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February 4, 1944

Dear Lee:

We were sorry to learn from your letter that you were not able to get a call through to us last Sunday night. I think Sunday is the safest night to call if you can. How about trying on February 13? So far as I know we will all be there,- in fact if you say you will call then we will make it a point to be.

By this time you have gotten daddy's letter about the clothes I guess. Too bad about the loss of those wallets. Over the weekend I will look around the house to see if we have any negatives which you would want developed. I was about to ask you to bring some films home when you come, for we haven't been able to get any lately. But I will try again and I've also written Shirley to be on the lookout. Sometimes she can get things in Williamsport which we cannot get here in Wilmington.

Daddy and I had an interesting experience on Monday night. Mr. Hering called and asked us to come over to his house to meet a General Irwin. He was at Bataan and Corregidor,- in fact was the one who gave to Romulo the Philippine [sic] leader the orders for him to leave. Gen. Irwin went off in the last sub which carried many of the nurses, having been ordered to go because he was sick. I believe he said they were submerged for 14 days. I think the trip took 18 days altogether to get them to Australia. He has been given a medical discharge. We were surprised to learn that he is only 50 years old, for his hair is snow white and he looks at least 60; but one can't go thru such experiences I am sure and not show it physically as well as otherwise. He has been in the army practically all of his life since his graduation from the U. of Wyoming, and I imagine it will be hard for him to adjust himself to civilian life. He is now trying to locate a job. He has two boys, 17 and 10.

You will be interested to learn about Rothmel and Buchanan.

Bernice has been home with a bad cold practically all week, but went out today. A.I. plays Conrad on their home court tonight but she is not going out for she still has some cold in her system.

Shirley's mark for her first semester at school arrived this morning,- All A's except Phy. Ed, which is a B. And she has a stiff course with chemistry. I suppose she told you that she is now starting in with voice lessons, which means not only the lesson but practising for both ensemble and quartet work. She may not learn anything new as far as method is concerned but it will help her to keep in shape and increase her repertoire. Almost every week she writes home about a different cadet whom she likes. They say there is safety in numbers, you know.

I would like to have looked in on the wedding last Saturday. Who was the more

nervous,- the groom or you?

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Daddy was talking to Mr. Wales Davis, of Baynard's, yesterday. He has a son now home on his first furlough in over a year. He has come up from Texas, near Amarillo. He was given a 15 day furlough and extra days for the "transition period", that is the time necessary to travel home and to travel back, which in his case was 4 days. I just talked to the boy on the telephone a few minutes ago to try to get the "low down" on it. He says it is something new and feels that if you ask for it you can be allowed this extra time for "transition". He says it was handed out at his post without their even asking for it. So try to trace this down if you can and contact the proper officer to find out if such a thing is possible for you to arrange. You might as well get all the time off it is possible for you to have, for you have certainly earned it, and I think some allowance ought to be made because you have never been home. See what you can do.

Lots of love.

Mother