

Box 1: folder 1

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave South Brooklyn Station Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Cleveland O Apr 6 1923

Cleveland Ohio April 4, 1923

Miss Beatrice Keeran;

Dear Beatrice at last I have found time to write you a few lines and even now my time is limited to eight minutes. I did not write for lack of time & paper until today and do you know what Im having done Im having a cute little picture frame made to fit that picture of you. Ive been thinking of you day and night since Ive last seen you and that seems like a month and while I was thinking of you and wondering whether you would ever turn me down because Im not fast enough or something like that I made up a little poem here it is

Tis sweet to love but oh how bitter
To love a girl and then not git 'er

isnt that nice I was just hoping it would never come true in our case dont you. Well Bee Ive got about one minute to get the Dinky so I can meet the old man on time so I am closing with one X fore Growler and XXXXXXXXXXXX for you

I remain Your Friend
(Porter)
Emil Thomas

P.S. Excuse the Scribble drop me a line when youve got time

Box 1: folder 2

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Brooklyn Station Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 8 1925 [return address] From Private E G Thomas Post Band
Quantico Virginia

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Sept 7 1925 Post Band Quantico Va

Dear Friend

You may have forgotten me a long time ago but I havent. Ill tell you who I am Im Emil Thomas I was looking through a book of mine today and found your address in it I have tried for a long time to get it but never succeeded but now I am glad I found it Im at the Marine Barracks here Im a Marine since June 15 I left Cleveland that day I tried to see you or get your address before I left but couldn't I joined one day and left the next day for Parris Island in South Carolina where I put in 10 weeks of hard training and now Im in Quantico Virginia I am hoping your folks wont care about you getting letters from an old School mate Im taking a chance and writing at any rate

How are you and everybody else up there? I want you to write me a nice letter and tell me if it will be alright to write again but above all things don't you forget to write Im closing now so you may address my mail to

Private Emil Thomas
Post Band
Quantico Virginia

Box 1: folder 2

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Brooklyn Station Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 12 1925

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Sept 11 1925 Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dear Bee:

I just got your letter today and it sure cheered me up. You know it gets pretty lonesome down here some times when I don't hear from anybody at home

You told me you just got back from your vacation Im glad you had a nice time you say you saw the Ohio State Fair. I never was at the Fair but Ive heard a lot about it

You want to know about the Marines Well Im a marine so Im going to tell you what I ~~was~~ went through I joined the Marines on June 11, 1925 Left Cleveland on June 15 at 9 PM got into Cincinnati at 6:00 AM on June 16 traveled through Kentucky Tennessee and Alabama and got to Atlanta Georgia and stayed over night and left the next morning at six and went on through Georgia and on to South Carolina ~~from~~ through Carolina to the Atlantic coast to Port Royal then we took the Govt. Ferry across to Parris Island we put in a whole week at the Receiving Barracks and went over to the East Wing where we drilled for three weeks more and all the time we were under quarantine and taking inoculations in our arm with a hypodermic needle about 4 inches long and our arms sure were sore we finally got through there then we went to the West Wing where we did 1 solid week of K.P. Duty that is Kitchen Police or Messmen Cooking and waiting on the tables Then for the next four weeks we shot the Rifle Range and all this while we were nothing but recruits we had to say (sir) even to the corporals but after we shot the Range we were transferred here to Quantico and now were not recruits anymore and we have it easy here we have good eats to ice cream twice a week we have cake and pie and everything. Ive got it easy now I blow a trombone now and I practice from 8:30 AM till 10 AM then Im off until 8:30 next morning this week Im shooting the Range but then I wont shoot again for a year and all Ill have to do will be to practice from 8:30 till 10 and then eat sleep and eat some more

You wrote about the Shenendoah well I knew one of the Fellows as got killed on it there were two men that were transferred from the marines to the Navy and were put on the Shenendoah The Guard at its hanger were Marines that I knew stationed at Lakehurst New Jersey Im closing now so I can go and eat so I Remain

Semper Fidelis
Porter

My address Private Emil G Thomas Post Band Quantico

Write Soon

Box 1: folder 2

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Brooklyn Station Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 21 1925 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico
Virginia

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Sept 20 1925 Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dear Friend,

In my last letter to you I told you that I was shooting the range. Didn't I? Well Im done with the Rifle Range now and I made (Marksman) by a score of 262 points. Next week I go out and shoot the Pistol Range I hope to make as good on the Pistol Range as I did with the Rifle.

I saw a good picture last night the name of it is (Grounds for Divorce) and it sure is a good picture. We have a free picture show here every night but Friday and then we have a free dance and [people come from Washington D.C. to attend. The Govt. runs a special train to & from Washington every night people coming to & from the shows and dances don't even need a ticket. Dont you wish you lived in Washington?

How are you and your folks. How do you like school this term. What subjects are you taking up. Im taking a course to only mine is from the (Marine Corps Institute) Im taking up Railway Postal Clerk.

Im getting a few pictures made that I took on my trip to Panama & the tropics Ive got a picture of a saloon where they sell the real stuff at 60¢ per qt. and its not poison either. Ive also got pictures on Board the ship USS Henderson, the ship I went on she made another trip after I got here & she pulls in at Quantico again today at 11 oclock A.M. so Im going down & see her dock so Ill close & hope you will write

Your Schoolmate
Porter
Emil

Box 1: folder 2

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Brooklyn Station Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 25 1925 [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas Post Band Quantico
Virginia

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dear Friend:

Ive got a few minutes left till lights go out around here so Im going to try to pencil you a few
lines

Do you remember I said in one of my other letters that I may some up to Cleveland some time in
eh near Future? Well I was wondering if you could let me come & see you when I do come up you
know its so long since I last saw you. Id like also to get a picture of you to keep on my shelf here. So if
you have a spare snapshot of yourself it would make me very happy if you would send it to me

How is Techs Football team coming out Are they doing any fancy playing.

How are you getting along in your violin are you practicing very regular. I don't get any to
much time to practice my trombone because Im taking a course in (Railway Postal Clerk) and it takes a
lot of study then to Im studying Phsycology and its pretty deep and requires lots of study Then I play
the Tenor Banjo and I like to practice it once in a while then Ive got to get in some time on the
Trombone so you see Im always pretty busy Im going to close now before the lights go out. I hope
you will write soon and maybe even send me a picture so I remain

Until Me Meet Again

Your Schoolmate
Porter

Emil

Box 1: folder 2

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Brooklyn Station Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 6 1925

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Oct 6 1925 Post Band Quantico Va

Dear Friend:

I just got your letter of October 5 and I was really glad to hear from you. It isn't that Im lonesome because I haven't anything to do because I have Ive got to get some practice on the Banjo also Ive got to get more practice on the trombone than we get at the school but Im caught up on my course now so Ive got a little time to write about 7 or 8 letters Ive caught up so far that all the time I need to knock off of my writing now yet is enough time to take a shave. So much for that.

You told me about Techs first Football game and also asked about the Quantico Marines that played the Carrol U Team last Saturday it sure was our team and the Band School was supposed to go along but in the last minute they told us we were going to stay right here

~~You told me you havent got a decent picture to send to me. Well then send me one that is otherwise.~~

Im not going up to Cleveland now until Thanksgiving or Christmas.

You said you would like to get an instrument to play in the Band. Dont Do it unless its drums because it takes so long to get hard lips unless they are very thin and even then its pretty hard to get up a decent lip. Ive been blowing for quite a while now but I havent got a hard lip yet and dont expect to for about 3 months yet.

Your imagination of Pearl Rd is pretty good but it makes me think of the Rolly Coaster at Euclid Beach with a landslide over it.

Ive shot the range again down here and I made Expert Rifleman this time and Marksman on the Pistol the Rifle medal is nice it looks like this [drawing of medal] sure looks pretty on the Blue Blouses

I wish you could see how studious I look when I am studying my Postal Clerk course there are some words there that can be spelled in fifty different ways and weve got to be able to spell them right for the Civil Service Test so weve got to study Ill close and hope you write soon

Yours As Ever

Box 1: folder 4

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico VA Marine Branch Jun 9 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

June 9, 1926 Post Band Quantico

Beatrice:

I haven't written to you in a long time now Beatrice and I suppose you think I am a very poor specimen of a friend but in spite of everything I haven't forgotten you. In fact I tried to get in touch with you last month when I was at home but when I got in front of your house your father was in the yard and I was kind of bashful about coming in so I just left the old machine go right ahead. Maybe your father remembers seeing me drive past for I was in uniform and he saw me because he looked right at me. I was driving by in a mud colored Ford Coupe. You just ask him and see if he don't remember. Im very sorry I couldn't get in touch with you but my friends deserted me and wouldnt deliver a message no matter how much I urged them

Well Beatrice, how are you anyway? Are you still going to West Tech? I know without asking that you are still playing the violin because I know you liked it. I brought my violin and also my mandolin along when I came back from furlough but Im not putting in much time on either because Im playing a (B[flat]) clarinet in the Band now and I put in all my spare time on it, and goodness knows Ive got plenty of spare time Im on duty one week and off duty 2 weeks. Then to Im not only trying to learn something so I can better myself when I get discharged. Ive already completed a Postal Clerk Course and graduated with an average of 98% and now Im taking a course in Architectural and Mechanical drafting so I wont have to go back to my old knitting trade when I get out of here. It seems like I was starting to get sensible since I came into the Marines. Do you remember Beatrice how I used to hate to study when I went to school? I just couldn't get my mind on it I was to flighty, but I think Im starting to come to my senses now.

Well Beatrice I don't know if you can read my writing but I hope you will excuse it and forgive me for not writing oftener and I hope you will write sooner than I did and tell me all about yourself.

School Mate

Pvt. Emil G. Thomas

Box 1: folder 4

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico VA Marine Branch Jun __ 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

June 22 1926 Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

I received your letter this morning and I was very glad to hear from you. I will consider myself bawled out for not writing and I will try to do better in the future.

I am very glad to hear that I can come over the next time and believe me I intend to, but as for your seeing me in uniform well you didn't miss very much because it is the same old Emil in or out of uniform.

Now I want to know something Bee. Why do you say that I should have seen the pretty dresses at the graduation you know your self that I wouldn't have noticed them if I had been there. I never used to did I?

Im glad to hear that you are in the orchestra yet because I don't think there is anything more wonderful than music and I intend to stick by my music just as long as I can.

I don't have very much fun now anymore, only fun I get now is breaking out a couple of times a week to play for some one of the notables who's name appears in (Who's Who) We have dances here every second Friday and shows every night but I don't go. They are all free but that's just why I don't go because I don't get a kick out of anything free and there are to many women at the dances to suit me.

Im not a bit surprised to hear that you don't believe that I study and I'm not a bit surprised that you want proof, but really its true. Ask my sister if you ever see her and if you don't believe her take a run out to the Appalachian Lumber Co some night and ask my father he will show you my diploma because he has the diploma. Now I suppose you will want to know just what came over me to make me study all of a sudden but I will tell you that to. I just simply decided not to waste the time that I put into the Marine Corps and Ive got a year in now already and I don't think it is wasted wither. I learned everything from peeling potatoes and sewing on buttons up to a how to fly an aeroplane and why.

Well Bee I cant say when I will be back again but if I am still in Quantico at Christmas time I will most probably be up then for about ten or 15 days. I wont say for sure though but if I do why you can expect to see me.

