 1942
Sunday 2 PM

My Own Darling:

I have just returned from a convoy trip, after being gone a day and a half. I went over to the orderly room and got my mail. I had two V letters from you and one from your mother. The Camden Paper of July 30 also came, and best of all another box that you sent the 2 of Sept. I sure am going to have a grand time with all those eats and they look too good to eat. I have been wondering if you got any of the letters I wrote on the boat, because I wrote almost every day for a week and few other days that I could. The statement that was on the envelope, was already on the envelope when I got it, as that was U.S.O. stationary, and they issue those to us. I hope that the letter didn't startle you too much, as that was the first one I wrote after I left Dix. I got a letter from Jim yesterday, and he said that Leona was home sick with poison ivy, and that when he was writing the letter, her and Jimmie were playing dominoes. They had not moved yet, as the people that are in their house can't find a place to move into.

It's another one of those dreary Sundays over here, and it has rained about all day long. Every day over here seems the same and I just exist from one day to the next until the day comes again when I can be with you for good, and then I will really start living again.

I have been traveling on these roads to nearly every part of England, and I have seen quite a few sights of it. Now I am ready to come home and settle down, any time that they care to send me there.

We are really going into training here at our new camp. We get up around five in the morning and put in a full day of it. I don't know how long we will be in training here, but after we get done with it, we are going to be on the move again. So if my letters to you start to come like they did after I saw you that Saturday, you will know I can't write for a while, but will as soon as I arrive. I hope we go west for about three thousand miles, and then a rest before travel again.

You remember the night I left, how I told you what I thought was going on, well I have got that same feeling now after three months of it. I think I will have the boys teach me to dance so I can do the Tango. Do you remember that place where the fellow from Camden went to work and left by plane? Well I have hopes that I might be running into him before long. In the Camden Paper of July 30 it told of it on the front page and now that I know where he is, I might be able to find him when we leave here.

Your mother wrote that they were busy up there digging potatoes, and she was busy canning for winter. I sure wish I could be there to help eat all those things up. How is the rock garden and flower garden coming along now? Has the cold weather killed any of the plants? How do you and your bed partner get along? I hope she doesn't kick you

out of bed nights. Last night one of the boys and I slept overnight on the convoy together, and I nearly kicked him out of bed a dozen times. I will have to get over that before I come home or else our home will have twin beds. This sleeping alone again for nearly five long months has started to do things to me.

I have heard a few good jokes and stories while I have been here, and if I can remember them all, I will tell them to you when I get back. Have they cut down anymore on the amount of gasoline that dad is able to use? Jim said he finally got enough so he could get up to Utica to go to the ballgame one night.

Your mother said that Toney doesn't like where he is at, and wants to get out and get going over here. I wish I were in his place where at least I could have you come and see me, but things like that can't happen to us. I suppose if Red goes, Louise will have to go back and stay with her mother won't she? By the looks of the news in the papers over here, even the married men with children will be liable to get called too. Has your dad or mine heard how they stand in the draft? I wonder if Bix is still in 3A now that the married men are going. I'll bet he would make a fine specimen. The more they come, the quicker this mess will be over, and then the sooner we can be together for good again.

Well my sweet darling I have got to go and shave my beard off and trim up the "tash" before I get K.P. or something for not being a well-kept soldier. I sure have to shave often now and my beard really grows fast now, even faster than when I was home.

I will write every chance I get my poocher and if my letters don't come regular, please don't worry as I will write every time I can.

I miss you so much darling and just pray for the day to come "soon" when we can be together again for keeps.

I am yours for always sweetheart
Curt

Ray-z is always in my Heart

Somewhere in England
September 21, 1942

My Own Dear Darling:

Tonight I got your letter of Sept 12 and you sure are doing all right at Bingo. Keep up your luck and when we both can go down and play again, we really will take the points home. You can make all the socks you want to send me, but I'm afraid that before long I will be wearing silk ones and maybe khaki shorts. The weather in Claiborne was just a preliminary to what we are going to see when we get through with our training. You might not get any letters for a while darling, until we get there, but I am always in good hands, and now worrying because I have your love to keep me safe.

They say that we did so good on our last job that they are sending us to some other places to do another job. Didn't you get the cablegram I sent to you. In your letter that wrote that Saturday you said your mother & dad got theirs. I haven't got your letter of Friday so maybe you got it that day and wrote it in that letter. I have all your pictures in my pocketbook, and I always have you right with me all the time. With the two large pictures I have on the shelf here, I look at you every minute I am in the hut here. So my darling, there isn't a moment of the day that you aren't with me, and I am thinking of you every second. I must be all over our room, if you have to make a tour of it every night. My sweet "poocher" my love for you also grows deeper for you every day I am away from you, and you also had better look out when I get home. We are sure going to have one h___ of a time then, and we won't ever stop having it either.

We are really getting into the groove here now. Today we went on a hike of seven miles and every day they get a couple of miles longer until we go on a thirty mile overnight hike. I came through today without any blisters on my feet, but I can't say that won't have any after we are through. The training we got in the states this summer had nothing on this, and I sure am glad we are still here where it is cool to do the rest of it. Then we are off and maybe Hal Bell and I will meet.

You know my darling that five months ago this Friday I left home, and most of all you, and those have been the longest ones that I ever went through. I sure hope that there won't be too many more of them before I can come home to you, and be with you always.

Are you and mother and dad going anyplace tonight to celebrate his birthday? I thought maybe you might be going up and having a few games of pitch. I hope he got his telegram in time as I sent it ahead soon enough. You were correct my darling when you thought I was in dreamland, when you wrote that letter, and when at six o'clock over there, I have been out to see our stars and sending my great love to you by them. Then I am off to dreamland and with you all the time. I always wake up and find myself alone, but the day is coming, and soon too, when I can wake up with you beside me again, and all this will seem just like a bad nightmare. You won't be able to get out of my sight for a minute when I get back.

You write all the good jokes you hear down, and I will try and remember the ones I hear and then we can tell them to each other, those winter nights when we sit in the big easy chair in our own home. It sure will be good to get to using all those nice things that are now in the front room, and we can bin or our own home together.

Some of the boys here in camp are pretty happy tonight because they got packages from home that were sent quite a while ago. As yet I haven't received any cartons of cigarettes that the bowling team were supposed to have sent. I think that when cartons alone are sent, they are "lost" on the way. About the best way to send them is the way you send them to me in boxes. The box that you sent Sept 2 came in about two weeks, and that is pretty good time.

I only hope I can send my letters regular from now on, and you can get them in a week or two. I really don't think I could stand it if it took a month or more to get a letter from you, or one from me to you. I hope that doesn't ever happen but we will know after we leave here.

Well my darling it is 9PM now over here, and I have got to clean my rifle so that it will pass inspection. It will take me almost an hour to do it, and then it will be almost time to gaze into the heavens and be with you up there.

Goodnight my own darling. I am keeping safe for you sweetheart. You Are Always in my heart my Precious. I adore you so much.

I am yours for always
Curt

Somewhere in England
September 23, 1942

My Dear Darling:

I got two more letters from you, and one from Mother & Dad yesterday. They were dated the 12 & 13 of September, and they really came fast. We didn't have any mail call this evening, so I don't know if I have any mail from you today or not. Mother said in her letter tat you and them had gone to the beach and you were the only one that binged. I'm glad someone in this family is still lucky. I sure like those two pictures you sent in the letter and now I know what you really want when I get home to you. Those clothes looked cute on the line, and believe me I want some Sharrons & Curts on them just as soon as it is possible. I only wish that this mess was all over, and I could have taken those pictures of our own.

Those shows that you are seeing sure sounds like good ones, and the latest ones that we can see over here are the ones that you and I saw over there last fall and winter. The garrison picture house here is now showing Honky Tonk for this week. The weekend I was in London they showing "Gone With the Wind" and the crowd was lined up for blocks to get to see it.

I am just about able to walk tonight. This morning we drilled and this afternoon we took a ten mile hike with packs etc, and I never saw so many steep hills in my life. I thought we had big hills over there, but they can't compare to the ones we hiked up today. Each day the hike gets longer until we get up to thirty miles. I have got one of those things on the top of my right hand, like you have on your wrist, and the thing moves all over. I can't figure out what it is unless I broke a cord or tissue in there. It isn't too sore, unless I press hard on it. I think I will go to the medics and find out for sure just what it is. I think I know how I done it, because the other day I went around a corner with the truck and the steering wheel spun around and caught me in the hand.

