

AUGUST 1942

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What's Happening in August

It's a good month that starts with a pass and being together even if it's only for a short time. That's what keeps them going; planning for the pass provides a little focus and some sanity. Just hang on till the next one. Be careful! Travel remains dangerous at night. There are dim-outs and black outs on the east and west coasts. The rationing continues and in fact, further rationing is predicted. Mayors are calling for a gas czar to create a more equitable way to distribute fuel. Also, tires are scarce.

Saboteurs remain in the news. That's why guard duty on the beach is so important. Coming up on a wreck on the beach can sure put things into perspective as well.

Congratulations will be in order as Leonard is promoted to Private First Class. That won't change his station too much. He's going to set his sights on the Signal Corp even though it seems the Army would prefer he stick with the big guns.

Meanwhile, back in the trailer, there is something that will change Leonard's and Audrey's life in dramatic ways. It's a 5-month wedding anniversary so, you know....

The war rages on and spies are dealt with severely. For helping Germans, the traitors will be hung in prison. By August 7th, the allies launch the 1st offensive on the Solomon Islands. Black-outs are now the norm on the west coast as well as the east coast. Filed under "just because we can", Alpine hunters plant German flag on Elbroezgebte, Kaukasus.

August 3, 1942

August 3, 1942
Btry H - 9th C. A.
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey: -

I arrived back here all right last night and had good luck. The bus got here around twelve o'clock. My knee joints ached from sleeping in such a cramped position. I was all curled up like a cat around a fire. The bus stopped short once and I slid on the floor. From Haymarket Sq. I got a ride in a nice convertible coupe with the top down and the radio going. It was a beautiful night and such smooth music. I just leaned back and closed my eyes and the war seemed to slide away. It would have been perfect to have you there at the time. At the time I thought of something clever to say in this letter to you but now I've forgot how I worded it. It probably wouldn't have been clever anyway. This fellow brought me an order on Lynn and was a great help. Usually it is hard to get to there at this time of the night. Then from there a taxi drove us out to the fort. I say "us" because there is always some one hanging on the corners trying to get back to the fort. The taxi dropped us at the gate and I waited there with my pass and only eight hours

late. I'll have to try to get back a little early from now on. I've been getting by with too much and I don't want to push my luck too far. There are quite a few fellows getting caught all the time and besides spending time in the kitchen, it is a blot on their record. - I got your letter to-day and it wasn't very bad. You can bowl me out better than that, can't you? First you say you hate me and then quickly change your mind and say you love me. You've got to do better than that. What girl are you? Of what I think is happening to you, you had better be my girl. I'm only kidding with you darling. If the truth was known and I'd wake up and realize it pretty soon, but you will make me happy and very proud. You are wonderful and I love you very much. You treat me much to often and to good also. But I love you more and more for it. You are the only girl for me. I'll close now because I have to go on guard soon.

All my love

Howard

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August 3, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

I arrived back here all right last night and had good luck. The bus got here around twelve o'clock. My knee joints ached from sleeping in such a cramped position. I was all curled up like a cat around a fireside. The bus stopped short once and I slid on the floor. From Haymarket Sq. I got a ride in a nice convertible coupe with the top down and the radio going. It was a beautiful night and such smooth music. I just leaned back and closed my eyes and the war seemed to slide away. It would have been perfect to have you there at the time.

At the time I thought of something clever to say in this letter to you but now I've forgot how I worded it. It probably wouldn't have been clever anyway.

This fellow brought me as far as Lynn and was a great help. Usually it is hard to get to there at this time of the night. Then from there a taxi drove us out to the fort. I say "us" because there is always someone hanging on the corner trying to get back to the post. The taxi dropped us at the gate and I waltzed thru with my pass and only eight hours late. I'll have to try to get back a little early from now on. I've been getting by with too much and I don't want to push my luck too far. There are quite a few fellows getting caught all the time and besides spending time in the kitchen, it is a blot on their record.

I got your letter today and it wasn't very bad. You can bawl me out better than that, can't you? First you say you hate me and then quickly change your mind and say you love me. You've got to do better than that. Whose girl are you? If what I think is happening to you, you had better be my girl. I'm only kidding with you darling. If the tenth was known and I'll wake up and realize it pretty soon, but you will make me happy and very proud.

You are wonderful and I love you very much. You treat me much too often and too good also. But I love you more and more for it. You are the only girl for me.

I'll close now because I have to go on guard soon.

All my love

Leonard

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August 4, 1942

August 4, 1942
 Btry H - 9th C. A.
 Fort Ruckman

My dear Mrs. M. :-

How do you like that? You are a old married woman now. You've been married five more times since this week (Friday). Just think of that. You don't look married, to me. You look prettier and nicer than when I first saw you. You are wonderful and I love you very much. I don't know what I would do if something happened to you. All this is part of last night's thinking. Walking up and down the beach I can think of a lot of different things. Usually I think of you. How you looked doing some thing or how you acted when I told you some thing. So this morning I am sitting out on the rocks in front of the hotel where we are suppose to be walk ing guard. It is a swell morning and a nice cool breeze to go with it. I can look over and see Rovers Beach, the G.C. plant, an open air theatre, and then way over on the right there is the Lynn Gas. It is quite a view. I can see what should be Fort Barber but I'm not sure that it is. I almost fell asleep dreaming of you and that would have been very bad. It is a pretty serious offense to fall asleep while on guard. They shouldn't work so hard during the day because it makes it hard to keep on the alert at night. - I didn't give it much thought when you

told me but those three days in Sept. you have off will be nice. Is Vicky thinking of going down where Tony is? I think if she could she should. I'll expect to see my wife up here. I'm quite sure you can get in to the dances up here. I don't know whether I should turn you loose on these nice fellows up here. They hardly know what the score is and you are so worldly wise. They would be easy prey for you. Such nice boys too. I should have a pass around them too and so we can have a very nice day to gether. That is if I am still around here. They are going to send some more fellows out the middle of this month and it will be more than six or ten this time. It is hard to figure out what is due to happen. The ones who are late in getting back to camp and who have their names turned in, and those who go A.D.C., and those who get in trouble in general are the ones who will be sent off. I don't think I am in this bunch but I might go any way. There is no way you can be sure of staying here. I'll have to improve my behavior from now on. Now that it is too late I am going to try and get back to camp on time from now on. Don't that fool of me? Now don't go worrying about their sending me to Japan. I've been telling you all along I wouldn't be here for good. It is getting close to noon and so I'm looking for my relief. I didn't get up for breakfast this morning because I was too tired and so was I in kind of hungry. The past couple of days the meals have been terrible and so I'm not looking forward to anything special. I'll close this now and drop it in the mail on the way back. You'll get it quicker. — Your loving husband
 John and 12/11/11

August 4, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

My Dear Mrs. M.:

How do you like that? You are a old married woman now. You've been married five months come this week (Friday). Just think of that. You don't look married to me. You look prettier and nicer than when I first saw you. You are wonderful and I love you very much. I don't know what I would do if something happened to you. All this is part of last night's thinking. Walking up and down the beach I can think of a lot of different things. Usually I think of you. How you looked doing some thing or how you acted when I told you something. So this morning I am sitting out on the rocks in front of the hotel where we are suppose to be walking guard. It is a swell morning and a nice cool breeze to go with it. I can look over and see Revere Beach, the GE plant, and open air theatre, and then way over on the right there is the Lynn Gas. It is quite a view. I can see what should be Fort Banks but I'm not sure that it is. I almost fell asleep dreaming of you and that would have been very bad. It is a pretty serious offense to fall asleep while on guard. They shouldn't work us so hard during the day because it makes it hard to keep on the alert at night.

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It is getting close to noon and so I'm looking for my relief. I didn't get up for breakfast this morning because I was too tired and so now I'm kind of hungry. The past couple of days the meals have been terrible and so I'm not looking forward to anything special. I'll close this now and drop it in the mail on the way back. You'll get it quicker.

Your loving husband

Leonard

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August 6, 1942

August 6, 1942
 Bay H. 9th C. A.
 Foot Ruckman

Dear Butch: —

This letter I will write in pieces. A little now and a little later. No letter from my little "blister" this morning. Oh, I hate you. If you can't write me, you don't have to come and see me any more, so there. (I guess that sounds like you) You are very inconsiderate and only think of yourself. You're a big bully to treat me like this. Shall I write the entire letter on this theme or shall I say something else. Nothing interesting has happened since yesterday so I'm trying to think of something to say. — The scab on the top of my head has fallen off and so I guess I don't look quite so bad now. From now on I'll have to get up a little early because I'll have to start combing my hair again. Don't worry sweet, in a couple of days I'll be back looking my old self. Just like Sterling Hayden. Don't you think so or don't you? I was going to say Ronald Coleman but his ears don't stick out enough. — I got a letter from Laura and she said she was writing you a note. She says Mom has gone down to Brant Rock with the kids. With Jean gone and maybe June she must be all alone at home. — Here we are back again. Where did I leave off? Oh yes! Laura

also says one of the fellows he use to work with on the tree work got hit on the head with a piece of pipe while working in the ship yard. These tree skimmers are lost when they get out of a tree. He is in pretty tough shape. She mentioned four or five different injuries so it could not have been any little tap such as he got. He started to write before night show but he was so mad he decided he better not. They kept us out on the parade field preparing for a inspection to-morrow with those heavy packs on for a good two hours. What stupidity and what confusion. If this happened to-day, to-morrow will be a night march. Well as usual if you know you have to do something you will always find some way to do it. He likes to feel that he can equal to any situation that might arise. What a guy you married. He likes to blow his own horn too much. One of the fellows he knows pretty well since he entered this (words fail me here) came back this morning from six days of being A.W.O.B. and they slapped him in the guard house. He is a nice fellow and was to be married in a couple of weeks. They were going to give him six days off to be married in but he does not that now. I can't think of what caused him to go over the fence liked that unless he just got fed up and decided he had enough. I suppose some can thrive on this life and others can't stand it. I just spit on it. I need you more than I

ever thought possible. If I could only see you at night or a little bit each day, it wouldn't be so bad. And with the future promising every thing but a nice peaceful life with your wife, its makes matters worse. - I think we can look forward to a nice day around Labor Day. My pass should come on ^{or} around Aug. 30 so with your three day vacation we could almost see so much of each other that we might get sick of each other. At least I would get sick of you. I wouldn't be use to you and probably by the second day I'll want a different babe: Change of scenery. I am only kidding you darling. There is not another girl around that can compare with you. You are so soft and sweet. I love you. I got a letter from Tony and he was telling me how lucky I am to be able to see my gal so often. It is not often enough for me but I guess I am lucky. He never thought he would go so long without seeing his girl. The poor boy is feeling worse than I. - I think the food we are getting lately is terrible. Good is food to me. Usually I can eat what the others complain of, but lately the pigs have been getting more than their share. I like stew but not Army stew. They are ruining my digestion. From what I hear there is a serious meat shortage here in Boston and so must be affecting

the Army. It is impossible to get hamburger.
 (this is the spot for me to put in my two bits. The
 capitalistic meat mongers are holding the meat
 shipments back so as to raise the prices even higher
 which means greater profits and more money for their
 already bulging pockets. I don't know nothing
 about it so as I said it is only a two bit stab in the
 dark) The meat shortage has nothing to do with
 the quality of the food so it is the cooks. - Well I
 have written enough so — — — Send me a little
 money when you get some. I have eleven cents and
 the penny I am saving for your bank (or the babys)
 I can't go any where without any money much less
 get to E. Hartford.

With all my love

Leonard

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August 6, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Butch:

This letter I will write in pieces. A little now and a little later. No letter from my little "blister" this morning. Oh. I hate you. If you can't write me you don't have to come and see me anymore, so there. (I guess that sounds like you) you are very inconsiderate and only think of yourself. You're a big bully to treat me like this. (Shall I write the entire letter on this theme or shall I say something else. Nothing interesting has happened since yesterday so I'm trying to think of something to say)

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I got a letter from Laura and she said she was writing you a note. She says Mom has gone down to Brant Rock with the kids. With Jean gone and maybe June she must be all alone at home.

Here we are back again. Where did I leave off? Oh yes! Laura also says one of the fellows I used to work with on the tree work got hit on the head with a piece of pipe while working in the shipyard. These tree skimmers are lost when they get out of a tree. He is in pretty tough shape. She mentioned four or five different injuries so it could not have been any little tap such as I got.

I started to write before night chow but I was so mad I decided I better not. They kept us out on the parade field preparing for a inspection tomorrow with these heavy packs on for a good two hours. What stupidity and what confusion. If this happened today, tomorrow will be a nightmare. Well as usual if you know you have to do something you will always find some way to do it. I like to feel that I am equal to any situation that might arise. What a guy you married. He likes to blow his own horn too much.

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I think we can look forward to a nice day around Labor Day. My pass should come on or around Aug 30 so with your three-day vacation we could almost see so much of each other that we might get sick of each other. At least I would get sick of you. I wouldn't be used to you and probably by the second day I'll want a different "babe". Change of scenery. I am only kidding you darling. There is not another girl around that can compare with you. You are so soft and sweet. I love you. I got a letter from Tony and he was telling me how lucky I am to be able to see my gal so often. It is not often enough for me but I guess I am lucky. He never thought he would go so long without seeing his girl. The poor boy is feeling worse than I.

I think the food we are getting lately is terrible. Food is food to me. Usually I can eat what the others complain of, but lately the pigs have been getting more than their share. I like stew but not Army stew. They are ruining my digestion. From what I hear there is a serious meat shortage here in Boston and so must be affecting the Army, it is impossible to get hamburger. (this is the spot for me to put in my two-bits. The capitalistic meat mongers are holding the meat shipments back so as to raise the prices even higher which means greater profits and more money for their already bulging pockets. I don't know nothing about it so as I said it is only a two-bit stab in the dark) The meat shortage has nothing to do with the quality of the food so it is the cooks.

Well I have written enough so..... Send me a little money when you get some. I have eleven cents and the penny I am saving for your bank (or the babys') I can't go anywhere without any money much less get to E. Hartford.

With all my love

Leonard

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August 6, 1942
Box H. 9th C.A.
Fort Ruckman

My dear Mrs. M. -

I can't seem to concentrate on Alpha to night. If I could only think of it as easy as I can dream of you, it would be a head-pipe cinch. It is interesting and I really like it but it is hard to buckle down to it every spare moment especially after working. That is why it is so discouraging. There is so much work and they expect us to be shined up so much all the time that it is not hard to lose sight of your perspective.

- I'm listening to Horace Heist and he just finished playing "You can't say no to a soldier". We got a kick out of that. Are you listening too? - I'm still thinking of asking to have my next pass so as to have two days off instead of one. I'm not expecting too much luck. If I don't get this I don't think I'll try getting down to see you. I'd have to leave at noon to get back here at six. This sudden urge is due to the stories around here of the fellows getting turned in. They put a corporal in the guard house for being an hour late and quite a few others are spending four and five days in the kitchen for being late or A.W.O.L. I've been seven and eight hours late and got away with

August 6, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

My Dear Mrs. M.:

I can't seem to concentrate on Algebra tonight. If I could only think of it as easy as I can dream of you, it would be a lead-pipe cinch. It is interesting and I really like it but it is hard to buckle down to it every spare moment especially after working. That is why it is so discouraging. There is so much work and they expect us to be shined up so much all the time that it is not hard to lose sight of your perspective.