Now you want to know how things look around here. Well the trees grow the same way as up there and water don't run uphill here anymore than it does in Cleveland. Ill say they have some nice horses here and I wouldn't mind owning one either. We see all the baseball games around here if we want to or not because we have to furnish the music for them and they aren't so far between either and the same during the football season. The boating isn't so very good around here because we aren't allowed to row on certain parts of the river but the fishing is excellent I caught a turtle a week ago Sunday whose shell was 22 inches wide and almost 25 inches long. I was fishing last night to and caught

a few perch and a few catfish we also catch a lot more of them than we like to take off the hook because they are so hard to handle

Now listen to me Bee don't ever blame me for writing these letters in pencil because I cant help it, the only time I can write in ink is when they don't forget to fill the ink bottles in the hostess house. You know that is sort of a club house for us and if our folks come to visit us why they stay at the Hostess House and weve got everything just like home there only they forget to fill the ink bottles every once in a while they to sometimes I have enough time to write a letter but wouldnt have enough time to go over there and write it.

Well Beatrice Im going to close and hope you can read enough of this letter to write me an answer soon

As Ever
Porter

Box 1: folder 5

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico VA Marine Branch Jul 10 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

July 8 Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

I received your letter this morning and I was very glad to hear from you. I just got back to the barracks in time to get your letter. I had been in the hospital and just got out. In all the time I was in there I didn't get a letter and the days sure went slow. I think I told you in my last letter that I was shooting the rifle range Well I was but they shot for record today and seeing as I was in the hospital I couldn't shoot so now I am not even worrying because when the next bunch goes out I will get my chance to shoot over and qualify.

No Beatrice I never go to the dances although I admitt I like to dance but the girls that come to a dance in a service camp aren't the right sort and so far I have succeeded in going down the straight and narrow path and I don't want to get off the path after following it for over a year and as for the show I go once in a while but I think I can count on my fingers how many shows I have seen since Im in the Marine Corps.

You say you know that I didn't used to like to study and I will admit that I didn't but I kind of got to thinking of the future and Im sure I don't want to go back to my old trade because there is no future to it and not enough money in it.

I go dishing here once in a while to but I don't get much time for that but I sure like it. I caught a big turtle while I was watching my line one day he just swam right up to the dock and I grabed for his tail but caught his head by mistake ~~and~~ and I promptly took my hand away when he snaped at it but I didn't want to lose him so I grabed his tail and pulled him out and we had turtle soupe in the galley the next night.

I did take some pictures from the USS Henderson and also on shore when I made that tropical cruise last year but I sent them home Now I cant take anymore because someone liked my camera better than I did so they swiped it or rather swiped them because Ive had 3 of them since Ive been in the Marines and Im going to wait a little while before I get another but I will get those pictures if you want to see them real bad I mean the ones Ive got at home.

Yes Beatrice I often think of WIH but when I do I get sore because I think of what I could have learned there and didn't

Well Beatrice I think I will have to close this letter now because Im running out of paper so I hope to hear from you soon

As Ever
Porter

Box 1: folder 6

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico VA Marine Branch AUG 6 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

August 5 Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear from you again. I was just going to give up hope when your letter came I didn't get time to write sooner or this letter would be half way there by now, as it is this letter wont even get mailed until tomorrow

I haven't been doing very much of anything lately but I guess I better get over that idea pretty quick because for the next few weeks the Post Band is going to be so busy that we will be lucky if we get enough time for show and sleep we are going on a trip next week so it may be a while before you hear from me but I will write when I get a chance and you may write as much as you can to this same address because my mail will follow me everywhere I go You asked me how I was coming along with my studies but I hardly know myself Beatrice because my drafting course has been changed to (electrical engineering) and my first lesson hasn't arrived yet so you see I don't really know how Im making out. Im still with the band as you see by my address and every day I am playing better and learning more about music and when this cruise is done I expect I will be a bandmaster. I am going to the tropics soon and if that isn't before Xmas then I will come home then but if it is before then why I won't be able to.

I wish you would send me a picture Beatrice (the one in the overalls) Im glad you liked the cherries you picked, and Im glad you are enjoying yourself.

Well Beatrice I must close now as it is nearly time for taps to blow and weve got to be in the bunk then so Im hoping you have a good time on your vacation and at the Ohio State Fair, and I hope you will write soon because my mail follows me everywhere

As Ever
Porter

Box 1: folder 6

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran R.F.D. #4 Pataskala Ohio [cancelled] Quantico VA Marine Branch Aug 19 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

August 18 1926 Post Band

Dear Bee:

I received your letter yesterday but I was kept so busy that I havent been able to answer it sooner. Im glad to hear that you are off on your vacation Bee because it sure feels good to get one of these things

Yes Beatrice my new course is very interesting especially the part called Menswration and Formulas and also Trigonometry and Graphs Oh Yes! But as hard as I find it it still is interesting

As for my music Bee Im alright in that. I got in the symphony orchestra yesterday as a violinist and Im still going strong on the clarinet. I didn't get much practice yet today only 2 ½ hours on the clarinet and none of the violin yet but Ill make up for that tonight like last night I made up for lost time in the clarinet from 3 P.M. till 7 P.M. and from 7 till 9 P.M. on the violin

I know how you must feel with sunburned shoulders but I don't ever get them they don't make the sun hot enough to blister me anyway. Talking about swimming I swam from Virginia clean over into Maryland the other day and after a little rest I swam back. But you see the river is a little less than a mile and a quarter wide where I swam it and very smooth. It took me 1 hour 10 minutes over and 1 hour 25 minutes to come back because I get winded so easy and so I had to stop and float for about 10 or 15 minutes every once in a while to get my wind.

I wish I were with you now Bee Ill bet we sure could have some good times because I also like swimming and tennis and horse back riding etc.

Well Beatrice how are you anyway? Are you enjoying your vacation etc. I hope you have some better weather than weve got today because its rained most all day.

Im not sure if Ive got the name of the town right on this letter but Im going to try it and see if it gets to you

Well Bee I guess this is all Ive got to say for the present so Ill close

Semper Fidelis
Emil

P.S. hope you can read my scrawl and excuse the pencil E.

Thanks for the picture E.

Box 1: folder 6

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran Pataskala Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 30 1926
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

August 30 1926 Post Band Quantico Va

Dear Bee:

I received your letter yesterday and I was very glad to hear from you. Im glad to hear that you are having a good time on your vacation, because you know the old saying that we only live once. Then to if we don't enjoy ourselves while we care young why Im sure that we wont be able to as we get older. That is the while trouble with me, I take life to serious.

No Beatrice Trigonometry doesnt exactly spell misery for me although it did mean a lot of study and it wasn't so easy to catch onto either but Ive got my Trigonometry examinations sent in now so all Im waiting for is the return of my papers to see if I passed it

You seemed to be quite surprised to know that I can swim but did you ever hear of a fellow that was brought up near a swimming hole who couldn't swim? I used to like it a lot but my wind is so very short now that if I swim any distance at all I get all winded. I guess I used to smoke to much but I will get over that now because I am cutting down on my smoking slow but sure.

Yes Beatrice I did notice the moon on the 22nd. It just happened that we were playing a concert over in the Gymnasium that night and my clarinet was broken all week so I got out of playing, and went down to the river and was laying there wondering if that moon was shining on you.

Talking about scares Bee. If you were a Marine there wouldn't be anything could scare you at night because there isnt anything made that makes enough noise to wake up a Marine once he gets to sleep. When they want to wake up a Marine why they just tip the bunk over on us or something. So if you want to be able to sleep at night without getting scared by screech owls why you better dress like a man and Join the Marines.

Say Bee, are you sure that the fellow that drives the milk truck is your uncle? Im going to get real jealous here one of these days So do I wish I was up there with you but that is out of the question for the present time anyway. So far Im not on this tropical detail but Im liable to be put on in the last minute. But if not and if Im here around Xmas yet why you can expect me over to see you.

We havent much of a band here right now, weve only got 62 pieces but Ive seen it as high as 119 pieces. There is no most popular instrument in a band because one instrument is just as important as the other and the second and third clarinet or cornet or alto or Bass or Oboe or bassoon or sax or any other instrument is just as important as the solo chair because while the solo man carries the melody it takes the last chair man to play the harmony and the harmony must be there to make the piece sound nice. We play both popular and classical music but most classical music and marches

Well Beatrice let me know before you go home so I will know where you are at and dont forget to write once in a while because I look forward to your letters

Semper Fidelis
Porter

Box 1: folder 7

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 8 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Sept 7 1926 Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

I got you last letter some time ago and answered it but Im not sure whether you are in Pataskala or Cleveland so Im going to send this one to your home then I will at least be sure that one of them will reach you.

Well Bee:, how are you anyway? I suppose your jolly vacation is just about done now Isn't it? I hope you had a pleasant time at least.

I suppose you have heard that there is a football game between John Carrol University and the all Marine team from Quantico and its coming of in Cleveland. I don't know the date because I haven't seen a schedule as yet. The Post Band expects to go along on most of the games this year, but I doubt if we will go along up there although there is a chance that we may go and I sure would like to although I suppose it would be just my luck to get left out.

Im not sure if Joe told you this before but a tropical detail left here Friday and I wasn't on it so if everything goes right and if I can get a leave or furlough I will come up over the holidays so you want to be sure and save me a date, because Im pretty sure Ill come.

I haven't been doing much except study lately so I haven't much to tell you so I will close this missil and hope to get an answer soon

Porter

Box 1: folder 7

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 12 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & Symbol

Sept 11 Quantico Virginia

Dear Bee:

I received your letter several days ago but I didn't answer it till today. I don't know why unless it was just because I was tired and wanted to sleep because that is what I have been doing for the last three days.

Do you really think that you would like the Marine Corps if you were a man? Do you know what we have to forfeit for four years. We have to leave all the pleasure of a home and all the pleasures of loved ones, if we have them, and a fellow has to nearly give up his girl because no decent fellow would expect a girl to wait four years for him. Then to we dont get our food and cloths for doing nothing. Men in the line companys work and bandsmen have to practice and some of this isn't 8 hour days either although it is in this band of course we all expect to give up something when we enlist and then it does some good to. It builds a man physicaly and about the moral part that is up to the man himself. It depends on how much backbone he's got because there is plenty of chance wither way Do you still think you would like it? Of course if you got into a soft job like in this band or something it would be different but every body isn't lucky.

You went to the Ohio State Fair this summer and Im going to the county Fair across the river in Maryland this afternoon. We are going to furnish some of the music, one of the numbers is Tschaikowsky's, (March Slave) then selections from "Martha," and "Maritania," "Wm Tell" and "Pyre Gynt Suite" and some fox trots etc

Well Bee if I want to get some chow before I leave Ill have to hurry although Ive got loads to tell you

I hope you will excuse the scribble and answer soon.

Remember Me Ever As
Porter

Box 1: folder 7

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 18 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Sept 17 1926 Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

I received your letter today and I was sure glad to hear from you. Your letter was the first real exciting thing that has happened since last Saturday night at the Fair. Im writing first about the thing that you asked me last in your letter. Yes we had a good time alright, all the band but about 4 men got dead drunk right after concert that night and we sure did have our hands full trying to get them back down the boat and I wasn't any to strong in the knees myself so you see all but us four had a real good time and we didn't sit down and cry either. The men that were sober all got invitations to dinner from about 5 different girls, and as my bunky and I are a little girl shy we didn't want to go so we hid under the exhibit hall.

