

Thursday, August 16, 1945

Dearest Lee:-

Your letter of the 7th came this morning, but we are hoping that the sentence "maybe I will see you in September" is not true. Of course we realize that the waiting is a hundred times harder on you than on us at home. We have not written, because you told us not to. In this morning's Inquirer is the news that yesterday the troopship Benjamin R. Milan arrived at Boston carrying, among others, members of the 709th Bomber Group; so we were all pepped up thinking you might be in Wilmington before the end of the week. I have always thought that you would get word thru by telephone as soon as you landed in the U.S.A., but the girls seem to think that you won't call until you know just when you will get in Wilmington.

When the news came on Tuesday night of course our first thought was of you. We wondered whether you would hear it if you were in the middle of the ocean. We all went into church, for daddy had it open for prayer. Of course there was wild jubilation down town, but we came home about 10 o'clock. Last night we all went to the communion service, held especially for the occasion. Our first table, as usual, was for those of you who are still away from home. I do hope I can have you by my side in church before too many weeks roll by.

It is a wonderful feeling to look out on a beautiful morning such as this and realize that once more the world is at peace. At the same time it brings an awful responsibility for the months and days ahead. You may know that already gas and fuel oil rationing has been lifted. There are many things which we do not know about yet, but we will still have to be patient. I think the end came before anyone was prepared for it. The atomic bomb is truly an awful thing when used in warfare,

and I am glad the Japanese had sense enough to realize that.

Shirley worked half a day yesterday and will work only a half day today. Most everybody in Wilmington is having a two-day holiday to celebrate. Of course we here at Ferris don't know what a holiday is, what with vacation period, shortage of help, etc. We are using Walter From to take over Ball cottage this weekend. He is somewhat upset, for he has already been accepted and sworn in the Navy and does not know what will happen to him now. Under ordinary circumstances he would be entering Dickinson, but he did not have a steady job all summer to make any money for college, thinking he would be in the service. I imagine there are many boys in the same boat.

It has been so long since I wrote you that I hardly know what news you have had. The Brandywiners came off in fine style. Shirley and Bernice were fine. Indeed, for a small part, Bernice received many, many compliments. She had more acting than singing, but did a swell job. George Wolf came down from Williamsport and I went with him the second Saturday night, using the ticket which was bought for you. I enjoyed it just as much the second time as the first.

Shirley is still working in the lab at the Delaware Hospital and for Dr. Miller. Today will be her first pay day. She seems to like it very much. She has always liked the lab work better than the secretarial end of it. She, Millar and Daugherty are making some tentative plans to go to Rehoboth for the weekend. I don't know whether they will materialize or not. With the lifting of the ban on driving I expect everybody who has a car will be on the road this weekend.

In the absence of Dr. Johns daddy is preaching Every Sunday morning during August at Grace church. Dr. and Mrs. Johns are spending their vacation in Oneonta, N.Y. He is far from well but attempting to hide it. I expect you will notice a difference in him when you get back.

The glads are blooming beautifully now and the hydrangea. We were hoping you would be here before they are all gone.

We, too, saw Winged Victory, some months ago and liked it very much. I suppose to you in the air force such pictures do seem rather melodramatic. Have you seen "Bell for Adano"? It is now playing in Wilmington and daddy and I saw it last week.

I still think the sentence saying you would see us in September was written when you were rather "down" and tired of the waiting; and that we will see you sometime this month. I have always said you would be home on the Queen Mary or Queen Elizabeth. I notice that the Queen Mary is scheduled to arrive next Wednesday. Your mail here is piling up. By the way, a week or so ago I had a call from a Capt. Riggs from the airbase, who was being transferred to Pittsburgh. He called for you, said you did not know him but "Monty" had asked him to call. Since then a letter from a lieut. Montgomery in Texas has arrived for you. Gullio never called back or came to see us.

Now keep your chin up. With these late developments maybe it won't be too long before you are discharged from the army and able to get back into college. We have so very much to be thankful for, don't we?

With all our love.

Mother