I'm listening to Horace Heidt and he just finished playing "You can't say no to a soldier". We got a kick out of that. Are you listening too? I'm still thinking of asking to save my next pass so as to have two days off instead of one. I'm not expecting too much luck. If I don't get this, I don't think I'll try getting down to see you. I'd have to leave at noon to get back here at six. This sudden urge is due to the stories around here of the fellows getting turned in. They put a corporal in the guard house for being an hour late and quite a few others are spending four and five days in the kitchen for being late or A.W.O.L. I've been seven and eight hours late and got away with it but I can't hope to do it for ever. However I shall try to get two days on the 21st of august and if I don't I'll see you anyway.

I went up tonight and took out some Insurance. I've got to protect my sweet little wife. I took out \$5000 and it will cost me about \$3.50 a month. Is that too much? I refuse to go in the trailer and sleep with you until you throw out all those dangerous weapons. I'm too young (you notice I didn't say "handsome") to die and I can't be taking chances like that after putting \$5000 on my head.

I wrote you a letter down on the beach today and I really enjoyed being down there this morning. A swell view and a nice cool breeze, but at night it is different, then I dislike it.

Notice the address I'm sending you. By telling you I am going to try and save this pass so as to have two days later on to see you. I can have the day off to see this little "cove". Nice number too. She has a convertible coupe, apartment, and plenty of money. Aren't I lucky?

The truth is that I had some woolen socks issued to me today and this was pinned inside one of them. I offered the address to the fellows but no one seemed willing to take a chance on her. So save it for me until you decide to divorce me, which will be never I hope.

All the love in the world from your guy

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August 7, 1942

August 7, 1942
Btry H. 9th C.A.
Fort Ruckman

Dear Mrs. M. —

No letter yesterday but a nice long one to-day. I've read it twice already and it is only noon. Don't send the picture back to Elmer. Keep it and let him get another. He only wants it so he can look at it occasionally and if his life is anything like this up here, he has no time to look at it. The inspirations he gets will be from a tough sergeant. I bet he wishes he were back painting houses. But if he looks to the past, I look to the future. Someday somehow you and I will have our little house with rose bushes climbing all over it. The past only has memories for us and they were so good they hurt to think of now. When this mad business is all over I am going to try and make this all up to you. You deserve so much and you are getting so little. I love my wife with all my heart. — I've been taking your advice and doing my laundry every day and although it is so cin, it seems so though I am continually washing clothes. I'm afraid I don't get them so clean as they should be. Maybe the fellows talk behind my back of tattle-tale gray. The cats! I am going to try and wash the sun tan out. That is the summer outfit. It costs too much to keep sending

them to the cleaners. If they come out good I'll wear them down to E. Hartford so you can see what a wonderful laundress you married. This lad on the ~~left~~ could take some lessons from me. The smell from the direction of his bunk is real foul. It is just my luck to get moved beside some thing like that. Oh well then I'll go griping again. I don't seem to be able to write a letter without complaining. -- It's night and pretty near time to go to bed. I've just come from the algebra class and my head is spinning with x^2 's and other fractions. If $y = ab$, what is the price of mustard. The white picket fence looks good. And why didn't she get there quicker. What is the area of the chimney if the roof leaks. These are only a few of the questions I am called upon to answer. Sometimes there aren't enough letters in the alphabet for me. What a guy you married. -- I'm glad you have found out this early that you have to work Labor Day. Better to know you can't have the three days off than to go on planning and then find out at the last moment that you have to work. I was beginning to look forward to it but I'll forget it now. How nice it would have been. I want ever so much to see you this Xmas, but I can't see it. That is if they don't let me ~~save~~ up this pass so as to have two days later on. They might

make me take the day off when it comes up. Maybe I'll go to Katick or just hang around Boston. Chances are I'll have to take the day off. (I'm writing this letter in the day room and there is so much noise it is hard to concentrate.) I got your money and thanks. I need toothpaste, brush and shaving cream and some thing else I can't think of now so I'll knock 6-12 out of a dollar right off. The rest I'll squander on a couple of blisters to -rite over at Muphys' so you had better forward me another bunch. - What do you mean the buttons on that blue dress were not very handy? They didn't do this me -- that is very much. An old timer like me doesn't let a little thing like that bother him. It's the pants that give me the most trouble. - I got a small package from the St. Pauls Church in Katick and guess what. A bottle of Cobbs Creek? Ho! A bible for soldiers and sailors in the Armed Services, an Episcopal Cross, and a certificate showing my membership into that Church. I suppose it was nice and thoughtful of them but it is some thing that I never gave a thought and could get along without. We told all the fellows that my Church services around my creek would start punctually at 11:30 o'clock Sunday. Some

of them thought it was too early but I am just
 naturally a early bird. I believe in starting the
 day off bright and early and with a bang. I'm
 looking around for an organ player. There isn't
 any organ but what do you want. Salt in your beer?
 Oh you don't like beer, eh! Well then we ~~would~~ won't
 let the organ player in. How's that? Don't you know
 it is wrong to talk like that. It's hypocritical. I'm only
 kidding darling, it is nice to have it. I just
 couldn't resist the chance to say something. The
 churches are having a little easier time these days.
 People can't get out to go other places so they go to
 church. They have always played second fiddle to
 something. That is something you never have to
 worry about. You never have to take a back seat to
 anyone. You are the tops and the only girl for me.
 I love you very much and think of you always.
 I am going to bed now and I shall fall asleep
 thinking of you. Don't miss me too much I see.
 I might break down and try to make it just to
 see you for a couple of hours but don't expect me.

from Mrs. M. husband

Leonard

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August 7, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Mrs. M.:

No letter yesterday but a nice long one today. I've read it twice already and it is only noon. Don't send the picture back to Elmer. Keep it and let him get another. He only wants it so he can look at it occasionally and if his life is anything like this up here, he has no time to look at it. The inspirations he gets will be from a tough sergeant. I bet he wishes he was back painting houses. But if he looks to the past, I look to the future. Someday somehow you and I will have our little house with rose bushes climbing all over it. The past only has memories for us and they were so good they hurt to think of now. When this mad business is all over I am going to try and make this all up to you. You deserve so much and you are getting so little. I love my wife with all my heart.

I've been taking your advice and doing my laundry every day and although it is easier, it seems so though I am continually washing clothes. I'm afraid I don't get them as clean as they should be. Maybe the fellows talk behind my back of tattle-tale gray. The cats! I am going to try and wash the sun tans out. That is the summer outfits. It costs too much to keep sending them to the cleaners. If they come out good I'll wear them down to E. Hartford so you can see what a wonderful laundress you married. This lad on the left could take some lessons from me. The smell from the direction of his bunk is real foul. It is just my luck to get moved beside something like that. Oh well there I go griping again. I don't seem to be able to write a letter without complaining.

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I'm glad you have found out this early that you have to work Labor Day. Better to know you can't have the three days off than to go on a planning and then find out at the last moment that you have to work. I was beginning to look forward to it but I'll forget it now. How nice it would have been. I want ever so much to see you this Tues. but I can't see it. That is if they don't let me save up this pass so as to have two days later on. They might make me take the day off when it comes up. Maybe I'll go to Natick or just hang around Boston. Chances are I'll have to take the day off. (I'm writing this letter in the day room and there is so much noise it is hard to concentrate)

I got your money and thanks. I need toothpaste, brush and shaving cream and something else I can't think of now so I'll knock the h-ll out of a dollar right off. The rest I'll squander on a couple of blisters tonite over at Murphey's so you had better forward me another bunch.

What do you mean the buttons on that blue dress were not very handy? They didn't bother me --- that is very much. An old timer like me doesn't let a little thing like that bother him. It's the pants that give me the most trouble.

I got a small package from the St. Pauls Church in Natick and guess what. A bottle of Cobbs Creek? No! A bible for soldiers and sailors in the Armed Services, an Episcopal Cross, and a certificate showing my

membership into that church. I suppose it was nice and thoughtful of them but it is something that I never gave a thought and could get along without. I've told all the fellows that my church services around my bunk would start punctually at 11:30 o'clock Sunday. Some of them thought it was too early but I am just naturally a early bird. I believe in starting the day off bright and early and with a bang. I'm looking around for an organ player. There isn't any organ but what do you want. Salt in your beer? Oh you don't like beer, ik! Well then we won't let the organ player in. How's that? Don't you know it is wrong to talk like that. It's hypocritical. I'm only kidding darling, it is nice to have it. I just couldn't resist the chance to say something.

The churches are having a little easier time these days. People can't get out to go other places so they go to church. They have always played second fiddle to something. That is something you never have to worry about. You never have to take a back seat to anyone. You are the tops and the only girl for me.

I love you very much and think of you always. I'm going to bed now and I shall fall asleep thinking of you. Don't miss me too much Tues. I might break down and try to make it just to see you for a couple of hours but don't expect me.

From Mrs. M. Husband

Leonard

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



August 8, 1942

August 5, 1942
(and the rest of the
same old baloney)

Dear Audrey: -

Another week has rolled by. Some times or other the time goes by. I wouldn't go so far as to say that time flies but it gets there. (That is, it isn't in any real hurry and so I don't see why we are always waiting with such anxiety for it to pass. Wasting our lives away.) This morning I was wondering how I could last the day out (not that I was tired but just fed up with shoveling) when it suddenly took care of itself. Usually I get stuck for all the bad details but to-day I pick a good one. There were some telephone poles over in Newton that they nudged over here. These Army truck-drivers are all the same. They drive like mad and always take the longest route (and in the latter case I have no objection). Right up Tremont St. and down Baylston with the big truck we went. At the corner we had to stop for the light and a fellow with three or four girls started to cross in front of the truck. They obviously ^{were} together and all carried suit-cases and so one of the bright boys in the truck yelled, "Carry your bag, Mister." The girls seemed to get a big kick out of it and because we had to move no other remarks were exchanged. It seemed funny to be riding around in an Army truck through such familiar territory. It would have been fun to

pull down Woods Coast. Just a big bid at heart. It didn't take long to get the load but by that time it was after noon and so we had missed clear back at camp. Well to make this story shorter we stopped for something to eat and by a strange coincidence they happened to sell liquor there. Between the drinks I got myself and the ones set up for me I had all I could manage. Oh yes, I almost. That spree ruined the two dollars you sent me. Now don't go bawling me. No good excuse either. I had a steak and it was pretty good. I think the punishment I have got is enough. We didn't get back in time to get our clean shirts and so I'll have to go another week with them. Then I was so unsteady that I lost two games of pool before I decided to quit which increases my battery bill ten cents. Where is this Round Table that you went to for a cocktail? I don't seem to be able to plan it. We had such a nice time over at the Polish American Club last Sat. that we shall have to go over again the next time I come down. You dance wonderful with me and that is not easy. Half of the time I don't know what I am doing and so to make me look good, which is what you did, you had to be right on the ball. (most of the time I aim on something and that is my partner's bet) I don't ever want to step on your feet. You are

my partner for keeps - for always. I don't want
ever to lose you. - Of Uncle Elmer hasn't very much
you remember also that you don't have very much
either. Perhaps a little more than them but not
much. I like to have you go over and get chummy
with them so go ahead if you like. Aunt Ade would
not have asked you again if she did not take to
you before. Of course I mean Dicky too. The Grala
sisters are quite a bunch. I think I was pretty
smart in picking the best one of the lot. The
nicest and sweetest of the five. I love you darling
and oh, miss you so very much. - This letter
writing is tough. I can sit down any time and
write you. I don't mind it at all. But it takes
me three or four days to get up enough courage to
write some of the other letters I owe and then I
usually throw up my hands at the first attempt.
I owe Elmer, Tony, Peggy, Laura, Jean, Mom,
and one other. I guess I'll try to catch up tomorrow
which is Sunday. What with my studying, the
guard duty to-night, and my washing I shall
probably scratsh to find time for one letter. This
letter is all you get until Monday. And that
is Monday. Nov. 7, 194-. (I haven't made up
my mind what year, as yet) - There was quite
a crowd at River beach this afternoon. I don't

see how they swim in such water and in such cool weather. It is nice and cool. Just right but I can't see how they stand such water. They can have my share. Going thru Lynn I saw Stump Myers again to day. He started to come over to the truck but I couldn't talk to him so had to wave him back. Well I think I've ramble enough. I'll catch a nap before going on duty. I'll not look for me Tues. If I leave here at six o'clock I wouldn't get down to you until mid. night and then have to leave at noon to get back here at six again. You would have to work and it would mean just getting there and then turn around to start back. I want to see you very much darling too. I'm planning on coming down the 21st though and am looking forward to it. If I can't solve this pass I'll go to Hatick and maybe to the ball game. I've been asking you how the Red Sox are making out and this way I'll find out first hand. Lots of love from your fellow -

from Mrs. M.'s husband
"Chunky" Leonard -

August 8, 1942
(and the rest of the
same old baloney)

Dear Audrey:

Another week has rolled by. Somehow or other the time goes by. I would go so far as to say the time flies but it gets there. (that is, it isn't in any real hurry and so I don't see why we are always waiting with such anxiety for it to pass. Wasting our lives away.

This morning I was wondering how I could last the day out (not that I was tired but just fed up with shoveling) when it suddenly took care of itself. Usually I get stuck for all the bad details but today I pick a good one. There were some telephone poles over in Newton that they needed over here. These Army truck-drivers are all the same. They drive like mad and always take the longest route and in the latter case I have no objection. Right up Tremount St. and down Boylston with the big truck we went. At the corner we had to stop for the light and a fellow with three or four girls started to cross in front of the truck. They obviously were together and all carried suit-cases and so one of the bright boys in the truck yelled, "carry your bag, Mister". The girls seemed to get a big kick out of it and because we had to move, no other remarks were exchanged.

It seemed funny to be riding around in an Army truck through such familiar territory. It would have been fun to pull down to Woods Court. Just a big kid at heart. It didn't take long to get to load but by that time it was after noon and so we had missed chow back at camp. Well to make this story shorter we stopped for something to eat and by a strange coincidence they happened to sell liquor there. Between the drinks I got myself and the ones set up for me I had all I could manage. Oh yes, I almost forgot. That spree ruined the two dollars you sent me. Now don't go bawling me. No good excuse either. I had a steak and it was pretty good. I think the punishment I have got is enough. We didn't get back in time to get our clean sheets and so I'll have to go another week with these. Then I was so unsteady that I lost two games of pool before I decided to quit which increases my battery bill ten cents.

Where is this Round Table that you went to for a cocktail? I don't seem to be able to place it. We had such a nice time over at the Polish American Club last Sat. that we shall have to go over again the next time I come down. You dance wonderful with me and that is not easy. Half of the time I don't know what I am doing and so to make one look good, which is what you did, you had to be right on the ball. (most of the time I am on something and that is my partners feet). I don't ever want to step on your feet. You are my partner for keeps. For always. I don't want to ever lose you.

If Uncle Elmer hasn't very much gas, remember also that you don't have very much either. Perhaps a little more than them but not much. I like to have you go over and get chummy with them so go ahead if you like. Aunt Ada would not have asked you again if she did not take to you before. Of course I mean Vicky too. The Grala sisters are quite a bunch. I think I was pretty smart in picking the best one of the lot. The nicest and sweetest of the five. I love you darling and ok, miss you so very much.

This letter writing is tough. I can sit down any time and write you. I don't mind it at all. But it takes me three or four days to get up enough courage to write some of the other letters I owe and then I usually throw up my hands at the first attempt. I owe Elmer, Tony, Peggy, Laura, Jean, Mom, and one other. I guess I'll try to catch up tomorrow which is Sunday. What with my studying, the guard duty tonight, and

my washing I shall probably scratch to find time for one letter. This letter is all you get until Monday. And that is Monday, Nov. 7, 194- (I haven't made up my mind what year as yet).

