

N. Korea
July 10, 1951

Hello Darling,

How is my loved one today? Fine, I hope. I'm still O.K. I have been eating so much lately til I am darn near sick. We are getting pretty good food now.

According to the peace talks that they had yesterday, everything seems to be going all right, but the fighting still continues. Maybe in a few more days, they will have a cease fire order out. Wouldn't it be nice?

I have heard rumors that we may go into Corps Reserve the 17th of this month. If we do, we will either go back to Wonju, Taegu, or Masan. That is the way to hell back there. As I said, it is a rumor, and I will believe it only when we get there.

I went back to Bn. In a truck last night to see a movie. It was "The Lemon Drop Kid" with Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell. If you have a chance, be sure to see it. It is quite comical.

Darling, you have heard the song no doubt called "A Rainbow at Midnight." Well, I actually saw a rainbow at midnight last night. It had rained all day yesterday, and last night. They had 4 powerful search lights burning, and, by gosh, you could see a rainbow just as plain as if it were daylight. It reminded me of the song right away. I always did think it was a pretty song.

How is Phillip? Do you think that he will be walking soon?

I never did get that box of cookies, darling. I guess some ass hole stole them out of the mail.

I am sitting listening to a coo-coo bird. They will run you nuts! Did I tell you about killing one the other day? I shot him with my carbine. They are about the size of a crow and are brown, white, black, blue, and gray – something like a pigeon.

The only thing that I can complain about now is the mail. I haven't had any for 3 days.

I LOVE YOU, SWEETHEART VERY MUCH – A BUSHEL AND A PECK.

Your loving husband.

Masan, Korea
July 28, 1951

Dearest Darling,

How is my sweet little baby today? In the best of health, I hope. As for myself, I am in dam good condition now.

I'm sorry that I haven't written lately, but I have been busy.

Guess what, darling! I darn near came home this month. I would have been discharged and would be a free man by the middle of August, but they caught up with me. Back at the company, they had me down as being called back to active duty the 10th of August, 1950. At the present time, all men who were called back before then are being discharged.

I left Inje 4 days ago by truck and went to Chungchan. From there, I went by plane to Pusan. After they found out that I wasn't supposed to go home, they sent me here to Masan. It is the same place that I was last December. If they hadn't found out, I would have been in Japan tomorrow.

I have a buddy here in Masan, and he is going to try to keep me here. I hope it works out. I am living in a barracks back here, and we have liberty, although I haven't been out yet. From what I was told yesterday, I will not leave here till the middle of October and be home till the middle of November. I figure I should be home with a discharge by then. I've been over here 7 months now.

Well, darling, Phillip is 1 year old today. Does it seem to you like it has been that long? It seems like years to me.

This morning at 8:00, I remembered that one year ago I was sitting outside the delivery room, very anxiously waiting.

I wish the war would get over so that I could come home. It seems like we have been apart for 10 years already. We will have to make up for a lot of lost time.

I am sending my new address. Please give it to Mother, also. I love you dearly, sweetheart.

*New Address:
H & S Co. - 1st Bn - 5th Mar.
Administration Headquarters
1st Marine Division, % F.P.O
San Francisco, Calif*

Your loving husband,

James E.

Inje, Korea
August 4, 1951

Dearest Darling,

How is my sweet little baby today? Very fine, I hope. I'm O.K., except being a little broken hearted. I sure wish that I could have pulled that deal. Then I would have been home by the 20th of this month. I'm back in Inje now with all of my old buddies. I feel much better being back with them.

I got a letter from you today, the first that I had had from anyone in 9 days. The boys said that I had about 8 other letters while I was gone, but they sent them back to the Division. Maybe I will get them again in a week or two.

If you said anything important between July 25 and August 4, please tell me about it in your next letter. As I said before, it may be a while before I get the old letters back.

So Mother wanted to give Phillip a birthday party! I bet it was some party. Ha! When are you ever going to make that boy walk? Stand him on his feet and lead him around. It won't take him long to learn that way.

How are all of your people feeling now? Fine, I hope.

Well, darling, as things are now, I should be home about the middle of November with a discharge. Yes, darling, if nothing goes wrong between now and then, I should be a civilian again by then.

The only chance I have of coming home before then is for the war to end, and I have my doubts about that.

There isn't much to say, darling, except that I love you dearly – very dearly.

Your loving husband,

James F

Inje, Korea
August 5, 1951

Hello Sweetheart,

How is my baby this afternoon? In the best of health, I hope. I am really feeling good today, baby. I got 5 letters from you this morning. I am glad to hear that Phillip is walking now. It is about time. Ha! So Mrs. Ethredge had her baby and is O.K. I'm very glad to hear that.

Darling, I thought that you were going to quit work on the 14th of March. Did you change your mind?

