



UNITED STATES ARMY

Mon.

Dear,

I'm in such a good mood. Was kind of low last nite after you left. Combination of let down after the wonderful weekend + worry about Sgt. Strong + my leg. Well, Sgt. Strong blew off at Scotty, but that was all so far. He even kidded with me today, so I was really surprised + relieved. Also, my leg got worse last nite so I went on sick call. Dr. put me on light duty (means no marching or P.T.) for 7 days + gave me some pain killers. Was pretty worried mostly about missing pre-test target fire today (take first test tomorrow). Well, that worked out O.K. They drove me out about 9:30. I shot real well, too. Think the pain killers calmed me down a little + gave me a steady hand. Shot 3/4 of my targets. If I keep that up - will make 4/4 tomorrow. Well, may not hold my luck, but I know I won't flunk.

So, I'm in a real good mood, tonight. What with all this tension relieved + the fact I get to see you, I'm on top of the world.

You know, just seeing you made
life color up again (it was beginning
to get a little gray, you know). I
was so relaxed & it felt so
good to talk & table. Oh, there
wasn't much news really. We
keep each other up on almost
everything. It was just the
fact we could talk about little
things, laugh & cry together, &
just be together. That did me
a world of good. It was like a
shot of energy in my system. Think
I've got enough reserve power to
make it thru now.

Oh, yes, it snowed today. And
it's snowing now. Actually, I prefer
it to rain 100% & it really helps
rifl shooting believe it or not.
The reason is that the targets are
dark against a far background
of woods (trees galore). Anyway,
the snow in the air silhouettes the
targets & makes them much easier
to see. Thus, better score today.
Oh, everything seems so much
smoother & calmer. Things are
clicking together like clock-
work. The barracks looked great

This morning. We told the men
we may lose our stripes if Sgt
Strong got mad. They all ~~pitched~~
in + really worked - kind of a "let's
show Sgt. Strong up" type attitude.
Anyway, I feel good. My leg is
better. Wouldn't want to march
6-8 miles, but can actually
walk without immense pain. I love
you so much. Life has been pretty
damn good to ~~my~~ us even tho
at times it seems so bad. We
got what others would give
them all for, dear. And I couldn't
be happier than to be your dym
& soon father of your children
(evn - our children). I love you.
Got lots of mail. Let me read
it + I'll write more later.

Dad + Julia sent \$5 + a nice card.
Grandma T. sent a card + so did Aunt
Chris + Uncle Harold. So did Julie
Wheeler. Honey, could you let them
know some way that it
really was appreciated to
be thought of like that. People
are so good; it's damned
humbling, you know. I love

being alive! Then I read Mom's
letter + thrilled about her job. The
letter (if you can read it), is one
of the best Mom has ever written.
She usually is not that personal,
even in person. Well, it pleased
me muchly. I'll send it along.
Also, got your Sun. note letter.
Glad you got home OK + again
(ESP) revealed much the same
mixed emotions (happy + sad too).
I've had. But I'm all smiles
today. You make me feel so alive
+ I can even face up to things +
see the good + even funny side.
That I like, that's what I want
to be + you help so much.

Take care yourself, girl. No more
throats allowed. Actually 2
of those 44's killed my cough
+ my cold is best it's been in
almost 3 weeks. My legs feel good
+ I feel great! After seeing you,
even letters seem more real -
I can associate them - kind of
like an extension of Sun note. I
love you + need you.

By the way, the muscle that

was hurt was right in my
crotch. No wonder I had trouble
Sat. nite & Sun. morning. I thought
it was a little painful & it was!
Feel better now. Taking pills for it (ha,
ha). Got to get things done so must
stop. Please try to write everyone
because I didn't have time this
weekend. I love you.

Love,
Ryan

P.S.
Thank O. & L. 1000
times for me.