We got our weekly rations yesterday, and got 6 packs of cigarettes, 3 cans of Ballentine beer, and 2 bars of American candy. Those cigarettes usually last me about four days, then sometimes the rations come late, and if it wasn't for all those that you send me I would be without smokes. I had two cheese sandwiches tonight for supper and also a package of those cookies and I really had a meal for myself. I eat a little of everything to keep it longer, because it tastes so good. I am now eating my cheese straws and drinking a can of beer while I write this letter, and how I wish I was only sitting at home with you and drinking a bottle of beer. I wish better that we could be sitting down in the Restaurant and eating a nice cheeseburger and Coca Cola, but those times will have to wait for a while.

You are doing all right at the Stamp Office and congratulations on your advancement my darling. We sure are doing all right for ourselves, aren't we. Now that you wrote in your last that Leo House is in, I may be looking him up after our training here. We sure are going through the paces here and everyone is towing the mark now. I

am off the truck until we get done here and start working again. It rains about every day here, and it really is starting to get cold now. I wish it would be a warm climate next, but there are some places that I wouldn't care to be put.

Tonight we have been cleaning out the hut here, and we really have been scrubbing the place out. It's now ten o'clock over here and I have written a little this letter, and then start working and now I can finish this letter to you. The floor is all wet and I have been trying to mop most of it up.

Believe me, when I get home I sure will be well acquainted with housework and can help you out with anything. I have been doing just about all kinds of work, and now I really feel experienced in it. Also after all these hikes we are taking, I will be able to walk up home with you anytime you feel like you want to.

I heard them play "Intermezzo" on the radio here in our hut tonight, and they really "killed" the song, our song, and the audience even laughed after they got through playing it. I could have jammed every instrument down the band's throat for playing it the way they did. But after being here for two months and a half, I can start to understand things, and I sure am going to have things to tell you when I get home.

What kind of a bet are we going to make on the Louis fight in October? We should make some kind of a bet for "old times" sake. I never would bet on Louis, so if you want him we can make a bet. I suppose that is one boy that will always be in the states until this war is over with.

Did you get the paper that I sent? We get it every week, and I can send them home to you after, if you would like me to send them.

How did you find the folks down in Ilion when you went down there that Sunday? If you see Uncle Hope again soon you can tell him that I probably will be smoking "Camels" before long and then his wish he made that night will almost have come true. But I can take it and can stand anything as long as I can get safely home to you again.

Well my own darling it is now almost eleven over here and I am going out and look up at Ray-z and Curt and send my love by our stars, and watch over you all the time, and keep you safe for me. Then it's off to dreamland, and beautiful dreams of You.

Goodnight my "precious".

You are always here in my heart
Yours for ever & ever
Curt

Somewhere in England

September 26, 1942

My Dearest Darling,

I finally have a few spare hours, and I am using them by writing to my one and only sweetheart. We sure have been busy since I wrote the other night. Thursday and Friday I worked all day long cleaning and oiling my truck all over for inspection today. We had four of them today and I reaped in all of them. My truck passed the Colonel's inspection in A-1 shape. I had it really shining. After the inspection was over, I was put on a detail to haul coal here, and you should see how it looks now.

Yesterday I received two letters from Aug. 14, one was from your mother telling about the Old Home Days there, and the dance they had with no fellows there to dance with. The other was from Verna, and she wrote about her birthday party and Betty's. I also got a service card from Aunt Mae's friends, the Ungers. They are in Toledo, Ohio and I couldn't figure out who was sending me a letter from there. I have saved all my birthday cards and others, and are bringing them home, so you can put them in the scrap book.

Tonight at mail call I received another box of grand things, the one with the pack of gum and candy and cigarettes. I sure can enjoy myself now with all those lovely things. Gee darling I can't find words good enough to say to you and thank you for all the nice things you and the folks are sending me. I only wish I was close enough so that I could say "Thank you my darling," in person and give you a nice long ~~~ to make us both happy.

Darling, until you go down to Ted Mellon's have him give you a certified copy of our marriage license. I have got to have some kind of proof as to our marriage, as the government requires it, before I can finish making out your final allotment, so you will be able to get the full \$50 per month. If you can get a copy of it and signed and sealed, please send it to me by air mail as quick as possible, as that will make your money start coming all this sooner.

I got the Camden Paper of Aug. 13 and saw when I took the train ride thoughts. I see you go in the news a few times too, sweet. I will be so glad when I can see where Mr. & Mrs. Visited in Osceola over the weekend. When they give the word over here to "Lets Go" I am going to be one of the first ones to go after those dirty Dutch Bas--- and get this mess over with quick so I can see that Mr. & Mrs. In the paper again soon. I think they are going to take the Non - off our name and make it read the other, from the way we are going here now. But if they do I am still in safe hands, as we will be back of it all. But I won't talk anymore about it, because too much talk can make people worry and I don't want that to happen.

We are still confined to the area here, and no passes to go out have been issued yet, since we have been here a week. There is loads of betting going on here by higher

ups that we will be on U.S. soil about the time that Dr. Young figured for us. Some of them are pretty well educated on this life, and they usually only bet on sure things. That would be about the most perfect thing that could happen and believe me I hope that is a sure thing.

Are you working any on Saturdays now, or do you go up home for over the weekend. I still think of those Fridays that we used to go up there, and have such good times. It is now evening here and how I wish I could be there with you now and starting on our way up there.

Today we had a 15 mile hike and the boys just came in. I had to stand inspection on my truck, and then went on special detail. I guess it was a hard trek and a few of the boys weren't able to go the distance. I suppose by the time I get home, I will be able to walk up to your place and back again without any trouble at all. I don't know if I am gaining anymore or not. Some of my clothes are beginning to feel a little tight on me, and if it keeps on I will be needing a new issue of clothes.

It really has been cold here this week, and there wasn't a day that you couldn't see your breath. We have had a fire in the stove in the barracks here every night, and few times, the fire went out before morning, and when we got up at 6 o'clock, it felt like a January morning. We are quite a ways further north than Camden, and I imagine that is the season for the cold. I know that I just as soon spend my time in Central New York State.

I won't be able to get any pictures taken for a while to send to you my darling. I may get a chance to have some taken when we are able to get out and go to town. I hope I get some chances to get a few taken before I get sent where there will be no place to have any taken. If you ever happened to see a newsreel with a fellow sitting on top of a pyramid, you will know it will be me.

I had an experience to see the King & Queen the other day on convoy duty. One of the fellows here in our barracks was riding motorcycle ahead of the convoy and he stops all traffic so we can pass through. He stopped two cars at one corner and the royal couple were in one of them. We have been kidding him now for stopping the royal family and holding them up. I couldn't see them when they were in New York State. I have come way over here to see them.

Well my darling I guess this is all for tonight. I think we get tomorrow off, so will write then.

Goodnight my sweetheart, and you are always in my Heart.

Yours for always darling
Curt

Somewhere in England
Monday Sept 28, 1942

My Own Darling:

Another weekend has gone by, and one less that we will have to be apart. I got two letters tonight, dated the 16 & 17 of Sept. I am so glad that my letters are coming so quick to you, and I hope that whenever I go they will come as quick as they do now. Your uncle and the boys sure had good luck fishing, and when this is all over, we will go on all kinds of fishing trips. They won't be the only ones we are going on, because we are taking a nice long second honeymoon, and making a time of it.

I received the airmail stamps and now you will be getting letters as quick as I can write them. They just brought in some more mail, and I got the paper of Aug 20. I see where Manchester and Grant Phelps are over here, but I probably won't be getting a chance to see them. I only wish I could see them, and be able to talk to them about home. It sure would be good to see someone from home, and best of all to see you.

Right after I wrote the letter to mother & dad yesterday I had to go on a driving detail to go after clothes and I didn't get in till after supper, and then one of the drivers wanted me to go to the garrison theater and see the show. It was the first one I have gone to since I got in the army, and after we got in there I found out that "Drive Bomber" was on. I stayed and saw it, but I never am going to a show I have seen again because it brings back the memories of our seeing them together and last night I was so lonesome for you and I could just see ourselves together at that show and now I can't put my arm around you during a show. I feel terrible that I didn't stay here and write to you, because then I know I would feel better and be close to you and happy. One thing that seems funny here, and that is they let you smoke while the show is going on. I think from now on I am going to staying and write to my one and only darling and be more happy.

