

Ottumwa, Ia.
Feb. 17-43

My Darling Angell:-

Here I am again tonight so tired and sleepy that my name is mud. I had a rush day right at closing time and it always makes me so tired in both mind and body. I have had supper and looked after the fire as Jack is not home tonight, just every other night, so Betty and Bobby and I are all alone with Peggy, she is sleeping however.

It has been a fine mild bright day all day long and Betty has not had to put coal in all day long. I hope this is the last of the sub zero weather but I have thought that so long that I have given up and look for it to drop just any time.

Well I got five letters from someone today, can you guess who, well they were not all letters but they were five envelops with some mighty fine pictures in them. I am sure glad that you have had the opportunity to go and see all these lovely places. Gee but I was glad to get the full ~~you~~ view of "Your Majesty". I was also glad to get LaVell's picture too so that I could see who it was that I talked to that night.

I was so glad to see the faces of the people who have been so wonderful to you and taken you into their homes. I enjoyed looking at the faces and I guess that they are very much like the human beings in Iowa. I am glad that you turned the banker's daughter down for a dinner with the boys that day because I expect that she is a "prig" anyhow, that sure was letting the air out of her balloon sure enough. That girl in the car was fairly good looking but not good enough for my boy. There isn't any of ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ them worth it if you ask me. I knew that Vera would be writing you, I see what the aim of the Richards gang is and you can't fool me about them, but Vera is too droll and dumb acting to suit me and not only that but that Lotus Richards anywhere near as well as his mother and dad finishes it for me.

Oh, heck to the women and girls, what I like is those pictures you sent me, am I ever the proud and happy person to get them of you. I enjoyed those beautiful buildings and all that but I sure love your pictures. I am so sleepy that I can't write strait tonight and it is nearly time for the news so I think I had better close and get some sleep as I didn't get to bed until midnight last night and I sure feel drowsy tonight. I am so glad that you are enjoying church as you are and I hope you don't have to leave there any too soon but I do hope you can get in to some place and get application for leave made out.

Well the news is coming on now and I am going to listen to it and then off to bed and I am going to enclose the back sheet of the Courier which has an item about Roland Bush in the "Winning the War". Matt Carr is in Ky, I saw Frieda this morning on the bus.

I am so sorry that your little watch has given out on you that I could just bawl but when I get my insurance money you can just figure on a good watch, for you shall have one that you can depend on too.

I can't get any more films for the kodak so I just have one roll and I hate to send it with just one roll but if you can get 6-20 films I will send it right away, if not I will keep it until I can get several rolls and then send it to you for there is no use of your dragging it around without films. Say if you want any navy clothing let me know because Jack can get them out at the base now, so send me your size in anything you want and I expect some money for just what you would have to buy

Ottumwa, Ia.
Feb. 19-43

My Darling Angel:-

Here I am, I think I too have been neglecting you because I didn't write last night, I was so busy when I got home. When Jack isn't at home Betty nearly talks my leg off and I can't do anything. She is lonesome here alone all day long and she takes it out on me when I get here.

I am glad that you got to stop in Greensburg and see the folks for a little while. Yes, I sent Mrs. Holland a card and brief note thanking her for her kindness to you. Of course they love you, they couldn't help it for you are all that is wonderful and good.

Well tomorrow will be my last day at the store and I really don't care after getting your letter tonight, altho I go tomorrow at noon to meet a party and see if they can use me at the D. K. tire shop on west main that is about across from the Depot I think. I am going to see the manager of the new egg drying plant which will begin here soon and they will employ about 200 but I am asking him for office work as his wife is a customer at the store and I spoke to her about it today, they are from Calif, a Mr. Dittbrenner. I am going to be awfully busy between now and some time in March. I have a lot of cleaning and things to do here at home. I haven't put the rugs down yet, they are just lying where they were unloaded until I get home next week and get the floors cleaned.

I am so glad that you are having a good time in the church with the people there and the Holy Ghost, I know what it means to you because I am so deprived of it since working and with the kids moving in.

I am so glad that Jim is trying to get the detail under a separate unit and it would be nice to stay with a good officer who likes you like you say Jim does, one who trusts you and knows that you are playing square. I will be able to take it better and school may throw you into a very undesirable situation, so we will let God lead us along as he has always done in the past. Won't we?

I will envy your being in Vicksburg because I have always wanted to go to the south and to that place to see the historical places and scenes. I am so glad that you are getting the opportunity altho it nearly tears my heart out with loneliness to have you gone. Jack made me feel so sad yesterday evening by going in and lying down on the backbedroom bed like you did with his feet hanging over the foot of the bed. I nearly broke right out into tears when I saw him and I couldn't eat any supper with them, it hurt me so, so their being here don't help me in the least.