So the people back there think that I will be home soon. Ha Ha! Where do they get all of their information? No, darling, I won't be home in August. I only wish that I could be there then. As I have it figured now, I should be eating Thanksgiving dinner with you and be a civilian again. Won't that be nice?

I also heard today that the peace talks have been called off. If they have, I will be seeing more combat. I hope not, because my luck won't hold out forever. One of my friends was over here 8 months before he got killed. Being in combat is something like a dice game. You can't win always – sooner or later you are bound to throw a 7. Well, I still have faith, and I am hoping for the best.

Phillip got a lot of nice things? I guess he didn't know what was going on, or didn't care. Darling, I thought you didn't like cats. What made you change your mind?

I was offered a promotion to corporal (Cpl.), but I told them to jam it up their ass. I dam sure don't want it. I'm getting out of this dam outfit as soon as possible. The sooner, the better.

The 11th Replacement Draft came in yesterday. That makes 7 drafts that have come over since I got here. That is a devil of a lot of men, but, of course, we have lost a hell of a lot of them.

Darling, have you sent me any cigars lately? I haven't had a package from you in 6 weeks. That box of cookies that you mailed 3 months ago never did get here.

It rained like the devil here last night. I went to the movie, and I got soaked to the skin. So you had a dream about me? I must close now, darling. I love you with all my heart and soul. All my love,

Your ever loving husband,

James E.

Inje, Korea
August 18, 1951

Hello Baby,

How is my sweetheart today? In the best of health, I hope.

Baby, it is so dam hot here today that my ass is frying. If it wasn't for exaggerating, I would say that it is 150 degrees today.

Today I found out that I have \$325.00 on the books. From the way it looks, I will have \$5,000 before they let me leave this dam place. If they keep me over here much longer, I'll be damned if I won't take out Korean citizenship papers. Tomorrow we are going back up on line. We are supposed to be up there 10 days and come back here.

Darling, I haven't had but one letter from you in 5 days now. I get so g-dam mad when I don't get any mail from you that I could bust a f----- gut. I just can't understand it. I got a letter from Mother - a short one and from a stranger - Jasper. It was the first one from him in 5 months. Half of the g-dam letter was apologizing for not writing sooner. He says that he broke his foot not long ago. He said that he was going to work in one of his company's new plants at a raise. He talked like he wanted me to go to work with him when I get back.

I don't give a f----- if I never finish school, but I am going back in January. I know we wouldn't have much money for a long time, but a college degree would mean a hell of a lot to me.

Darling, If I don't get out of here in another 45 days, I will go crazy as hell. They will have to put me in the bug house for sure. I miss you and Phillip so much that it is pathetic.

Do you think they will ever sign that peace treaty? If they don't, you can bet your sweet ass that I will be getting shot at again. If I could only get out of here, I wouldn't give a dam if they fought this war for 100 years. They could put an end to this shit right now if they wanted to.

Mother tells me that my little cousin that is 16 is expecting a baby. Starting pretty young, isn't she? Well, darling, I will have to stop now. I love you with all my heart, darling.

Your loving husband,

James E.

P.S.: I am sending you a piece of the new type military currency.

Inje, Korea
September 3, 1951

Hello Darling,

How is my dear one today? Fine, I hope. As for myself, I am O.K. My right hand and left leg are still bandaged, but I feel fine.

They have brought in several casualties from the 7th Marines and the K.M.C. lately.

We have certainly had some cold weather in the past 2 weeks. It is cold enough in the mornings and evenings now to wear a jacket. At night I have been using 3 blankets and a sleeping bag, and I still get cold. I don't guess I thawed out good from last winter. Ha!

I would never have thought that I would be in this place to see cold weather come around again, but it looks as if I am going to be here for a while.

If I recall right, school started today. I bet all the children were glad.

How is Phillip? I hope he is fine.

I haven't been able to get any mail from you in over a week, darling, so don't know much to write.

I do love you very much, sweetheart.

Your loving husband,

James F

Inje, Korea
September 11, 1951

Dearest Darling,

How is my loved one today? Fine, I hope. I'm in good health myself.

I thought that I would leave here a couple of days ago, but the doctor said he was going to keep me here a little longer. A couple of spots on my hand are still tender.

I wish I could get back with the company. I haven't had a letter from you in 2 weeks. I get awfully blue when I can't hear from you.

How is Phillip? Fine, I hope. I guess he is walking everywhere now. I sure do miss you, darling. I wouldn't want anything else in the world if I could be near you, baby. God only knows how much I've missed you.

Last night a K.M.C. officer committed suicide here in the ward. He shot himself with a 45 through the heart. When I heard the shot, I got nervous as hell.

I guess I have had too many close calls. His body is lying on the ground outside about 10 feet from me now.

News is scarce.

I love you, sweetheart.

Your loving husband,

James E.

Inje, Korea
October 14, 1951

Dearest Darling,

How's my sweet baby today? In the best of health, I hope. I'm still fine myself. I finally got cleaned up. I certainly do feel good.