I wish I were in school again and knew what I know now. You can bet your sweet life that I would study. Id tale up all the subjects you have including special sewing and I'd take up about 7 more subjects.

Im sorry to hear that you cant get orchestra on your programme because I just feel it in my bones that you are going to lose interest in music if you don't get orchestra and you have such a beautiful start on it and it sure is a nice study.

You say, that your first football game comes off in about a week, Didn't you? Our first one don't come off till the second of October but then they will come close together. Did you ever see a picture of our mascot. He is a big dog and about 40 years older than I am. I am enclosing a picture of him that was clipped from a Sunday paper. They call him (Sergeant Jiggs) in the paper but his real rating is (Sergeant Major) he wears a helmet a campaign hat a blue blouse a Khaki blouse and he wears them and he has gold braided (Sgt. Major) chevrons on them all. When he is dressed up in blues we have a little lad here that belongs to some officer and he gets dressed in full blues with white belt and white gloves just like we do and he leads Jiggs all around at the head of the parade and all over the sides of the field while the game is in In this clipping he is shown sitting on the bats at one of the games in Philadelphia

I suppose you will be wondering how the deuce I expect you to read this scrawl but I never was a good writer and besides this pen is simply rotten (good excuse) I don't know how I like your pen Beatrice as I havent seen it yet but I do like the way it wrote that letter you sent me and I only hope it keeps up the good work and dont get tired, of course I also hope that you keep up the good work and write as often or oftener than you have been doing

I have joined a debating club to waste a couple of nights a week and Im learning a lot from it. Another fellow and myself were to debate last night and the subject was (Resolved that the world of color will within the next century engage in war with the white nations) and we fliped a coin just before

to see which side we would take and we took negative and the other fellow was to get the rebuttal and he got rattled and tacked on the wrong side and his rebuttal was the same so I debated 3 men alone and lost they got 2 votes to every one of mine

I'll close now and say the same as you Au Revoir I know its French and your learning so keep it up.

Always Just
Porter

Box 1: folder 7

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 28 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Sept 27 1926 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dear Beatrice:

I received your letter this morning or rather about 10 minutes ago. I am doing detached duty as a visiting bandsman with the 10th Regt. Band, Im going to stay with them for 2 weeks this morning I had to get up at 4:15 A.M. to play a battalion of men down to the boat that left for the tropics and to play the boat out. I got my breakfast in the 10th Regt and then we played colors and Guard Mount and just now got back to find your letter waiting for me. Ive already did one days work today but I can't stop yet because some Marine got killed in an accident so we have to play for his funeral and Formal Guard Mount is a nice formation but not half as nice as a full military funeral and seeing as I like them so much I really wont mind the extra work. My playing with the 10th Regt. Band wont change my address so keep on writing.

You bet your life Tunney won and your bet was good as gold. Why? Because he was a Marine and a Leatherneck and they are a pretty hard thing to keep down in anything. They put up a good honest fight with their fists or in baseball or football or in anything else and you can always bank on a Marine.

Did you think you fooled me with your French in your letter? You didnt though what you wrote means not so good.

You certainly are the first person who ever said our mascot was good looking and I dont blame you for wanting to see him in the daytime although he couldnt bit if he wanted to because he's so old he hasn't any teeth left.

Our first Football game came off Saturday and we walked away with the University of New Hampshire. Weve got another game next Saturday but seeing as Im with the 10th band I dont suppose Ill get to see that one but Ill sure try my best you say you dont like blond curly hair. Well what kind have I got? Do you like my kind? I hope so.

I hope you dont lose interest in your music because it sure is great stuff only music makes more crazy men than anything else if you study it as a profession because youve got to be very exact about every note and how it is hit and youve got to be honest with yourself and do the best that is in you and not get discouraged

Well Beatrice Ive got to get a blouse pressed etc because the funeral is in full Khaki so Ill have to close. I hope you think of me sometimes and will write again soon so Bye Bye

Yours
Porter

Box 1: folder 8

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Oct 5 1926
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Oct 4 1926 Post Band Quantico

Dear Bee:

I received your letter this morning and I sure was glad to hear from you I really cant guess what I would do if it weren't for your letters You see I don't correspond with my dad very much lately and what I do hear from him is nothing but a growl. Ill tell you why he tried to pick a girl for me and I objected but at the same time did as he said and then she turned out to be crooked and I rubbed it into my dad and told him that he was trying to engage me to a crook and then I told him that I was making my own choice of a girl so now we are both growling You see the only letters I get now are from you and my sister and once in a while one from Erv.

Im sorry to hear that W. Tech came out second with latin but things like that cant be helped We played our second game of the season on Saturday and there was an 80 piece band went along. I was in that 80 pieces to and I don't mean probably and our team made a touchdown in the first 2 minutes of play and the other team was so bad that our coach put in some 2nd team men and some substitutes in the backfield to give them a chance and still we won 27 to 7 and our team didn't exert itself either

Do you call doing duty a visit? I dont. I expect to go to the 10th Regt band for good in a few weeks but Im not sure yet. Ill tell you what a formal Guard mount is. There is a new bunch of men go on guard for every day you know a guard for every post or station or certain territory and the guard mount is the new guard relieving the old and when it is formal why they have the band and the old and new guards march up on the parade line and present arms and they get their orders of the day and they are told who the new officer of the day is and are inspected then they are taken back and posted or put on their respective posts or beats.

Now for the military funeral. I involuntarily stiffen up a little every time one is mentioned because they are so very stiff and solemn When the body is brought to the chapel the armed troops present arms and everyone else salutes and the band plays "Nearer my God to thee" and no organ can sound nicer than this band does on that, then the body is taken in the chapel and the services are held and the band stays out on the street and when the services are over we again paly while the body comes out it is put on a carriage and 8 horses pull it and 8 mounted men guide the horses The band leads the parade and plays a slow funeral march and if any body is on the street when the the thing passes they better stand at attention and salute or they are liable to get locked up

Well Bee I havent been got much more to say and anyway I doubt if you can read this because my writing is so poor and so Im going to close and hope to get some more of your sweet letters soon

Semper Fidelis

Emil

Box 1: folder 8

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 14 1926

Oct 13, 1926 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dear Beatrice:

I just got your letter today but I am afraid to answer it today because this is the 13th of the month and thats supposed to be bad luck and I dont want to lose your friendship for anything. I want you to stay Semper Fidelis

I guess you think I dont know what you were writing when you closed your letter in French but I do, it means Your Friend always. Don't It?

You sure got me fooled Bee when you say that you found letters that I wrote you when we went to Tech. I saw so much of you that it wasn't necessary to write but I can still remember how I used to come out to see you and you used to come out every time you heard a whistle. Those were the days alright.

You sure will get a chance to take in a game that our team is playing on the 6th of next month. I have heard some rumors that a 50 piece band goes along to the John Carroll University vs. Marines game which is the one Im talking about. I may get to go if they do take a band but I may get transfered before then, so if I dont get to that game why I guess you'll have to wait till Xmas to see me. Ill sure try to come up next month though. I heard from my sister yesterday and she told me how bad Commerce got beat by John Marshall. I gave her the merry laugh and told her how punk her school is and Im afraid Im going to have a mad sister for a couple of weeks but she'll get over it. That 97 yd run for a touchdown that Tech half back made must have been pretty exciting, wasn't it?

I sure pity you girls who were initiated last week. I guess you felt like everyone was looking at you all the time. I felt that way when I first went out in my blue uniform but it isn't so bad here as it is in Cleveland where they don't see many marines. I know how it feels to wear something different than someone else.

I dont get much chance to read for pleasure but I do once in a while. Here lately I have been so busy that I havent had much more than a chance to breath. This afternoon I did manage to find enough time to play a few sociable hands of pinochle and its so long since I last played the game that I nearly forgot how to play it. I should be out practicing right now but Ive just got to write this first.

Ive got a couple of pictures of our last game in Washington where we beat King College 27 to 7 and didn't even use our good men. We got beat once since then but only our second team.

I also have a picture of the eighty pieces band that went along but it isn't very good if I can get a better one I will send it to you.

Dont forget now Beatrice tell me if I translated your French correctly if not please tell me what is right

Im going to close this letter and hope you can decipher it and will answer Soon

Lonesome Marine
Porter

Box 1: folder 8

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 20 1926

October 18 Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

Im writing to you tonight not because I have anything new to tell you but because I have some time that is hanging heavy on my hands.

To start with, I havent done one bit of work today except to play colors this morning and guard mount so I havent did a thing worthy of mention since 9 oclock this morning, only to eat, read, play a game of pinochle and to think, and when I think, -- -- well you can just bank on it that something is going to happen. I dont know what it is going to be but I feel in my bones that its going to happen.

I read a book here a few days ago by Henry C. Rowland, the title is "Of Clear Intent" and I liked it pretty well. I also saw my first show in quite a while last night. I saw Johnny Hines in the Brown Derby, its not such a new picture but I got my first laugh in a long while out of it. I don't know why but Im not as interested in shows since I took up music seriously. I guess its because I devote so very much of my time to music. I was playing my violin in our symphony orchestra here for a while but I got so disgusted that I broke my violin. I swore I wouldn't never try to play two things at once again. I was never meant to be a violinist and I told the Lieutenant so when he urged me to stay with the symphony and as long as Im playing clarinet I dont intend to ever touch another instrument to play it. so much for that.

I have found out for sure that no band is going to the football game in Cleveland next month but I am pretty sure that I will be able to come home over the holidays. I could be sure if I wanted to ask my fathers assistance but I dont want to because I am pretty sure I can do the trick without his help.

I suppose winter is just about starting in up there about now, it is getting pretty cold down here now we change to winter uniform tomorrow morning it isn't really cold yet, you know I can get up in the morning and if I stand beside the stove for about forty five minutes why Im thawed out enough so I can stoop over far enough to touch the floor. -- Now you tell me one. I stand corrected on that one alright but all fooling aside it does get pretty cold down here. I froze four reeds in one afternoon between numbers of an afternoon concert and it isn't so very easy to freeze a reed.

I guess I will lay this letter aside until something happens or till I get an inspiration. This is all tonight.

Well here I am again only this part of the letter is a day later than the other part. I was kept busy most all day today we played colors in the morning and rehearsal after that then dinner and out to play a parade I found out some more news today my transfer to the tenth Regt band is through and is O.K. and I move about the first of the month. I also heard that they are going to try to put something over on my and not live up to the agreement with me. If they do try something like that on me why Ill pull something on them I wont play as good as I can.

I dont know what is the matter with me lately but I sure get discouraged with life here every once in a while I cant bear the idea of being away from my loved ones for three more years but then again I reflect about how quickly the first 16 months passed so I really dont know what I want, but I guess I can stick out my time and the experience wont hurt me any.

Our baritone player here has the same name as I have except for his initials and he went to Washington and got drunk and locked up and everybody was asking me today how I got out because they know my name but don't know there is another Thomas here and theyve got me worked to death explaining.

Ill close now

Still
Emil

Box 1: folder 8

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 25 1926

October 25, Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

I received your letter and Im very glad to hear that everything is jake with you.

You tell me that you got 95 in a history test. I call that pretty good, I used to like history better than any other subject when I went to school and I hope you like it as much as I did.

I had a little fight with the Lieutenant and the drum major here last week about a couple of days off duty and I got them so I started out to read a little I read The Black Tulip by Dumas and am just finishing Chicot the Jester also by Dumas and I think they are both very good books.