They have gone to town for the evening and Peggy and Bobby are here with me and so I am writing to you. Sister Noland just now called, wanted to know if your address was still Kentwood as she is sending a letter out in the morning and that will mean one from her and one from me the same day. I am glad that you heard from LaVina Bell, I have not heard a scratch from them since I came home from there except to get the lunch cloth and hankies for Christmas.

I am anxiously looking for the pictures, I can't get too many of you I just eat them up every line in them. I sure am crazy about the one where you have on your blues and white cap. The Navy has a patrol in town now at certain hours to check up on the fellows and they cannot get to town in their dungarees.

I haven't seen Mamie Bush or talked to her for weeks. I sent you a part of the paper telling about Roland. I expect you have gotten the different news papers parts telling of different happenings since you wrote this last letter. It just knocked me goofy to see Bennie Doup's going. You will no doubt know more of them in the list than I do but that was what floored me.

I wish I could be with you and it wouldn't take much to cause me to pull up stakes for a while but just now I don't suppose it would be best until we see if you stay in the states or not. If you get more settled and find out what the detail is going to do, etc maybe I can spend next winter with you, Bobby and I. It may be that the Lord will let you come home during conference the 15-16-17th. of March,

The Lord has been so good to provide for us and to give us our desires as long as we leave it to him and let him lead. No I don't like to miss a day writing to you but I sure miss your letters when you don't write every day. I am just crazy about all the pictures which you sent and I show them to anyone whom I think might be interested. Just think of the trip we will have together down in the country when this shindig is over. We will just start out together like a pair of gypsies and have a nice long visit before you start back into the routine of working again, that is why I want to get a steady job and hold up my end of the bargain for you. Morrells haven't sent me the amount of your earnings yet and if it don't some soon, there is going to be some hot telephone wires and I will tell the government just the reason for delay and everything. I won't bear the blunt of it. I hope I get my insurance money before you come home as I have next to nothing left, it is taking all of the kids rent money for coal and then one weeks wages is all that I will have for lights and water the first of the month if I don't get some work or the allotment comes thro. Betty hasn't received hers yet either. So I geuss I am not the only forgotten person in the gang.

I sure will be all atwitter now until you come home and after that another deathly slump I suppose but I am looking forward to the homecoming first. We will have to go to Des Moines one day anyway to see Aunt Lilly won't we? and if you get ten days that will leave you five or six at home won't it?

Well Lane Bryant sent some of my money back because they couldn't supply one of the two dresses and said they thought they could send the other one in about a week so here's hoping. I will have to get a spring coat this year and I want to get a winter dress coat in advance because this heavy winter one looks like a mangy dog wearing it every day and the light grey one is splitting at the neck because it is so rotten from wear and age. I got that when Dad died, so it is about eight years old.

I am just so tickled tonight that I can hardly write anything. I don't know anything for one thing and I know that it makes me so happy to think that you are coming that I don't know anything either. I do think that we are going to have rain before many hours as it is clouding up and is so warm that we can't hardly keep any fire it goes so far out on us. Jack had it fixed and the ashes out when I came home tonight. When he goes to work tomorrow he won't be home again until Monday night, it is his week end at the base, so he and Betty have gone to a show. Jack and I have breakfast together of a morning, I get up and fix the fire and get our breakfast and then Betty don't get up until daylight, she fixes the baby's bottle and stays with her until daylight. The house is so poluted with these box elder bugs that I hate to put the rugs down, Betty don't crush them on the floor because I told her they made a grease spot but we can't help stepping on them sometimes.

Wed. Morning.
Feb. 24-43

Dear Son:-

I got your letter and 2 quickies yesterday, the ones which you wrote when you were eating breakfast of hot cakes. It sure is nice that you are having good eats and plenty of them. I would like to be in that land again too. I don't suppose I could cook again to suit you if you came home. I would have to learn to cook southern style.

Sure glad you are enjoying the meetings and I know the young people will enjoy a letter from you and if you write them nice interesting letter like you used to write me you know they will enjoy it. I know Mrs. Bittnew will enjoy it as she said Sunday night that you wrote such an interesting letter to her.

Yes I hate it that I haven't a job and I will have to do something I suppose if it is nothing more than ask Arrilla Barilla for one of some kind. I will have to eat and keep the home running as long as I can and then-- well that is all that I can say.