We were out all day today marching part of the time and doing different training the rest of the time. I really feel tired tonight, and I am going to bed early as 6 o'clock comes too soon to suit me. From the looks of things here, we probably will be pulling out before long and where, nobody knows. We may still be in the country or we may go someplace else. I only hope it is nearer home, but that is almost too much to ask. I know that wherever I am, I still am thinking and loving you more & more every minute. I will send word as soon as I can, and if you don't hear from me for a time, please don't worry and I will send word to you, just as soon as I can.

Us Engineers are always traveling, as you know from my past five months in the army, and wherever we are needed they send us to build the things that are going to help in the defeat of those German and Jap bas----- . The news in Russia sounds very good over the weekend, and I hope they run those Germans right into the ocean.

I think I will take your father's offer about cutting wood, and then I can be near you all the time. Are they working you hard nowadays at the stamp office? You are right

about people should be buying the other stamps instead of those. I am able to buy some toilet articles here in this camp, but after we leave here I don't know how I will be able to do. If you want to, you can send a tube or so of shaving soap & tooth paste. I have some left and am going to buy some more, so I will have a little supply on hand for anything that comes up.

I see by the paper where they aren't going to let Louis & Conn flight in October, so I guess we can't make a bet on that can we darling.

We have got two large boxes of sporting equipment in our company now, and there is everything from playing cards to soccer balls in there. We have baseball bats & gloves, table tennis, softballs, games of all sorts and footballs and lawn tennis sets. Yesterday afternoon the boys got together here and had a baseball game and really showed them Englishmen how the old American game is played. They wanted me to play with them, but I was going to write to you, and then I had to go out and drive truck. It was the first time I had been outside the gate here in a week, and it really felt good to get out. Some of the boys are training with the boxing gloves we have, and in a few nights we are going to have a boxing match here in camp. I hope that they will broadcast the World Series over here because I sure would like to be able to hear them.

I suppose before long the leaves on the trees will be turning and the flowers in our rock garden will go to seed for another winter. I hope that when they bloom again I am there to stay and be with you for the rest of my life.

I picked a poppy in the field where we were training today, and am sending it to you in this letter and if you want to you can put it in your scrap book as something from England, and no matter what I am doing darling, I am always thinking of you. I would like to have all the pictures that you have taken sweetheart, and the more you can send to me, the happier I will be. I only wish I could send you some from here, but right now it is impossible, and I can't say if I will be able to send any later or not.

Darling will you get the Christmas presents for the families and others and take the money for them out of the bank, and get them for both of us. I can't get out to get many and you can buy them for us both. Will that be alright with you sweet. I hope that new year we can go shopping together again. Well my darling I am off to dreamland and am going to have sweet dreams of you. Goodnight beautiful. You are always in my heart.

Yours for always

Curt

Somewhere in England
Wednesday Eve
September 30, 1942

My Precious Darling,

Another long and busy day here has gone by, and I sure am tired tonight. We have been hitting the dirt all day long, and it sure does things to you. Yesterday I got a letter from you and one from your Aunt Evah with the picture she took of us the Saturday I was home. Tonight I got a letter from Mother and one from Dad. I can tell that Dad is beginning to feel better because he wrote a four page letter this time. I'll bet Mother did make a lot of noise when she stepped in by the snakes. I don't know but what I think I would have jumped and yelled a lot also.

Dad said in his letter that you and Verna were down at the bowling alley and bowling on the Harlander team. Is that really one of the teams that is in the league this year? How are you coming along with your bowling. I suppose when I get home again you will be so good that instead of me spotting you pins, you will have to spot them to me. I sure am missing all those good times we had together darling, and most of all I miss you the greatest and most.

Those pictures that your Aunt sent are very good of you darling and I sure am proud of them. I wish I had you right in my arms now as I did in the pictures and boy would I be happy then. I have a queer sort of feeling that when we move from here, we are going to the land of freedom. Of course I may see Hal Bell or the Reid fellow, but I have my own ideas, and time will tell how near I am right. I only wish I could say just when I think we are going, but that is against orders. I am getting a pretty good appetite up for Thanksgiving and I have hopes of having a good old fashioned dinner up on the "Windy Hill."

Well darling so much for that, we will see how we come out after we move. That is one certain thing we are sure of, and just waiting for the ----. How do you like the Persian coats. Maybe your Christmas present could be one of them.

I am sending in this letter the application I made out last night for your government application for the allotment. When the certified copy of our marriage certificate comes, that I want you to send, everything will be in readiness, and all they have to do is send you the money. It sure was a miserable day here yesterday, it rained all day long and it really was a cold rain. I was clearing my truck and I got pretty wet, but not as wet as the boys that were out in it all day long. Yesterday I also got one of the letters that I wrote on the boat June 30 and I wrote it to Mother & Dad. I had my address on it but I forgot to put their name or address on it, and they just sent it back to me.

I figure that the letter crossed the ocean three times. Have you ever received the insurance policy that I took out in the army here. One of the boys here got a letter from his wife and she just received his policy and I was wondering if mine has come yet. I

took so many kisses off the envelope on the letter you wrote Sept 19 that all the lipstick is nearly gone off it. I sure am anxious to get the real McCoy and boy I sure miss those goodnight kisses I used to get, and am going to get more and more of, just as soon as this mess is over with here. Darling I have seen so many things over here that I didn't think would happen and I have so much to tell you what they are. I am proud to say that none of them has happened to me, or ever will, but it's the way that they do it that gets me.

Mother said in her letter that Durg was beginning to get worried and he was the one that wanted to get into this. There are a lot of those boys that were very brave at the beginning when they thought they wouldn't be called, but a lot of them are taking to cower now that they are starting catch up with them. This morning when I got up at 6, the daylight was fair & coming up, and the moon was bright. The only two stars in the sky were our two, and they looked so close up there. And I don't think it will be too long before they will be even closer.

We expect to listen to the World Series over here tonight about 10, as they are giving a resamay of the game then. I just got the Camden Paper of Aug 27, and noticed the circled write up in the 25 yr ago. I also saw where Mr. & Mrs. Otto Harlander & daughter spent a day in Rome. Darling if it wasn't for the time to come when I can come home to you, I don't know if I cared about anything. Now I have something at home that is waiting for me, and I am doing all I can, and as quick as possible to get home to my one and only darling and who is the truest and bravest wife in the world. We are going to have the grandest time together and first see what happens if anyone tries to stop us, as they have now. Some of our boys over here are giving some of their money to sort of adopt some of these British orphans. But I think my money is going to be saved for Sharron & Curt who will be expected just as soon as I am home. Don't you think that is a very good idea, and one worth waiting for. I know that it is one of the grandest things to look forward to.

Well my darling I guess that is about all the news for now. I fell on my shoulder today and sprained it a little, so I think I will go to bed and doctor it up. It's nothing serious and will be OK by morning. I will write every chance I get and when we move my letters may be delayed for a while, but more will come when we land again.

You are always in my thoughts and heart Darling. I love you so much my darling!

I am yours for always,
Curt

Somewhere in England
Friday Evening
October 2, 1942

My Own Darling:

Well sweet, another lonely week is almost over and another one that is one less than we will be apart. I will be so glad when the day comes that we can look forward to the weekends, and good times up at the farm. Of course every day will be good times, but on the weekends we will be together every minute. You sure did alright bowling the other night. That night when you were getting done I was getting up and all ready to move from our camp to this one. I am so disappointed that Dad didn't get his telegram. That was the best I could do, and now he didn't get it.

Have you had any instructions that you can't send me anymore airmail letters. One of the boys here got a letter and his folks told him that they couldn't send anymore. I thought maybe you had received the same, because the last letters from you have been V letters. If that is so, I sure am going to miss those lovely long letters and that seal on the back of the envelope.

I went in to see if I could send my letters home that you have sent to me over here, and they tell me that I can't send any writing in a package. So my darling, I am going to carry every letter you send me for the duration, and when I get home we can put ours together in a box. I have about eighty letters from you since I was home that Saturday, and that is twice as many as any other fellow has got from his wife. I sure am proud of that my precious, and I only wish I could have time to send you that many. I cut the write up that was in the Camden Paper in the 25 years ago part out and am saving it to put in our scrap book with all the other things.

I have been out with the trick today on a detail, and now tonight again I have another one of those headaches I used to get back home. Today was a pretty decent day, and the sun shone almost all day long. We are supposed to get our pay tomorrow, and I am getting nearly six dollars more a month now. All that extra money is going to come in handy, and I can send more home as soon as I save enough up to send home to you.