We got beer yesterday. I bought 2 cases and put in for another case today. I guess I will get a fill of beer for a while.

Things still sound good. I may get to leave here this month after all. I still have my doubts, though. I can tell you one thing for sure, though, and that is that I will be home for Christmas now. You can start preparing for that now. I may not get there till Christmas, but I bet I'm coming. The only thing that would stop me now is for the communists to make a break through on the lines. I hope they never do that.

How is Phillip doing? Fine, I hope. I hope that everyone else is O.K., also.

I must go now. I love you very much, sweetheart.

Your loving and affectionate husband.

Inje, Korea
October 23, 1951

Dearest Darling,

How is my loved one today? In the very best of health, I hope.

Darling, I hope you will forgive me for not writing lately, but I have been down in the dumps for a week. Up until last night, I had had only 4 letters from you in 8 days. I was really feeling low.

Well, darling, I won't leave here this month. I am on the next reserve rotation list that leaves. That much is for certain. Yesterday, the Company Commander told me that I would leave her approximately the 15th of November. That means that I should be home by the 20th of December – maybe even on December 25th. I do hope and pray that nothing stops me from coming home then.

We are going back on line the 2nd of November. That means that I will have to spend at least 2 more weeks on line. I hope nothing tragic happens.

I'm glad to hear that everyone is doing fine. I love you with all my heart, darling, and I will prove it to you in not too many more days.

ALL my LOVE.

Your loving husband,

James E.

P.S.: I am sending some pictures taken 4 months ago.

Inje, Korea
November 1, 1951

Dearest Darling,

How is my loved one today? Enjoying the best of everything, I hope. As for myself, I am in good condition, although I am homesick as the devil. Our mail calls are still messed up, but I still manage to get a letter every now and then.

There hasn't been any new word as to when the next list will leave. I guess it will be darn close to the 25th of November. I am still hoping that it will be then.

I know that it was fun at the Shreveport fair. Mother said that Dean had quite a time. I wish that you and I could have gone. Don't you?

Speaking of having children, you and I will have 12 more when I get back. Maybe that will keep me out of the next war. Ha Ha! No, I don't think we will do anything quite that drastic.

How is Phillip doing? Fine, I hope.

I'm still trying to be home by Christmas.

I love you, sweetheart – very dearly.

Your loving husband.

Inje, Korea
November 6, 1951

Dearest Darling,

How is my sweet little baby today? Enjoying the best of everything, I certainly hope. I am in fair shape myself – fat and bull-headed!

There has been no further news on rotation.

We got 3 shots yesterday. One was for cholera. The serum was so powerful that it was like a mule kicking you in the arm.

I got drunk as a dog last night. A buddy of mine from Ohio got a bottle from his wife in a package. It was the first sizeable amount of whiskey that I had had in a year. I really got stinking!

We are going back up on the lines in 3 more days. We leave here the 9th. I hope my time up there will be limited this time.

So Phillip dozed in church? That's bad manners, isn't it? Ha!

Darling, in the past 30 days, I have had only 15 letters from you. You must be slacking up on your writing.

I will go now. I hope to see you in the near future, darling. I love you with all my heart, sweetheart.

Your loving husband.

*Inje, Korea
November 10, 1951*

Dearest Darling,

How is my loved one today? In the best of health, I hope. As for myself, I am O.K.

Well, we leave tonight at 12:00 to go back up on line. I never thought I would have to go back. I am still hoping that I won't have to be up there over 2 weeks.

I got to see another stage show yesterday. It was Danny Kaye and Monica Lewis and June Brunner who was over here 4 months ago with the Jack Benny show

I got drunk again 3 nights ago. We paid \$130.00 (one hundred thirty dollars) for 6 quarts of whiskey. Pretty high priced, wasn't it? I won \$50.00 playing poker, so I am still ahead.

Nothing's new except that it is cold as hell.

I still hope to be home by Christmas.

I love you with all my heart, darling – very, very much.

Your loving husband

*On line in Korea
November 25, 1951*

Dearest Darling,

How is my loved one today? In the very best of health, I certainly hope. As for me, I am in a dam good mood tonight, for tomorrow I begin my long and tedious journey back to the U.S.A. It is hard to believe, darling, but I guess it is the truth.

It won't be too many more days before we will be together again. We have been apart almost 14 months. That's a long time too, isn't it baby?

I have been in Korea exactly 11 months today. Darn near a year! God, what a long time to spend in a place like this.

I haven't had any mail for 3 days.

We have been snowed under. It has been snowing all day, starting again. We now have over two feet of snow and, boy, is it cold! Everything is covered with a white blanket as far as you can see.

Well, darling, as of the time that you receive this letter, you can quit writing. I will not be here to receive your mail. The next time I hear from you, it will be over the telephone, and shortly after that, we will be side by side.

I must go now, darling. I love you with all my heart.

Your loving husband