I hope to say that Jiggs was at the King College game but he isnt a bull dog he is a devil Dog. Thats what they call Marines and thats what they call Jiggs. You know Jiggs gets more consideration around here than a lot of enlisted men do he has a service record book and record of enlistment just like I have and he holds a sergeant majors rating and that is as high as a enlisted man can get. He stayed away over night once and got a court martial just like I would and he was reduced in rank to first sergeant but has his old rating back again, so you see we think a lot of him when he gets all that consideration and we dont want him to be called a common bull dog.

Dont forget to behave when you get to your girl friends cottage on Lake Road. Think of me while you are there will you Bee. I cant think of any Halloween costume for you right now but if you were a little broader shouldered you could get Erv to get you a suit of my blues from my house. I left one complete uniform there when I was home the last time and it would make a good costume but it would fit you like a sack.

Now about tonights letter, you gave me some good advice alright but Im not a coward or anything just yet and even if I do get disgusted with the breaks I get out of like, I still know better than to disgrace myself by being rash. It may be lonesome alright but I still cant be rash because Ive got something more than that to think about. I do wish I could see you but if I came without permission why you wouldn't want to see me and I know you never would want to see me as a deserter so Ill just wait. I only hope no one else catches you before I get there.

I wish I could come up on the 6th to but now I know that I cant because it is doubtfull if the band will make the trip and then to I will be transfered before then. I dont mind the not seeing the game but I sure would like to see you a little.

Well here is the dope on the 10th Regt band. We have 3 regiments in Quantico namely the Fifth Regt, the Tenth Regt and the First Regt and each of these has a band. The 5th and 10th Regt have 28 piece bands which is a regular regimental band and everything over that is put into the Post Band and that is why the Post Band makes all the trips and why it is considered the better band, but if I get transfered to the tenth Regt band I will play solo parts while here I must be satisfied with 1st parts and

sometimes even second & third parts and besides if I go to the 10th Regt band I will get more money after the first of the year. I wish I were over there now and I would be getting it next month. I will be sacrificing a lot of these trips but I will have more of a chance to make good over there so I dont care. Then to if I get over there chances are that I wont have to get go to the tropics again and the last time I only went through but this time it would mean to stay there 15 months and its worth sacrificing all those trips just to know that I wont go to that nigger country again. I was anxious to go once but since then I have decided that life is still worth living. Once a man goes down there its pretty hard to keep them in the states anymore because they get lazy and shiftless and drunks and lots of them dope fiends and lot of them get to be nigger lovers and marry natives and waste there life down there and the couple of weeks of it that I saw have convinced me that its best to stay in the good old U.S.A. because I dont want to ruin any chances if I can help it because if I got down there and didn't get mail any oftener than I do here I just know I couldn't stand it.

Who does our gang include tell me in your next letter or Ill get jealous and Im a bad actor when I get jealous.

I guess Ill close now before you start calling me some of your pet names like you do your Physics I wouldnt mind the other kind though

Sex Bits
Porter

Write Soon

Box 1: folder 8

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 28 1926

Oct 27 1926 10th Regt Band Quantico

Dear Bee:

Just a few lines this afternoon to let you know that my address is changed. Im in the 10th Regt Band now. I got transfered yesterday. This morning I got an instrument and got a rating promised me, it will only be a small one but will probably mean that I get to come home Xmas if I can only get a leave and I think I can.

We are going to have a Halloween dance this Friday and Im going to go because there are a couple of wise guys going to try to get me pickled and Im going to show them that Ive got enough backbone not to get drunk and Im going to show them that all the women they can bring dont bother me.

I got a letter from my Brother in Law this morning and he tells me that Ive got a read headed step sister and that got me sore and Im sure that she and I will have a fight the first time I come home I think Ill bring some boxing gloves along when I do come home to be prepared.

Well so much for this time Beatrice Ill close and hope to hear from you soon

S.B.
Emil
Porter

Box 1: folder 9

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Nov 3 1926 [return address] Pvt. Thomas 10th Regt Band Marine Barracks Quantico Va.

Nov 3, 1926 tenth Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

Your letter got here this noon and I sure was anxiously waiting for it. You didn't surprise me when you said that you met my sister, she told me in her last letter that she is in you Sunday School class, but she hadn't met you yet but she told me she was going to Im glad to hear that you like my sister, she sure is a good sport.

Yes I did tell my sister I wouldn't be up for the game and I thought I told you I wasn't sure though The Post Band was supposed to go and then it was called off and no one was going then they changed their mind again and they are going, but Im not in the Post any more so Im not coming along. They are only going to take 60 pieces along but thats enough to make a little noise with. Im sorry I cant get to come for this game but Ill make sure to come up over Xmas if its possible to get a leave. Right now the whole tenth Regiment is scattered all over the United States as mail guards and the band is doing the guard duty here. I went on last night at six and Im available till six tonight then tomorrow night I go on again. I should be getting some sleep right now so I could catch up with the world. I only had an hour and forty minutes sleep last night and standing by all day and Im nearly all in.

Dont bawl me out for not writing oftener to my sister but I write three letters to her for every ~~three~~ of two she writes to me, but she writes pretty regular and I always answer her letters prompt.

I dont know where your history teacher gets the idea that there are so many snakes down in the tropics. That is Gods country all but the heat and mosquitoes and lonliness because there aren't many ~~wild~~ white people there. The only reptile to be found are lizards and half of them are harmless and the other half are afraid of anything that moves including a fly, so tell your teacher to join the Marines and see the world – through a port hole.

I hope you will be able to read this letter but thats nearly impossible because I cant hardly read it myself. Im so sleepy I cant hardly stay awake to finish.

Write soon and Ill write more next time

Porter

Box 1: folder 9

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 9 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United states Marines

November 8 1926 Tenth Regt Band

Dear Bee:

Im half asleep while Im writing this letter but Ill try to make it so you can read it.

I suppose you went to the game Saturday and saw the Marines get beat, didn't you? Well that just goes to show that they must have been playing in a good state and against a good team because it sure takes a good team to beat the marines.

I did guard duty all last week and Im pretty well down right now although I have caught up on some of the sleep I lost even now Im still sleepy. I did one twelve hour watch walking post as a sentry and instead of coming off I immediately went on again for a twenty four hour watch as corporal of the guard and that made thirty six hours straight. I got relieved yesterday morning at six and slept till 5:30 P.M. last night then I went over to play the Sunday night concert and went to sleep right after concert and slept till nearly noon today.

I got a letter from my sister the other day and answered it while I was at the guard house as corporal of the guard but I havent got downtown to the Post office to mail it yet but Im going to try to mail it tonight unless I go to sleep again.

Well I just found out that there isn't any danger of any bandsmen going out on this mail guard because there was an order sent out from Washington saying that on no condition would a bandsman be taken from band duty for the mail guard. I wouldn't mind it if I got sent to Cleveland or some town near there but I sure would hate to get sent farther away than I am already, so I guess its just as good this way.

Ive been fighting around here during all the spare time I could get last week trying to find out what kind of Christmas leaves they are going to give but they arent sure themselves yet if they will give any and if they do they will be very short but whatever they put out Im going to come home for Xmas if I have to come without leave. I put in a little time in the brigg at bread and water already and I can do it again.

I guess the tenth Band will make some short concert trip to some small town in Virginia over the eleventh of the month. We celebrate the 151st birthday of the marine corps Wednesday the tenth of November so that makes two holiday concerts for us this week.

I really dont know how you are ever going to read my writing here because Im hurrying so I can finish before chow.

Hoping to hear from you soon I am

The Same
Porter

Box 1: folder 9

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran R.F.D. #4 Pataskala Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 13 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Band M.B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines

November 12 Tenth Band

Dear Bee:

Your slightly rushed letter just arrived about three minutes ago and Im going to answer it while the answering is good.

This band made a trip to Manassas Virginia yesterday for Armistice day and we all went in machines because the town is about 45 miles inland and all of it over dirt road. I didn't go in one of the machines that they sent for us but went out in one of the fellows Essex Coach and it was so cold that we froze even in the closed car and beside that we all had overcoats on. The road are all dirt roads but they are fairly smooth and we were going between 50 and 60 miles per hr. most of the way.

By the way Bee if you want to see some of the pictures Ive got ask my sister and she will show them to you I have some from every place in the tropics only don't let those pictures get away from you because they are dear to me and Joe lost my envelope of films so I cant have any more printed and I doubt if I will get down there anymore and I want to keep them to remind me of the trip.

I just wonder what some of the things are that my sister tells you. Ill promise to be very good if you will tell me some of them, please give me at least a hint of what they are because I am anxious.

You closed your letter by saying you hoped I mean who you think I mean. I dont understand very clearly but I have an inkling of an idea and Ill tell you about it some day if Im not to bashful and if I am to bashfull ? why then Im afraid Ill have to wait for leap year. What do you think. Why did you write (The Old Friend) – that sounds like you was my grandmother. Ill show you how close that. Here's how (Your Sweetie) How is that? I like it better, dont you? Try it and see

Ill close this letter now

Bashful
Emil

Write Soon X

Box 1: folder 9

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 15 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regt Band Marine Barracks Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines

Sunday Nov 14 Tenth Regimental Band

Dearest Bee:

I suppose this letter will get to you house just a little before you get back from Pataskala but it will get to you anyway.

Ive got a little sad news and a little news that may or may not be good news. In the first place I got thrown out of the office on my ear for trying to put in for a Christmas Leave. The company commander says there will be no leaves or furloughs granted this Christmas in the Tenth Regt. I turned around and decided I wasn't going to foolishly spend the money I saved to come home so I got a permit to open a lunch counter in the barracks and invested in that so now Im in business here and maybe I will have a little bank acct when I get out of this outfit. However I haven't given up all hope of coming home yet, and if its possible I will come home. I wouldn't try anymore if it weren't for you but I know that you would like to see me so I will try.

Did you enjoy yourself while you were in Pataskala? I hope so. How was the hunting? I wish I was there to go hunting with you I suppose you nave about a foot of snow up there by now, havent you? We havent any snow but we sure have plenty of cold here.

I am going on guard again tonight as sentry and will probably go on as corporal of the guard tomorrow then I will be off duty again for 3 days. I wish it were 10 days but its got to be and a good marine never gets discouraged because he gets work to do and Im trying to be a good marine.

Im going to write a letter to my sister when I get through with this and if she dont answer that one pretty soon why she wont hear from me anymore. I havent heard even one word from my father since two weeks after I came off of furlough which was May 22. Do you see now why I say that if it weren't for you I wouldn't come home at all, but I sure want to see you so be patient and if I cant come home for Xmas I sure will come in spring and it will be a longer furlough than I could expect for Xmas

Im going to close now and hope to have a letter from you from Pataskala and hope to hear from you soon

Yours As Ever
Porter
XX

Box 1: folder 9

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Nov 23 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regiment Band M.B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines

November 22 Tenth Regiment Band

Dearest Beatrice:

Your letter just got here and I sure was waiting for it. You didn't tell me if you got the letter that I sent to Pataskala I wrote it as soon as I got your last letter and it had plenty of time to get there I hope you got it.

You asked if I ever felt like I could stop everything and just quit living. I hope to say Ive felt like that and it sure happens often especially when a man is in an outfit like the Marines. Sometimes when I see some of the crazy things some of these nuts do around here – well I just feel like dying, then other times I feel pretty contented and enjoy the experience I really dont think yours was such a big mistake if it was yours, but I dont think it was. Just don't worry about it.