We are still here in this place, and so far we haven't had passes out like we did before. If it keeps up I will be able to save quite a lot of money, as there isn't any place to spend it. Tomorrow we are going to have another motor inspection and the first thing in the morning I have got to clean up my truck so it will be looking shiny and clean. We also are going on a 15 mile hike, and that is really going to be a hike. I only hope that my feet don't start to blister, and I am pretty sure they won't as my shoes fit me perfect and I never have had any trouble with them.

Well my sweet we just got paid and I got 3 pounds and 9 shillings which is equivalent to about \$14 in our money. The rest of the \$44 is coming home to you and the government is sending some more with that too. You probably will be getting the money

around the 1st of November as that is the date the application read for the first payment. Then the money will be rolling in for your own use sweet, and you can have anything that you want to get. Some of the boys haven't even made out any allotments, and they get their full pay, but when the next payday comes around, they are broke. We are going to have lots of money in the bank when this is over, and then that home of ours will be furnished to the last item, including the nursery for the Sharron & Curt.

That is going to be the day to look forward to and what a happy one it will be. We are going to have the happiest time of our life as soon as this mess is over with, and believe me I hope it will be very soon, too.

I was reading in the Camden Paper where a girl from Salamanca, NY was visiting in Osceola and one of the boys here that has been married 6 months and comes from there knows her and lives only a few houses from her. He is the fellow that I was telling you about whose wife also writes to him almost as often you do darling. The boys here that live around New York State have invited you and I to come visit them and their wives after things are back to normal again, and I tell them that they may be seeing us anytime because we are going on a vacation trip and go and see everything that is to be seen. I just was outside and the only two stars that are shining bright are our two. They even shine through this fog over here, and that shows how strong our love for each other really is, doesn't it darling.

We are able to hear the World Series over here at ten o'clock at night. It is a recording of the broadcast, but it comes in pretty good & clear.

Have you seen any good shows lately sweet? I just can't wait until I get home so we can go to the city again, and really see some good ones. In one of the letters your mother wrote, she said that she was hoping this would end so we could go down to Utica again to those shows. We sure will go down to those midnight shows anytime that you want to.

Well my darling it is now 10:45 PM and I am about to go to bed and hit the hay, and I do mean hay. At eleven I want you to be mine my darling. You are always in my heart, even though I may be in the wilds of Africa. I am always thinking of you precious, every moment of the day.

Yours for Always
“and the same old” Curt (as you want me to be)

Somewhere in England

Saturday Evening
October 3, 1942

My Sweet Own Darling:

Tonight I received two of your letters for the 22 & 23 of Sept, and a V letter from your folks. I imagine you had quite an experience the other night in the show, and that gives you an idea of what we go through every night. I haven't seen that show yet, but I know I am not staying here any longer than I have to. Darling what would people there do if they had blackouts every night for all night? I hope that you never have to go through it, and believe me, I am going to do all I can to keep it from happening. Please let me know just as soon as you find out about certain things, and my darling if it is true, you know I will be the happiest husband in the world. If it is going to happen, I hope this mess is over with and I can be there with you.

I am sorry that the picture has a broken glass in it. I really feel the same way that the verse reads and believe me "Somebody Cares." I don't think I have quite enough coins to make the bracelet yet, and now that we are going through such intensive training here, I won't have too much time. I am going to take them with me wherever we are going, and maybe sometime I will get a chance to make it up. We were told here that from now on we can't send any packages over there because of some new regulations. I have a book of pictures of London and two little wine jugs for your cupboard that I want to send to you, but now I will have to wait until the ban is lifted.

Darling I haven't seen anyone from Rome since I have been in England. The only fellow here is the Bates boy, and maybe the paper was referring to him. I see him every day, and today he told me that he had received a letter from his folks, and they told him of you and the folks visiting them. He was pleased about it, and so am I. At least there is one person here that I know and can talk to about things back in the states.

So far I have received five boxes from you and the folks, and I have enjoyed every one of them. Tell Dad that I don't want him to be spending too much on me because he has things at home to take care of and he is doing plenty for me over there.

Your mother said in her letter that she was busy canning and your father and Otis were busy with the potatoes and they were also enlarging the Daley barn. She said she was canning quite a few tomatoes for spaghetti supper, and I sure hope I am there soon to help eat some of it.

Every night my darling at eleven I say the prayers in hopes that we will be together soon, and I never miss a night saying them. So when it is six o'clock over there, you can stop and think that I am saying them my darling. I have caught myself another cold, and tonight I am trying to doctor it up. The cough drops you sent are sure coming in handy now. I have taken some aspirins and now I am feeling a little better. Tomorrow we don't have to get up until we feel like it and we are issued passes tonight. I am staying in

and going to doctor myself up good so that this won't hang on to me as long as my last one did. I have bought myself a garrison belt, and now all I lack is the garrison hat, and then I can strut down the street when I get home. I will be glad when I can get out and have some pictures taken so I can send some to you. Are you getting your scrap book pretty well filled up? I am going to send everything that I think you will like to put in it. If I only could send my birthday cards home, you could put them in the book also. Maybe I will put them in separate envelopes and send them by free mail. Would you like me to do it like that Darling?

How do you and Verna get along. I am glad she is there to keep you company darling. That will help to make the time go more quickly and then it won't be long before we can be together again for good. Tonight is Saturday evening but it seem just like any other night over here. Are you up home for this weekend? I only wish I were up there with you, and then would I be happy.

I can understand why Lucy is not coming out now days, or I always thought she was sort of shy about people. The only word I have received from them since I got over here was a birthday card.

Tomorrow again I have got to my weekly wash. you should see how my field jacket looks now from wear. It sure has a different color than it did when I was home. Believe me I will be glad to get home and to be able to send the clothes out every week to be washed. I sure will be handy around the house after this is over as I have just about everything since I have in here. So Dad has got a new position has he? Mother said he didn't tell you about it for about a month. But he is the same grand dad and believe me he is one swell dad to have. I have got to do my best over here to repay my wonderful wife and grand parents for all they are doing for me now. It isn't everyone that has as much done form them as you are doing and that makes me so thankful. I have such a grand wife and parents.

The news in the paper is sounding better each day, and before long we are going to make those devils beg for their lives. I suppose you read about those school children and it was too close to forget it, and if I can do anything about it, I am going to make those dirty devils suffer.

Well my darling I guess this is about all the news for now. I will write again tomorrow night and maybe there will be more news then. I miss you more & more each day darling and I pray this will end soon so I can come home to my darling.

"Goodnight my poocher." You are always in my heart.

I am yours for always
and your same old husband.

Always,
Curt

Somewhere in England
Sunday Evening 7:30
October 4, 1942

My Own Darling:

Well sweet I didn't get my chance to sleep late today. Right after I finished writing the letter to you, the sergeant came in about nine o'clock, and wanted two truck drivers to volunteer for guard duty so another fellow and I were good Samaritans and volunteered. I was on guard when it was eleven over there, and I thought of you my darling, and our stars were up there shining brightly. I didn't do my cold any good, and now tonight I have been sneezing my head off. I think I will go to the medics and get some cold pills, and come back to bed and sweat it off. The last cold I had over here hung on for a month, and I don't want this one to do the same. This weather here is so different than at home and it's always damp and foggy. I thought we had all kinds of weather over there, but it doesn't compare to any of this over here. But I have a feeling that before long, I will be wearing khaki shorts and sweating in the sun. Then watch me get a tan and I probably will still have it years after this is all over. The boys here have gone to the show tonight and "Babes on Broadway" is showing. I don't want to go to any of those shows I have seen with you before, because I just can't stand it.

The other night after I saw "Dive Bomber" I got so lonesome for you darling and I thought I just couldn't stand it. The next show I see is going to be with you and then I will be able to sit through it.

I have only seen one show in the last five months and I guess I can go a few more without seeing any, as most of them we have seen together anyways. We aren't driving anymore, only one day a week, and the rest of the days we are out on the line drilling. I would much better like to be out on a job and doing something I am interested in. I can occupy my mind better when I am doing something I like to do. I guess that you are still able to write airmail letters, as the two I got yesterday were airmail, and I sure love to get those lovely long letters darling. The V letters seem like a note, and the regular letters are the ones that seem real, when I can get those lips on the envelope.

Today has seemed no more like Sunday than any other day, and I will be so glad when I can get back and look forward to the happy weekends we had together.

I bought myself a new kind of cigarette lighter this week. It's called an Electrolight and there's no flame to it. All you do is draw through the cigarette and your cigarette lights right up. I only paid about a dollar for it, too.

