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July 4, 1945

Dearest Lee,

Another Fourth of July has come and almost gone. It has not been at all like the one I had looked forward to this year for you were not with us. Early this morning some motor planes flew over and Bernice and I were sure one went over the house twice which raised our hopes that it might be you. But no such luck. I spent about an hour in the office. The rest

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of the day I took care of odds & ends around the house where I've been all day. Daddy of course was on hand for the closing day at Delaware Park. One of our runaways was picked up yesterday by the Rehoboth police, so this morning daddy sent Walter down after him. Bernice rode along and they stayed long enough to have a swim before returning. Shirley and May spent a couple of hours at the pool together. Tonight Walter and the girls went to see the movies - "The Clock." Daddy is in bed and I'm waiting for the girls.

Jane Ballard called me about 6 o'clock asking if I had heard from you. Meredith landed in town this morning and called her about 5 p.m. She was so excited she could hardly talk about it. He expects to get to Wilmington Saturday or Sunday. I do hope you get here before his leave is up. We have decided that you must be waiting until the last man in the

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8th Air Force has left England.

Last night daddy took the Boykins and me to a band concert by a group from the Infantry - in connection with the 7th War Loan. It was a fine concert - not only selections by the band but vocal, violin, piano solos, glee club, etc. Before the war some of the men were outstanding in the musical field - members of the National Symphony Orchestra, St. Opera Co., etc. All of the men have seen active duty overseas and most of them

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have been in the army for 3 years or more. It speaks well for the army I think that these men are being given a chance to do what was their "first love" before the war.

Shirley is invited out to Emily's for lunch tomorrow. She was to have had her picture taken yesterday for publicity for "Iolanthe" but the costumes did not arrive. You should hear Bernice telling how she and Julia have to "ballet"

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in the performance. I certainly hope and pray you will be here to enjoy the performances by your sisters and your best girl.

I don't know whether you remember Chas. Gibson who used to be here at the school. He came out to see daddy today, having flown over from Paris two days ago. I think he made it in a day, but Jane said it took Meredith nine days.

Kenneth, the negro boy who has been working here at the house for some time, went home on parole today, so we will have to break in a new houseboy. The boys we are getting now are of lower calibre than we used to get and it is hard to find one who will fit in properly here.

Goodnight dear. We have missed you so much today and I know your thoughts have been of home. It is even harder on you, es-

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pecially in these days of comparative inactivity. What a lot we will have to make up together!

With all my love.

Mother