Im glad to hear that you had a good time on your trip and I wish I could have been along. I know you enjoy trips like that and they also make a person very healthy if they spend much of their time in the open air Now I get all the fresh air I want without going hunting. All I have to do is go on guard and I get all the air I want and then I come back and turn in and I get all the fresh air I want through the cracks in the floor where my bunk stands and oh boy it sure makes a man sleep like a rock.

You arent the only one that's got a cold dear girl. Ive got one so bad I can hardly talk I was walking port one night last week and at 10 oclock it was raining to beat the band and at 2 oclock it started to freeze and my legs and feet were wet below the raincoat and when I came in off of post I had an awfull cold and a coat of ice on my pistol the ice was so thick on it that the blamed thing would have refused to function if I had needed it.

Yes it is pretty hard not to get to come home for the holidays but if they stick to what they say and really dont let me come for Xmas I sure will come in the spring But listen Beatrice I dont want you to think Im old fashioned or anything like that but please dont talk like you did in your letter. You wrote that word (damn) just like it was nice and I dont like the idea of my girl using that kind of language. Its bad enough to know that I am in a place where it can hardly be avoided and Im a man but even at that Im trying to cut it out, so please try not to use such words.

We Marines are allowed to receive any thing from loveletters to box cars. Tell me about this idea which you have cooked up I cant imagine what it is but I guess you know what you are doing

Im getting along fine in my new business but the first few months there wont be much profits they all go right back into the business We just bought a new percolator for \$22 and that came out of the profits or most of it did anyway so you see when we get on our feet we will be making pretty good money. Weve always go to go downtown for the food and supplies and town is quite a way off and we need quite a few supplies and after a while if we make good I think we will get us a second hand car to

get the supplies in. I sure need to be in some kind of business if I expect to earn enough to get married on because out of the \$20 per month that the government pays why I couldnt save enough in 30 years to get married on although I will be getting more by the first of the year but that all goes to lessons. You know I still take them and still need them to. After giving you all these statistics don't you think that I ought to be in some kind of business?

You asked me what this place looks like and what everyone does. Well 00 if I wanted to tell you what it looks like Id have to swear so I wont tell you and as for what everyone does – well everyone does nothing when they can get away with it and as little as possible when they have to do anything.

Did you read about the Army – Marine Corps game Saturday? Well we won 27 to 7 and it was a good game. Im going to send you the Marine Corps paper called the leatherneck with all the teams pictures also the army teams pictures and the Presidents cup for which they played There is also a picture of Sgt. Major Jiggs in it. I Will send it the first time I get down to the Post office.

Ill close now so write soon to your

Marine
Porter
XXXX O

Box 1: folder 9

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 26 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regimental Band M.B. Quantico Virginia

Letterhead: United States Marines

November 25 Tenth Regiment Band

Dearest Beatrice:

This is Thanksgiving day and this is my day off because I did my guard last night so Ive decided to write to you. I have been trying some more to come home for the holidays but so far I haven't found out anything definite, however I will keep on trying and if I can't come up this Xmas I sure will come up next spring.

We had the Thanksgiving dinner today and I guess we are all pretty well down, from eating to much, but you can't blame us because Thanksgiving, Xmas and New Years is the only time we get a real feed and right now I feel so much like a stuffed pig that I can hardly see.

Now Beatrice Im going to get real serious with you. I can't wait till I get to see you to ask you but I want to ask you to marry me when I get out of this outfit. Im nearly 20 now and I still have two and a half years to serve so neither of us will be to young by then, and as you know already I have been studying hard preparing myself for a good job and I have several promising offers of work in the line of music and I am now studying to become an electrical engineer and I have several trades I can always fall back to. I worked quite a while in a hardware store and am considered a pretty good hardware man. I am also an automobile mechanic so you need not be afraid that I cant support you. Now Please Beatrice say yes and make me happy Im sure my two and a half years will pass very quickly with something like you to look forward to and after your folks meet me Im sure there wont be any objections from them. I wont say anymore now but will anxiously wait your answer.

Did you get my other letter and the Leatherneck magazine that I sent you? What do you think of the two teams?

Im going to close now and hope to hear from my sweetheart this time

Only Your
Porter
XXXXXXXXXX

P.S. Answer Soon

Box 1: folder 9

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Dec 2 1926

Letterhead: United States Marines

November 30 8 P.M.

Dear Beatrice I received your letter today and I considered it all bad news. I don't blame you though and anyway I wasn't figuring on getting married just yet I was counting on at least 4 or 5 more years to save something only seeing as I am away I spoke up early because I wanted no one else to beat me to it so I acted like the proverbial early bird Then to if I had a goal to work for I could make something of myself in the 2 ½ years I have to do but if I haven't a goal I'm not so liable to save or study.

I sent into the office today and asked for a transfer to China and was told I couldn't go before March or April and if I do go it will mean sign up for 4 or 6 years more and if I do that I may as well stay in the service till I can retire and I might as well do that and at least be a soldier because if I do get on the outside I'll never be any good. You said about finding the right one Beatrice. I don't want to find no other one. I have a deep feeling for you. I don't know whether you would call it love or not but it is the feeling that I would be proud to have you for my wife. Of course I don't hold it against you Beatrice and I don't blame you because after all you now it wouldn't be nice to have to have a funny faced husband, but no matter what happens my proposal holds good and I will be free and if you if you should ever change your mind just write and tell me and give me the size of ring you want and all details and I will come running. I hope you haven't told my sister anything yet and if you haven't please don't because I want to pull a nice trick and quit writing in Spring if I do sign up for 4 or 6 years more for China because if I do I will probably stay there for a 16 or 20 year retirement and stay in China and I don't want them to know why I am going if I do go I will simply tell them I'm going and not write to them anymore because it would be so much harder to bear for my folks and myself. Don't forget Beatrice my offer holds good and if I hear from you before March I won't ship for China if I don't -- ? No one knows.

I just happened to remember you told me about keeping a collection of pictures etc. Do you save stamps? I'm enclosing a Chinese stamp if you don't want it throw it away or give it away I don't care which

I hope you liked the concert by the Cleveland Symphony. Maybe after I've got 20 or 30 years in the service as a bandsman I may be good enough to play with them.

Well Beatrice I'm going to close now but don't forget – I love you now and always did and always will, only I know how much.

Semper Fidelis
Porter

Box 1: folder 10

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 9 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regt Band M.B. Quantico Va

Letterhead: United States Marines

December 9 Tenth Regiment Band

Dear Beatrice:

I received your letter this morning and I think it was about time you wrote. I told you I would wait till March for my answer but I didn't say to stop writing till March so keep it up but Beatrice please don't say that I should be very sure I haven't made a "faux pas" because I just know I am right.

I don't know about Chinese girls being so bad to look at or about getting sick of China for that reason and the only reason I don't want to go is because I would like to make a home of my own and I can't very well do that as long as I stay in the Marines and if I haven't any hope of making that home I might just as well see something of the world.

Thanks for not saying anything about that letter Beatrice. There really is nothing to forgive Beatrice because if I have been hurt it is my own fault because I shouldn't have reached for the moon. If I had any sense at all I could have known better than to ask you to marry me because I've seen my face in the mirror often enough to know that it would stop a freight train and I sure pity the woman that would willingly look at that face across the table or anywhere else for the rest of her life, so don't think I blame you.

This may be my last letter for a while because I'm getting locked up for being out of camp without leave. I couldn't help it though my machine broke down and I was reported away 17 hours without leave and alibies don't go here so I will probably have old Santa Clause visit me in the brig. I won't be able to write but a friend of mine will smuggle in my mail for me. He will probably get smokes in to me so I'm not worrying but write often and I will make up for it every chance I get because your letters and my sisters will be the only thing I will have to read or do. (if)? My bunkie can smuggle it in to me and I'm sure he can.

Lets hear from you soon so

Semper Fidelis
Porter

P.S. Send my mail the same as ever to the Tenth Regiment Band.

Box 1: folder 10

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Dec 22 1926 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regt Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

December 22 Tenth Regiment Band

Dear Bea:

I received your letter the other day but this is the first letter I have been permitted to write and it will be the last until the 25th because that is when I get out. Im supposed to do thirty days of solitary confinement with a square meal every fourth day and today I got special permission to write two letters seeing as this is my square meal day. Today almost every other fellow is getting ready to go on leave and expecting to see their sweethearts etc but all I can look forward to is the 25th because I get out then and all the while I have been in here enjoying my bread and water I havent even had one word from my folks, the only letter I got was the one from you my bunky sneaked that one in to me. Im just about disgusted with everything including all the hard luck I have been having, and if I thought that I could keep from getting caught I would break the walls on the brigg and desert long enough to get a smoke. I havent smoked since my trial and Im nearly crazy now.

Then to top my hard luck off my partner in business collected all the money we had standing out and went over the hill. How do you like that for luck? So much for that.

Tell me something about yourself and what Santa Claus is bringing you when you write again. I hope he is good to you and dont go past your place.

You will have to excuse this pencil writing but Im real lucky to be allowed to write at all let alone trying to get some pen and ink or something to write on.

Well Beatrice I guess Ive just about bothered you enough with this scrawling so Im going to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

As Ever
Porter

P.S. I wont be able to write again till after the 25th because they open the doors that day but write soon.

Porter

Box 1: folder 11

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
Post Prison Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Sunday Jan. 9, 1927 Post Prison

Dear Beatrice:

I guess its about time Im writing you, isn't it? Well to start with thanks for all the nice candy and the book. Ive already read it. You know we are allowed to read every night after supper. I also got a couple of letters from you which I will try to answer now if I cant why Ill catch up when I get out of here, which will be next Sunday morning if I get "good time" like I expect I will.

Say Beatrice youve seen this new sister of mine pretty close which is more than I can say. What do you think of her and my new mother? I havent even had one word from either one yet but I hear that my new mother cant write so she is excused but how about Elenore or whatever her name is. Im pretty prejudiced against her. Do you think Im right? Dont be afraid to tell me what you think cause I wont get sore and they will never know.

No Beatrice I didn't make any New Years resolutions for the simple reason that I dont want any to break. I just do the best I can and I cant do better with all the resolutions I could think of.

I guess thats just another false alarm for a while about my coming home I was going to come home and work for a month and try to get a start again in a financial way but I guess thats out of the question because Lett says work is scarce up there. But I will come home sometime this spring if it is anywhere near possible but I dont bank on it.

What do you expect I would do with a clarinet while I am in the Prison? We arent even allowed to talk out loud because if we did we sure would make an awfull racket. When I get back to the Tenth Regt. Band I guess will do a little practice again to build up a lip and limber my fingers, but I dont get out till next Sunday at the earliest.

Who was this neighbor of yours that said such nice things about me? I can just about guess but tell me for sure.

Well Beatrice it gets pretty tiresome writing on a stationary box on a persons lap so I will close for now but I will write you a young book just as soon as I get out of here where I can write in comfort, so Ill close

Porter

Dont forget what I told you about the month of March.

Emil Write Soon X

Box 1: folder 11

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Jan 24 1927
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Jan 22, 1926 Band Quarters Tenth Regt.

Dearest Beatrice:

I received your letter the day before yesterday but this is the first chance I am getting to write so Im going to make this letter that young book that I promised you.