Well my darling this is a short letter tonight and please forgive the "shortness" but I hope to be feeling better tomorrow, and then maybe I can think better. I am going to hit the hay now and see if I can't get rid of this miserable cold.

Goodnight my own darling.

I am thinking of you every minute I am away from you, so be prepared when I do get home, because lookout for me.

You are always in my heart, precious.

Yours as always,
Curt

Somewhere in England
October 6, 1942

My Own Darling:

Well my sweet I guess we both need each other to keep the colds away. I went to the medics today, and they gave me pills to sweat the cold away. I have been miserable with it and I never had one like this before. I have bought some Vicks vapor rub & nose drops, and I am taking those also. My nose has been running steady today, and to top it all off it is a wet & miserable day out. We have a fire going in the hut now, and it's just comfortable in here now. Tomorrow we are going on a 20 mile hike and I sure hope I feel better than I do now. I am looking forward to the package you sent and I hope it gets here before we move out. If it takes as long as my package to you did, it won't be here for a couple of weeks yet. I got your V letter of Sept 25 yesterday and I hope you are feeling better with your cold.

I just finished writing a letter to your folks, and now I am spending the rest of my time writing to my one and only darling. Gee sweet all the news commentators are saying the war will be over in 45 to 60 days, and I would give anything in the world if that could happen and I could come sailing home to you. From the way things look now, I will just be sailing.

Darling I didn't write last night as I felt so miserable and my head was just throbbing and I went to bed to sleep the thing away. I had the nicest dreams of you and I was so happy then, and just as we were having such good times, the darn whistle blew this morning, and I had to wake up. I didn't feel any better so I went on sick call. My temperature was normal and they put me on duty.

You won't have to worry about me and the motorcycle anymore darling as I have given up the idea of wanting to ride one. We aren't doing any driving now, and I don't know when I will be on truck again. I hope it will be soon as I feel better when I am doing something I like to do.

Have anymore of the boys left yet. I wonder how the ones that are there feel when they go down street and there isn't any young fellows and their friends about. I know I would feel sort of queer, but I still would give anything just to be with you again forever.

Darling I don't know if I will be able to get out and buy something for Stubby on his birthday, so will you get something for him out of our money and tell him its from both of us. If I can get something I will send it and it may be a little late, as it usually takes about a month for a package. If I can get something for him, I will tell you in a letter so that he knows there is one on the way. I didn't get any mail tonight, but maybe I will get a couple of letters tomorrow from you.

I'll bet that Gram & Gramp Elmer are a bit lonesome now that your aunt is moving and Keith won't be able to run in and out. Tell them I think of them and just as

soon as I get enough time, I am going to write everyone. I sure owe people enough letters but the time to write them is holding me back, and every spare second is going to be yours for a nice long letter from me.

We were able to hear the World Series ballgame over here at 10 PM each night, but I was usually deep in thoughts, and writing to my sweet "poocher." The only time that I have heard "Big Ben" was the other night when I was on guard, and some of the fellows had their radio on in one of the huts about midnight.

Oxford is a very pretty city with all those old college buildings. I think there are about 23 different colleges there, and they are all very large ones. I saw in the paper where young Dan Allison had gone to Louisiana and from there he might go over. I hope he likes the heat and such better than I did. Is he the only one that has gone from there. It must be really hot down there about now as August is one of the hottest months down there.

Well my darling, how is the Harlander bowling team coming along now. Are you laying them down the sides so the ball will curve and hit the center? I guess you will have to bowl two nights a week for a while and one of those nights will have to be my night. I don know that when I do get home and go bowling, you are going to be with me every night. You won't be able to get out of my sight, and what do you think of that for orders. Have you been able to get a certified copy of our wedding certificate? That is all that is holding your allotment payments up now.

I see where the New York newspapers are saying that our troops are arriving over here every week, and if that is so, it won't be long before we will be together again darling. The sooner we get going at those dirty rats, the quicker you and I are going to be together again for Life.

From the looks of the Burns boy address he is off to see the other side of the world. I don't think I would care to go in that direction as that is a hot place and I don't mean the weather. How is it that the one Cole (Kenny) has evaded the army and is in the city of Syracuse working. Of course there are a lot of funny things going on there and that is probably one of them.

Did you know that the dark spot in the seat of a pair of shorts are? "Gone with the Wind in Technicolor." (I hope this gets by the censor) That is one of the army jokes. Ain't I an awful guy. That is a sample of the kind that go around over here, so be prepared for some good ones my darling. We hear quite a few of them, but most of them are as old as the styles over here. A dress in style five years ago over there, is now in style over here and that goes for everything else. What are your parents planning for Thanksgiving dinner? I wouldn't be surprised if we would be eating camel steak or water buffalo. I know that if we get near enough the diamond mines, I am going to try and get my share of them if I can. I am looking forward to every day to get another package as it's been almost three weeks since I got my last one, and I sure am hungry for some of those sweets and cakes because sweets are plenty scarce here now.

Sweet do you think you could take a flash picture of the upstairs so I can see how the room looks after you changed it around. If I should come in late some night unexpectedly, I would like to know where I am supposed to go and sneak up surprise you. But you know seriously my darling that the first time I put my feet on the United States, I am going to telephone you.

Next Sunday there is going to be a photographer here in camp and if we are still here, I am going to have 6 taken and send them home to you. He was here last Sunday and took some but I was on guard and couldn't get any taken. He just brought the pictures in tonight and they are really good ones. I want all the pictures you can send of yourself my darling as that is about the closest we can be to each other until after this mess is cleaned up.

Are you working any on Saturdays now? You must be getting a good size pay envelope now and then when the allotment comes you will have a nice sum of money to use my darling. Starting this month, I will be able to put some money up and if we are where we can send it home, I will send some extra for you to put away for us darling.

Tonight we are all busy here in the hut making up our packs for tomorrow's hike. We are leaving at seven in the morning and we average about 2 ½ miles an hour with a ten minute rest every hour. I really think that when I get home again I will be able to walk anywheres, and if you want to go on some hikes, I will be willing to go along. Are they still having the bingo games down at the beach; and how is your luck lately. That game isn't even thought of over here, and the biggest pastime is darts. They really go in for that in a big way here. But I can't see much sport in the game. It's the same as the game that Stubby got for Christmas last year.

Have you ever heard anymore about the pictures we had taken at Hustead's when I was home on my furlough. He sure played a dirty trick on us didn't he "poocher?" How do you find Verna for a bed partner? I hope she doesn't kick you out of bed and grumble when you wake her up in the morning as I used to do when you called me. Have any more of my clothes been moth eaten. I hope not because one of the first things I am going to do is jump into a suit of good civilian clothes, and I want one good suit anyways.

Well sweetheart I guess this is about all the news there is for tonight. If I come out all right tomorrow and feel all right I will write then.

Goodnight my own sweetheart. I miss you more & more each day my darling. Please pray we are together soon. I am sending a clipping from a paper over here.

You are always in my heart & mind & soul
I am yours for always
And the same faithful forever
Curt

Somewhere in England

Thursday Eve 8PM
October 8, 1942

My precious darling:

I had to miss a night in writing to you, but will make it up to you tonight. I woke up yesterday and still felt sort of wobbly on my feet. I went out for roll call and exercises at 6 AM, and was all set to go on the twenty mile hike. After we marched back into the area before breakfast, they called out a list of five names for fire watch here in camp, and I was one of them. We were on duty from yesterday morning until this morning. Last night at mail call, one of the boys brought me over a letter from you of Sept 20. It had gone to the M.P. regiment that the fellows from here went to, and when they found out that I wasn't in the M.P, it came back here where it should have come.

So they finally caught up with Don Walker, eh! By the looks of it, there must have been quite a few of the "dodgers" that went that day. If you really want to take the money and buy a bed to match your chest and vanity, it is alright by me darling. I want you to use the money in the box or bank book to get it with though. I want to be in on it too sweet, ad I don't want you to use your own money. You use that for your own self, and get what you need.

Today was this company's day to drive, and I have been out driving all day and just got in at 7 P.M. I found a package on my bunk, and when I opened it, I found an ice box of cigars from my sweet darling. Gee poocher I sure am going to enjoy them and every puff I take of the whole box, I will be thinking of my one and only. I didn't get any letters, but I think I will get some tomorrow. You know where Lucy's folks lived when she passed away and Aunt Mae lived, well it's a coincidence that we are near the same. How is your cold coming now? I hope you are feeling better. Mine has started to loosen up a little, but I still have a terrible feeling my head, but it's starting to loosen up.

