

6th

Friday, August 16th, 1943
10 P.M.

Dear Fan:

Here goes for another of those punkm typewtiyyeen letters.
I find typing isn't half the strain on myn eyes than the pen and ink

are. By the way I have a new pair of glasses ordered after 6 years of these. Did you remember Joe was in the army just a year today Aug 6th it doesn't seem possible that a whole year has gone by. Well Fan Dots furlough is nearly over, those ten days go by so dam fast. She left for Conn this A.M. but will be back tomorrow Sat. in time for a party. Just the usual gang plus 6 she ~~sakxxax~~ has asked from C.C. I asked Fel but she has a date with someone who is to be inducted soon, but she said Peggy and Eileen will be here. Jim was to have been in for chow tonit, but he neither came or phoned. He said the first time that happened I would know he had shipped out, and he was supposed to come to the party with another sailor. If he doesn't show up for the party I will know for sure he has gone. Well at least he saw Dot and he was very anxious to see her before ~~xx~~ he shipped out. Don't know how Dot is going to manage to get everything in before she leaves on Tuesday. She wants to see Dot Crowley who is laid up again, also pay a visit to Boyles and she has an appointment to see Sefters about a lameeback that she has. Monday she slept all day, went to Peggys at nite. Tuesday went to office, back for supper then she and Dad went to see Gene. Dot was shocked at how he looked, just skin and bones. Wed she stayed in all day, but went out at nite with Gil, Eileen and some fo the office gang from C.C., Thu. Gran was found missing about 9 a.m. she really was gone from 6a.m. we found out later. When she wasn't back at 11 8 phoned the cops and it was 2.39. when they found her over at Polly Prep on the side of an embankment watching the soldiers drill. She had on a dirty old housedress, hair not combed, b no top to the housedress but had thrown a blue soldier cape over her ~~sak~~ shoulders. Can you picture her riding home in the Sqd. car between two cops at 3 in the afternoon. Told the cops she had traveled all over the world. In fact the day before she stopped Dot and told her how swell she looked and how much good the army did her, even knew Ma when she got back and said she had a swell time and the cops were nice to her. By the time she was found we all had the jitters. Ma was even crying and saying a rosary for her. Next time this happens we won't get so upset and I imagine it is going to happen again. After the excitement Dot and I went to Fulton St. shopping, had dinner at Ross's and home in time for supper. Gladys, Troys and Ge rtie came in and it was 1a.m. when we got to bed. Today she went to Conn but is to be back tomorrow in time for the party. Troys are coming Sunday to take her pic, she still has to go see Dot, pay a visit to Boyles and see Sefters all before she leaves on Tuesday. She says this civilian life would kill her. After her five months in then army I really thins she looks more rested than she ever didi when she was home.

Well Fan mean as it may sound I really got a belly laugh when I read that letter where you and the boys expected some dough in that registered letter. I thought army men never count on anything till they know it is a certainty. I can just imagine your face when you only found the medal. Didn't the boys choke you with the extra chain when they found there eas no dough . Sorry Fan but I was broke, in addition I had to send Dot 10 towards her carfare, besides since she went in the army she only once sent money home towards her bills, that means I have been putting out 43.bucks a month for her with the exception of one month that w-s April. She would get sore if she knew I told you this but really it is an awful drain with all the other bills I have. Out of Joe's 3 allotment checks so far I haven't been able to save a nickle, and they are for 65. a month. I'll get your books off either tomorrow or Monday. Wish I knew where I could get Joe a camera but they seem to be out for the duration. I sent him that old Candid one Tommyng gave us one time but I don't suppose it is much good. Maybe between now and Sept. ~~11~~ 15th(mailing time for Xmas pkages) i may find some place to get him one. Saw Collon at Mass this A.m.

but as usual didnt have time to contact him. Chief and I both went to Communion for first Friday, so had to hustle home to get Ron out.

Do you know Fan this making copies of Joes letters and then typing another to you takes hours of time. I sent Joe a two page V.mail letter and that takes oodles of typing, but I try to give him all the news. Did I tell you Connors has gone to California, and Betty h says Mrs.C. was crying and saying she thought he was going across. Strikes home now, but she was ridiculing her landlady for making suchna a fuss the day her son was drafted. Mean aint I but some people do get under my skin, no thought for anyone but themselves. Will I ever learn to be charitable?

Well Fan I better call it a nite. You know all the extra work when there is a party in the offing. Somehow parties dont appeal to me any more but we just couldnt let Dot down, in fact the Chief gave me 5.00 towards the beer. It will mean a half keg with 25 people expected. Imagine Peggy and Eileen will feel lost with nobody but oldwomen here. Fel says her mother wouldnt let her send Joe the picture she had taken said it was too good so she promised to send some she had taken while on a picnic. I still dont think she is seriously interested in Joe and I sure do hate to see him hurt, but this is one time in life when mothers cant do anything but hope for the best. Sure hope Joe wont let it get him down if she finds someone else she likes better. Fel isnt coming to the party because she has a heavy date with someone who is to be inducted soon, but she did say Peg and Eileen would come. I'll be glad to see them.

