

Thursday
January 24th -

My Darling Wife -

Today there were more preparations for our trip to Calcutta - that first step on my trip which will bring me home to you. At one o'clock this afternoon we had our final physical examination, and after our examination we signed our papers - one like that one I sent home to you listing the clothing that we must have, and another paper stating that we have no live ammunition on our person or concealed in our equipment. You know - a lot of paper work is required to send a man home; paper work is the army's specialty, and on this trip each man carries his own papers! That's the main reason for this inspection tomorrow: it's not to inspect us, but to inspect our records - to see that all the required entries have been made and that they are complete before we return.

Darling, today you solved a packing problem for me - I borrowed one of your ideas. Packing my stationery presented a problem because I didn't want to put the paper in my duffel bag. I wanted to keep it in my musette bag so I can always get to it. My stationery just fits into my bag but this paper is too big. When you sent me papers and envelopes you folded the paper and put it in the envelopes - and that solved my problem. All of those envelopes that you sent are just made to fit one of the compartments in my musette bag - so I put some paper in each envelope - put the envelopes in the compartment and now there's plenty of room for all of my things!

This time there's a feeling in the air - something that just tells us that this is it - and every day more things point toward it. Again the schedule for leaving has been changed - we leave 15 minutes earlier. Breakfast will be served at 5:30 on Saturday morning and at 6:00 we leave. One change that I was glad to see was the one made in uniform. Before, we had been told the uniform would be OD with the blouse, but now it has been changed to fatigues. Traveling 50 miles in the back of a 2 1/2 ton truck would really ruin the uniform - but fatigues can take it in their stride. And did I tell you the latest arrangement for our mail delivery? The mail clerk is going home with us - but he is staying here until the outfit is deactivated on the 30th - and will join us in ^{Calcutta (I missed Leo & Douglas, too?)} ~~Calcutta~~ on the first. Since none of us will leave till the ninth, at least, he is going to save all of the mail that arrives for us between the time we leave and the time he comes down and bring it with him and give it to us when he gets there. So, most likely another week will go by before our mail is forwarded to the States - and I hope a lot of mail arrives this week for him to bring to Calcutta.

Legal came over to visit me today - and since we have two radios here in the Basha and he has none, we gave him one to use while he's here on security. And, he's having so much trouble. He just got a letter from home telling him that their car had been stolen. It was a grand car - four-door Buick '42 - and it was taken from in front of their home. Later, it was found, completely wrecked and deserted. The fellow, a sailor, was caught and is going to be jailed but can't make

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good the damage. He had stolen a car before and been drawn out of it by the Navy, but this time they aren't backing him. And just before it was stolen, Mr. Vogel had had it repainted, had put on a new set of tires and had the car completely checked - but now it is damaged beyond repair. Their family has certainly been having bad luck. He gave me his folk's address - 427 N. Charlotte St. - and wants us to be sure to visit them - so - if you'll record it in our address book we'll go out and visit them sometime.

This doesn't seem like India right now - the Army disappears at night. Every body else in the Basha is in bed - a shaded lamp gives the only light - from the Basha across the way the radio is offering the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, and every thing is so peaceful. I'm so glad that both of us peace and quiet to noise and activity. Patience is a wonderful thing - we have both learned just what it is, and it will always be a part of our life.

I was afraid - I'm still afraid that something may happen between now and the time I get on the boat. When the official news of the 23rd proved to be unofficial, I set the date for our Day back to July to assure us that there would be no more disappointments - and I still haven't completely forgotten that date. Maybe the reason for that is that the Army has made me bitter -; I am bitter, because I've lost faith in everything that is the Army or that is connected in any way to the Army -; no matter what the Army announces, I prefer to believe the exact opposite because it is only a matter of time till it has reached the complete opposite of its first announcement.

There's only one more place that anything could happen -; Hanshrypara - and I'll be a happy fellow when the wait there is ended. Get seasick this time? Darling, I couldn't -; seasickness is all in the mind. and this trip you'll find Van Brakle on the bridge - urging the captain of the ship to maintain full speed ahead and to take all possible short cuts! Why - after the first day out, when a question arises, the answer will be - "Ask Van Brakle!". Darling, that's my next goal - to get on that boat - and then I'll know that the next stop will be Seattle and that in just a little while after landing we'll be having our first phone chat! And they'd better have the railroad strike all settled till I come home - oh, Darling, nothing must hold up that moment we're waiting for -!

One more day in Sids - and I can hardly wait till I can say: one more day in Calcutta! It's time for bed - so let's get ready to crawl under the covers. This paper is really bad - or maybe my tired eyes are just making it blurred - but the blur will change to a furr from your hubby when we cuddle - I love to cuddle with you - Goodnight, my love - God Bless You -

All My Love For You - My Wonderful Wife
I love you very, very much
Hubby Jerry OX