Today was the first I have been outside the gate here in about a week. It sure felt good to get outside and breathe the fresh air.

We haven't heard anymore about having furloughs, and now that we are ready to sail again, we probably won't get any unless we accidently hit the states and then we all might get one. It is rumored that we will go back to where our equipment was shipped when we were in Louisiana. I would give anything in the world if that could be true, and I could get home for two or three weeks. After we land they say we are going below the states to work. That would be better than this place as that isn't cold and damp all the time as it is here.

Today it was a regular March day and the sun came out this afternoon and then out of a clear sky, we had a regular downpour, and the biggest rainbow I ever saw stretched clear across the sky. It sure is different than the states and believe me I feel it. I

am anxious to get that package you have sent me by airmail. I hope it gets here before we move out, because if that happens gosh knows when it will catch up with me.

Have any of the flowers in the rock garden up home frozen yet? If you are having the weather we are getting here I can believe that there isn't any of them left. The only way that I can tell that it's getting near fall is that the days are getting shorter and shorter here. I hope that the next time the days start to grow shorter I will be home to stay with my sweet darling. If the news stays as good as it sounds tonight, I may be back before then, and that suits me perfectly. I hope that it is a nice day here this Sunday because I want to get some pictures taken and send them home to you. I saw a fellow today that rode from Camp Upton to NY with me when I had my furlough, and today is the first time I have seen him since then, and he tells me that I have been putting on a lot of weight and look so different. I can't see it or feel it like I always have, and when you get the pictures, you can be the judge of it.

I may have changed in features, but I am still my old self in soul and mind, and that will never change. When I get home to you my darling, I won't be a stranger, and will be as I always was, except that I love you more and more every day. They still haven't done anymore with my teeth, and now I suppose I will have to wait until I get home and then have them fixed up. I know that if they did pull them, I wouldn't be able to get a plate as they aren't prepared to do that kind of work here yet, and when we move out, it would be all that much longer before I could have them.

Now that the World Series is over with, I guess the next thing to look to is the football games, and I don't know if they broadcast them over here or not. Then before long it will be hunting season over there and more good times. But they will have to wait until I get done "hunting" the dirty Deutsch bas---- and get more than the limit.

Well my darling I guess I have told you all the news I can think of, and I have got a coughing spell on and have to do something for it.

Goodnight my darling "poocher." I pray every night at 11 PM that we will be in each others arms "holding tight" soon.

You are always in my "lonesome for you" heart.

I am always yours forever
Curt

Somewhere in England
Sunday 2 PM
October 11, 1942

My Own Darling:

Another week has gone by and that makes one more less that we will have to be apart. I haven't received a letter from you now in 4 days. I got mother and dad's letter of the 30 yesterday, and I can't figure out where your letters are. The mail service here is sure mixed up, and we only get a few letters a day here. I think that they must be holding them up for some reason. Mother said that you hadn't received any letters from me in over a week, and yet I wrote almost every day, and always every other day. I have been driving pretty regular now for the last four days and have been quite busy. Yesterday we had another motor inspection and right after that they sent me out with the truck again.

This morning I slept until eleven thirty and got up just in time to have dinner. I went out after dinner my darling and had my picture taken. They will be ready this Wednesday and then I will send you some of them my sweet.

What's the matter with all the people up there? Are they all drowning themselves fro excitement? If they keep it up there won't be hardly anyone in Camden, except one that I now will always be there with me. I am just resting today as I think we are going on a 40 mile hike tomorrow and be gone overnight, and then come back here the next day. It's a 20 mile hike out one day, and back the next and that makes the 40. This one is going to tell which ones can take it and which can't. They give us rest periods every so often so that helps quite a little.

Mother said that you had had some snow fall up there, and the weather was kind of chilly. We are getting that every day over here, except that the snow hasn't come yet. I still have my cold, and lately have been coughing quite a little. I have used up about all the cough drops that sent in the packages. Have you gotten over your cold yet? We sure are in need of each other my darling, to get rid of these colds. I think that it is the sleeping alone that is to blame for it. If the news stays as good as it sounds today, I am confident that we will be together before too long. And then we can be happy together again. I saw the planes the other morning as they flew over to pay Hitler a visit, and there sure was a bunch of them, about six hundred I hear in that raid. I hope they sent that many over every hour from now on and then watch those devils beg for mercy. I think the time is about ripe for them to be dealt with, and the sooner the better is the way I feel about it. I have been away too long now and the sooner this is over with, the quicker I can be back home with my own darling and living happy together again.

I have sent the birthday cards to you to put in the scrap book that I got while I have been over here. I thought maybe you would like to put them in it "poocher" along with the other things. I am carrying all your letters with me, and can't send them home in a package. I am looking for the airmail package you sent to me, and am anxious to know what it is. Are you bowling every week now, or hasn't the league started over there yet.

I suppose your dad and Otis are starting to get ready for deer season aren't they? Believe me, I sure wish I could climb into my plaid hunting clothes and take the M-1 I have now, and go out with you and get myself a nice buck. Do you remember the Sunday we went out darling and after we got back in the woods things began to happen and you lost my handkerchief. Gee darling we were so happy those days weren't we, and now we have to be so far apart, but we're very close to each other in our hearts & mind. They may take us miles apart from each other, but they never will be able to take and tear our love for each other. That is something that is bound so tightly that it never will be loosened or broken. In fact it grows greater and greater every day that passes sweetheart.

I never have got a letter from Bill and Bix since I have been over here and only one letter from Aunt Mae. I suppose they think I should be writing to them often, but I just can't write to everyone and I don't get enough time for that. I only wish I could write as often and would like to, but this isn't like it was when I was in the states, and had some time to myself. Now I am doing good to get a couple of extra hours to myself. It's been such a lonesome day here today and it's cold and dreary out, and that makes it all the worse. I also will be glad when this winter is over with, and the spring flowers start to bloom, because I think I am going to be there with you, to see them bud and bloom. I do know that before long there will be three days that are going to be hard for us both, and I just can't stand to think of them coming and we can't be with each other.

The boys are having a big ball game today, but its pretty cold out to be playing that sort of ball here now. I have been wearing my driving gloves most of the time and they don't feel bad.

Well my darling, they just came in and gave me a driving detail for tonight. Our battalion is having a dance tonight and I am one of the drivers that has to go out with the trucks and bring in some R.A.F. girls. But to me it's just another job I have to do for the army. I would let one of our other drivers go but they are all out on pass or convoy duty and the other driver here and myself were the only ones in camp, so we got the detail. My score since I left the states that Saturday home has been clear and that is the way it is going to be too. Your husband is true to you my darling, and when I come marching home to my own sweet darling, I can hold my head high with pride, and have no confessions to make to you. I am so happy that I met you and we could be joined together my sweetheart, and now there is no more roaming for me. I have found the one I want for always, and right now my only thoughts are to be able to get home to you, just as quickly as I can. The ball game has just ended, and our company won the game. The boys came in a few minutes ago, and they were about froze. I think they had better try playing football from now on.

Well my darling I have got to get ready for supper and then go on that damn drive. I write again tomorrow night my own "poocher."

Goodnight sweet. You are always in my ♥

Yours for ever & ever

Curt

Somewhere in England
Monday Evening 7:30 PM
October 13, 1942

My Precious Darling:

Tonight I got two letters from my poocher. They were of Sept 29 & 30. I still haven't gotten any letters from the 26 to 29. I hope they aren't floating on the ocean. You sure must have had quite a talk with Lucy and Durg that night. He may wish he had waited longer before he got married, but I only wish I could have met you sooner and could have been with you longer. It don't matter about my old days darling, as those are all forgotten up till the time I met you and from then on are the ones that I am remembering. Is Durg really that afraid he will be called soon?

I thought he was the brave one, that was all set to go, and wasn't worries. Quite a few of the boys felt like that, but now I guess they are starting to change their minds. I know that as long as I have to be in here, I am going to do my best so that any child of ours won't have to go through what we are going through darling.

Well sweet I went out on that detail last night and talk about a bunch of "Ruthy Todds," they sure take the cake. There were about a hundred of them here and no glamour girl in the bunch. I was glad when it was over with, and I could come back here to go to bed, and have beautiful dreams of you sweetheart. I looked up at our stars when I cam back "poocher," and they were shining very brightly up there. I sent some to you by them darling, and now you can go out and take them out of the heavens. I didn't stay at the dance, and I came over and read the papers and the "Stars and Stripes." I went over just as the dance was over with, and they were playing the last song which was, "You are Always in my Heart," and I turned right around and went out and looked at our starts until they finished the dance. When this mess is all over with, I will be able to sit and listen to any of our songs darling, but right now I can't bear to listen to them all alone.