There was quite a crowd at Revere beach this afternoon. I don't see how they swim in such water and in such cool weather. It is nice and cool. Just right but I can't see how they stand such water. They can have my share. Going thru Lynn, I saw Stump Myers again today. He started to come over to the truck, but I couldn't talk to him so had to wave him back.

Well I think I've rambled enough. I'll catch a nap before going on duty. Don't look for me Tues. If I leave here at six o'clock I wouldn't get down to you until midnight and then have to leave at noon to get back here at six again. You would leave to work, and it would mean just getting there and then turning around to start back. I want to see you very much darling too.

I'm planning on coming down the 21st though and am looking forward to it. If I can't save this pass, I'll go to Natick and maybe to the ball game. I've been asking you how the Red Sox are making out and this way I'll find out first hand. Lots of love from you fellow.

From Mrs. M's husband

"Chunky" Leonard



August 10, 1942

August 10, 1942
Btry H. 9th C. A.
Fort Buckman

Dear Audrey:

You know it is a funny thing but when I am walking guard I am so sleepy I can hardly stand up. I stumble along dragging my feet and not daring to sit down for fear of dropping out to sleep. Then when I am relieved and get into bed I find myself wide awake. Last night I laid there for quite awhile trying to think of something to fall asleep on. About the only nice thing I could think of to fall asleep on was you. It would be so nice to fall asleep on you every night. You are so nice and soft and I love you very much. I am sort of taking it easy today. When we come off guard we are suppose to have eight hours off and most of the time they find something for us to do, but I am making sure they don't catch me this time. There is too much hard work to be done. I don't think they will ever finish their gun emplacements. Yesterday was a good day to lay around and read the newspapers. Boy, did it rain! With a hard wind blowing, it came at you slantwise and stung your face. I know because as usual I was pulling my guard shift. Nine times out of ten it rains on my truck. Or do they wait for the rain and then put me on? I wouldn't wonder if this was true. I'm afraid the people up here don't have toe to toe with you. You are probably braver. I can't be as good as you say I am. I can't help looking

forward to the middle of this month with a
uncomfortable feeling. I don't think I shall be one of
the boys going but you never can tell. - I got a letter
from you this morning. You know that ending you put
on it (your girl) had me puzzled for a while. Why
don't you sign your name to it? I had to figure out
which girl the letter was from. Of that girl next door
is only twenty and on her second baby and you still
feel fine, well you should have invited her husband
over instead. It is obvious that your husband is no
good. I'm only kidding darling. The more I think
of it the more I'd like to have you have one. Old
Mother Nature does pretty much as she likes and
there isn't much we can do. I want you to be as happy
as possible. One of those little bundles of trouble would
make us both happier. So that a complete reversal of
form for me? Or did you have me figured out? I
thought I was pretty strong against it before. - I was
talking with a fellow once who owned a motor cycle and
he told me to take girls riding on it to get them
excited. Especially on a rough road. They were cold
turkey after a short ride on a bumpy road. Maybe
I'll get one so that I can get around you. - I will
throw those boots away. The next time you go to Natick
or Rehoboth you can leave them there in that way you
won't have to leave them in the car. If you wanted throw
those old letters out you would have plenty of room in
the trunks. Well my pretty little wife this is enough for
to-day. Your loving husband
Leonard alias "Sterling Hayden"

August 10, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

You know it is a funny thing but when I am walking guard I am so sleepy I can hardly stand up. I stumble along dragging my feet and not daring to sit down for fear of dropping out to sleep. Then when I am relieved and get into bed I find myself wide awake. Last night I laid there for quite a while trying to think of something to fall asleep on. About the only nice thing I could think of to fall asleep on was you. It would be so nice to fall asleep on you every night. You are so nice and soft and I love you very much.

I am sort of taking it easy today. When we come off guard we are supposed to have eight hours off and most of the time they find something for us to do but I am making sure they don't catch me this time. There is too much hard work to be done. I don't think they will ever finish these gun emplacements.

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I got a letter from you this morning. You know that ending you put on it (your girl) had me puzzled for a while. Why don't you sign your name to it? I had to figure out which "girl" the letter was from. If that girl next door is only twenty and on her second baby and you still feel fine, well you should have invited her husband over instead. It is obvious that your husband is no good. I'm only kidding darling. The more I think of it the more I'd like to have you have one. Old Mother Nature does pretty much as she likes and there isn't much we can do. I want you to be as happy as possible. One of those little bundles of trouble would make us both happier. Is that a complete reversal of form for me? Or did you have me figured out? I thought I was pretty strong against it before.

I was talking with a fellow once who owned a motorcycle and he told me he used to take girls riding on it to get them excited. Especially on a rough road. They were cold turkey after a short ride on a bumpy road. Maybe I'll get one so that I can get around you.

Don't throw those boots away. The next time you go to Natick or Boxboro you can leave them there and in that way you won't have to leave them in the car. If you would throw those old letters out you would have plenty of room in the trailer. Well my pretty little wife, this is enough for today.

Your loving husband

Leonard alias "Sterling Hayden"

August 11, 1942



August 11, 1942
 Btry H. 9th C.A.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey: -

I'm just come back from my pass. All Mon. afternoon I hung around trying to see the B.C. to see about changing my pass and he didn't show up. When he did arrive he said it was all right for me to save my pass up, but when I told him my pass came up that night he said it was too late. My pass was already made up and was too late to change it. Each time a bunch go on pass they must have enough men around to take care of everything. So to change my pass at the last minute would mean changing the whole schedule. If I say now I will save my next pass, when it comes up. I'll be so crazy to see you I'll take it. But right now I am thinking of hanging over here the 20th and have two days for Aug. 30. I don't know what day Aug. 30th comes on but two days with you will be wonderful. I walked up the Worcester Turnpike last night wishing some one going to Conn. would pick me up and I was ready to go. It's funny but when they hand me that slip of white paper all I can think of it you. I want to see you in the worst way. Anyway a lad from Birmingham picked me up and so that decided thing for me.

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

I stayed in Hattick. Every one has gone to Brant
Rock or some place else with the exception of Laura
and Dad. Laura was over to Ed and Mabel's for the
night and so over there I went. They were surprised
to see me. Ed has bought a 1947 Ford and it
was is pretty good. He claims he wanted our
Packard. Laura mention that Betty was going
in to Bernice's in the morning so I called Betty
up so as to ride in with her. Well that was all
right except she wanted us to go up there for a
little while in Ed's car, which we did, except for
a few stops enroute. (Say, this is beginning to
sound like little Benny's Notebook") Just a few
drinks. Lately I've been getting my share of the
drinks. Homer show us those pictures we took up
in N. H. last Labor Day with Gory, Micky, and
Betty and Homer. What a wife I have. You
should see those pictures. So, day I intended to go
to the ball game but by the time I got into Boston
and then got to Bernice's with Betty it was kind
of late. So I sub around all afternoon and then
left to come back here around four o'clock. We took
a ride on the boat in the Charles River basin and
David got a big kick out of it. Well that is
the ruin by run account of how I spent twenty-four
hours with out my girl. It made me feel bad
down in the park. It was so nice there and I
couldn't have you with me. Nice shady benches
and such nice green grass and me with out my



girl. What a sad life. - There was no real news to give you. The milk man is still leaving three quarts of milk every day and the ice box is getting full. The old man says he is going to give up drinking Absolut and drink milk. He is an old man too. He is working himself into a early grave. He never gets enough sleep. - I got your letter which you wrote Sunday when I got back. You don't have to worry about those Math classes or my over-dueing it. I never get a chance to study and over-dueing anything is out of the question. - I'm glad to hear you are doing a little walking. I won't say it will do you good because it never did any one any good. I hate to walk myself. I slept with you and at night with a nice man. But with things the way they are we can't be doing the things we use to. Walking up from the I explained tired Betty and James all out. Just a couple of sutties. David and I romped up like a couple of ten year olds. - I only had twenty cents yesterday afternoon so I decided that it was not much good so I got into a game of Kelly pool. Make or break. Well I won a dollar and so I was elated over the fact I could have a couple of beers on my way. I also had down to the

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

barracks and tears off my pants and the change fell out onto the floor. The fellows grabbed for it and would have it no other way but to match for it. Well here was an opportunity to double my wealth. Just a sport at heart. Hm! I left on pass with thirty cents and was lucky to have that. Can you imagine that? - It is too bad you have to work over Labor Day or what ever three days P.W. is closing on. I'd use talking about it though. - I'm enclosing a bill I picked up at home. They have always treated me very good so I feel we should pay it if we can. You do as you feel best. If you do you might enclose a note telling them I've been in the Army for the past five or six months. There was another bill but to the h-ll with it. Well my darling wife I'll close now. I wonder how many more letters I'll have to write before I see you. I love you very much my one and only.

All my love
Leonard



August 11, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

I've just come back from my pass. All Mon. afternoon I hung around trying to see the B.C. to see about changing my pass and he didn't show up. When he did arrive he said it was all right for me to save my passes up, but when I told him my pass came up that night, he said it was too late. My pass was already made up and was too late to change it. Each time a bunch go on pass they must have enough men around to take care of everything. So, to change my pass at the last minute would mean change the whole schedule. If I say now I will save my next pass when it comes up, I'll be so crazy to see you I'll take it. But right now I am thinking of hanging over here the 20th and have two days for Aug 30. I don't know what day Aug 30th comes on but two days with you will be wonderful.

I walked up the Worcester Turnpike last night wishing some one going to Conn. would pick me up and I was ready to go. It's funny but when they hand me that slip of white paper all I can think of is you. I want to see you in the worst way. Anyway a lad from Framingham picked me up and so that decided things for me. I stayed in Natick.

Everyone has gone to Brant Rock or someplace else with the exception of Laura and Dad. Laura was over to Ed and Mabel's for the night and so over there I went. They were surprised to see me. Ed has bought a 1941 Ford and it is pretty good. He claims he wanted our Packard. Laura mentioned that Betty was going in to Bernice's in the morning so I called Betty up so as to ride in with her. Well that was all right except she wanted us to go up there for a little while in Ed's car, which we did, except for a few stops in route. (Say, this is beginning to sound like "little Benny's Notebook") Just a few drinks.

Lately I've been getting my share of the drinks. Homer showed us those pictures we took up in H.H. last Labor Day with Tony, Vicky, and Betty and Homer. What a wife I have. You should see those pictures. Today I intended to go to the ball game but by the time I got into Boston and then got to Bernice's with Betty it was kind of late. So I dub around all afternoon and then left to come back here around four o'clock. We took a ride on the boat in the Charles River basin and David got a big kick out of it. Well that is the run by run account of how I spent twenty-four hours without my girl. It made me feel bad down in the park. It was so nice there and I could have you with me. Nice shady benches and such nice green grass and me without my girl. What a sad life.

There was no real news to give you. The milk man is still leaving three quarts of milk every day and the ice box is getting full. The old man says he is going to give up drinking Kessler and drink milk. He is an old man too. He is working himself into a early grave. He never gets enough sleep.

I got your letter which you wrote Sunday when I got back. You don't have to worry about those Math classes or my over-doing it. I never get a chance to study and over-doing anything is out of the question.

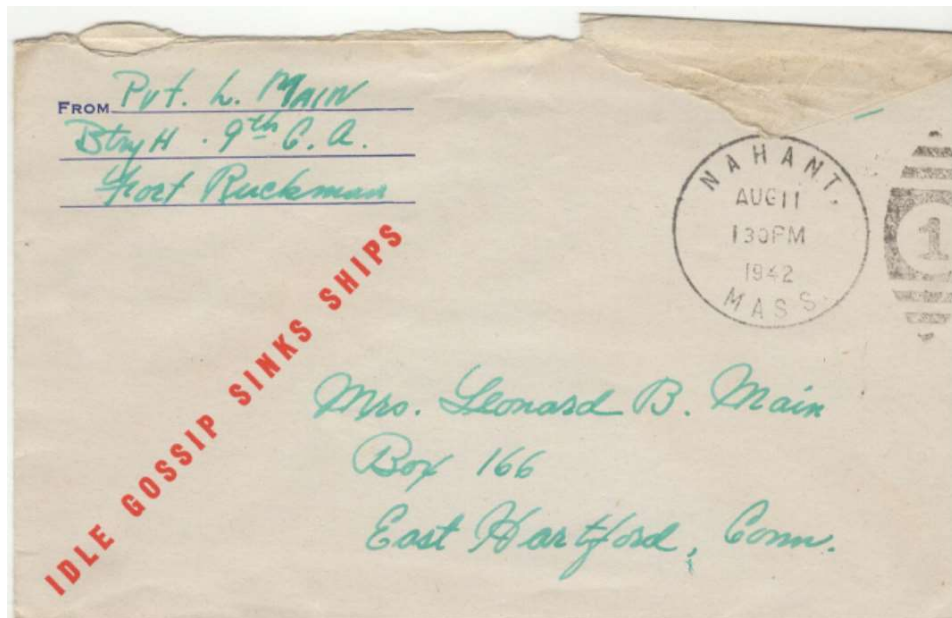
I'm glad to hear you are doing a little walking. I won't say it will do you good because it never did anyone any good. I hate to walk myself, except with you and at night with a nice moon. But with things the way they are, we haven't been doing the things we used to. Walking up from the Esplanade tired Betty and Bernice all out. Just a couple of softies. David and I romped up like a couple of ten year olds.

I only had twenty cents yesterday afternoon so I decided that it was not much good so I got into a game of Kelly pool. Make or break. Well I won a dollar and so I was elated over the fact I could have a couple of beers on my way. I dashed down to the barracks and tears off my pants and the change fell out onto the floor. The fellows grabbed for it and would have it no other way but to match for it. Well here was an opportunity to double my wealth. Just a sport at heart. Hm! I left on pass with thirty cents and was lucky to have that. Can you imagine that?

It is too bad you have to work over Labor Day or what ever three-day P.W. is closing on. No use talking about it though. I'm enclosing a bill I picked up at home. They have always treated me very good so I feel we should pay it if we can. You do as you feel best. If you do you might enclose a note telling them I've been in the Army for the past five or six months. There was another bill but to h-ll with it. Well my darling wife, I'll close now. I wonder how many more letters I'll have to write before I see you. I love you very much my one and only.