Im glad you liked that picture "Tell it to the Marines" I havent seen it yet but I dont think they showed everything that happens to the "boot" or "recruit" when he first joins and goes through training because it would discourage a lot of fellows from enlisting you know just because I say that I like the outfit doesn't mean it all gravy, its not I like it because of the pleasure I get out of my brute strength and because I get an opportunity to study music and also different courses. I have learned much both in music and otherwise and I have, gloried, may I say in my strength, when I was in the prison for instance I was given the hardest job there because I am big and dont look weak. I lifted ash cans that the other fellows couldn't lift or more and that is why I like it but being a Marine is no joke by a long way like I got out last Sunday and was immediately put on guard and this is Saturday again and the first chance Im getting to write. I dont know why they kept me on all week unless it was to further punish me but Ill show them Im no baby anyway. I can stand as much as they can give me.

Im sorry to hear that your father has been ill and taken to the hospital. I hope by the time this reaches you he will be better. Your father has my best wishes at any rate. I hope you get over that blue feeling of yours because I know how uncomfortable it gets when one feels that way because I have felt that way many and many a time.

Talking about when a fellow first joins the Marines I can tell you a little about that. I myself joined on June 15 1925 and got to Parris Island S. Carolina on June 17 we were sent to what is known as the receiving barracks to wait the forming of a company and for medical observation and what I mean when a man passes all those observations he is physically fit. I know I wasn't going into anything easy but I didn't expect it to be quite so hard as it was so to give the boys entertainment I took up pugilism in the welter weight and light heavy weight class I was perfectly content until I met a better man on July 4th and I got beaten I gave this up then till I left recruit training after which we were real Marines the training took eight weeks and those were 8 weeks of Hades with a capital H reveille at 4:30 and drill till 4:30 then scrub clothes and mend them and clean a rifle and all the equipment then write letters if we still had enough ambition. The last 3 weeks we spent on the rifle range we walked or rather marched 4 miles to the range starting before daylight and getting out there about an hour and a half later just in time for day light then we filled our canteens with water and started shooting or working targets and laying in the hot sand all day and all we had to drink was the water in our canteen and it got warm and most always got empty before noon and drinking to much of this hot water caused a lot of the fellows to faint and drop out of line on the march back it was to much for some of them to endure. Then the chow we got there was poor and not enough of that but we were kept busy so we couldn't find time to grumble. I never told my folks how hard it really was because they would only think Im showing a

yellow streak and Im not. From the Island we got on board the U.S.S. Henderson and made a little tropical cruise. I think youve seen the pictures I took then I came up here. I tried prize fighting again as recreation but I got beat again and I decided that to be a musician I couldn't risk getting my lips cut or my fingers hurt so I gave it up for good. Does that look like the picture "Tell it to the Marines"?

Well Bea: Ive told you quite a bit in this letter because I scribbled smaller than usual, then to Im sleepy as this is my first whole night off this week so Im going to close and get to sleep.

Semper Fildeis
Porter

P.S. Im glad you havent forgotten and Im hoping one way only

Write soon please

Box 1: folder 12

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Feb 11 1927

Feb 9, 1927 Band Barracks Tenth Regiment

Dearest Beatrice:

I received your letter a couple of days ago but I was busy then and afterwards I forgot to answer it and I just now remembered it. I was waiting for a letter all the time and never thought to answer yours first. I have been pretty busy lately, the band has been relieved from guard duty and we have been restored to band duty then in the last few days we had a number of men transferred out and among them was our assistant solo clarinet player and I was put way at the back on account of being locked up but I jumped about four chairs the other day and I got solo & 1st clarinet which is third chair and today I made another jump to assistant solo and in order to keep that I will have to spend very much of my spare time practicing about 6 hours per day.

I heard from my sister the other day and she told me that your father has returned from the hospital. Im glad to hear that because I know what its like to lay around on your back in the hospital for Ive spent plenty of my time there since I joined the marines. I suppose Lill told you that Im fooling with radio again only I dont get much time for it Ive been building one for a fellow now fir the past 14 days but I get so little time to work at it that I havent finished it yet when three hours work would finish it.

Im glad to hear that you have your letters for WTH and I guess you will be plenty proud of them wont you. Im glad to hear that you are a senior now and maybe you can give me my answer now. I hope so anyway because I want you all to myself. That may sound selfish but I dont mean it that way. I wont expect you to sit at home like a bump on a log just because Im not there all I want is your promise to say "I do" well so much for that now for some news.

I suppose you have been reading in the papers of the Mexican affairs and also of the Chinese affairs. Well our whole regiment has been standing by for to go to China and the whole 5th Regiment has been standing be to go to Mexico in case war is declared. I hope we go over anyway. They want to leave the band behind but if war is declared I think I will put in a special request to go there once Im over there Ill put in a request to remain there at the post in Pekin.

We have been having some wonderful weather here lately, (for polar bears) gee its cold here we went out to play an open air concert and we sure made a nice mess out of it because we were so froze that our fingers and lips simply refused to function properly and the results were awfull.

I suppose you will be thinking that Ive got an awfull nerve to write you on this kind of paper but an ex jail bird cant afford more for a couple of months until he gets his fine paid. Im not worrying though because those fines are paid back to us when we get discharged.

Well Beatrice next month tells the tale, whether I go to China or come home this summer Im hoping to come home myself, but I dont want to let a chance to see China go by without trying for it and again I dont want to spoil my future by reenlisting or extending my present enlistment unless I intend to put 30 years in the service so I can retire on a pension but if I have any chance for a future in civilian life I

certainly want to take that chance. I have several offers for musical positions for when I get out of the service but I dont know what to do myself.

Well Beatrice I guess this much of this letter is enough of a puzzle without torturing you with more so please say yes, and answer soon. Im going to close this letter and be a

Hopefull Marine
Porter

Box 1: folder 12

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 19 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regt Band Quantico Va.

Feb 18, 1927 Band Quarters Tenth Regiment

Dearest Beatrice:

I received your letter today and even though I was expecting it I was like a big coward. I was afraid to open and read what you had to say. I'm sorry to hear that you feel the way you do because I sure would try my best to be good to you and to make you happy and as far as becoming a milliner is concerned I don't see where I would be in the way nor do I see where I would prevent you from trying to partly repay your parents for all they have done for you and anyway you would still have several years before I get discharged. Twenty months is all I have in the service which still leaves me about twenty eight to serve or in other words two and a half more years less two months then I would have to make a fresh start on the outside so you see I wouldn't be in your way any, but don't think I blame you because I don't. I just got a look into a mirror and I just got to realize how I really look especially when I'm not shaved. I only wanted to know how things look for me. We are standing here for God knows where we have all the portable galleys or kitchens all the tanks tractors planes and artillery pieces in readiness and some of the men are leaving here at least by next Wednesday if not before no one knows when they will be called on to leave to go to some country where there are war clouds blowing around. No one knows when they may go nor does anyone know whether they will be Nicaragua or China bound when they do go. Myself I would like to go and if war should be declared I would request a transfer to line duty so I could get into the scrap I would never be content to be a stretcher bearer and that is just what they would make of all bandsmen.

We were pretty busy today we started out by rehearsing all morning and we got a number called (I Lombardi) and it is one of Verdi's famous operas and the range of the clarinet is from one octave below the staff to one and one half octaves above the staff and some fake notes above that and this number runs from the lowest note on the clarinet to the highest and it's sure a hard one I got so disgusted with myself I was going to smash my clarinet and kill a couple of guys and everything but I finally got control of myself again. Then after dinner we went out to play a concert and just got back in time to eat chow at 5:15 P.M. now I'm through for the day except for my practice. I never really knew how bad I needed to practice nor how rotten I really was till I tried to play my part in (I Lombardi) this morning.

I received your box of cookies yesterday and thanks muchly for them they sure were good and they only came just in the nick of time because I got up so late I had just missed show and was thinking what a long morning it was going to be without breakfast. Those cookies made me want you more than ever Beatrice and whoever it was that created that saying that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach sure said a mouthfull and don't ever worry about my not liking ginger not that I know the difference, because I don't but my sweet tooth just told me they were good so I must like ginger. Who is Hoppy? Not that it concerns me but you told me that Hoppy and you made the cookies so I'm curious to know.

Well Beatrice I dont know if I would like to go through the ninth grade again or not. I first met you there but when I think of the good times we had there and the pleasure I used to have by being with you it makes my heart hurt to think that it is all to no avail.

Well Beatrice the weather has turned here and for the last couple of days we have had some very nice spring days here in fact it was so nice out yesterday that I took my clarinet and junk out into the open air to practice.

Well Beatrice right now I am in a pretty sad state of mind and I am afraid this letter is going to bore you something terrible so please forgive me for that and the pencil writing so Ill be always

The same Hopefull
Porter

Box 1: folder 12

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Feb 21 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regt. Band Quantico Va.

Feb 20 1927 Band Quarters Tenth Regiment

Dearest Beatrice:

I suppose you will be surprised to hear from me twice in the same week but that is what I am doing.

To start with I am leaving everything just the way it is today I havent practiced a bit today and I dont intend to Im feeling real mean today for some reason or another, and Im afraid if I were to practice I would get disgusted and smash my instrument I cant say why I feel that way, because I dont know but like this Im getting the chance to write to you and it makes me happy and brings a feeling of relief.

I have been laying here on my bunk doing nothing but growl all morning and all my thoughts have been of you. I have just decided for to stick by a certain expression which may be a little rough but here it is Im going to have you for my own (in spite of hell and high water) Ive decided that the only way to get what I want is to stick by my guns and keep trying, so dont be surprised if I keep writing to you and asking you the same old question Then sometime in a few months when I feel extra rich some day I will get a little furlough and come home and ask you some more and Im going to get you to promise if I have to get a 30 day leave and ask you 3 times every night for 30 nights I was hoping to get your promise before I came home and I still hope to for the simple reason that I would like to know you care at least a little in case I should be sent away before I get to see you. I had foolishly hoped that you might care for me and although I shall never be able to offer you much I shall at least be able to support you comfortably and I would try to make you happy I hope you will think this over Beatrice and I hope some day you will care like I do.

Well Beatrice last night we had a young blizzard and snowstorm here and this morning it got warmer and about 6 inches of snow started to melt and form into slush. There were about 300 more men came in from mail guard this A.M. and all of them turned to and cleaned the slush off the street. Those men who came back this morning are just about the last of the tenth Regiment that were away and they were brought back to be handy in case of emergency.

I hope this all shall pass over pretty quickly and maybe I will come up sooner than either of us expect. Well Bea Im going to close now and hope to hear from you soon

I still Love You

Emil

Box 1: folder 13

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Mar 3 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt. Band Quantico Va.

March 3 1926 Band Quarters Tenth Regiment

Dearest Beatrice:

I received your letter yesterday and I was just ready to think that you werent going to write any more and I felt better after your letter came. Im sorry to hear that your father is sick again and Im glad to know that you like me well enough to write to me when you feel blue. I hope some day I will have the privilege to sheer you always.

I should say Im not sick from those cookies I think they were very good By the way Beatrice, Helen Hopkins sounds familiar isn't she the girl who went to W.T.H. with us. There was some friend of yours whose name was Helen, I believe she was a blonde if Im not mistaken and she lived out in Lindale Is that the girl you mean?

I sure would like to see you and get acquainted again although I dont think you would notice any difference in me Im still the same old nutty porter I still like music and Im still in love with you just like I was when we went to Tech. Im still inclined to see what makes anything moved when it is something Mechanical The only difference in me now is that I study a little more now than I used to.