I hope you are getting my letters a little more often now sweet, and I can't figure out why you haven't been getting them right along. They probably are holding them up someplace to censor them.

Well I still am coughing my head off, but my cold is quite a lot better. We didn't go on the hike today and now I don't know if we will be going on any as our time here is limited. Any day now we expect to be told to pack up and be ready to go again. I don't know where, but I have an idea it will be hot there. I have given up the idea of ever staying long in one place in this outfit, and from now on we will probably be a gypsy roaming around from place to place.

Today I worked down a the motor pool and serviced two trucks. When I got through tonight, I was grease from head to foot. I had to drill this morning and this afternoon I went greasing. I have got to work on some more of them tomorrow and I will probably end up the same way tomorrow night.

Did you enjoy yourself at the dinner the other night? Was it some special occasion or just a visit. What picture have you got down at the stamp office? I must be pretty well placed around up there darling. When I get the pictures that I had taken yesterday and send them to you, that will be the latest one of your husband, and then you can tell how this life in the army as affected him. You may think I have changed in features or physique, but down in under I am just the same as I was when I was home sweet. That is something that will never change.

I can't understand why dad didn't get his telegram, because the boys here have been sending them home since then, and their folks have been receiving them right along. I think they must have misplaced mine some place and forgot about it.

Today it has been very cold again and most of the there has been a drizzling rain here. It's no weather for me to be in as it's too damp a place to be in. A warmer place would be better, but I suppose that the next place will be worse than this one is. That has been the rule ever since I was in Upton, so I don't look forward to anything better. The news in the paper tonight is sounding better, and each day it's more encouraging. Maybe before long things will be happening faster and to our advantage, and then it will be all over, over, and here is one boy that can't wait until he is again in the arms of his darling and can put my arms around her, and cuddle down for the night. Then I will again be happy, and life will be worth living again.

I haven't been able to get out anyplace to get Stubs a birthday present, so I guess you will have to get him something from the both of us "poocher." I will be so glad when we can go together and buy things as we used to do. I have been trying to get some Christmas cards by one of the boys here in the hut, who goes out every other day and when he gets them, I can send some cards to the folks, if I can't send presents right away. If we are in the desert or wilds of the Congo I don't suppose I will be able to buy anything then to send home, so the first chance I get before we leave, I am going to buy all I can. I was able to buy some airmail envelopes the other day, and I bought about thirty of them so I can send my letters to my darling. This month is half gone sweet, and they are moving along, and it won't be too long before the day will come when you and I can go down and have a hamburger and coffee (Not Tea). I haven't been able to use anymore of the coffee that you sent as I can't get the milk or sugar as I could when we were back on the farm.

Well my poocher I guess this is about all the news for tonight. This sky overhead is a bit active tonight so I am going to hit the "hay" and be safe in dreamland in the arms of my darling.

Goodnight sweet. Somebody is Thinking of you Always

You are always in my heart.
Yours for always
Curt

Somewhere in England
Saturday Evening
October 17, 1942

My Dear Darling:

What a week I have first been through poocher. We sure have been going through some tough training, and this is about the first time I have had a few hours to myself. We have been out on a 35 mile kike, and stayed overnight, and then walked back. I had a full pack on and I made the trip out all right. Coming back I developed some blisters on my feet, and after we got in, I had to go to the medics and have five of them lanced. Today I am limping around, but I feel lots better. I never realized before how much punishment I could give myself, and still go the full trip. The boys were falling out along the way, but this boy kept on going, and now I am paying for it. We had quite a time sleeping in pup tents and cooking in the open. We had good weather, and it didn't rain for a change.

When I got back here, I had two letters from you and the Camden Paper. There was also a package from Aunt Mae & Uncle Lloyd. They sent a pair of white cotton gloves, five packs of cigarettes, and a bible that I think used to belong to Gram. It said in the front of it that it was presented to William Philpott from some pastor. I can't understand what has happened to the mail service lately. Your letters aren't coming as fast as they used to, and they are all mixed up. I got one from Sept 30 and the next one was Oct 6, and none have come in between those dates.

I hope that you are getting my letters regular now, and I know how you feel when you don't hear from me. I write to you every chance I get, so that you know how I am. One of the V letters I got the other day was a duplicate of the same one you wrote Sept 30, and they sent the same letter to me twice. I am still looking forward to that airmail package you sent, and I sure hope it gets here before long. I am so anxious to know what it is.

The mail just came in "sweet" and I got 3 V letters and a n airmail letter of Oct 1. I'll leve the "babes" for Don when he gets here, and he can have the whole bunch of them. I only want my own darling who is so sweet and brave, and who I miss more & more every day.

Part of the dream you had might be something to it, "the Jungle," but I don't think those natives would want me. Darling I would rather keep the car if you want to, and I don't care to deal with Walters any way. If they jack the car up, and put the oil in the spark plugs it will be as good as ever when I get home, and then you and I are going places alone together, and really enjoy ourselves again. I sure feel sorry for the Stedmans if that is true what was in the newspaper.

Now that you had the visitor the other morning darling everything is fine with you, and I now can be there when it really happens. I do so want one, but I want more so to be there with you when it does happen, and it will darling just as soon as you want it

to. We aren't getting many packages now, and then ones that are coming are ones that were sent the first week of September.

The pictures that I had taken last Sunday have come, and I am sending you some of them in this letter. They aren't very good, but you can get the general idea of how I still look. The wind was blowing that day, and it sort of ruffled me up. I borrowed the hat to see how I really would look in one. You can give Mother & Dad one and your folks some, and the rest of the folks that you wish to. I had a dozen taken, and the other 6 will be here in a few days. Some of the boys got V letters today, and they were the same ones that they got earlier in the week. There sure must be some kind of mix up over there someplace. I don't suppose I will be seeing any of the boys over in this country as we are just waiting for the word to move again. One thing that does look encouraging is that we are getting our overcoats back again, that they took away from us in Louisiana, and we sure wouldn't wear them in the tropics.

Is the Harlander bowling team still taking the honors. You will have to keep up the good name for both of us sweetheart. Next week I will have been away 6 long months poocher, and it really seems like years. I sure am going to be one happy husband when I can be home again with my darling wife and start living a happy life again. Everyone around here seems to think that we all will be home by spring and believe me I am going to all I can to it so, and sooner too, if I can make it possible. The news in the paper sounds better every day and just wait until the snow comes and then those dirty "dutch" bast--- will sure have trouble on their hands.

I also got a letter from Charley Mahoney the other day and he sent a picture of him & his wife on their wedding day. He said that he was talking with you and you were still as beautiful as ever, "just as if you could change any darling."

Have there been anymore fights up at the Newtons or Lesells lately? I wonder why those fellows keep out of the army. It seems to me that the ones that are true and want to be with their loved ones, and can't, are the ones that are sent miles away from them. The wolves or so & so's are the ones that aren't any good to no one, and yet they are hanging around town causing all the trouble they can. I just hope the day comes that I can see them in this, and wonder then how long they will take it. I suppose some of them would have every English girls heart beating for them. It wouldn't be a very hard job for those boys, such as they are. But never mind my darling when this is all over, and we are together again we can go right on living as we were before, and be happy again. We will let other people do as they please and we will always be the same as we always were. It is beginning to feel like real fall weather now, and I have the urge to walk through the woods hunting, but not with a pack an sixty or eighty pounds on my back. But this will give me good practice for carrying those deer out of the woods the next time we go hunting together. I have a good rifle now, the best there is, and you can tell your father that I expect to have myself one after this is all over with. It sure is a "dandy" and I am taking mighty good care of it, as they tell me, it's my best friend while I am in here. I suppose the flowers in our rock garden are pretty well gone now aren't they? But maybe when they come up again, we will both be there to watch them bloom. I am praying every

night so hard that this mess will be over with soon, and everything will be back to normal gain. Charley said that Carl Blackwell was making \$115 a week in Rome now. I sure wish I could be bringing in that much every week, and then we could have that little home of our own darling, and the clothes line full of "3 cornered pants."

They are having another dance here tonight, and the R.A.F. gals are coming again, but this boy is enjoying himself by writing to the only person in the world for me, and I am always more happy when I am writing to her. If I can't be with you my darling, I can do the next best thing, and that is to sit down and write to you, and that is what I want to do. They took me away from my one and only love, and they can't keep me from at least writing to her.