All my love

Leonard



August 12, 1942



August 12, 1942
 Battery H - 9th C.A.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

Here we go on my daily flye to my little obligation. I'm wondering what you are doing to nite. I'm hoping you are sitting home with my picture in your lap just dreaming of me. Chances are you are spending the evening in some beer joint with some dead-beat. Spending the poor-guy money too. When my money was gone you got rid of me. You got the Army to draft me. What a life you pick for me. I wouldn't put my worst enemies in this mans Army. If they want to punish those two saboteurs to hard labor, the two left over from the original eight of which six were electrocuted, well they could send them over to Battery H. Over here their life would be so miserable and unbearable that they would soon be wishing they were electrocuted with the rest of their pals. The motto seems to run some thing like this around here, When things are darkest and the task unsurmountable Battery H is the one for you. Well now that is a silly opening for a letter. What am I thinking of to write along like that? What goes on inside my brain to induce me to write like that? Are these the things that you think of when you read one of these screwy letters? No you wonder what in the blazes you married? Up do!!
 Hum! I feel for you. I'm glad I didn't marry

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

such a screw ball. I married the nicest and the sweetest girl in the world. A ray of golden sunshine. I have among a lot of weeds. You stand out like a rose would here at Beckman. The nearest thing we have to a rose is a red steam shovel. But that is changing the subject and the subject is my wife. That is the subject I like best. If I only took to trigonometry the way I do to that little girl it would be a cinch. I wish they would give me a chance to know my wife. They are always telling me to "know your enemy" but all I want is my girl. Go h-ll with the enemy. I will take care of him when I meet him and I hope I never do. In another couple of days we will know who is leaving this month. I heard the husband of that girl you use to work with in Pelchato is leaving. I think he said once she intended going wherever he went. - The lights went out last night before I could finish so I'll try some more now. I have a few minutes after breakfast. You know Army pancakes are heavy. One is plenty and if I eat two my stomach feels as if I swallowed some lead sinkers. And I thought I had a rugged digestive system. Some of the boys stow three or four away but they aren't much good until the afternoon because they can't move fast enough. - If I remember correctly the other side of this paper is just a lot of baloney so I intend to keep this side up and let it go. If I take time to read it over I won't mail it and then I'll have to start



a new letter. - I'm so discouraged. In spite of all my efforts to do otherwise my washing has piled up on me. Right now I don't have any clean undershirts and only one more clean pair of running pants. I'm in a bad way. If that happened to me before I would just go out and buy some. I could do a month like that. On top of that it looks like rain to-day and any experienced laundress like myself (ahem) knows that my snowy white clothes won't dry in the rain. Oh well, I don't need underwear and if I have to I can go without socks. - I took a couple of books from Brownie and they look pretty good but I don't think I shall have time to read them. One of them is about Nazi Germany over the last seven or eight years which should prove interesting. I spoke to Uncle Ed and I put a buzz into Betty's ear concerning some tires. Homer's father has quite a few second hand ones and of course they have been keeping it quiet. Maybe they will loosen up with a couple so keep your fingers crossed but don't expect too much. Well this is all the time I have left so darling I'll close. I love you very much.

Love Leonard

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS



August 12, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

Here we go on my daily flyer to my little obligation. I'm wondering what you are doing tonite. I'm hoping you are sitting home with my picture in your lap just dreaming of me. Chances are you spending the evening in some beer joint with some dead-beat. Spending the poor guys money too. When my money was gone you got rid of me. You got the Army to draft me. What a life you pick for me. I wouldn't put my worst enemies in this man's Army. If they want to punish those two saboteurs to hard labor, the two left over from the original eight of which six were electrocuted, well they could send them over to Battery H. Over here their life would be so miserable and unbearable that they would soon be wishing they were electrocuted with the rest of their pals. The motto seems to run something like this around here: When things are darkest and the task unsurmountable, Battery H is the one for you.

Well now that is a silly opening for a letter. What am I thinking of to write along like that? What goes on inside my brain to induce me to write like that? Are these the things that you think of when you read one of these screwy letters? Do you wonder what in the blazes you married? You do!! Hm! I feel for you. I'm glad I didn't marry such a screwball. I married the nicest and the sweetest girl in the world. A ray of golden sunshine. A flower among a lot of weeds. You stand out like a rose would here at Ruckman. The nearest thing we have to a rose is a red steam shovel. But that is changing the subject and the subject is my wife. That is the subject I like best. If I only took to trigonometry the way I do to that little girl it would be a cinch. I wish they would give me a chance to know my wife. They are always telling us to "know your enemy" but all I want is my girl. To h-ll with the enemy. I will take care of him when I meet him and I hope I never do. In another couple of days we will know who is leaving this month. I heard the husband of that girl you use to work with in Gilchrists is leaving. I think he said once she intended going wherever he went.

The lights went out last night before I could finish so I'll try some more now. I have a few minutes after breakfast. You know Army pancakes are heavy. One is plenty and if I eat two my stomach feels as if swallowed some lead sinkers. And I thought I had a rugged digestive system. Some of the boys stow three or four away but they aren't much good until the afternoon because they can't move fast enough.

If I remember correctly the other side of this paper is just a lot of baloney so I intend to keep this side up and let it go. If I take time to read it over I won't mail it and then I'll have to start a new letter.

I'm so discouraged. In spite of all my efforts to do otherwise any washing has piled up on me. Right now I don't have any clean undershirts and only one more clean pair of running pants. I'm in a bad way. If that happen to me before I would just go out and buy some. I could go a month like that. On top of that it looks like rain today and any experienced laundress like myself (ahem) knows that my snowy white clothes won't dry in the rain. Oh well, I don't need underwear and if I have to, I can go without socks.

I took a couple of books from Brownie and they look pretty good but I don't think I shall have time to read them. One of them is about Nazi Germany over the past seven or eight years which should prove interesting. I spoke to Uncle Ed and I put a buzz into Betty's ear concerning some tires. Homer's father has quite a few second hand ones and of course they have been keeping it quiet. Maybe they will loosen

up with a couple so keep our fingers crossed but don't expect too much. Well this is all the time I have left so darling I'll close. I love you very much.

Love

Leonard

August 14, 1942



August 14, 1942
 Betty H. 9th C. A.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey: -

I have been going to say something about that nice kiss you sent me for the past couple of letters but each time I forget. And that brings up another point. That word "forget" can cause a lot of trouble. They tell me there is no such a thing as "forgetfulness" so I hereby resolve never to use the word again or at least for to-day. If it is impossible to forget then it is also impossible to be thoughtless, therefore, you should be on the ball all the time. Now, if you can not do these things, a person, place, or thing is misplaced, misunderstood, ignored, lost, busy, neglected, careless, or just over-sleeping, but he must be thoughtful. Well I'll leave you there hanging and wondering what it is all about. I'll continue much further it might get away from me. I can't even remember how I got along that train of thought. Maybe it was in the rain last night. I can get some queer thoughts while walking in the rain. This morning I'm on the second half of my twenty-four hour shift and I've just come back from walking the beach. There was a bad storm last night and it has washed the remains of a wreck up on the beach. There is no way of telling how the ship came to grief but he certainly must have been smashed bad from the amount of wreckage. It is still very foggy and you walk

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

along and things take on a funny shape until you get up to them. I try to guess what they are or what is a barrel or box and most of the time I am wrong. Once I saw some thing that could have been anything from a large roll of oilcloth to a barrel and as I got closer it look more like a large white rock. So I gave it a kick and was I startled when my foot sunk into it two or three inches. It was a barrel of lard with the barrel gone. Just pure lard and what a mess my shot is. There is every thing lining the shore. The name on a pair of oars is L.W.B.A.C.O. but that means nothing. There are life preservers, men's clothing, all kinds of food, (onions, corn, turnip, a jar of olives, dozens of cans of coffee, and other stuff and stuff), and a huge amount of broken wood and lumber. Another peculiar thing lay ing down there is a wagon shaft. What that was doing on a boat is beyond me. Another thing that baffles me, and this is really good, is a great many rubber safes lying on the beach. I have walked the beach before and seen one or two and never gave it more than a passing thought that some lad had himself a good time. But the beach is lined with them. I counted over a hundred in less than a quarter of a mile and then gave up. I don't think they came off the boat. Some of them have knots tied in them so they were used. Aren't you proud your husband is so observing? Well I got a kick out of seeing so many. It is unusual to see such a nice beach with so much debris on it. I don't see how any



one can go swimming until it is cleaned up. There is enough wood to keep two or three families in fire wood this winter and that should mean something with this oil shortage. Oh yes another thing happen while I was down there. As I mention before it was very foggy and as I walk along I began to think I heard someone singing. At first I thought it was my imagination but then it couldn't be so I started off investigating. Sure enough I found a fellow yelling his head off and waving his arms around over on the other side. I thought I had run into Kahant nitwit until he began to apologize to me. He claimed he was a singer (of which I have my doubts judging from the sounds) and that was the way he practiced. Out here where he thought he was all alone. If he wasn't queer inside he certainly look queer outside. Such a queer shaped head and clothes. Well I let him go on with his singing. If Germany wants to hire such up as they can but I hope they don't send them to Kahant. Well I guess that covers your husband for the last few hours. Nothing much happened yesterday. Because I went on guard early last night I couldn't write so I am doing it this morning while on duty. I do this quite a bit and its a good thing they don't catch me. They might slap me in the guard house. - You know

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

don't you that I'm waiting for the middle of this month for two reasons. One of them is to see who is leaving here and the other is whether the little old lady comes to see you this month. (Do that right. It doesn't sound pretty right). I don't think I will jump with joy if she doesn't but I might not worry so much. You are so nice and so -- well not young but well damn it, so nice and I don't want anything to happen to you. You are all mine and I don't want anyone else by you. I want you forever and ever. It might be that long before this is over too. (I put that in as a after thought) I love you very much. That is so easy to write and yet I want it to mean so very much. You are the only girl for me darling.

Love
Leonard

P.S. - I'm looking forward to your letter when I get back to camp at noon time. I don't especially need any money except for some necessities. Shoe polish and some more insignias. You need some things for yourself and I wish you would spend it that way. I wish also you would try and get a car payment, that is if you can manage, ahead some time before too long. But we have so many bills. Did you get the bill from Geagis I sent you. Pretty easy for me. Just send it to my wife. Well, darling, I am looking forward to seeing you in a couple of months.



August 14, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

I have been going to say something about that nice kiss you sent me for the past couple of letters but each time I forget. And that brings up another point. That word "forget" can cause a lot of trouble. They tell me there is no such a thing as forgetfulness so I hereby resolve never to use the word again or at least for today. If it is impossible to forget then it is also impossible to be thoughtless, therefore, you should be on the ball all the time. Now, if you can not do these things, a person, place, or thing is misplaced, misunderstood, ignored, lost, busy, neglected, careless, or just over-sleeping, but he must be thoughtful. Well I'll leave you there hanging and wondering what it is all about. If I continue much further it might get away from me. I can't even remember how I got along that train of thought. Maybe it was in the rain last night. I can get some queer thoughts while walking in the rain.

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It is still very foggy and you walk along and things take on a funny shape until you get up to them. I try to guess what they are or what is a barrel or box and most of the time I am wrong. Once I saw something that could have been anything from a large roll of oilcloth to a barrel and as I got closer it looked more like a large white rock. So I gave it a kick and was I startled when my foot sunk into it two or three inches. It was a barrel of lard with the barrel gone. Just pure lard and what a mess my shoe is. There is everything lining the shore. The name on a pair of oars is L.W.B.A.C.O. but that means nothing. There are life preservers, men's clothing, all kinds of food, (onions, corn, turnips, a jar of olives, dozens of cans of coffee, and other stuff and stuff), and a huge amount of broken wood and lumber. Another peculiar thing lying down there is a wagon shaft. What that was doing on a boat is beyond me. Another thing that baffles me, and this is really good, is a great many rubber safes lying on the beach. I have walked the beach before and seen one or two and never gave it more than a passing thought that some lad had himself a good time. But the beach is lined with them. I counted over a hundred in less than a quarter of a mile and then gave up. I don't think they came off the boat. Some of them have knots tied in them so they were used. Aren't you proud your husband is so observing? Well I got a kick out of seeing so many. It is unusual to see such a nice beach with so much debris on it. I don't see how anyone can go swimming until it is cleaned up. There is enough wood to keep two or three families in fire wood this winter and that should mean something with this oil shortage.

Oh yes, another thing happened while I was down there. As I mentioned before it was very foggy and as I walked along, I began to think I heard someone singing. At first I thought it was my imagination but then it couldn't be so I started off investigating. Sure enough I found a fellow yelling his head off and waiving his arms around over the other side. I thought I had run into Nahant nitwit until he began to apologize to me. He claimed he was a singer (of which I have my doubts judging from the sounds) and that was the way he practiced. Out here where he thought he was all alone. If he wasn't queer inside he certainly looked queer outside. Such a queer shaped head and clothes. Well I let him go on with his singing. If Germany wants to hire such species they can, but I hope they don't send them to Nahant!

Well I guess that covers your husband for the last few hours. Nothing much happened yesterday. Because I went on guard early last night I couldn't write so I am doing it this morning while on duty. I do this quite a bit and it's a good thing they don't catch me. They might slap me in the guard house.

You know don't you that I'm waiting for the middle of this month for two reasons. One of them is to see who is leaving here and the other is whether the little old lady comes to see you this month. (Is that right. It doesn't sound exactly right) I don't think I will jump with joy if she doesn't but I might not worry so much.

You are so nice and so ... well not young but well dammit, so nice and I don't want anything to happen to you. You are all mine and I don't want anyone else by you. I want you forever and ever. It might be that long before this is over too. (I put that in as an afterthought)

I love you very much. That is so easy to write and yet I want it to mean so very much. You are the only girl for me darling.

Love

Leonard

P.S.

I'm looking forward to your letter when I get back to camp at noon time. I don't especially need any money except for some necessities. Shoe polish and some more insignias. You need some things for yourself and I wish you would spend it that way. I wish also you would try and get a car payment, that is if you can manage, ahead sometime before too long. But we have so many bills. Did you get the bill from Yeager's I sent you? Pretty easy for me. Just send it to my wife. Well darling I am looking forward to seeing you in a couple of months.

August 15, 1942

August 15, 1942
 Box # - 9th C.A.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:-
 I don't see why I am writing this letter because I have nothing to say. Absolutely nothing has happened since this morning and I am so tired I can't think of any thing worth while. We've got a new system and in the change over I got the worst end. In the past two nights I've only had three to four hours each night. I was suppose to come on at 4 o'clock this morning but I overslept fifteen minutes, and so I can't seem to remember whether the lad, who is suppose to, woke me up or not. As it turned out all right no harm was done but it is very easy to run into trouble that way. They allow I was to relieve just continued as most of the boys would but some times you must a lad who won't or can't. Then any excuse you have for being late is only laugh at and you are up to your neck. Well that is insignificant. It doesn't deserve so much space but I'll have to have something to write about. This is sort of a new guard detail. I sit in a dug out and man two or three telephones as the case maybe. We keep a log of every thing the observers at different points see and hear, usually they are airplanes. This dug out is quite comfortable. We have lights, chairs and tables, a radio and when things are quiet we read, study, or write and at night they are quiet. I'll get fat on this job. Nothing to do but sit and hold a telephone to my ear. On fact here I have a table to write on and over in the barracks all I had was a magazine. Well this dug out and its purpose are a military secret so you will have to act accordingly. If the General knew the things I told my wife he would break a blood vessel. Note only will your letters suffice intimately if my letters are censor but from a lack of news also. I won't have a great deal to talk on. They will let me say, "I love you", and that's about all. This way I'll tell you practically every thing from the number of men leaving and the date from this post, to the number of times the Major beats his wife up. The lucky stuff. I only wish I could get close enough to you to beat you. I wouldn't beat you very hard, just enough to show you who the boss is and if you already know who is I wouldn't beat you again. This morning I wrote you a letter from the beach in a small shack that shelter me from the fog and rain. The ship I wrote about so much was a wreck but from a

submarine torpedo. See there I'll go, I can't keep any thing from you. One of our beach patrols farther along the shore picked up the bridge (this was early last night and I didn't see all the wreckage I wrote you about until the next morning) of the ship with someone clinging to it. So they came pretty near calling the entire fort out of bed on a "battle alert". Well there again is something that should not mean too much but fills up space. It has taken me an hour to go this far and although I didn't expect to write even this much I'm still tired. I did not tell you before but Dad has subscribed to the Boston Herald for me and I got the first paper this morning. A lot of fellows are just like me. They would like to read a daily newspaper if they had one and had time. This morning I wrote I expected a letter from you when I got back to camp and sure enough there was one waiting. Thanks for the two dollars. It is too bad I need some things because a hot one at the race track is on for to-morrow and two dollars may return me \$25. or \$50. or nothing but who ever heard of me losing. All you had to do was mention my being a Daddy and you gave me good pimples and started me shaking. I had to read the damn thing over. It is because other people have thought and I never gave a thought of it happening to me. But I don't want any thing to happen to you. You know most any thing could happen and I am way the devil up here and I should be with you. I love you so very much! Elmer said he would like to see a little Joe Main Jr. but I told him nothing like ^{that} was going to happen. Since then you have put me to thinking of it and I don't think I am getting myself accustom to it, but it is some thing you have done. I don't know exactly what you have done but I feel differently now than I did two months ago. You are so nice and soft and I hope you always remain nice and soft but I shall love you always. I will probably love you when you tip the scales at 205 and your legs look like hunkers of Baloney. You are my girl and I want you my girl. - I was going to ask you if you went over to Lina's Elmer's last Thursday? Oh you did! I hope you had a nice time. Well darling I love now. The bugle just blew for reveille and I can hear the whistles and someone hollering, "Let's go". I don't go off until eight o'clock so I'll do some studying. I brought my "trig" book over with me. As soon as day light begins business (if you can call this business) starts up. You are a wonderful woman and by marrying me you have made the happiest guy in the world. I love you, Sweet.

