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[August 8/16]

Thursday [August 16, 1945]

Dear Lee,

Well, what a disappointment we all had this morning when your letter came. We had hoped you'd be home sometime this week, since we saw in the paper that the 709th landed in Boston yesterday.

Lots has certainly happened since we've last written. The war is over!! Tuesday night Walt and I had just started out for the movie when sirens and horns began blowing all over the place. People ran out on the streets, some laughing, others crying hysterically. We got to 4th and Market, then abandoned the bus to walk. What a fight to walk up the pavements - crowded with people! We finally made it, in about half an hour, to 9th and decided to go to church. There we met mother and Shirley, who had driven in May. Shirley, Walt and I got out as

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soon as we could and tore back to the center of the city, which was really rockin'. By this time all motor traffic up Market had ceased and people surged up and down, throwing paper, waving flags, screaming and singing. We met Dar and Ruth, then ran into two fellow from Brandywiners with their girls. The ten of us formed a long line with the boys on the ends and went rocketing up and down, seeing people we knew, shouting and laughing. About 10:30 we discovered how hungry we were and set out to find a place to eat. Settled at the Kozy Korner we planned what to do next - Sony and Joe had to leave - so we all planned to go out to Dars, as things were getting a little rough down town. Upon arriving there, Dar and Fred Harvey, who had joined our ranks, went out and got some PM and soda. We all had a drink, except Walt, Dar and Fred, who had at least five. After his fifth

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Walt decided to take two straights, and boy, did he get sick!! Sure was lucky Ruth was there to treat them, 'cause on seeing him, Dar upchucked all over upstairs. What a time we had, dousing the both of them in cold water and hot coffee. Finally, practically carrying Walt, we got Han, Shirley, he and I in the car headed for home. Walt really was a sight, not drunk, just sick, with his hair and shirt soaking wet from the water we'd slopped over him. He made it into the house after stumbling on the last step and we all breathed a deep sigh of relief.

Yesterday practically no one worked and we drove around a dead town viewing the remains of the celebration. At 8:15 the church held communion and it was most impressive.

Oh, by the way, I know you wouldn't say a word, but keep

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the celebration stuff under your bonnet, huh? Thanks!

May is spending this week with us 'cause her dad and mom are away on vacation. Boy, do we have fun when we get together!!

I've been busying myself getting ready for college, making clothes and stuff. It starts on the 16th and I got the orientation week schedule today. I'm really all excited and can scarcely wait to be off.

Well, I'd better be off now, or lunch won't be ready when ma gets home.

Lots of Love luck,

Bernice