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Monday, July 26. [1943]

Dear Lee:

Your letter to Shirley came Sunday morning. We are wondering whether (as long as you get tips) there is a method in your madness of being on M.M. Sunday, or whether you were "gigged" and had to be on. I do hope you get a look at Los Angeles as long as you are so close.

Last night we were over to the Hering's,- with Dr. & Mrs. Wagner and Dr. & Mrs. Miller and had a pleasant time celebrating Mussolini's downfall. I hope we can be together sometime in the not too distant future to celebrate the downfall of Hitler. I suppose we should not be too jubilant until we know more of the details, but it looks to me as though Italy will be trying to make a separate peace and that too much fighting will not be necessary in order to enter Italy.

A card came from Miss Horner this morning. She is now in Atlanta learning how to operate Link Trainers so that she, in turn, can teach boys in the naval air corps. She seems to be quite tickled with her work so far, and I guess she has gotten a pretty nice "break".

Charles McKeever took Shirley out Saturday night. He leaves for Camp Meade on Wednesday of this week. Mr. Carr has already gone and Mr. Durkee's name was in Saturday's paper as one of those in the next group to leave Wilmington, which I suppose will be within the next two weeks. Mr. Salisbury of Claymont has already gone. Ever one is asking "when will Mr. Howie be called?"

Daddy preached at Red Clay Creek Sunday morning, the minister there having taken sick, so the rest of us stayed at home. I was quite tired for I had had a most strenuous week and spent a good part of the day resting up. Dr. Johns leaves for his vacation this week, to be gone until after Labor Day, which means that daddy will be preaching for six Sundays. How he is going to get time to work on sermons with his already full schedule I do not know. Another air raid drill is scheduled for this week according to this morning's paper.

I sent off a box today with some underclothes and socks. You still have more at home if you want them. I'll try to get the other things you mentioned sent off later.

I planted some poppy seeds in your section of the garden this year, some which Mrs. Hanning had given me from the Peters' farm last year and which didn't get planted. They have come up and are now blooming nicely. One double fringed one is particularly pretty. So far the beetles have not bothered them. I find that by burning the stems as soon as the flowers are picked they will last several days. Otherwise they wilt almost immediately. The first glads are out. We had a thundershower this morning, so I have a boy weeding and cultivating this afternoon.

Of course I'm thinking of you these days as you are going thru so many tests, etc. I cannot imagine you handling a machine gun, but I suppose you can do it as well as the rest of them. I only hope you

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never have to use one.

Take good care of yourself. Lots of love from allof [sic] us.

Mother