Leonard

August 15, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

I don't see why I am writing this letter because I have nothing to say. Absolutely nothing has happened since this morning and I am so tired I can't think of anything worthwhile. We've got a new system and in the changeover, I got the worst end. In the past two nights I've only had three to four hours each night. I was supposed to come on at 4 o'clock this morning but I overslept fifteen minutes, and so I can't seem to remember whether the lad, who is supposed to, woke me up or not. As it turned out all right, no harm was done but it is very easy to run into trouble that way. The fellow I was to relieve just continued as most of the boys would but sometimes you meet a lad who won't or can't. Then any excuse you have for being late is only laughed at and you are up to your neck. Well that is insignificant. It doesn't deserve so much space but I have to have something to write about. This is sort of a new guard detail. I sit in a dug out and man two or three telephones as the case may be. We keep a log of everything the observers at different points see and hear, usually they are airplanes.

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This morning I wrote you a letter from the beach in a small shack that shelters me from the fog and rain. The ship I wrote about so much was a wreck but from a submarine torpedo. See there I go, I can't keep anything from you. One of our beach patrols farther along the shore picked up the bridge (this was early last night and I didn't see all the wreckage I wrote you about until the next morning) of the ship with someone clinging to it. So they came pretty near calling the entire fort out of bed on a "battel alert".

Well there again is something that should not mean too much but fills up space. It has taken me an hour to go this far and although I didn't expect to write even this much, I'm still tired. I did not tell you before but Dad has subscribed to the Boston Herald for me and I got the first paper this morning. A lot of fellows are just like me. They would like to read a daily newspaper if they had one and had time.

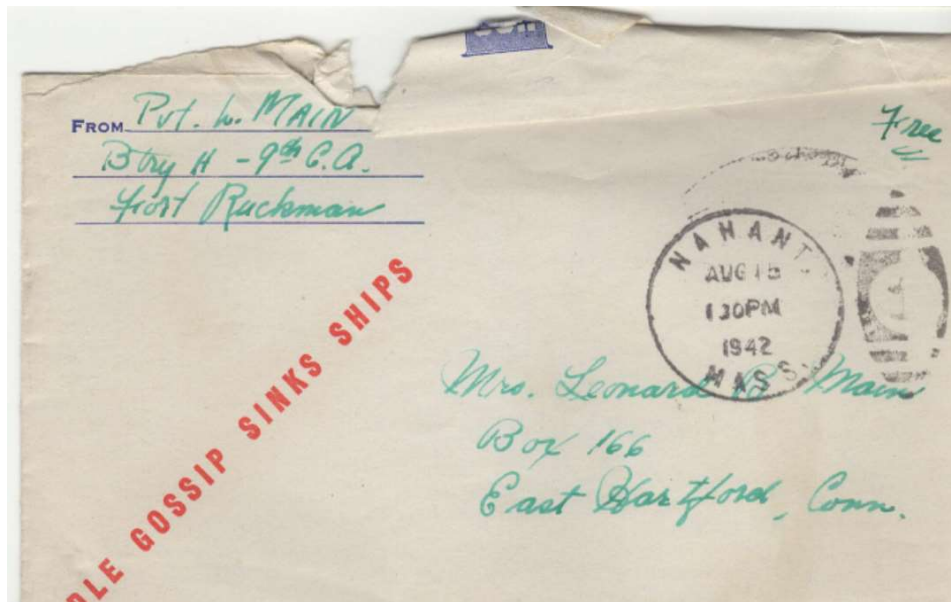
This morning I wrote I expected a letter from you when I got back to camp and sure enough there was one waiting. Thanks for the two dollars. It is too bad I need some things because a hot one at the racetrack is on for tomorrow and two dollars may return me \$25 or \$50 or nothing but who ever heard of me losing. All you had to do was mention my being a 'Daddy' and you gave me goose pimples and started me shaking. I had to read the darn thing over. It is because other people have them and I never gave a thought of it happening to me. But I don't want anything to happen to you. You know most anything could happen and I am way the devil up here and I should be with you. I love you so very much.

Elmer said he would like to see a little Joe Main Jr. but I told him nothing like that was going to happen. Since then you have put me to thinking of it and I don't think I am getting myself accustomed to it, but it is something you have done. I don't know exactly what you have done but I feel differently now than I did two months ago. You are so nice and soft and I hope you always remain nice and soft but I shall love you always. I will probably love when you tip the scales at 205 and your legs look like hunks of baloney. You are my girl and I want you my girl. I was going to ask you if you went over to Uncle Elmer's last Thursday? If you did I hope you had a nice time.

Well darling I'll close now. The bugle just blew for reveille and I can hear the whistles and someone hollering, "Let's go". I don't go off until eight o'clock so I'll do some studying. I brought my "trig" book over with me. As soon as day light begins, business (if you can call this business) starts up.

You are a wonderful woman and by marrying me you have made me the happiest guy in the world. I love you sweet.

Leonard



August 17, 1942

August 17, 1942
 Wey 4 - 9th C. A.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey: -

(No more ink in the pen and I can't get over to the barracks to get some because we can't leave these phones so I'll have to finish this letter in pencil. Don't you getting sick of that green ink? I have a half of a bottle left, too.) We borrowed the others fellows pen so now we can continue. I don't like to write a letter in pencil. Well now that I've broken the ice this way I don't know what to say. It is always hard to start a letter. Sometimes I sit for a long long time trying to think of some thing sensible to say and then get mad with myself and start off simply, "Hello it's me". All I can think of is that Sunday has slipped by and I am glad. It brings me closer to you. The time might not drag so if I could only be sure of when I'll be seeing you again. Every thing around here is so indefinite. If they aren't changing things around, we are expecting them to. Once again I hear the pass list has been changed and I hope my position on it has remained the same. I have a pass coming up this Thurs. if it hasn't been changed, and I want to see you so much. My intentions have been to save this one and take two days and then be able to really see you but I am getting real lonesome for you. With this new job I have plenty of time to just sit and think and most of it I use thinking of you. I went in at four o'clock this morning (what happens to me shouldn't happen to a dog) and all I've done is sit here and think how wonderful you are. This can't be so bad for these other married fellows because they don't such a nice wife as I do. So nice and soft and understanding. Before I got this new job and was on regular duty, I could go on a twenty-four hour pass feeling that if I wanted to take the chance I had all the following night to get back in. That is twenty-four hours officially and thirty-six unofficially if the occasion warranted it and seeing you was an occasion enough for me. Now I have to go duty at a certain time and so I have to be back at that time or suffer the consequences which can be hard.

Right now I am willing to suffer whatever consequences they can think of, in order to see you for a little while. I love you and miss you so very much. (I guess I sound like a Boy Scout away at camp for the first time in his life) By Thurs. morning I hope my common sense has pushed this (I was going to say a sudden desire to see you, but that would be wrong -- quite wrong. This feeling is with me all of the time only most of the time I have control of it) push it aside so that I will fall up to, waiting another ten days before seeing you. That will be around the end of the month. But it would be so nice to see you this week even if it is only for a few hours. - I get use to one thing and then they change one. Just as I was getting use to a shovel -- just getting the feel and swing of it and what happens. Now I sit down with earphones pressed to my ear, pushing a pencil. My back aches from so much unaccustomed sitting and my ears are sore from the earphones pushing against them. As soon as I get use to this and oh yes, the g. d. Indians, I wonder what they will find for me. It is a soft job I'll admit that it is one of the softest jobs on the fort) but I wonder if it won't get monotonous after the newness has worn off. I could do some good reading if I could get some good books. We don't have the library over here that we had at Banks. What a guy! Here there is a war on and he talks of libraries. - What a large washing I did yesterday. Sun tans, fatigues, underwear, socks. The sun tans and fatigues came out all right but the rest is disappointing. The underwear have stains that won't come out and they don't look any too white and no matter how hard I scrub them. There are rust, moldy, grass, oil and pool chalk ^{stains} on them. Not on all of them but there is something on each one. And the socks. Here we go into a discussion on how to wash socks. The correct method would be just the opposite from the method I use because I don't have very good luck) I scrub like the devil and then when they dry out they are not soft like I expect them to be but stiff. I only wear them one day and so they can't be dirty and so I think it's because I don't wash them enough but I always try to. There Mr. Anthiel that's my problem. What would you suggest I do? Leave her and take my

sixteen children with me. But where can I go with no money and no friends? Besides I love my wife and if she didn't beat me so much we would be such a lovely couple. When she gets mad I can't do anything with her because she is so much larger than I. She tips the scales at 221 lbs and has a kick like a mule. Do you think she stills loves me? Do you think she bringing up the children right by letting them have Hour Pass on their oat meal in the morning? I think it is too expensive and try to get her to buy Old Quakers but she always has her own way. - Well, writing you has pep me up a little. When I started this I feeling pretty low and was beginning to feel sorry for my self. I was wondering why I didn't jump the fence and go down and spend a couple of weeks with you. A couple of weeks would be wonderful with you. I wouldn't ask for anything better than that. Wait a minute, if I start writing like ^{that} again I will begin to feel like that and that will never do. It is pretty near time for me to go off duty and I'll spend half of the shift writing to you. Which means two hours and that is too long to spend hunch over writing to any girl. Especially one who is going to beat her husband and feed her kids whiskey for breakfast. - It is raining to day and I'm glad I got my clothes in last night. Oh, what troubles I have. No one else would have thought of that. Well darling I'll close now and go to breakfast. I love you very much and am hoping to see you soon.

Yours of love
Leonard
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August 17, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

(No more ink in the pen and I can't get over to the barracks to get some because we can't leave these phones so I'll have to finish this letter in pencil. Aren't you getting sick of that green ink? I have a half of a bottle left too) I've borrowed the other fellows pen so now we can continue. I don't like to write a letter in pencil. Well now that I've broken the ice this way, I don't know what to say. It is always hard to start a letter. Sometimes I sit for a long time trying to think of something sensible to say and then get mad with myself and start off simply, "Hello it's me". All I can think of is that Sunday has slipped by and I am glad. It brings me closer to you. The time might not drag so if I could only be sure of when I'll be seeing you again.

Everything around here is so indefinite. If they aren't changing things around, we are expecting them to. Once again I hear the pass list has been changed and I hope my position on it has remained the same. I have a pass coming up this Thurs. if it hasn't been changed and I want to see you so much. My intentions have been to save this one and take two days and then be able to really see you but I am getting real lonesome for you. With this new job I have plenty of time to just sit and think and most of it I use thinking of you.

I went on at four o'clock this morning (what happens to me shouldn't happen to a dog) and all I've done is sit here and think how wonderful you are. This can't be so bad for these other married fellows because they don't have such a nice wife as I do. So nice and soft and understanding too. Before I got this new job and was regular duty, I could go on a twenty-four hour pass feeling that if I wanted to take the chance I had all the following night to get back in. That is twenty-four hours officially and thirty-six unofficially if the occasion warranted it and seeing you was an occasion enough for me. Now I have to go duty at a certain time and so I have to be back at that time or suffer the consequences which can be hard. Right now I am willing to suffer whatever consequences they can think of in order to see you for a little while. I love you and miss you so very much. (I guess I sound like a Boy Scout away at camp for the first time in his life). By Thurs. morning I hope my common sense has pushed this (I was going to say sudden desire to see you, but that would be wrong – quite wrong. This feeling is with me all of the time only most of the time I have control of it) push it aside so that I will feel up to waiting another ten days before seeing you. That will be around the end of the month. But it would be so nice to see you this week even if it is only for a few hours.

I get use to one thing and then they change me. Just as I was getting use to a shovel – just getting the feel and swing of it and what happens. Now I sit down with earphones pressed to my ear, pushing a pencil. My back aches from so much unaccustomed sitting and my ears are sore from the earphones pushing against them. As soon as I get use to this, and oh yes, the g.d. hours, I wonder what they will find for me. It is a soft job. I'll admit that it is one of the softest jobs on the fort, but I'm wondering if it won't get monotonous after the newness has worn off. I could do some good reading if I could get some good books. We don't have the library over here that we had at Banks. What a guy! Here there is a war on and he talks of libraries.

What a large washing I did yesterday. Sun tans, fatigues, underwear, socks. The sun tans and fatigues came out all right but the rest is disappointing. The underwear have stains that won't come out and they don't look any too white and no matter how hard I scrub them. There are rust, moldy, grass, oil and pool chalk stains on them. Not on all of them but there is something on each one. And the socks. (Here we go into a discussion on how to wash socks. The correct method would be just the opposite from the method I use because I don't have very good luck) I scrub like the devil and then when they dry out they are not soft like I expect them to be but stiff. I only wear them one day and so they can't be dirty and so I think it's because I don't rinse them enough but I always try to.

There Mr. Anthiel, that's my problem. What you suggest I do? Leave her and take my sixteen children with me. But where can I go with no money and no friends? Besides I love my wife and if she didn't beat me so much we could be such a lovely couple. When she gets mad I can't do anything with her because she is so much larger than I. She tips the scales at 221 lbs. and has a kick like a mule. Do you think she still loves me? Do you think she is bringing up the children right by letting them have Four Roses on their oatmeal in the morning? I think it is too expensive and try to get her to buy Old Quaker but she always has her own way.

Well writing you has pepped me up a little when I started this I was feeling pretty low and was beginning to feel sorry for myself. I was wondering why I didn't jump the fence and go down and spend a couple of weeks with you. A couple of weeks would be wonderful with you. I wouldn't ask for anything better than that. Wait a minute, if I start writing like that again I will begin to feel like that and that will never do. It is pretty near time for me to go off duty and I've spent half of the shift writing to you. Which means two hours and that is too long to spend hunched over writing to any girl. Especially one who is going to beat her husband and feed her kids whiskey for breakfast.

It is raining today and I'm glad I got my clothes in last night. Oh, what troubles I have. No one else would have thought of that. Well darling, I'll close now and go to breakfast. I love you very much and am hoping to see you soon.