Well Beatrice I have given up all hope of going to Nicaragua and I have very little hope of going to China now. I guess Im being disappointed all the way around. Well in one way Im glad if I don't go maybe I will get to come home some time this summer so maybe Ill see you then.

We are supposed to play a outdoor concert at Sick Quarters this afternoon but I guess its to cold and windy. We have been playing some very beautiful music lately and yesterday we started a number that Im in love with The Unfinished Symphony I could play that thing all day long and still ask for more.

I got a regulation hair cut yesterday and Im afraid to look in a mirror now for fear Ill laugh myself to death when I say regulation I mean they are cut high around the back and short on top and when I say short I mean less than two inches on top but that is a military haircut and Im in a military outfit so its best to soldier and do things right.

Well Beatrice you asked for a jolly letter and Ive failed something awfull but Ill try to do better next time so write soon

Porter

Box 1: folder 13

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Mar 5 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va

March 5 1926 Sick Bay

Dearest Beatrice:

I suppose you will be wondering how come that Im writing this letter and how come the ink & pen etc but Ill explain all my queer actions.

Im writing this letter in the sick bay but that don't mean Im sick because Im not Im just standing one of the gobs watches here because there is a big poker game in our barracks and he feels lucky so he asked me to stand his watch over here and seeing the pen and ink over here I thought I might as well write you a few lines gee but writing with a pen and at a desk makes me feel up in the world again I havent enjoyed this privilege for so long that I feel lost in a swivel chair.

Well Beatrice from the looks of things right now I guess Im slated to stay behind again and miss all the fun, but if I do stay behind Im not going to miss all the fun but only part of it because if they keep me here, Im going to get a furlough this summer and I dont mean perhaps, but that only holds good if I get a promise to see you at least two out of three nights for the duration of my furlough. Is that a go with you? If it is then I don't care if they do leave me behind.

Well I was looking over some of the orchestrations today and Ive found about 30 fox trots that Ive got to throw away just because they are incomplete The only part that I could find for everyone is the piano & violin parts & of course the clarinet & saxophone parts and those only because I was the man that took care of them. Some of these fellows would loose their neck if it wasn't tied on they are so careless.

What have you been doing with yourself since you wrote last? Have you been having a good time? Write oftener and tell me because I get so lonesome and your letters help so much.

How is your fathers illness? Has he shown any improvement? I hope so, but no matter dont take things to hard and just be your cheery self and you will help your folks as well as yourself.

Write me a letter real soon Bea: Ill be waiting for it

Porter

Box 1: folder 13

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Mar 12 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regt Band Quantico Va.

March 11 1926 Band Quarters Tenth Regt.

Dearest Beatrice:

I received your letter this morning and it arrived during our regular rehearsal but that inly put off reading it for a half hour but that doesn't keep me from answering right away, does it?

Im glad to hear that you are feeling better and also glad to hear that your father is feeling better.

Tell Hoppy that if she is going to go a couple of rounds with me when I come home she better not let me know or I wont come, but then she never did get a look at me I dont think or she wouldn't be so anxious because I look so ugly my face would stop a freight train going down hill. Then to you better remind her that I weigh close to 180 pound and did a little fighting in the ring myself so she better start training because she will only have till May or June to train, because Im going to try to come home then but still Im afraid of her if she is anything like you say she is.

Im glad to hear that Tech has been victorious again because once a Tech'er always a Tech'er and I used to go there you know so I sincerely hope Tech gets the State Championship.

I suppose you will be ready to drop dead by now but Ill explain why Im writing with pen & ink again its this way – my bunky is careless and left his fountain pen lay out where I could find it easy so that explains, dont it?

Ill say the name of your Thesis sounds interesting but its by me, tis to deep for me.

I know how your lips feel because our lips get sores & chaps in them a lot from playing outside in the cold and we have to play anyway but why did you wash your face before applying the iodine? That takes the powder & paint off and your taking a chance of someone seeing you without arent you?

I would take a chance at solving and kind of problem for that promise even if I dont know a thing about Physics problems.

I hope your senior meeting today gives you lots of inspiration to write a nice long letter next time because this one was so short I could stand on my ear and read it. Then if your senior meeting don't give you the inspiration your friend hoppy of the boxing gloves ought to be able to give you all kinds of things to rave about.

Do you still practice on your fiddle? Dont give that up for sakes but dont leave it drive you crazy either. Im doing that right now and someday Ill wither go crazy or throw the thing in the river most probably river.

We are rehearsing Franz Schuberts (unfinished Symphony) and the clarinets do all the work but it is nice even if it is hard. Well we play at the show tonight and Ive got to practice some beside write a letter to my sister yet so Ill sign off

Hopefull
Porter

Box 1: folder 13

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Mar 15 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Tenth Regt Band Quantico Va

March 14 1927 Band Quarters Tenth Regiment

Dearest Beatrice:

This is our week off duty so we all get liberty on Monday because we are on duty Sunday which was yesterday, but I don't go on liberty so I'm back here almost alone there are only five or six of us here and I practiced a couple of hours and decided to call it a day so I borrowed a book from my bunk and the name is, "With the help of God and a few marines," I mean the name of the book, not my bunk and it's author is Brigadier General A.W. Catlin the most of it is about the world war and some of the battles that made the Marine Corps famous, especially the 5th Regt The author does quite a bit of bragging about the Marine Corps and the bravery of some of the men in it but never the less it is a good book and it gives many views of warfare that would be pretty hard to get anywhere else and I would recommend it to anyone to read as a very good book.

By the way Beatrice some time ago you said something in one of your letters about having heard part of the Marine Hymn and wishing you knew the rest of the words well writing all this about the old Corps and reading that book just made me think of it so I'm going to send it to you with this letter. I did have an Army & Navy Hymnal that contained this song but someone wanted that sheet worse than me so they tore it out so I won't be able to send you the music but only the words. Here goes

The Marines Hymn

1. From the halls of Montezuma,
To the shores of Tripoli
We fight our country's battles,
On the land as on the sea
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean,
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marines
2. From the pest hole of Cavite
To the ditch at Panama,
You will find them very needy
Of Marines – That's what we are:
Were the watch dogs of a pile of coal,
Or we dig a magazine;
Though he lends a hand at every job
Who would not be a Marine?
3. Our flags unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun

In the snow of far off Northern lands
And in sunny tropics scenes
You will find us always on the job –
The United States Marines

4. Heres health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve,
In many a strife weve fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes
They will find the streets are guarded by
The United States Marines.

We are a proud lot and although we are always growling it would be pretty hard to find a man who would be put to the test and found wanting at the crucial moment. Our Corps made a reputation for itself during the war at the cost of many human lives and we dont intend for those mens lives to have been given in vain.

Oh lets quite raving about the marine Corps and talk about something sensible. Last night we played our concert in the Gym and it sure went over big We played our unfinished Symphony again and the people appreciated good music and we got a good ~~had~~ hand for it. Then we played several overtures and the Gems of Steven Foster and a waltz and closed in the regular way by playing a waltz a march and the Star Spangled Banner and our solo clarinet players lip went bad on him so I had to bear the brunt of The whole concert and my lips aren't any to strong either and today they are so sore Id bet I could put a raw egg on them and fry it as quick as any stove would. I have a big blister on the lower lip just where the whole pressure of the reed comes and it sure is painfull

Well we just got notice right now that our preliminary A & I inspection will be held tomorrow and that means get ready. I also found out another thing. If I want a furlough Im going to have to ask for it early and know when I want it. I was thinking of coming up in May but now I dont know it may be the middle of summer before I get to come up and again I may come up unexpected sometime I dont know myself just what to do. Ill see and let you know when I make a move and dont forget what I said about seeing you. I dont care if I have to study out or dope out all your lessons for you. The only way you can keep me away will be to put up a barbwire entanglement in front of your place & then Im liable to get through.

Well Beatrice Im going to close now so I can get ready for the inspection tomorrow and Ill expect to hear from you soon

A Still Hopefull Porter

Box 1: folder 13

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
10th Regt Band Quantico Va

March 18 1927 Tenth Regiment Band

Dearest Beatrice:

I don't know if I will ever get this letter finished or not because since your letter arrived which was 15 minutes ago, I have started this letter 3 times each time with a different pen but I finally came back to my old buddy's fountain pen.

I dont know if I should bawl you out for nearly getting bitten by a mad dog or not maybe I should just be thankful and I think thats what it ends with I know I wouldn't have liked it if the dog had succeeded one of the boys out of the band got bit by a mad dog the other day and he is in the hospital now being treated for the bite.

Im getting to be quite a radio expert around here Beatrice I go all over the camp fixing radios for people, not as a professional but just for the fun of it. The other night the band master called me up and said a friend of his had a radio and the radio man from downtown couldn't fix it so I went up and when I got it fixed this mans wife kept me there for supper and boy what a feed. I ate about 3 lbs of steak and everywhere I go I get a swell meal so when you see me again I may be pretty fat.

Ive got a pocket full of bad news for you now Beatrice. Your going to have a bad, mad man on your hands starting about June 6th or 7th and he's going to stick around for anywhere from 15 to 30 days, in other words Im coming home on furlough then. I figured if I came then I would be up there in time for graduation am I right? Well at first it looked hopeless from a financial view but I have overcome that so I told the bandmaster Im going in June and he said its O.K. with him so now Ive only got the Company Commanders O.K. to get then the Colonel's O.K. then General Coles O.K. then get it O.Ked in Washington so Ive got 1/5th of my furlough already only its no good without the other 4/5ths.

Well Beatrice I have started work on my electrical engineers course again I did one lesson and Im going to start another one tonight.

You told me in your letter that you sometimes feel like writing pages and pages. Well why dont you write when you feel like that just see how close to 50 pages you can get instead of how close to 560 words only let me know in advance because getting such a big letter would make me die of heart failure of course I appreciate all of your letters no matter how long or short they may be only I would like a long one once in a while.

No we havent mastered the (unfinished) yet but we did murder it although we played it at two concerts and the audience liked it both times

I dont know if I have grown any since Ive joined the Marines or not and I don't know if weigh exactly 180 lbs or not but I know that about 5 months ago I weighed right close around there but I may have lost some or gained some since then, and I hope I havent grown any because if I did why Id have to stoop to go through a door because I was just about 6 feet tall when I enlisted and even I darn those

mistakes, even if I didn't grow any I still think I have been benefited by my service so far because where I was getting soft as a clam before my muscles are getting pretty hard now and no superfluous flesh and although I'm darker complected due to tropical and Southern sun I've still got all my skin, none of it burned off yet

I'm sorry to hear that Tech lost at Akron but after all you know there is a poem goes something like this, It isn't the fact that you licked that counts, It's how did you fight, and why? I'm sure Tech fought as good as they knew how. Well pretty soon starts the Baseball season and our team is slowly but surely being put in shape. I don't know how much of a baseball season you are going to have but ours is going to last from April 1st to May 30th and that will mean we have to play 2 or 3 or 4 times a week for the baseball games so it also means more work for us.

Well Beatrice we've got a concert to play at the hospital in about an hour just as though those poor fellows aren't suffering enough without us but it's orders so I suppose we better play.

I'm going to close now Beatrice hoping you will excuse the spelling and scribbling etc and will write me 50 pages all at once real soon

Porter

P.S. Tell your friend Hoppy that I am looking forward to that fight with her that she promised me. Tell her I prefer broad swords at 60 paces.

