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Hdq. Tenth Army
APO 357
San Francisco

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Okinawa

My darling.. oh my darling:

Worked like hell all day. Trying to get caught up on the wires, and then went out this evening to visit one of the hospitals, and talk to the day's new arrivals.. oh god Katherine if you could see them.. fresh from battle.. then on the way back we stopped at an engineer outfit. They had an old Jap organ, and I played it for an hour to accompany sax, trumpet, and bass violin, the latter made out of a lard tin, and had a beautiful tone. On the way back a stray Jap came along and dropped a few, and the boys took a pot shot or two at him, so we piled under our jeep and waited till the flack all came down.. then on our way. Getting so it's a very routine business.

We stopped at hdq. for mail.. and darling, your letter of June 7 was there.. did not read it until I got back here to communications.. and now I could lie down and weep. I did not see, from the beginning, how that whole situation could work out, but as you know my prejudices all too well, I kept quiet. Also felt that I was pretty much responsible for leaving you in a hole, thinking the income would be enough, when apparently it was not, so you had to go to work. I know you wanted to work, and that you enjoy it.. but I was also afraid of what might happen, particularly in so far as the children are concerned. I know that you can take it.. how well I know that, but they are in a very formative period, and their home should be their home and that is that. Your letter makes me feel as if I had been ducking a prime responsibility, but as you well know, that was not the whole idea of my coming out here.. at all.

Here is the situation on this end. In a place like this we are a military unit, like any other part of the command, and subject to all regulations. We came here on orders cut by Tenth Army, and we can only leave on similar orders. As a result, the only way to leave this operation, at this stage, is to be evacuated as a medical patient, or have some situation at home that requires presence of the officer. This must be, as you know, verified by Red Cross, and even then it is not always

possible to institute the desired action here. We have had so many ARC men blow up and be taken out of here.. I should say, go to pieces, that Area has become alarmed and now require that anyone leaving also have concurrence from Area, which is very hard to get.. some of our men, with difficult situations at home, have been sweating it out for over a month, and nothing happens. This does not make the rest of us feel any too good.

My point is, that if you feel I should come home, the whole procedure should best be initiated from your end. You would go to Royal Oak ARC, and explain that you could not go on, etc. that serious economic loss would result, you were about to have a nervous breakdown, etc. etc. It may sound funny to you, but it would take a very strong report to get any action here. If I should start in on it here, everyone would at once be very suspicious.. with good reason, as we have had many men "play sick" to try to get out of here. For some reason, they don't like it at all. It had been my plan to try to stick it out until sometime in Oct. or November, and at that time resign, and get the wheels in motion to start home, so I could get there, with good luck by the holidays, or with poor luck early next year. The middle of next year at the very latest. From a moral standpoint, ARC has not kept a single commitment made to me to date, and I would have no qualms about pulling out. In the meantime I am working like hell, and pulling more than my required load, by a long way. But someone has to do it. But what I am trying to tell you is, that if you want me to come home sooner, let me know right away, and we will put things in motion, as it might take me three or four months to get there, in any case, and you must take that time lag into consideration, in making any plans. In other words, if you think your financial string will start to run out, if you quit work, in 60 to 90 days, you had better tell me, quick, so we can get some action.

The point is if I am going to get out of here, in any reasonable length of time, it may be very necessary for you to help to get a satisfactory Red Cross report. What I can do is instigate the request for the report from this end, and when they look into the matter, you must know what to tell them. It will take nearly a month to get a reply to this letter, so please let me know what you want me to do.. will you dearest one? Don't try to be heroic..., etc. -- but let me know the

score straight across the board, will you? Those kids mean too much to me to have things go to pot at this stage of the game. ... way too much.

And it might do you good to know that Doug is in a hospital in England, and is to be released early in July.. and will have at least two months furlough in the States, and from all reports there may be a wedding. Anyway, the wind seems to blow in that direction... and when a gal sets her mind to something of that kind.. you know the result. I sincerely hope it works out that way, and that we can all live happily ever after.. so to speak. I know there is no such thing as a perfect ending, to anything.. but nothing will ever make me change my love and adoration for you... and I am not going to impede the happiness of others in any case. It has been my own problem to lick, and I feel sure everything is under control.. but I will not be really happy until you feel the same way... oh darling.. I love you so.