Lots of love, Leonard

August 18, 1942

August 18, 1942
 Coy H. 9th C. A.
 Fort Rucker

Dear Audrey: -

Your letters are written at the queerest times and places. I written you in an Army truck, down on the rocks, on a picnic bench while walking guard and now lately I've been writing in a bomb proof dug out in the middle of the night. If I were only in the Para troops I could write you a letter while floating down to the ground. When I get to fighting over in Jebru I'll probably be writing you with one hand (telling you how wonderful you are and how much I love you) and hacking my way through a wall of human flesh with the other and dragging my canoe behind me. Where did I get the canoe? I have it to sleep under. It is the best thing in the world to keep the rain off of you. Of course some like these nest-fangle things they call barrocks but they aren't any good if they leak. The time is now exactly two-seventeen. The operator just announced it. The announcer is a man at night and during the day there are some gals with honey-coated voices. I try to imagine what they look like by their voice and the way they act but I don't think I am very good at it. Well she sounds anything like anyone I know, that is what she looks like. None of them has sounded like my wife yet. My wife is in a class all by her self. You are nice and sweet and so soft. But that reminds me. What are you doing? Trying to buy a share in G. Gals. You spent six dollars (just think of the beer I could have had with that)! This will have to cease. I can't afford it. What do you think I'm made of -- money? That is the advantage of writing a letter. How easy time I can bowl you out and you can't say a word. I can rant and rave about you trying to drive me into the pork house and expecting me to pick the stuff off the bushes and what can you do? Nothing. Just sit back and take it. But that also can be a fault too. You can sit back and ignore all the threats and curses of not giving you any more money. - After all that I will say now that I am waiting to see what you have bought. I bet you will look nice in it. How are you feeling lately? I'm worrying a little bit over you. Do you know I got three letters from you to-day. It was like being away for a few days and then coming home and finding all the back issues of the newspapers to catch up on your favorite serial. I

open each one in turn and enjoyed them very much. That was quite a thought you had about the babies growing like flowers. You surprised me. I'm not mad because so many of those wolves are pestering you for a date and I don't blame them in a way. Not only is a compliment to you but me also. I didn't I pick you out and didn't I marry you? You are the nicest girl in the world. They don't seem to respect the fact that you are married and I don't like that. - I was talking to the Battery clerk the other day and he seemed to think you would get your allotment next month. I also read something about it in the paper. They are going to send the allotments as soon as possible. Because the plan is so immense I can't see your getting it much before Nov. I had to sign a six page report for you yesterday and I hope that is the end of them. I have signed quite a few already. - Do you have the trouble with the laundry as I do. I washed the sun tans out and when I went to get them to iron them I found they had been slopping against the barracks and were spotted. Well I washed them again and hung them out. Then later on my way back from shaving I noticed that they were dry so I grabbed them but forgetting that I had cut my thumb while wiping the blade of the razor. So I had to wash the blood off the pants. That is not all either. The last night I started to iron them and was half finished when the sirens started to blow. An alert! I had to drop everything and run like h. I. When it was all over and I got back to the barracks the lights were out so they are still half ironed. I felt like ripping them up and make patches for my socks. - I can save this weeks pass and take two days a week from this Sunday. I asked the First Sergeant to-day and he seemed to think it would be all right if I could make arrangements over here in these telephones and I'm pretty sure I can. That means I'll be down Sunday and have to be back Tues. night. You have Monday off, do you. The following week my pass would fall on Wed. and if I saved up until then you could drive me back Sat. night and your day off would be Sunday. Do you follow me? I guess that is too long to wait. I don't see how I can wait until a week from this Sun. as it is, to see you without going another ten days. We better leave the way we have it arranged. I do miss you very much. Shall we go down to the Polish-Am. Club? I love you. Lots of love
 Leonard

August 18, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

Your letters are written at the queerest times and places. I've written you in an Army truck, down on the rocks, on a picnic bench while walking guard and now lately I've been writing in a bomb proof dug out in the middle of the night. If I were only in the Paratroops I could write you a letter while floating down to the ground. When I get to fighting over in Jebru I'll probably be writing you with one hand (telling you how wonderful you are and how much I love you) and hacking my way through a wall of human flesh with the other and dragging my canoe behind me. Where did I get the canoe? I have it to sleep under. It is the best thing in the world to keep the rain off of you. Of course, some like these new fangled things they call barracks but they aren't any good if they leak.

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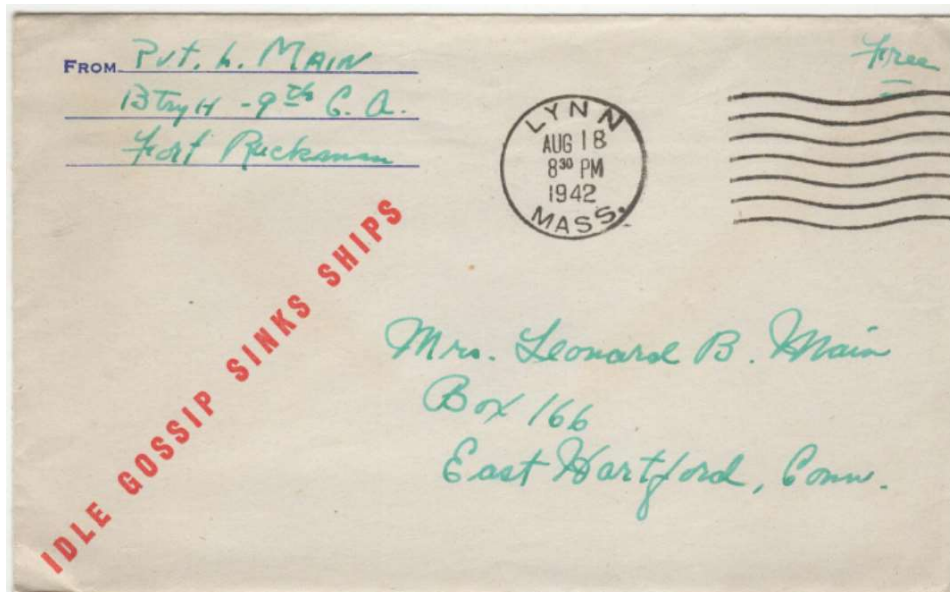
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I do miss you very much. Shall we go down to the Polish-Am Club?

I love you.

Lots of love

Leonard



August 19, 1942

August 19, 1942
 Box 4 - 9th C. A.
 Fort Ruckman



Dear Audrey: -

Thoughts while pulling the Hot Loop -- which is just another way of saying a four hour shift on this new job of mine. I wonder what my wife is doing and if she is in bed I wish I was with her. -- A pair of jacks is no good if someone else has three of a kind -- by changing your position in the chair every few moments you don't get so tired -- the same goes for the ear phones - if you keep alternating them first on one ear and then on the other your ear won't ache - elementary, eh what? - An ice cream soda can be carried if you put one paper bag inside of another and this should hold true for a glass of beer. - I wish I was in East Hartford so my girl could smuggled up to me. She does it so nice and is so nice and soft. -- A heart flush will beat three of a kind - damn the luck. -- This gasoline and tire shortage is getting serious. I heard of a motorist hitting a gas station attendant over the head ^{with} a tire iron for spilling gas on the fender. - You've heard of the tired old horse who after years of faithful service is turned into the pasture for the rest of his day. Well our tires are road-wearied and tired and if we don't give them a rest pretty soon they will be staging a sit-down strike in the middle of some road on us. - Gony will have a wild time over Labor Day week-end. He will be like a bull. -- Do you remember where you were last Labor Day week-end? - Six months ago a week-end like

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

this coming up would send me into a fit of
 planning on how the best way to ^{get} drunk. Needless to
 say it didn't take much planning and I got drunk.
 - What is the sense of trying to keep shoes polished
 around this place - I get a beautiful polish and if the
 the dust and dirt doesn't spoil it, someone steps on
 it and it is ruined. - This girl on the other end of
 the line has a peculiarly soft voice - - Prior to this,
 Chuck Foster, who is at the Totem Pole, was considered
 good by yours truly but last night he sounded terrible.
 So harsh and blating. On the other hand Ray McKinley
 sounded exceptionally good. - Well that just shows to
 go you. - You can correct a slice by holding the
 left hand farther over on top of the grip and closing
 the head of the club. - In the same way a hook
 can be corrected by sliding the left hand underneath
 the grip and using more of the toe. - - Of you can
 get a heart flush you deserve to win, unfortunately
 this is only a personal opinion - - What would have
 happened to us if we hadn't got married? I know we
 couldn't be better off and any happier. You have ~~that~~
^{made} a new man out of me. - - Do you know that
 if you go more than twenty hours with out eating you
 get hungry - and that is from experience and recent too.
 - - You know I miss those sea gulls. They make a
 peculiar noise and are awkward and clumsy and what
 a smell they make and maybe that is what I
 miss. - - Here is another "do you know". Do you
 know that if you hold a very hot iron on one spot on
 a shirt it burns the cloth. - See what a lucky gal
 you are. Not only does your husband write you daily,
 but his letters are educational. You profit thru his
 experiences. - - One of the other fellows on this line just
 asked the operator to marry him and she refused him.
 Maybe it was his southern accent. It is still a long ways off
 but I'm looking forward to Aug. 30. - All my love
 Leonard

August 19, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

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Tony will have a wild time over Labor Day weekend. He will be like a bull. Do you remember where you were last Labor Day weekend? Six months ago, a weekend like this coming up would send me into a fit of planning on how the best way to get drunk. Needless to say it didn't take much planning and I got drunk.

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It is still a ways off but I'm looking forward to Aug 30.

All my love, Leonard

August 19, 1942



August 19, 1942
 Bay 4 - 9th C. A.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey

I got a nice letter from you to day. It was nice because you told me how much you loved me and how you felt if you were actually caught this month. This is the 19th and the letter you wrote to day was dated the 17th so I am practically convinced it has happened finally. We asked for it or at least I didn't do anything to prevent it, which in a way is a good thing, but as you say it won't be as bad as I think. I hope - I don't know what I'm saying or how to say what I'm thinking. It is just a feeling I've had all along that it was going to happen, not that it was inevitable but just that I wasn't as careful as I should be. At that damn deep I didn't want to be careful that I wanted it to happen. I love you so very much. It gives me an empty feeling in my stomach when I think of you up there all by yourself and I'm down here. When you need me the most I won't be able to be with you. Maybe it's because I have a idea that it is such a terrible experience for you to go thru that I worry so much about you. In a few months you have open a new life for me and if anything happens to you now it will be destroyed just as quick. - It's this

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

the guy you said was so brave? Your husband sounds like a sissy to me. For the past two weeks all he has done is bemoan the fact that he can't see his pretty little wife more than once a week. - I liked the way you said, "if you become a daddy you'll never regret it." The daddy part is the part that gives me the funny feeling. I don't want to pay a too big a price. I want you the same as you are now. I love every thing about you. I guess I'm making a mess of this letter. This subject is a new one for me and I don't know how to handle it. Maybe I better save my thoughts until I see you. -

This afternoon we had to sit in the theatre for three hours looking at training film. I get tired of sitting down. That is all I do at work and then in my time off they make me sit in the theatre. I never thought I would get enough of just sitting and those benches down there are not like the seats in that theatre we went to the other week. The films are concerned with "know your enemy" but to be all with him if I have to learn about him this way. I rather find out the hard way. I thought my back-bone would be pushed up through my shoulder blades. I finally fell asleep but when I woke up all my bones ached. Near the end I was squirming like a little boy who has gone too long and is "in church for the first time." (I was going to say "with his pop" but I was afraid it would start me off again) - So near as I can make out there won't be any one leaving for awhile least of all



your husband. There was quite a bit of talk for awhile and there were all kinds of rumors. I want you to get use to the idea that I will be going away some time. I can't expect to stay here for the duration so we should make the best of it. I don't think there is any cause for worry for a few months though because there are so many others that would go before me. - Did I tell you the bad accident Warren Brown was in over at Fore River ship yard. He is no relation of Brownie but he married Piggys sister and I've known him for a long time. I got a letter from Mom and she says his condition is critical and if he does live he will be an invalid. I didn't know he was in such a critical condition and so I wrote him a short letter asking him when he would be back climbing trees and other stuff trying to cheer him up but if this is so bad as all that the letter will do him more harm than good. I guess he has had three blood transfusions and one by Bud. - These defense plants and ship yards are dangerous places to work because of the noise and confusion. If a person is in danger of being hit by something or in the way or doing something wrong, he can't hear any warning nor can he hear the danger approaching. Consequently the high rate of accidents and fatalities each week. I think a fellow is safer in the

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

Solomon Islands than in Gore River. But all this talk doesn't mean much to me until it suddenly dawns on me that my girl works in a defense plant. Are you sure that dept. you work in is all right? I'd rather have you in Woolworth's than some place in D. & W. where an airplane motor might fall on you. - There was a notice on the bulletin board this morning to the effect that they would begin to accept applications from men in the C. A. who wish to join the Commandos. They guarantee you to see action pronto and plenty of it. I dash now but there was such a line that I didn't sign up to-day. Maybe to-morrow I'll get a chance. I figure this way that if my wife is in a family way I had better take the easy way out. I could take the gas pipe but we don't have gas over here. You know I'm only kidding darling. - Oh yes, I nearly forgot. Peggy's mother sent me a package to-day. It was (noticed the past time) called the Soldier's Luxury Mess Kit and had pretty near every thing in it. Cookies, crackers, candy, nuts, cheese and little jars of jelly flavored with wine and had a real nice taste. All in all though it was pretty sweet and I would have been sick if I had not pass it around. - I get the Boston Herald every morning and I like that. I can always find time to read it. Tell Vicki I'm real glad she is going down to see her big moment. I hope the big brute treats his "smokes" - Well sweet here is the end. So - I've got room for one more I love you. "I love you". Leonard -



August 19, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

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I dash over but there was such a line that I didn't sign up today. Maybe tomorrow I'll get a chance. I figure this way, that if my wife is in a family way, I had better take the easy way out. I could take a gas pipe but we don't have gas over here. You know I'm only kidding darling.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot. Peggy's mother sent me a package toady. It was (notice the past tense) called the Soldiers Luxury Mess Kit and had pretty near everything in it. Cookies, crackers, candy, nuts, cheese and little jars of jelly flavored with wine and had a real nice taste. All in all though it was pretty sweet and I would have been sick if I had not passed it around. I get the Boston Herald every morning and I like that. I can always find time to read it. Tell Vicky I'm real glad she is going down to see her big moment. I hope the big brute treats his "snooks"

Well sweet here is the end. So I've got room for one more I love you; "I love you".

