

Sunday afternoon
July 30, 1944

Dear 'H.P.' —

Now, don't tell me that you aren't any H.P. or I'll hit you. Everyone in the Air Corps at least thinks he is, even if he isn't. I was so glad to get your lovely long letter, but today is the first time I've had time to write any letters in ages. It's quite, quite warm here today, but I expect it's the same or worse down in the "sunny south." I've been writing letters just about all afternoon and all of them to soldiers too! Keeps me busy, you know, signing my pic-up pictures.

We've really been working on Broadway since lately. Four or five nights a week. Last week we started at the Drama League. It's quite small but the stage and lighting the best. There are no windows except small ones in the dressing rooms so we all get quite hot. We've been rehearsing until twelve almost every night. Today night we had our first dress rehearsal. The perspiration just rolled off with woolen costumes and long, heavy court dresses. It's going to be awful when we give it! I guess you see all the pictures in the paper. In the Star today there is a shot of the chorus with me in

it. We are all sold-out now except
for a few Saturday night tickets. They
are talking about giving an extra
performance if we are sold-out for
the six scheduled nights. We do
have quite a lot of fun, though! It
takes up an awful lot of my
time, but it makes the summer
go faster. Jessie and I really do
have fun. She's the sweetest girl!

Did you see where Gloria
Compara was married! Do you know
the fellow? Also, Richard Rose! Jessie
said she got an announcement
of Laura Jane's marriage, but it
hasn't been announced yet!

Gordon was home last week. He
really does look grand. He's down
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia for a month
and then he'll go back to Camp
Grant, Illinois. He says they are
trying to get him to go to
O.C.S. but he won't. He doesn't
seem to - think much of his
office!

Did mother tell you about going
down to Fort DuPont last week? We
surely did have fun and it was
interesting to see all the German
prisoners. I've never been down
before and I liked it a lot. Made
me feel right at home to see
so many soldiers together again!
Captain Flood was very nice and
Dessie and I think he's swell.

I talked to Mr. Hyatt about
next year and asked him what
he thought. He said he never
pushed any one into studying voice

because it took so long and was
so uncertain. But he said that
if I wanted to I could take
from him and go up to New York
to Mr. Stanley about once a month. Then
I would take piano from Mrs. Hill
and probably have to get her
to play my accompaniments. He also
thought I could take a French
diction course at Bellevue. That's
quite a full schedule, I know, but
it could be done. After we planned
all this, I had another person.
He told me then that he had
been thinking more about it and
was getting pretty enthusiastic. I
haven't had a minute to get
mother and dad to see what
they think of it yet, but I better
soon. I still am not certain in
my own mind just what would
be best. I think of all the
fun I will have if I go back
to school, but then I think of
my music. So, it's still up in
the air. What do you think of
what we have planned if I do
stay home? I'm open for suggestions.
The rest Caroline is there back the
other night. He seems like a
grand fellow and they both are
crazy as ever. Bernice and I are
going over to her apartment sometime
to see her. I can't really see
her married, can you?

The puppets are coming along

fine, now. We have Gings' house over
by the cellar steps in the shade
and we put them out there during
the day. They can walk pretty
well now! One of them even got
half way down the cellar steps
and was just squealing its head
off. Its legs weren't long enough
to get back up. They are really
getting better every day.

Well, dear, I guess this is
all my news now. Hope you aren't
working too hard. I hope you
will be able to bring your crew
here sometime and I think Bernice
and May and I could keep them
entertained. Swell idea, no thanks! Write
when you can and even when
you can't. Seein' you, so 'til then -

Lots of love,
Shirley