As always, I am simply bursting with plans... still intrigued with the Milwaukee idea, and think I could find something fairly good there... I don't give a damn about a lot of money, after watching the educated seals at Airtemp.. but enough to get along on... and spend long weekends at Portage.. and lie in the sand.. and make love...I had some idea of staying in the same congressional district until there was a chance to tip Dondero over, but he is well entrenched, and that might take years. We might make a better stand elsewhere.. but it takes deep roots to do it.

Anyway, ARC has me fixed so I can't get any copy out of here.. not even for Redeker, and that gripes me so.. as you can imagine.. if I thought they might ever come through with those credentials, as they have alternately evaded and promised, I would be more inclined to stick it out.. but the way it is.. any one of a thousand men could do the routine work I am doing here, and do it well. So let me know right away how you feel about it, as all this takes time, and you might find yourself in a position when time was very important. Also, I am doing the work of a supervisor, which is three or four pay grades above an AFD, but they make no move toward promotion, except a lot of loud talk now and then.. you know the old malarkey.

No darling, I have not received any heavy manila envelopes. no packages...Your letters in have been May 15, 25, 25, June 2

and June 7.. the one tonight. That's all. Of course I will write to Ann.. the little darling.. but she is not so little now, is she. Father raves about picture in Detroit News, which was mounted in John Johnson's window.. etc. etc. but does not send me clipping. Why doesn't anyone ever send me a clipping... they mean so much here.. everyone in the array is a liar unless he has tangible proof of something in his hand. Have also asked many times for some of those pictures of you and the kids.. I know we have some 4 x 5s of some of them, that you could mail.. but I don't get them. For a time I kept track of my letters out to you.. as well as yours back.. but have not done it since the invasion, as everything gets filthy dirty, or lost, or something.

During the last three days some dirty bastard, and I mean just that.. stole my automatic, so now all I can do is throw sand at a Jap and run... which might be the best tactic anytime. The guy who was hurt here, whose place I took, has been evacuated to the States, as he was not doing too well, and he left his carbine behind.. so have a gun... but have not yet learned to field strip and clean it, which is damned important. It is full of dust now, and the clips are rusty, even in a water proof case. I put my black leather notebook in an insulated blood box, which had a tight cover, with clamps, so the dust would stay out of it, and when I opened it, the book was covered with green mould, and most of my clothes mildewed in the recent rains.. oh me. Now the book, in my tent, is solid with thick dust.

And the reason this typewriting is so bad, and wordsruntogether.. is that the damn things are full of sticky dust, and it is impossible to brush it all out. Also the carriage slot, and all exposed parts that are not nickel steel, rust like the devil.

Lots may take place out here in the next few months, and I want to have a pretty good idea of your real situation, before making any plans or commitments. So it is very important that you let me know. Not being able to discuss any military activities makes me have a tendency to emphasize our personal inconveniences, which are not half as bad as they sound. Actually, except when it rains, the climate is perfect, like southern California.. hot days and cool nights. Our food is plain, adequate, and we are all in good health. I have lost plenty weight, but it has not hurt me any. Am sleeping good

again.. think that trouble was getting hopped up too much at first.. it was quite an experience for a high strung individual like me. The only unhealthy thing here now, apparently, is the Jap raids.

It is very late, for these parts.. nearly midnight, and I must get up at 6. And so to bed. Oh darling child, sit down and pour out your heart to me, and tell me the score, and let me know what you want me to do... I am certainly not going to leave you up a tree. I may be up one for a time, but you can help me get down if you will only do it. Will keep dates of my letters for a time, and see if you are getting them. Someday I can tell you why the mail does not all get through, but that is Pau right now.

Tonight I was playing The Little Brown Gal, and the Cockeyed Mayor, etc. and the boys were singing.. oh Katherine.. but I will be glad to spend more evenings like that with you .. and the kintern.. please, please, let me know right away what you want me to do.. we are on the downhill stretch anyway.. but I must know to make my plans.

Goodnight dear one; when things get toughest, remember that I adore you and that I go to sleep at night praying for you.. your love and your courage has meant everything to me out here.. if mother takes a vacation, as you are suggesting, perhaps we can work it out so I can get back before you get up a tree financially. Incidentally, with officers, financial difficulties often draw more water than other things, so remember that, if an ARC report is made. If necessary you can get a letter from Dr. Chester, or some physician to ARC in Royal Oak.

Please please answer this letter promptly.. and I know you will..

I love & adore you,

Henry

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry," with a comma at the end.