

May 28, 1945

BURMA

Dear Char & Bug,

Didn't write you yesterday-- put 11 hours and 20 min. in the air which brought my total combat hours to 104:35. I took off today so I could work on my monthly report as "Personal Equipment Officer." I've just inspected all emergency equipment such as oxygen systems, parachutes, first aid kits & jungle kits, etc.. It doesn't take too much time, and office types up 6 copies of the report.

I'm over the 100 hours so I have the Air Medal--I think you get the medal and I get the ribbon, but I'm not sure. That gives me 2 ribbons. (Theatre ribbon is the other one.) For every 100 hours you get another medal or cluster. The D.F.C. (Distinguished Flying Cross) comes with 300 hours. Medals are entirely incidental; we are only getting time so we can go home.

No mail yesterday or today. I miss my news & magazines. Hope they start coming soon.

Tomorrow night there is a meeting in Calcutta of 1,000 Wisconsin state army men & women, celebrating Wisconsin 97th anniversary. I can get there by going on the food ship, but I'm not sure how I'd get back. I'd probably see some people I know there.

We get a 12 page CBI newspaper once every 2 weeks. If I can send one to you, I will. However, it contains mostly Stateside news--everyone refers to the U.S. as Stateside.

Payday is Thursday--I should get about \$174; hope I get my per-diem at the same time. If so, I will have a lot of rupees --will have to send some money home.

News here says they are still drafting people--wonder how Bill A. is making out, & if you are still in Dancy.?

No more news now; I'll see if I get a letter from you this afternoon before I mail it. Not raining today, but it's hot & I'm sleepy. I only have my shorts on; think I'll take a nap.

We get a 2-ounce shot of whiskey every day we return from a combat flight. As a result I'm getting use to a good stiff 2 ounce shot before supper every night--good American whiskey, too. Think you will be able to put up with that habit after the war?

Later

No mail this afternoon either; that's the trouble with starting to get mail; then you expect it all the time.

Picked up my washing, much of which was dirtier than when I sent it. From now on I'll do most of it myself on my off days. I have a board, brush and plenty of soap.

I'm going to take a shower , finish my report & eat. Will probably play some bridge tonight--there are always 3 or 4 bridge games going plus several poker games. I'll stick to the bridge.

I take out my pictures of you & Sharon about every other day; when I look at that little mutt, I can picture her doing all the things she used to do, and the things you write about. And when I look at your picture, I froth at the mouth, with a leer and beat my head against the post. Oh well, I won't be over here forever--I hope.

Lots of love to you two loafers...

Daddy

June 10, 1945 China
Enroute to Burma

Dearest Wife,

Didn't write yesterday, but last time I wrote I was doing same thing I'm doing now--winging home to our base at dusk. The weather is fair, not bad, but nothing to brag about either--a few big high clouds which may cause us trouble before we get there.

Spent yesterday on a squadron detail censoring enlisted men's mail. I'd be damn mad if I were an enlisted man and my mail had to be censored. I don't blame the enlisted men for being sore about it. It was quite an experience--love really makes the world go round. Absolutely every man has a wife or sweetheart & everyone would give anything to be home. Those letters run the gamut of every possible emotion with love, jealousy & hate predominating in that order. There are many sad stories to tell.

I don't think I ever told you about the atibrine tablets we must take every day. They do not prevent malarial, but they cut down the symptoms of malarial. As long as you keep taking them, you won't know if you have malarial or not. We must take one, & sign our names every day as we take it. It is a wonderful drug, for so far we've had no malarial cases here, and this is the world's worst malarial area. There are thousands of mosquitoes & I've been bitten hundreds of times--as have everyone else. Atibrine has a yellow dye to it which is harmless, but does color the skin yellow temporarily. When we quit taking it, our skin will turn back to white-brown again. I've just noticed that my skin is yellow. We must continue to take atibrine tablets for several months after we hit the states. When we quit taking them is when we'll find out if we have malarial or not. In any case it would be a mild degree of malarial.

Played bridge last night--I'm getting pretty sharp--You'll have to do some playing for practice. "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" is the movie. By the time I'm ready to go home, they will have movies I haven't seen. Why did we go to so darn many movies? You know darn well I'd just as soon sit in our room.

Before I use to fly with certain pilots; now I think crew chiefs are more important so I pick a plane with a good crew chief. The crew chief doesn't let just any pilot fly his ship--& if he doesn't like the pilot, he grounds the ship. And they really understand & know pilots. The better the crew chief, the better the ship--no doubt about it. Most of them are pretty good, but there are several I especially like. Beside knowing all about a ship, many are well educated & interesting fellows. In the Air Corps, those boys don't get nearly enough credit.

Hope there's mail today--none for past 3 days. Gee, Hon, I wish I had you tonight. I'm really lonesome. All my love

Paul

The way things are going now, I'll just have to owe you a wedding anniversary present. I can't get anywhere to buy anything. Maybe you ought to spend that \$100 I sent for something you want--something you would never buy in your right mind.

Next month three of us are going on "rest leave" in the Himalaya mountains--the food is supposed to be wonderful with all the fishing, swimming, golfing you want. We will go for 10 days--must pay your own expenses while there, but it is reasonable. It's a compulsory rest leave--does not count against your leave like in the states. It is there also that you are supposed to be able to buy anything you want from the Orient. So I'll look things over.

Must close now, with all my love..

Paul