Leonard

August 21, 1942



August 21, 1942
 At midnight
 Btry H - 9th C. I.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

It is funny the way something you have said stays with you. Like the way I said we were happy yesterday. What I meant was that we are as happy as we possibly can be. How could I be happy away from you. When we are together it is wonderful but then when I have to leave the let-down is terrible. I don't remember what I was talking about when I said we were happy and that isn't the point anyway, the point is that we will never be happy unless we are together. Does that make sense darling? I love you and want you so much. When you tell me I'm the brave, I have to smile because I'm not the one who is brave - it is you. You are wonderful. - It won't be long now until I see you. Only ten more days. I watch the other boys go out on pass that I usually start out with and I was glad I wasn't going. By staying in it meant one more day I could spend with you. By the way don't depend on any money from me this month because I won't get paid for a week or ten days. You have to collect your pay personally or wait for them to send it to you. I won't be here pay day because I'll be with you. Monday, Aug. 31st will be the day this month and I'll leave Sunday afternoon for

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

East Hartford. Do you think you can swing it?
 - What is the idea of thinking you can surprise
 me? I'll not have you driving up here on the spur
 of the moment or what ever it was. - I read that
 part of your letter about the blueberry cake to one
 of the fellows and he got quite a kick out of it.
 It went something like this. "I am sending you
 the cake and you can do whatever you like with
 it just as long as you eat it." What a variety of
 choices. It is a good thing I have a feeling that
 it will be good. Not that all your cooking isn't good
 because it is. You are a good cook and a very
 good wife. What ever would have happen to me
 if you hadn't come along. I'm getting to be an
 awful sordid sort of a person lately so I'll have to
 do something about it. I'll have to make one of my
 two-day resolutions (I say two-days because I
 usually don't keep them much longer than that) not
 to feel so sorry for myself. Once again I shall
 remind myself that I am pretty well off
 considering every thing - Well here we go again. I
 didn't finish last night so I'll pick it up from here.
 What was it I said about being happy? Someone
 some place wrote something (I can see this sentence is
 going to be as accurate as I'll) about it. Real
 happiness is enjoyed only by lepers, insane people,
 beggars and their like. They are the only ones capable
 of throwing off past experiences, cares and worries.
 The word "capable" is misused here. No such set
 of people is capable of anything and if they
 enjoy happiness they do without realizing it



The reasoning it seems is this that the average person has too much to think of to enjoy life. So - What am I walking around chewing my nails and chafing at the bit when I can't be happy when I do see you? Why do I go to so much trouble to get down and see you? Because that guy is all wet and I only want a chance to spend a little time with my wife to show how wrong he is. He will have to find a new word to use. Well I don't know what good that did me except to say I hope the hell this duration will durate (I thought that would be a good word) so I can be with my wife all the time. - I sure can write a servey letter though. I guess its because the newness of this Army is wearing off and the things I use to write about are now not worth writing about or have been written about. I use to use two sheets of paper in just relating how bad I was treated but now I am treated just as bad but it doesn't do any good to squawk. - Every day some of the fellows try to duck out of some working and go swimming over on the rocks. It is good swimming (at least so they tell me) and jumping in and out of the water with no suits on they look like popcissers. I like wite if they get caught over there they land in a pretty stew. Oh, you don't like that and I

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

stayed up last night thinking it up. - This a
 funny shift I'm on these past few days. I go on
 at night at night and go to midnight and
 from night in the morning until noon. So I
 sleep thru breakfast and wait for noon chow and
 lately night chow hasn't been worth eating so I
 have been having one meal a day. Now don't get
 excited I haven't been hungry. If a person is
 real hungry he will eat any thing and so
 there is no reason for my being hungry
 except I have no appetite. After tomorrow
 the shifts change and maybe I can go back
 to normalcy. - Say I need some socks.
 We can get them on my pass though. Are you
 keeping in mind my dentist appointment. If
 you can arrange it have it on the second day
 so we can have your day off together which
 is Monday isn't it? If you changed the
 oil I hope you used a good oil. If you haven't
 leave it for me. Will

Lots of love
 Leonard

XXXXXXXXXX



August 21, 1942
At midnight
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

It is funny the way something you have said stays with you. Like the way I said we were happy yesterday. What I meant was that we are as happy as we possibly can be. How could I be happy away from you. When we are together it is wonderful but when I have to leave the let-down is terrible. I don't remember what I was talking about when I said we were happy and that isn't the point anyway. The point is that we will never be happy unless we are together. Does that make sense darling? I love you and want you so much. When you tell me I'm the brave one I have to smile because I'm not the one who is brave – it is you. You are wonderful.

It won't be long now until I see you. Only ten more days. I watch the other boys go out on pass that I usually start out with and I was glad I wasn't going. By staying in it meant one more day I could spend with you. By the way, don't depend on any money from me this month because I won't get paid for a week or ten days. You have to collect your pay personally or wait for them to send it to you. I won't be here pay day because I'll be with you. Monday Aug. 31st will be the day this month and I'll leave Sunday afternoon for East Hartford. Do you think you can swing it?

What is the idea of thinking you can surprise me? I'll not have you driving up here on the spur of the moment or what ever it was. I read that part of your letter about the blackberry cake to one of the fellows and he got quite a kick out of it. It went something like this, "I am sending you the cake and you can do whatever you like with it just as long as you eat it". What a variety of choices. It is a good thing I have a feeling that it will be good. Not that all your cooking isn't good because it is. You are a good cook and a very good wife. Whatever would have happened to me if you hadn't come along.

I'm getting to be an awful sordid sort of a person lately so I'll have to do something about it. I'll have to make one of my two-day resolutions (I say two-days because I usually don't keep them much longer than that) not to feel so sorry for myself. Once again I shall remind myself that I am pretty well off considering everything.

Well here we go again. I didn't finish last night so I'll pick it up from here. What was it I said about being happy. Someone someplace wrote something (I can see this sentence is going to be as accurate as h-ll) about it. Real happiness is enjoyed only by lepers, insane people, beggars and their like. They are the only ones capable of throwing off past experiences, cares and worries. The word "capable" is misused here. No such set of people is capable of anything and if they enjoy happiness they do without realizing it. The reasoning it seems is that the average person has too much to think of to enjoy life. So – what am I walking around chewing my nails and chafing at the bit when I can't be happy when I do see you? Why do I go to so much trouble to get down and see you? Because the guy is all wet and I only want a chance to spend a little time with my wife to show how wrong he is. He will have to find a new word to use. Well I don't know what good that did me except to say I hope the h-ll this duration will durate (I thought that would be a good word) so I can be with my wife all the time.

I sure can write a screwy letter though. I guess it's because the newness of this Army is wearing off and the things I use to write about are now not worth writing about or have been written about. I used to use two sheets of paper in just relating how bad I was treated but now I am treated just as bad, but it doesn't do any good to squawk.

Every day some of the fellows try to duck out of some working and go swimming over on the rocks. It is good swimming (at least so they tell me) and jumping in and out of the water with no suits on they look like porpoises. Likewise if they get caught over there, they land in a pretty stew. Oh you don't like that and I stayed up last night thinking it up.

This is a funny shift I'm on these past few days. I go on at eight at night and go to midnight and from eight in the morning until noon. So I sleep thru breakfast and wait for noon chow. Lately night chow hasn't been worth eating so I have been having one meal a day. Now don't get excited, I haven't been hungry.

If a person is really hungry, he will eat anything and so there is no reason for my going hungry except I have no appetite. After tomorrow the shifts change and maybe I can go back to normalcy.

Say, I need some socks. We can get them on my pass though. Are you keeping in mind my dentist appointment. If you can arrange it have it on the second day so we can have your day off together which is Monday isn't it? If you changed the oil I hope you used a good oil. If you haven't, leave it for me. Well

—

Lots of love

Leonard

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

August 22, 1942



August 22, 1942
 Coy H. 9th C.O.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey: --

This twelve to four shift is no good. It breaks your night up more than anything else and then you have to get your sleep in the day time. It is too hot and too much noise to sleep well and so none of these shifts are any good, which makes the job a tough one. But the job is so easy and looks good that if you mention to anyone that it is hard on you they immediately accuse you of griping. On one shift I don't get any sleep and on the next one I don't get any thing to eat and on the third one I have to go to the Math class. I don't like to miss the Math class either. The cooks are just starting to get breakfast ready at four o'clock and so I can eat something then if I want to but unless I'm real hungry the idea doesn't appeal to me. I came in this morning at four o'clock and I laid down in my "sack" but I couldn't get to sleep. I just laid there thinking of next Sunday when I would be starting off to see my girl. Well then it struck me that if Monday is your regular day off and you said

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

something about it might be possible to have Tuesday off then why don't you drive up here Sun. afternoon when you get there work. We'll get off around five o'clock and could meet you in Hattick at seven o'clock Sunday night. It is only a thought and you can tell me what you think of it. It all depends on what you planned on doing down there when we get there. Please don't wait until we get there and then tell me because it's my day off you want to do what we want. I want to do what you would like. Don't forget we have some shopping to do. Some socks for me! Oh yes, about the end of this week I am going up to the office and ask for Wed. off too and I think I have a pretty good chance of getting. If you do come up here and I succeed in getting Wed. off we'll drive back with you Tues. night. So will you see if you can arrange for a dentist appointment for Wed. for me and I can see him no matter what we decide. Just imagine having three days with you. It is almost too much to hope for. But here is something else to consider. This is the end of the month and you have to make the payments with no help from me this month because of the way pay day falls. If you come up here it is apt to cost you too much money. How do you stand this month? We've got



Shep Olin, the king of the Polka, on the radio and I like him. By the way this is Sunday afternoon and I am writing this letter in snatches like I do most of your letters. I started this this morning and I hope to finish to-night. Right now I have to stop every other sentence and copy some thing down. Afternoons, but Sunday afternoons, are especially busy. When this is over I shall apply for a telephone operators job. I am discovering it is not easy to handle two phones while another is ringing. - So you have had the oil changed. I think the car needs greasing and a check-up. I think also I should buy a quart of that anti-freeze for this winter that I was telling you about. - One of the boys just came in for his bathing suit and so I guess there is a bunch going swimming. The beach is nice but the water looks too cold. Personally I would rather the shower than salt water. With the shower I tell the water what to do but the other way the water tells me. If a big wave wants to come up and slap me in the face it does and if it wants to sneak up behind me and knock

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

me off my feet there isn't much I can do about it! What a rixey. - Yesterday morning I took my book and went down on the rocks and it was real peaceful down there. I only wish you were there with me. I'm reading "For Whom the Bells Toll" and it is pretty good. It is about the Spanish Revolution and so is right down my alley. Remind me to ask you something about one part so far that I did not understand. The man and girl had a "piece" (that is the word used in the book) and the girl wanted to know if the earth moved for him as it did for her. She put the utmost importance on this and said it only happened to two people only three times in a life time. Does that make sense to you? Oh I use my imagination I can think of something but it doesn't make sense. It is quite a book. A great many ruthless killings and the Spanish people seem so silly and useless but I guess they aren't so different from people here. There are problems here that are similar to theirs but the difference is in the approach to their solution. They used guns and knives and here people aren't quite as drastic as that. - I got a letter from you yesterday and your article on what I should know. Are you willing to admit the little old lady won't



visit you this month and so you are stuck. I have had a feeling for weeks on this. I think you are afraid to tell me. Of course I realize that you can't be sure and anything that can happen but if it does what are we going to do. It beats me and I worry about what will happen to you. Nothing will happen to you, will they? My darling you are the only girl for me. I love you very much. - I had been sort of saving a little surprise for you but I guess it isn't much. I had my first rating given to me a week or so ago and I was going to let you find out when you see. It is not much anyway especially after I got a letter from my brother-in-law who is now a sergeant. It gave me a satisfied feeling and it is rather difficult to get up here. It is ^{not} that I begrudge him but on the contrary I am very glad to hear of it but it is just that even a Private First Class is still not much. Oh well shall we call it just another stepping stone to something higher. Now don't tell me you are proud of me and would rather have me a P.F.C. than a General. I myself would rather

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

be something else. Well I'll close now and I
can hardly wait for this week to slip by. I love
you and want to see you.

All my love
Leonard



August 22, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

This twelve to four shift is no good. It breaks your night up more than anything else and then you have to get your sleep in the daytime. It is too hot and too much noise to sleep well and so none of these shifts are any good, which makes the job a tough one. But the job is so easy and looks good that if you mention to anyone that it hard on you they immediately accuse you of griping. On one shift I don't get any sleep and on the next one I don't get anything to eat and on the third one I lose out on the Math class. I don't like to miss the Math class either. The cooks are just starting to get breakfast ready at four o'clock and so I can eat something then if I appeal to me. I came in this morning at four o'clock and I laid down in my "sack" but I couldn't get to sleep. I just laid there thinking of next Sunday when I would be starting off to see my girl.

Well than it strikes me that if Monday is your regular day off and you said something about it might be possible to have Tuesday off then why don't you drive up here Sun. afternoon when you get thru work. I'll get off around five o'clock and could meet you in Natick at seven o'clock Sunday night. It is only a thought and you can tell me what you think of it. It all depends on what you planned on doing down there when I get there. Please don't wait until I get there and then tell me because it's my day off and you want to do what I want. I want to do what you would like.

Don't forget we have some shopping to do. Some socks for me! Oh yes, about the end of this week, I am going up to the office and ask for Wed off too and I think I have a pretty good chance of getting. If you do come up here and I succeed in getting Wed. off, I'll drive back with you Tues. night. So will you see if you can arrange for a dentist appointment for Wed. for me and I can see him no matter what we decide.

Just imagine having three days with you. It is almost too much to hope for. But here is something else to consider. This is the end of the month and you have to make the payments with no help from me this month because of the way pay day falls. If you come up here it is apt to cost you too much money. How do you stand this month?

I've got Shep Olin, the king of the Polka, on the radio and I like him. By the way this is Sunday afternoon and I am writing this letter in snatches like I do most of your letters. I started this this morning and I hope to finish tonight. Right now, I have to stop every other sentence and copy something down. Afternoons, but Sunday afternoons, are especially busy. When this is over I shall apply for a telephone operator job. I am discovering it is not easy to handle two phones while another is ringing.

So you've have the oil changed. I think the car needs greasing and a check-up. I think also I should buy a quart of that anti-freeze for this winter that I was telling you about.

One of the boys just came in for his bathing suit and so I guess there is a bunch going swimming. The beach is nice but the water looks cold. Personally I would rather the shower than salt water. With the shower I tell the water what to do but the other way the water tells me. If a big wave wants to come up and slap me in the face it does and if it wants to sneak up behind me and knock me off my feet there isn't much I can do about it. What a sissy.

Yesterday morning I took my book and went down on the rocks and it was real peaceful down there. I only wish you were there with me. I'm reading "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and it is pretty good. It is about the Spanish Revolution and so is right down my alley. Remind me to ask you something about one part so far that I did not understand. The man and girl had a "piece" (that is the word used in the book) and the girl wanted to know if the earth moved for him as it did for her. She put the utmost importance on this and said it only happened to two people only three times in a lifetime. Does that make sense to you? If I use my imagination I can think of something but it doesn't make sense. It is quite a book. A great many ruthless killings and the Spanish people seem so silly and useless but I guess they aren't so different from people here. There are problems here that are similar to theirs but the difference is in the approach to their solution. They used guns and knives and here people aren't quite as drastic as that.

I got a letter from you yesterday and your article on what I should know. Are you willing to admit the little old lady won't visit you this month and so you are stuck. I have had a feeling for weeks on this. I think you are afraid to tell me. Of course I realize that you can't be sure and anything can happen but if it does what are we going to do. It beats me and I worry about what will happen to you. Nothing will happen to you, will they? My darling you are the only girl for me. I love you very much.

I had been sort of saving a little surprise for you but I guess it isn't much. I had my first rating given to me a week or so ago and I was going to let you find out when you see. It is not much anyway especially after I got a letter from my brother-in-law who is now a sergeant. It gave me a satisfied feeling and it rather difficult to get up here. It is not that I begrudge him but on the contrary I am very glad to hear of it, but it is just that even a Private First Class is still not much. Oh well, shall we call it just another stepping stone to something higher. Now don't tell me you are proud of me and would rather have me a P.F.C. than a General. I myself would rather be something else.

Well I'll close now and I can hardly wait for this week to skip by. I love you and want to see you.

All my love -

Leonard

August 24, 1942



August 24, 1942
 Box H - 9th C. A.
 Fort Prockman

Dear Audrey: —

I guess we are due for a nice long talk. Now that you are willing to admit that we are up to our necks in trouble we will have to make some plans. Maybe it would be better if I come down there this coming week-end. I am fairly certain I can get out of here around noon and so could be down there by five or six Sunday night.