Hold on to the money you have because I am a no good piece of furniture, just being here at home and no money coming in to pay for things which will come along from time to time. Everything is clear so far but that won't go on forever. I see that women of my age are not wanted in the public as long as there are these pretty little split tails all painted up and dresses to their knees to have around. I suppose all that is left for me is to go out and clean houses or hook some old stag that is on the loose. If you think it is a pleasant outlook for me, just step into my place and you will soon know.

If you think that school is the thing for you I suppose you will take it no matter what it does to me and as I said before, I don't count anylonger and don't tell me that it is self pity, because if I was given an opportunity to do something I wouldn't holler at all and I am sure you know that. Betty made a suggestion that I ~~will~~ close the house when you come home and go back with you for a while. She said I certainly couldn't go on like this. She knows how I don't eat or sleep any since I haven't my work and things look like they do. I told her I would like to do that but that I was not the one to decide that you may have your ~~opinions~~ opinions on that matter too. Well I geuss it doesn't make any difference anyway. I have ask God to keep you in the states and if he don't I will know that he has turned his face from me for sure and then what is the use of anything after that? It is easy to say that it is one of those "good" tests but the next thing is to come thro it.

I want you to have your leave and come home and something will have to be decided then and settled for all time because I can't go on like this or Mt. Pleasant or some other place is going to have me on their list. These kids are bringing in the money this month to pay the lights and fuel but it is driving me nuts with all this baby stuff around until you can't get thro the bathroom and much less use it when you do need it. I have to go to the cellar most of the time as the baby is always having some thing done to it in there and the back bedroom looks like a rag pile all over it. She never closes a dresser drawer or hangs or picks up a thing that she has a place to throw it down on and it just nearly drives me nuts. I have to get Jack's supper if the poor kid gets any before eight or nine at night. Just because she don't feel well she don't manage a thing. She left the clothing hang on the line until last night when it started to rain and when I told her it was raining she brought it in. I just let it hang there for two days.

I am giving them a hint to leave because I can't stand to go to work if I do get a job and then have to come home and clean the house and get the supper too. He gets mad at her and he made her mad the other evening about doing nothing and being so slow. Well these dam fool boys gets hot in the pants and have to have something to sleep with and they sure pay for it a plenny before it is over. Well so much for that, I am so nervous that I can't do anything. And she calmly walks away and leaves me the kid to take care of when she knows I never slept a wink all Sunday night, never ate all day Monday and last night I never got to sleep until one o'clock. Monday I washed from eight in the morning until six in the evening, so you can see what a shape I am in.

Well I geuss you don't want to hear about this stuff and say to yourself, that is your problem you got into it and you can get out of it, so I will stop.

I have to go get my ration book today for canned good, etc. I don't need it now but maybe I will have to have it for future use. I wanted to get the floor cleaned in the dining room yesterday when it was mild but I had that kid to take care of while she went for her ration book and then she winded up, up town before she came home and Jack was home by the time she was, so half of my day was ruined yesterday and half will be today when I have to go up there and wait.

It rained yesterday evening and then turned into snow and snowed until the ground was white and it is cold again today. I wish you could see the chairs, table and rugs, maybe you would like and appreciate them but just as it is I don't give a darn for them. I don't even care to put them down or anything. They are too beautiful for me to be using. I should have gotten some old cheaper thing for myself. Maybe you will be able some day to get some good out of them.

Well Mes. McDaniels and Mrs. Bitner can say all they want to about me being a good soldier but what they don't know don't hurt them. I don't go to the church spilling my guts to everyone as to how I feel and what is on my mind or is crushing the very life out of me because I would only be criticized as well as made fun of, I know these church people all too well and it is not much that I want to have to do with any of them. I have seen my mother suffer for years because of just such christians and I am not putting my foot in with any of them.

Well I don't know any news either only a dirty house and bawling brat so I might as well close. I know you don't care to get these letters so maybe it would be better if I didn't write but just send you funny post cards. Tonight is Jack's night off so I suppose they will be going to a show and I will be stuck with the kid even tho I wanted to go to church this evening. I geuss it don't make any difference anyhow so I will chose and go out now and get breakfast as she don't get up until 10 or 11 and only then because the kid cries.

Tell me what you think about me coming down with you for a while in March or April after I get the insurance money for if you are still on this detail I can get a way for a little while, but if you don't want me to think about it just say so and I will stay away. Hang on to your money, don't let the church people tell you that the Lord needs it as they always do when they think someone has a cent. You will need it too and as long as I have to be a burden to you with the home some of it may be needed here. I hope this don't go on much longer.

Eat lots of cakes and enjoy yourself as you can and I will be looking for a letter soon and maybe you will be coming before long too. Love.

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