

Monday

{ 10-9-44 }

Dear Coz:

Thought it a good time to drop you a line now that I have some time on my hands. I'm typing this during work, so if it sounds a little mixed-up, chalk it up to that fact.

Well, this week is the week for Norm leaving on his shakedown cruise. This cruise is used for the purpose of testing the ships durability under regular war conditions and just how well it was constructed. Norm will be gone for about 6 to 8 weeks and oh! am I going to be lonesome? I intend staying here while he's gone, that is if I can stick it out. I know I'll be lonely and homesick. Living in a town where you have no friends and nothing to do in the evening can make you go nuts. But I'll take a stab at it before I run home to Momma. After the shakedown cruise, Norm will return to Boston, probably get a five day leave (of course we'll come home) and stay on here until the ship is repaired. That's the reason I want to stay on here. I'm working and the time shouldn't pass too slowly. If I came home, it would be only for a few weeks and I'd return to Boston to stay with Norm as long as he'll be around. If there are a lot of repairs to be done to the ship he should be around anywhere from three to 5 weeks, naturally, depending on just what has to be done. After that he'll leave for the real boatride at which time I come home to stay.

It certainly was a shame about Harry First, gosh, I felt so miserable when Mom and Edie wrote and told me about him. Gee, with that family when it rains, it pours. Both parents being ill, and now Harry's death. It's a lousy war!

Received a letter from Babe (Roz) last week as she had quite a bit of news to tell me. I miss her so darn much it's not even funny. We not only are cousins but are good friends besides and that makes me miss her that much more. She must be excited as all blazes over Rosey's coming home, who knows we might have another wedding in the family soon.

I don't remember whether I told you what kind of a job I have or not, so I'll go into a description of it. It's a transfer of my old civil service job to the Engineers office here. My hours are 8.30 to 5 but listen to this setup, Mollye. Everyone gets two reliefs a day which are 15 minutes long each. Everyone takes one half hour for each one. Lunch hour is supposed to be one half an hour, everyone takes one hour. But your cousin Roz is smart and takes 1 hour and 45 minutes for lunch. Here's how. Since everyone goes to lunch (the big shots) at 12, I type all my personal correspondence from 12 to 1. 1 to 1.45 I take my regular lunch hour. So in all, I work five hours a day. Pretty soft, isn't it. And the actual work is child's play for me. Not only is the job soft but it's within walking distance saving me carfare.

Our room is swell. Large, a bedroom and living room combined and a small kitchen in the corner of it. I cook every once in a while. That is when Norm comes home early. Otherwise he eats at his mess hall. We're a 10 minute walk from the heart of town and there's plenty to do here. Lots of movies, department stores, night clubs, theatres and THE NAVY. Wow, you never saw so many sailors in your life. It isn't safe for a girl to walk alone in the evening, not unless she wants to be picked up. That Navy is really hungry!

What's new around the town? If anyone should know, you should, so don't forget to let me in on it.

If you should see Aarno, my kid brother, give him hell, Mollye, for me. That kid hasn't written me a letter once, and you can tell him I'm boiling mad.

Norm and I are happy as can be under the circumstances, that knowing our happiness is only for a short while. Well, the war can't last forever, and if God is good to us, we'll have the rest of our lives to catch up on that happiness we're being cheated out of now.

You should see him, Mollye, he never looked better in his life. He's gained about 5 pounds, and has lost that hollowed look in his cheeks. And he looks so darling in his mustache. They say a bride is supposed to be happy and gain weight. Well, I'm happy, but instead of gaining weight, I'm losing. I've lost about 5 lbs so far, and can't figure out why. Well, when I come home again, with Mom's good care, I'll gain it back. Gosh, I miss her so darn much, she's so sweet and loveable. She's a Mom in a million and I love her.

Norm is very keen on my getting those contact lenses even though Mom doesn't approve. What I'll probably have to do is this--find out on the QT if I can wear them and if I can argue it out from there with her. If I can't, I'll just forget about it. I want so badly though to get them, so I hope I can get them.

I also intend dying my hair when I get back. Maybe youd I can take a run up to Philly together when I get back. We can both go to the beauty parlor and take a show in. What do you think of the idea?

Well, coz I'll say so long for a while. Write when you get a chance, which I hope is soon. Give our love to you Mom and Dad and especially to yourself.

Cousins " " "

" Norm + Roz "

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