Are you sure about this? I don't know what to say. How long can you work. It sounds mercenary and not very chivalrous but you'll have to work and save a little money. I won't be able to help you. I don't even know whether I'll be able to be with you. That is only a few of the thoughts that have hit me so far. I hope we can plan something sensible. I don't want any thing to happen to you. It is you I love and love so very much. The car is nice and all that but we don't really need it. If you get this letter by Wed. you can write me and

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

say whether you want to come up or not, or whether I should come down. Last night I thought it was a good idea for you to come up but if you do we will do too much running around. Either way will be a change for me and by coming up here it would be a change for you and that would be good. That is if you get Mon. and Tues. off. I'll leave it up to you. - But this other thing. Of course I'll be glad. You are such a wonderful wife. Please don't try to put the blame on yourself. We both know what we were doing. The girl in this book I am reading reminds me so much of you. She tries so hard to please the lad and he doesn't need any of it because he is so much ^{in love} with her that she can do no wrong. And that is the way with us. I won't say I won't worry about you because I will and I have been for weeks. I went up to the Math class to-night and the teacher could have talked himself blue in the face with trigonometry and I couldn't have paid attention to him. How much does one of these things cost? Wouldn't it be better to see one doctor and just one doctor or doesn't that come now? How long do you go before it shows? I could ask



a lot more questions. What do you mean I'll have to put up with your awkward condition for nine months. According to that article you sent me a woman never feels better than during pregnancy. See I really did read it. You sent me the article and said it meant nothing and then in your next letter you tell me this. You are a hot apple. - I haven't taken up venetting as yet but the I have the next thing to it. I've been darning the old ones and a good job if I do say so. I think I'll put a sign on my bunk to the effect that I am ready to take in washings and sewing. Franny stitching too. I'll need the extra money now. How much does a electric train cost? They come before a baby carriage to me. That and a hockey stick. I'm only kidding sweet. - I got your letters from Fri. and Sat. to-day and I got the nicest feeling reading them. Of course I've been waiting for you to tell me but just reading about it gives me a tingling feeling all over. I'm excited and am looking

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

forward to Sunday with greater anticipation than before. I can't help thinking of what we are going to do ~~and~~ or rather what we shall have to do. - By the way that joke is very old with me and not funny. - You decide what to do for this week end and let me know. If I don't hear from you I'll come down. What ever you do arrange things with the dentist and don't forget this because I want to have them taken care of. - It is very cold out to-night. I never thought it would get so cold up here in August and I have to go out in it. I think I'll put my over coat on. Well all this written about is the big event in our lives and it will be too. I can't be happy away from you darling, but I am glad we have done this. I feel like saying a lot to-night but I don't know where to start. If you were only here we could lay in bed and talk all night. I love you and want you so very much. I hope things are going to be all right.

All my love,

Leonard

Maybe I shall get a great big doll too.



August 24, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

I guess we are due for a nice long talk. Now that you are willing to admit that we are up to our necks in trouble we will have to make some plans. Maybe it would be better if I come down there this coming weekend. I am fairly certain I can get out of here around noon and so could be down there by five or six Sunday night. Are you sure about this? I don't know what to say. How long can you work. It sounds mercenary and not very cheralous but you'll have to work and save a little money. I won't be able to help you. I don't even know whether I'll be able to be with you. That is only a few of the thoughts that have hit me so far. I hope we can plan something sensible. I don't want anything to happen to you. It is you I love and love so very much.

The car is nice and all that but we don't really need it. If you get this letter by Wed. you can write me and say whether you want to come up or not, or whether I should come down. Last night I thought it was a good idea for you to come up but if you do we will do too much running around. Either way will be a change for me and by coming up here it would be a change for you and that would be good. That is if you get Mon. and Tues. off. I'll leave it up to you.

But this other thing. Of course I'll be glad. You are such a wonderful wife. Please don't try to put the blame on yourself. We both knew what we were doing. The girl in this book I am reading reminds me so much of you. She trys so hard to please the lad and he doesn't need any of it because he is so much in love with her that she can do no wrong. And that is the way with us. I won't say I won't worry about you because I will and I have been for weeks.

I went up to the Math class tonight and the teacher could have talked himself blue in the face with trigonometry and I couldn't have paid attention to him. How much does one of these things cost? Wouldn't it be better to see one doctor and just one doctor or doesn't that come now? How long do you go before it shows? I could ask a lot more questions. What do you mean I'll have to put up with your awkward condition for nine months. According to that article you sent me a woman never feels better than during pregnancy. See, I really did read it.

You sent me the article and said it meant nothing and then in your next letter you tell me this. You are a hot apple.

I haven't taken up knitting as yet but I have done the next thing to it. I've been darning the old ones and a good job if I do say so. I think I'll put a sign on my bunk to the effect that I am ready to take in washings and sewing. Fancy stitching too. I'll need the extra money now. How much does a electric train cost? They come before a baby carriage to me. That and a hockey stick. I'm only kidding sweet.

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You decide what to do for this weekend and let me know. If I don't hear from you I'll come down. Whatever you do arrange things with the dentist and don't forget this because I want to have them taken care of. It is very cold out tonight. I never thought it would get so cold up here in August and I have to go out in it. I think I'll put my over coat on.

Well all I've written about is the big event in our lives and it will be too. I can't be happy away from you darling, but I am glad we have done this. I feel like saying a lot tonight but I don't know where to start. If you were only here we could lay in bed and talk all night. I love you and want you so very much. I hope things are going to be all right.

All my love

Leonard

-Maybe I shall get a great big doll too.

August 26, 1942



August 26, 1942
 Btry H 9th C.A.
 Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey: —

Well that was good news you sent me. I'm glad Tony was able to get up to see Vicky. It must have been quite a surprise to have him walk in on you. Has he lost his mustache? It is too bad he couldn't have more time. I am quite sure he will get some time off when he finishes his training at Officers Training School. Did the trailer shake at night? Yes, they need quite a few officers in the Anti-Aircraft as well as the Coast Artillery and the Field Artillery and you are right about them sending newly commissioned officers out. The C.A. is the best outfit but it is also the hardest to get into. They put older men in this and the younger men go into A.A. and F.A. They are encouraging us to put in applications so as to take the exams in Sept. but I had to be different. I filled out an application for the Signal Corps. They expected me to go to A.A. School and they had been giving me quite a few breaks so as I would be better prepared for it. I even had instructions on surveying.

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

I don't they will like the idea of my going some place else after they have been preparing me for A. A. Well I can't see the A. A. and I really don't like fooling around with these big guns. If I could get into the Signal Corps that experience would be very good for me. Some thing I might use later on. I did this a few weeks ago and I wasn't saving it as a surprise but just if I got the break all right and if I didn't. It is because that I am afraid I won't get it that I haven't told any one and in that way avoid any unpleasantness. I think the reason I didn't tell you is because of the same thing Vicky intends to do when Tony receives his commission. We could be together all the time. I didn't want to raise your hopes. You could quit that madhouse and leave that lousy trailer camp and we could be together. Well I've gone and said it. But that is quite a ways off and I don't want you to think about it. Right now I am as far away from the Signal Corps as I am from Adolf. To expect to see you more than twenty years at one time is too much for me. I don't allow myself to think of such things and so you hadn't better either. To be with you is all the inspiration I need. - So you are going to save your money and buy a house. I won't



you twisted around a little? Don't you know
 I am the one who is suppose to buy the family
 home. Your place is in the home. Nam this
 war. That will be one of the evils of this war.
 You might say the women are only taking their
 proper place but I'm not sure of it. What they
 are doing is making fools out of the men and
 doing a good job of it. I think they are going
 to. for with this Army and Navy business and
 the part of the fool will be reverse. Oh well that
 is neither here nor there. I'm glad you are going
 to buy a house. Will it be a big one so we can
 take in boarders? - I don't see why Tony wouldn't
 use the car. I wanted him to use it and I am
 disappointed that he didn't. I think I'll write
 him so too. I accepted his hospitality. - I will
 be waiting at Woods Court for you Sunday. Please
 hurry up but don't drive fast. Not over forty.
 I'll be looking for you from seven o'clock on.
 What shall we do? Get drunk!!! Oh you
 don't like that, eh? You know what I was
 going to do if the little old lady hadn't come
 around. Seeing as how my expectant wife

IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

couldn't drink I was going to give up drinking myself for nine months or so. - Well this just come from the office and I guess we will have to change our plans a little. If I want a three day pass I have to wait until Monday because they can't hold my pass money more than twenty four hours and I have to be here for pay call. It is not that I have to be here but they have to have so many fellows here and there are so many gone that they want all the men they can get for pay call so they won't let me off. But you drive up anyway and come down here to the fort and I think I'll be able to see you Sun. night. I'll expect you around eight o'clock. Maybe you can sleep over at your sisters and then pick me up around noon Mon. I drive around to the fence like you did before and if I'm not looking for you there someone will get me. I'll arrange my shifts so that I can go out with you and then you can drive me back here at night. You'll have to find some place to sleep Sun. and then pick me up Mon. I guess that is the best way I can think of and I hope it will work out. Be careful driving because I'll worry all the way with you until I see you. The only thing that might detain me Monday after twelve noon is the time we get paid. We have to wait the 13th's turn and I think we are due to be paid early in the morning. Last month it was one o'clock. Is that all right? If I don't hear from you by Sat. I'll telephone you Sat. mite after seven o'clock. Lots of love



August 26, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

Well that was good news you sent me. I'm glad Tony was able to get up to see Vicky. It must have been quite a surprise to have him walk in on you. Has he lost his moustache? It is too bad he couldn't have more time. I am quite sure he will get some time off when he finishes his training at Officers' Training School. Did the trailer shake at night? Yes, they need quite a few officers in the Anti-aircraft as well as the Coast Artillery and the Field Artillery and you are right about them sending newly commissioned officers out. The C.A. is the best outfit but it is also the hardest to get into. They put older men in this and the younger men go into A.A. and F.A. they are encouraging us to put in applications so as to take the exams in Sept. but I had to be different. I filed out an application for the Signal corps. They expected me to go to A.A. School and they had been giving me quite a few breaks so as I would be better prepared for it. I even had instructions on surveying.

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So you are going to save your money and buy a house. Aren't you twisted around a little? Don't you know I am the one who is supposed to buy the family home. Your place is in the home. Damn this war. That will be one of the evils of this war. You might say the women are only taking their proper place but I'm not sure of it. What they are doing is making fools out of the men and doing a good job of it. I think they are going too far with this Army and Navy business and the part of the fool will be reversed. Oh well that is neither here nor there. I'm glad you are going to buy a house. Will it be a big one so we can take in boarders? I don't see why Tony wouldn't use the car. I wanted him to use and I am disappointed that he didn't. I think I'll write him so too. I accepted his hospitality.

I will be waiting at Woods Court for you Sunday. Please hurry up but don't drive fast. Not over forty. I'll be looking for you from seven o'clock on. What shall we do? Get drunk!!! Oh you don't like that, eh? You know what I was going to do if the little old lady hadn't come around. Seeing as how my expectant wife couldn't drink I was going to give up drinking myself for nine months or so.

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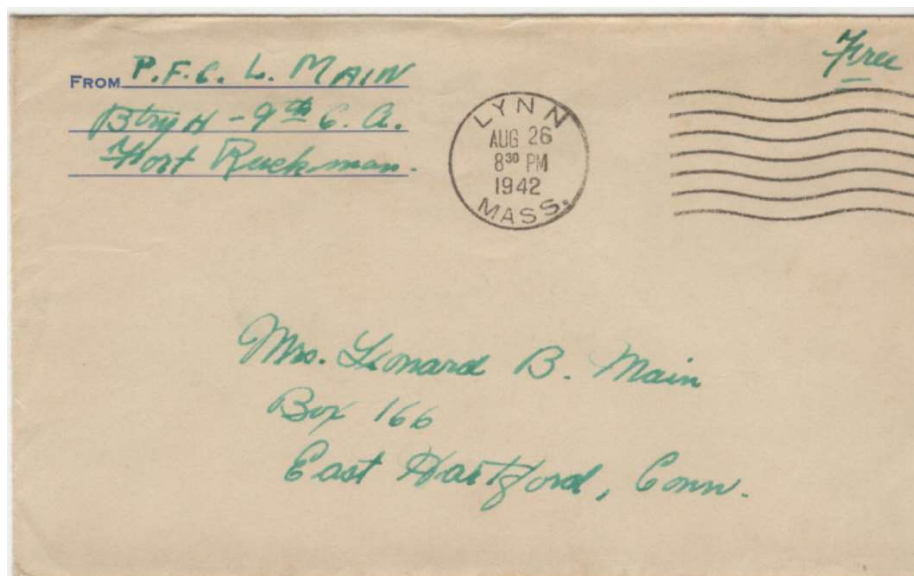
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Lots of love

Leonard



August 27, 1942

August 27, 1942
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Dear Audrey: -

It is a beautiful morning and it looks as if it will be a little warmer for a change. It has been cold as h-ll. If you needed me to keep you warm I could also have use you to keep me warm these past three nights. This morning I am on from four until eight and so I have seen the sun come up. I'll be on this shift until Sunday and then I'll change to eight to twelve. This is what I'll do now. You'll be here around eight o'clock and so I can't go to work with you here. I'll swap shifts with someone else so as to be just coming off when you get here. Then I'll be off until eight the next morning so we can go some place until then. I don't think I can get out legally but I don't need a pass anyway. If you have any money we could take a room in a hotel for the night and I could get up early the next morning and drive over here in time to go to work. That sounds good when I am writing it and I don't see why it shouldn't work. If you think of bringing the typewriter along and we can change over one of my old passes so it will get me in through

the gate in the morning. Then there is the problem of what you are going to do until I get out in the afternoon. Maybe you had better drive me over in the morning and then you can go visiting. That is if you can get out of bed. After I finish with you you will want to sleep until noon. That is funny. I probably won't be any good and you know it. But you are wonderful and I love you so very much. Here I have four whole days to wait for you and I'm like a little boy the night before Christmas. I'm on Jim and "noodles". I suppose it's childish and I'm mad at my self for being so but I can't help it. I am crazy about you. That is unusual for an old married man like me to be like that. If I were like my old man I would tell you to meet me at Murbur's some time Tues. night. Last night I wrote if I didn't hear from you by Sat. I would telephone you but I don't think that will be necessary. Besides I haven't got enough money. - Did Tony have a good time? When did he leave? You know what I did last night after I wrote you. I went down to the barracks and dug down in my dirty socks and winter underwear and got your picture out. I have to remember what you look like. Do you have light hair or dark? - What did you

mean in one of your letters that I
express myself better in my letters than
I do at home. Don't you know all married
men have that same trouble. This letter
help give them little opportunity. I am
pretty sharp this morning, don't you think?
It must be this early morning air. Which
reminds me of the lad who claimed in all his
thirty years of married life he only once
raised his hand to his wife and then he was
not able to look her in the eye for two weeks.
After that he could see a little bit out of
one eye. - To change the subject. How do
you like the paper? We use this for memos
and it is the only thing laying around here
this morning. Well I'll close now. I didn't
have much to say and only wanted to kill
time. Will be looking for you

Love
Leonard

August 27, 1942
Bat H - 9th C.A
Fort Ruckman

Dear Audrey:

It is a beautiful morning and it looks as if it will be a little warmer for a change. It has been cold as h-ll. If you needed me to keep you warm I could also have use you to keep me warm these past three nights. This morning I am on from four until eight and so I have seen the sun come up. I'll be on this shift until Sunday and then I'll change to eight to twelve. This is what I'll do Sun. You'll be here around eight o'clock and so I can't go to work with you here. I'll swap shifts with someone else so as to be just coming off when you get here. Then I'll be off until eight the next morning so we can go someplace until then. I don't think I can get out legally, but I don't need a pass anyway. If you have any money we could take a room in a hotel for the night and I could get up early the next morning and drive over here in time to go to work. That sounds good when I am writing it and I don't see why it shouldn't work. If you think of it, bring the typewriter along and we can change over one of my old passes so it will get me in through the gate in the morning.

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Love

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