Will write full details fo the party after its all over. Ma still here and I dont think Kate has invited her over but Im not sure.

Bye now and love from
Mother.

After being so long without dough did you celebrate when you didn't get paid.

July ~~21st~~ 28th, 1943

Dear Mom & Dad:

Boy yesterday as a red letter day on the mail. I'm get y letter I got 3 from you dated MAY 7th, June 3rd and July 10th The one from the 30th as air mail with your picture in it .Then I had one from Aunty, one from Dot and one from Tom and Kate not bad huh? Today I got one from Frank from Perde ,dated July 11th .Its very cloudy and cool today so I figured I better write while I could. Oh Yes before I start Mom why don't you fill those V.mails? You only wrote down to the fold in the paper and you gifure your through. You can write right down to the V.Mail marked at the bottom of the page. I'm sorry about Mothers Day Mom,I was in South America the and I couldnt very well send you anything, but you know I was thinking of you Mom. So Joe Sherman was home Gee: I'd like to see that guy again. I only knew him about a month but he was one swell guy.I have had dozens of chances to sell that lighter he gave me but that was from Joe and I would'nt part with it for the world. You say Joe has put on weight.Well I'm afraid to go near a scale.I'm begining to get a corporation,beleive it or not I'll bet I weigh 10 or if lbs more since I came over here. I don't think my face or the rest of my body has gotten any fatter, but my stomach is sure going cut.Well that covers the May 7th letter lets see whats in the other two. Boy when I opened that letter of Jume 30th what hits me in the face, but a picture of a strange womantoo. At first

I says to myself gee, that looks like Mom but then I says no it couldnt be shes too fat, but the more I looked the more I came to realize that it was you Mom. Whatever have you been doing,your gettingasfully fat,you may not think so but to me who hasn't seen you but once in a year its quite notice-able.But long or short, fat or thin its still a picture of my best girl, my Mom.Is that a new dress Mom I dont seem to remember it.Its very pretty though,that white frill shows up nice in the pict ure.Thanks a lot Mom.

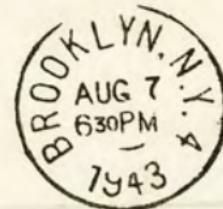
So Ronnis has a job woth Ior And Taylor.I'll bet she's buying the store out. I got that picture you sent me for Easter out and all the boys say that you have gottne a little heavier,but Chuck my radio man gave me a ol folder to keep your pictures in so you are sitting on the desk that I made with the pictures of the otherf fellows best girls. Thats tough about Gene Mom,when Dad goes to see him will he tell him I was asking for him. I'd write a letter but I dont know what to say nor do I have the time.

Roberson wrote me the samde day you called him up Mom,he sent his V.mail and it goj here about a week ago. So you lost your yen for a colored baby. Well Mom, I'm sorry but I already have two on the way so you'll a have to take care of them. Have I still got my watch? You bet your seet life I have I've had plenty of ch-ncesto get rid of it but I wouldnt part with it for love or money.Thats from my Mom ~~had~~ Dad and I'll keep it always. You say my mail took 18 days well yours took 27 but the V mail you sent the 10 of July came in the same day as the the one you sent June 30th. I'm glad to see that the allotment is coming through regularly.I'd like to send home some money to be put in the bank this month but I'm afraid I wont be able to,maybe next month I can. Well thaths the x second letter answered,now lets tackle the third one. So Frank is P.F.C. he is coming up the hard way but he'll get there before long I only hope I get my Staff soon.Boy if you do nothing else Mom send those pictures you took.We go crazy for pics over here.Do me a favor too will you,call up Fel and tell her to send me that pic she promised me back in March.You see pictures mean a lot to use over here.They are the only way we have of feeling at home, a guy would ratherloose his arm than part with a picture.You cant begin to realize what they mean to us,so you get her on the ball and tell her to send it. Send me some of the kids and the Chief too.No Mom Fletch is from Westboro, Mass so it must have been someone else. You can bet your life I'm in my glory,I'm right in the middle of things too.About Xmas Mom the only thing I need or want is a camera, but I want a good one, one like Gene D.s or the kind Al Kirwan had. Its got to be a candid type because they are easier to carry and it only takes a small amount of paper to print pictures,paper is scarce ofer here. If you can get me a ggoud camera Mom I'll pay for it. Money means nothing I want results.Don't forget the films either. Yes ~~Mon~~ the mail from the other A.P.O. is coming in slowly, butns surely. I'd

like to let my hair grow but it's nice and coll this way and you
don't have to comb it. I think I'll keep it this way all the time. Well
Mom that just about covers everything. In Franks letter he says it is
quite some place and plenty of women. You'd better look out he'll be coming
home married. Bye now and write soon.

Love always, *Joe*.

Mrs. G. Shields,
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