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July 4, 1944

my Dearest B eloved Judy,

Even if I didn't have much to write you today, it's a appropriate holiday which requires a regular letter instead of a V-mail, to wish you a joyful holiday and though I realize that there isn't the mass celebrations of those former years I still hope that you are enjoying yourself today,

as I was writing the day's date in my radio log and writing today's date, my reactions as to the day were cool because similar to all other days it means to me only that another twenty four hours have passed away since the previous day.

My mind later wondered back to the days when I didn't have a worry on my mind nor did I worry about

about obtaining my weekly allowance. Due to these flashbacks I even wrote Julie mentioning the time when on the fourth we were both taken to the hospital due to fire crackers.

Possible you can recall the incident as I've informed you of it, also ~~as a reminder~~, you ~~probably noticed the scar~~ the scars as a reminder, for a moment I was thinking of the one under my chin but that was caused when I went swimming and made a high jump on the diving board and as my head hit the surface of the water it ^{connected} contacted with someone's else's noodle.

This day has in common one thing that those peaceful fourth of July had. The noises, that filled the day with fire cracker rockets and the numerous other fire works, steel pencils but only with more devastating

noise, as when one of our
guns go off, the grounds shakes
and a ~~sh~~ chill runs up one's spine.
Naturally if the guns off in a
distance make a boom but the
affect it different.

Other memorable and
most cheerful as well as splendid
the days of this holiday are
those unforgettable hours we
strilled along together enjoying
the holiday, Oh yeah, you must
be now saying "chinking back
at the year I spent the day working
out at the World's Fair now I can
say I learnt my lesson, therefore
possible it will do justice as a
reminder in the future if I
should have a inclination to
work on that day, you could
snap back with "remember the
last time you ~~was~~ worked on
the faith and later regretted it.
It then will be a closed case
with you being the victor.

Very disappointing day for
me today because I hoped for
at least one letter from you today

but with a maximum of three letters and a few newspapers for the whole battery. I'll be satisfied in receiving some letters from you tomorrow. Darling I realize that if you could contribute your wish, as well as do something about the matter I would have gotten mail today but like me you are handicapped in the situation.

When reading the remarkable progress the Russians have advanced in ten days of one hundred in ten to one hundred and twenty miles, with the storming of the German strong point of Minsk, my eyes required to look again as its almost unbelievable the swift tactics the Red Army has accomplished in so short a period.

Good progress continues over here and the boys in France aren't letting us down.

You may have anticipated, in his letter that I'm attempting to improve my vocabulary

When I write slower 5
I feel I can do a better
job. Have you noticed it?
and do you think there is a
slight improvement, except that
I might have used the
word where it rightfully doesn't
belong there.

One thing I'm unable
to do, even with the trying
of improving my vocabulary
is to enlighten you better of
exactly how much you mean
to me as well, as to the amount
of love I have for you. Actually
there isn't any fixed amount as
it's not something you can
buy in a department store
about all I could write
in words is the usual phrases
which I mean so very much of
I hold you dearest to my
heart and that my love for
you is perpetual. Just like
the years roll on with a new
born day every forty eight
hours, so long as there remains

life on this earth, my love ⁶
for you will continue in the
same manner.

We both must continue
to strive, to keep our chins
up and I'd like to see you
take care of yourself until I'm
able to give you a helping hand,
share our problems, once again
enjoy the entertainment we both
have in common, have our
agreements and arguments, and
then iron them out. These are
the things I'm so much
looking forward to and now I
feel you are doing the best
of this ^{chess} crucial situation, and
will continue during this the
crucial, and final, and I hope
fatal finishing of our enemy.

yours forever
Ben

August 8, 1944
Wednesday

My Beloved Sweetheart,

If you been puzzled over not receiving my letter of July 4th the mystery has been solved and the cause was due to a very stupid mistake on my part. The letter was returned to me because I addressed it incorrectly. Here's how I addressed it, 817 West 176 St. No wonder why it bounced back to me. I'm going to enclose that letter with this one and hope you better luck.

I received five more letters from you that was followed to the hospital and then returned to my organization. Three U mail letters dated June 27th, 28th July 4th and two air mail letters dated July June 29th and July 1st.

The head man of a unit is usual a Colonel.

My plans for obtaining a present for you, for your birthday will definitely have to be ~~postponed~~ postponed until a future date. Even though I'm now in a rest area I've been unable to purchase anything for you mainly for two important reasons which at the present time I can't reveal but darling I'm positive you will understand when the proper time I'll be able to inform you of the reason.

Don't fear that the first night with you around my arms I'll going to tell you I'm tired unless I have a very tiresome day of traveling and even then you won't hear a boo out of me to that effect I'm tired. Okay! I'm so much looking forward to what you have to say the first night that nothing would put me to sleep unless I'm hit over the head with a brick.

Hope your father has regained his full health

Last night I saw the picture "See Here Private Hargrove" which reminded me of the day I was on my way to Dix. James Hargrove