We are having tomorrow off, and I will expect to sleep late, and rest up a little. I have got another weekly wash to do, so that will have to be done in the afternoon, and that will pass the day along. Every week that passes is one less we will have to be apart, and then that day will come that we are both waiting for.

We received our rations tonight, and we got 11 pks of cigarettes, 6 bars of candy, 1 pk of gum, and matches. I am getting all I can of those things as the next place we end up in is liable not to be able to supply us with rations. I have about 6 cartons of cigarettes on hand now, and I am buying all I can so if we get where can't get them, I will have some supply on hand.

When you get the pictures back that you took with the flash bulb, may I have some of them sweet. I sure like those that your aunt took of us the Saturday I was home. Don't tell me there was anything buggy about that picture because it is a grand picture. I had a drink of some apple cider over at the N.A.A.F.I. the other evening, and when I was drinking it, I thought of the Sunday last fall when we went out riding alone, and stopped and bought that two gallons over at Verona. Everything that comes along sweet, I think of you and home, and those are the only things that matter.

Well my adorable darling, I guess I have told about all the news there is tonight. I hope this letter and the rest of them come quick now. I am going to hit the hay and sweet dreams of only you.

Goodnight my darling. I want to so much be in your arms right now.
Y.A.A.I.M.H.

Somebody Cares

-Always Yours Adorable-
Curt

PFC. CURTISS HARLANDER
SOMEWHERE IN SERVICE

December 12, 1942

My Darling:

It's Saturday evening again, and almost the end of another lonesome week. I got two V letters tonight from you, and they were dated the 23 of November. I think that you will enjoy yourself in the Rebeccas and have some good times, although if you don't think you want to join, I don't see why you think you must. I didn't quite understand your one letter when you mentioned that you didn't feel quite married now. We have been a part almost as long as we were together darling, but I still feel the same as I did when I was home with you, and in fact I feel quite a bit more in love with you my darling, and am just waiting for the day to come when I can be with you again for always.

I am sending a money order in this letter, and I want you to buy yourself something, as my Christmas gift to you, and please spend it on yourself poocher, and buy yourself something you want. I only wish it could be for more, but maybe a little later on I can send you more for your birthday present. I do hope that you get this in time for Christmas, but you can get yourself something, even if it is a few days late. I suppose Durg feels sort of safe now that there is an increase in their family and he can buy a new car at these times. Some people sure get the breaks, but then again, maybe some of these days we will get one of them, and make up for all this time now.

I had my picture taken today with all the boys from our company who are in the motor pool, and when they get back from the photographers, I am going to send some of them to you. I am having three of them made, and if they turn out good, I will have some more prints made. I had them taken in my coveralls, and was right in the working mood, so I may look a little different to you, but I am still myself under the suit. We are going out in a little while to start on some kind of a job, and that is going to seem good, to get out and be doing something, so the time will go faster. They are out now fixing up a place for us to stay and when that is done, we will start working again.

I am writing this letter on some of the paper that Mrs. Kunkle sent to me this week, and it was printed at the Personal Stationary Co. at home. I hope that you have received your package from me by now, and that you like the souvenirs of England here. I am keeping my open for some other things I think you will like, and whenever I find anything, I will send them to you. I had some little jugs that I got in our last place we were in, and was going to send them home to you for your shelf that I made for you, and the other day when they were marking our barrack bags, they dropped the one I had the jugs in and one of them broke. It only broke a small piece of the top off, and just as soon as I can find some kind of cement, I will try and fix it up, and then send that to you.

It has been raining here for the last two days, and today I was out in the field here, and there were fish-worms laying all over the ground, and it seemed so funny to see them

at this time of the year, and they were alive and crawling all over the ground. There are many queer things over here, and that and the flowers still in bloom, are two of them. Tomorrow is our day off, and I think I will sleep late again if I don't have to go out on convoy or something. I saw the Bates boy today, and we got talking, and he is driving one of the officer's cars over here. He said he hears from home regular, and that things are the same at the mill.

How did it feel to be the boss at the office the other day? Keep up the good work darling, and then maybe in a little while, you will have that job permanently. From the way you are buying stamps and bonds poocher, when the time is p on them, Sharron will have quite a bit of money to start life with, won't she. I am proud of you my darling for doing all you are in buying the stamps and bonds, and that shows what a wonderful wife I have. If I was Johnny, I wouldn't be too sure of not coming across the pond, as they do funny things, and he doesn't want to be too sure of himself. I thought that once, and look where I am now.

I received a notice the other day that my allotment to you had been received, and they were referring it to the Chief Officer, and that in a few days it probably would go through, and then your money would be coming to you in full, for the amount due of the past 5 months. Some of the other boys here in camp have received letters from their wives and they haven't received their money either, so I guess in time my poocher everyone will receive theirs. I got hungry for some more of the fruitcake the other night, so I opened up the one that you sent to me first, and had a regular feed of it, and all the boys enjoyed it very much. It sure tasted good, and there wasn't even a crumb left afterwards. That shows how anything from home is eaten around here. I think that I have enough razor blades to last me for a while, as I was counting those I have on hand the other night, and I think I have better than a hundred blades on hand, and a good supply of soap and shaving cream. Did your father or Otis have any luck deer hunting this year? I suppose things are pretty quiet in the woods this time of year aren't they? Most of the people are probably going out in a few days to get their Christmas Trees, and do you remember last year, how we went out on the snow-shoes and got ours for the house, and how Stub struggled through the snow with us and did alright for himself. Next year, I have a feeling we are going to be able to do the same thing, and drive up into the woods, and then put on the snow-shoes and go back in and get our Christmas Tree again. It isn't even going to seem like Christmas over here this year, as there is now no snow, and there won't be any, and that doesn't seem real either and then being apart makes it so difficult, too. The day will have to go fast, and then we can plan on being together next year at that time, and even sooner than that. If the news in the paper stays as good as it has the last month, it won't be too long before those dutch bas---- are run right off the continent, and then things will be back to normal again, and everyone will be happy again. You want to remember all those good shows you are seeing poocher, and then when I get back, you can tell me all about them, and when we are out riding in the car, those nice evenings we have, and up where the whip-por-whill is. Then I will sit and listen to you all evening and enjoy it so much, and just look back at these times as a bad dream. One of the first things I want you to do, when I get home again, and that is to make me one of those nice spaghetti suppers that you used to, and I am just going to eat and eat until I can't eat

anymore. I sure miss those dishes you can cook, and you sure are going to be busy cooking them for me, when this is over darling. I guess this is about all the news there is over here tonight, so will sign off until tomorrow, when there may be more. Goodnight my only darling, and I have always got you on my mind, every moment of the day and night. I pray that we will be together again soon, and be happy again for always.

YOU ARE ALWAYS IN MY HEART and I MISS YOU

Faithfully yours, always Curt

(over)

Please send cable or V letter when you receive this letter, will you darling.

Love my poocher
Curt

[Date and location censored and cut out
Envelope post marked Feb 5, 1943]

My Dearest Darling:

I arrived safely here, and am feeling fine. This place is 100% better than the last one we were in. We have plenty of oranges & dates to eat, and the oranges are as large as grapefruits. The sun shines all day long, and I expect to have a good tan before long as we take our shirts off to cool off.

It's quite a sight to see these natives going around their white sheets covering them all up, and as they speak French & Spanish, I am sort of handicapped. We use the franc as money, and things are real cheap. A bottle of wine costs about 25 cents or so in American money. We have about three weeks mail waiting for us in town, and our mail is supposed to be quicker in this place, so I am going to write my letters airmail as they are going to be faster than V letters.

Our A.P.O. is changed to 700 now and that will be my new address for a while anyways. One of the nicest sights that I did see was when I saw the "Rock."

How did that Kinney boy who worked for your father spell his first name? I think I know but want to be certain. I can't say where we are, but it is a beautiful place. I only wish you could be here, and enjoy the sights with

[cut out from the date and location censor]

seasick this last time. I didn't love any of my foods, but I sure was dizzy. This will have to be a short letter for now my darling as we are quite busy getting ready and I wanted you to know I am OK and will be able to write some long letters in a few days. How is everything with you? Are you still leading the bowling teams?

You can tell Mother & Dad that I am safe & OK and will write a little later to them, and the rest of the folks. I don't know if you can send V letters any faster to me than airmail and maybe you had better see about that one.

Well my darling, I must close for now and get to work. I am always thinking of you and praying we will be together soon now. I will write again soon, and until then, you are always here in my heart.

Yours Alone
Curt