Box 1: folder 13

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Mar 23 1927 [return address] E.G. Thomas, Pvt. U.S.M.C. Tenth Regt. Band Quantico Va.

March 23 Quantico Virginia

Dearest Beatrice:

I dont know what time you got up but you wrote at a nice time at any rate, but what beats me is that you measure your rain by the bushel. I think they used to measure it with a micrometer when I lived in Cleveland. Well we had a few days of constant rain and now a couple of days of extremely cold weather but we should worry we go out to play for our first baseball game in 1 hour and about 20 minutes from now. The regimental team plays the all Marine team a practice game and naturally the boiler makers have to be present to render the fox trots and marches between innings.

How does your Mr. Elmer know so much about the Marines? Sure we fight every way even on the bunk and if the odds are against us we put our backs to the wall and fight anyway.

A & I means (adjutant inspector) he is one of the big boys from Headquarters in Washington and I believe he is a major. When he comes around it generally means every kind of inspection from short arm inspection to Heavy Marching order inspection so you can imagine how we like that.

Dont worry about water or barbwire keeping me away dont forget I can swim a mile in nothing flat and marines are trained to capture machine gun nests & cut barb wire and if no other way whats the matter with an airplane?

Tell me about your bright idea I like to hear about your ideas. What is it about this time?

Anytime suits me to just so it isn't any later than Ive fixed it now and Im giving you plenty of time to powder your nose because from now till June 6th is still a long time but is it worth while powdering your nose for me? You know powder comes off very easily and it would only be wasted. By the way Beatrice, You aren't going on your vacation just when I get there, are you? please dont.

Well we are getting ready to go on the rifle range again and Im not even going to try to hit the target if I get the least suspicious of the rifle I get, because there were 3 of them blew up in one week last year and the results were one eye put out on one fellow and a crushed skull on another and another fellow lost his thumb so Im taking no chances if my rifle dont look good.

Well Beatrice its almost time for the game so ta ta for this time and write soon to

Porter

Box 1: folder 13

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Mar 31 1927 [[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

March 29, 1927 Quantico Va.

Dearest Beatrice:

Your little book just arrived and Im still wondering how you did it eight pages sure is a lot for you to write all at one time. Im not sure now just how many baseball games I will get to this year and right now Im not at all so sure if I will be up on furlough when I said I would in fact I may go to China next month or maybe sooner. They just reorganized the old 6th Regt. And started sending them away now the first detail left about an hour ago the rest follow tonight they go by rail to the west coast and to China on board the U.S.S. Henderson I wasn't lucky enough to get in that first bunch to go but I have good hopes of following I nearly fought Saturday when I found out I wasn't going Ive did nothing but grouch and growl ever since and I think Ill keep right in growling until they quit cheating me like that. Everything has a bright side though if you can only find it, and if I dont go over Ill be good as my word and make a furlough.

I guess this Helen must be a pretty good friend of yours, isn't she? Every other word you say is Helen, but I dont blame her I just envy her. Im kind of scared of blonds though. Im sure I would rather stick a Chinaman with a bayonet or just strangle a couple of greasers with my bare hands than to fight a blond. They are bad medicine.

If I did come up in a plane you might pester me for a ride and you may even do the driving but when you do I stay down on the ground but dont worry I wont bring a plane. You aren't the only one thats going to buy a plane some day. I am to. Its great sport flying I dont mean perhaps.

It may be good news for you to get the handfull of money to buy a new spring hat but Ill bet the person that gave you the fist full didn't think it was such good news.

My sister told me that you have one of those goofy pictures of mine now Im going to ask for one of yours when you get this. Thats fair isn't it? if not then I will swipe mine back when I come up again.

Good Lord havent you a dog yet? You told me you were going to get another one quite a while ago and here you havent got me yet you have to play with other womens hounds.

Well Beatrice I just heard some news the First sergeant just said sign the pay roll which is good news so Ta Ta and write soon to

Porter

P.S. Three Rousing Cheers. I just got news Im going to China Ill Write Later

Plenty of Love
Porter

Box 1: folder 14

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Apr 1927
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

April 5, 1927 Still Here

Dearest Beatrice:

I suppose you will be surprised to see this letter come from Quantico again. Well so am I. We were ordered away and we took the dozens of different inspections that go with the moving of troops and now in the last minute we find ourselves left behind. They have no use for the boilermakers as they call us the only time we are any good is on parade and at athletic contests. Im sorry in a way to miss the trip and the fights etc, but Im also glad this way because it may mean that I will get my furlough this summer. I hope so anyway. I hope to come home in time for graduation but of course in a time like this a person can't say anything is sure all one can do is hope and Im doing that.

We have been busy all this morning playing at the depot when the other troops embarked and left and we were left behind. We were all peeved and half of us were trying to think which kind of suicide would be quickest and which would be painless. I know of one way I could have went along but I found it out to late. They needed good mechanics in the garage force and I could have been transfered there if I had only known. That is where that big two letter word comes in again.

Well Bea! What are you doing with yourself? Are you having a good time? When do you graduate? If its any where near the same time as my sister graduates then I may get to see you graduate.

Im soaked to the skin right now because all morning while we were playing it was raining and I havent changed to dry uniform yet because we may have to fall out again and I dont want to get both uniforms wet not only my cloths are wet but my clarinet also. The pads are so water soaked that I can hardly blow.

Ill close now Beatrice but please write soon because Ill wait for some word from you soon

Only
Emil

Box 1: folder 14

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Apr 14 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

April 13 Quantico Virginia

Dearest Beatrice:

I had a, well shall we say a notion this morning that I was going to hear from you and sure enough along comes your letter.

Yes the 6th and 3rd Regts left from here all right, the 6th is an old Regt that was doing all of the big fighting with the 5th during the world war. The 6th was split up after the war and was reorganized for this trouble but the 3rd Regt is nothing more than the 10th Regt. I should have been with the 3rd just like all the rest of this band should be but we were just held here for no reason at all. You better not start cheering yet because I may get a furlough yet. I was just talking to the Top Sgt. And he said there was no chance so I requested to be transferred either to the garage or the aviation and the funny part was that I was so mad that I meant it, but the Top didn't want to lose one of his First & Solo clarinets so he said he would try to give me my furlough but he is only giving me 15 days but Ill turn around and get an extension of 10 days so Ill have 25 days anyway. I told him that as long as I had to stay here I was either going to get a furlough or a transfer and he decided it was best to try to get me a furlough but I wouldn't count to much on it because it is only a good try at the best. But. (It isn't the fact that your beat that counts, its how did you fight and why?)

Yes We are having some spring weather this morning but not like it should be. I feel like going fishing this morning but instead of that I am going to write this letter and then it will be just about noon. We have killed the best part of the morning by falling out for police work.

When you get your pictures dont forget!! Im still alive and I dont like to be an orphan.

What is a little thing like 3 measly tests staring you in the face. Ive only got eight and one final examination to do. I guess that is a little more than 3 tests isn't it? When I get those done then I get another diploma.

Where is Rittman at? You said you and the family went to Rittman but it's the first time I ever heard of her or is it maybe a new kind of a machine? You must be some driver judging from the way you write. Im sure going to go for a ride with you when I get up there. I don't know any way that I could die happier.

You asked me if I had any bright ideas and you know I have only you wont accept my ideas. I wish you would myself nothing would l=please me anymore but Im still hopefull.

What do you want me to plan for Lill? Ill tell you what. You get a big box to send it in and Ill catch her about an 8 ft rattle snake. How is that?

Lill is a good joke all right she wrote me a letter the other day all german. I can just barely read german but I can get over enough to make out the letter.

Well Beatrice I guess Ill close now seeing as Ive scribbled this much. Dont forget my bright idea or the plan for Lills present but mostly the bright Idea and above all else write & make it soon

Porter

Box 1: folder 14

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Apr 17 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

April 16 1927 Same Dump

Dearest Beatrice:

Time hangs heavy on my hands tonight and as I just wrote a letter to Lill I thought I might as well send you a few lines.

Im going to tell you what I told Lill now because that is all that has happened since I wrote last.

We went fishing today. By (We) I mean the fellow we call (half pint Thomas) and myself called (big Thomas) and we both caught a nice string of perch and bass so we had a fish fry all by ourselves and boy they sure tasted good and I dont mean maybe we ate like a couple of hogs

Tomorrow I go to church and behave then Monday we go on the rifle range again and boy how I hate the ordeal. I have a rifle though that looks pretty good to me and if I keep it good and clean I should get through without accident.

Well I dont know how my chances look for a furlough but you can believe me Im going to try my best to get that furlough and I think I will to by hook or by crook.

Spring has come here to stay I guess from the looks of things it as warm all day today and half the time it was really uncomfortable I suppose it will start to not start to rain for it just now started so I suppose it will rain all day tomorrow I hope not though pretty soon the river will be warm enough to swim again then I will have another try at swimming to the Maryland shore and seeing as Im in fair condition I hope to make it.

Well this is all for this time so I will close as ever.

Only
Porter

P.S. What did you think of my bright Idea? Answer Soon

P

Box 1: folder 14

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Apr 27 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt. Band Quantico Va.

Quantico Virginia April 26

Dearest Beatrice:

If you ever start to mention the fact that you are writing with pencil again I think I will go crazy Im going to tell you now that all I care about is that you write a letter every once in a while whats more I like pencil better myself so dont let that stop you but write.

Im glad to hear that your pictures are finished and I only hope you wont forget to send mine. I have one of my sisters now and Ive still got plenty of room for three or four of yours yet.

What do you mean my plan is lively? Cant you catch and wrap up a little snake? I caught 3 of them in the last week, two at once in fact and I killed one that was a little too viscous and big and two watersnakes that got in my way when I was fishing. Should I catch and send you a couple of the live ones?

My bunky and I have been busy here lately in an empty barracks building a motorcycle and if we can get an engine number and title for it I may come home on it sometime. I am afraid my furlough looks like it might fall through right now but I havent given up hope yet so dont you.

You asked me why I dont like rifle range well its this way it wouldn't be so bad if you just shoot all day but we shoot about 30 rounds then pull targets till noon or vise versa and the same in the afternoon.

Im glad you like my little niece I do myself but I have really only seen her about a dozen times you know but I like children and it dont take me many minutes to get acquainted I wish I had dark long eye lashes maybe you would hug me then.

Im changing pens here so this letter will be two different shades.

Say what is this big surprise that you have cooked up for my sister she has accused me of being in on the secret she says the surprise comes in June.

What do you think of my bright idea you havent told me lately but I certainly hope you will change your mind in my favor. I am going to build my future on your decision so lets have the final decision in favor of

Porter

Write Soon

Box 1: folder 14

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch May 1 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt. Band Quantico Va.

April 30 Quantico Va.

Dearest Beatrice:

Your picture arrived the other day but I have been so tired at night from the range that I havent sat down to write till today. We shot for record yesterday and I made my Expert Rifleman right on the head. I made 306 and not one point over or under. I needed a bulls eye to make 306 and I had just one shot left and I wanted to extra money every month so I made my last shot perfect. I rested up this morning so I could write this afternoon. I expected a letter from you this morning but it never got here yet.

I have been in love with you for some time now but after looking at your picture Im still more in love. Im getting wild, better say yes now before I come and kidnap you. Im not fooling either I mean what I say. Try me anyway and if you still feel that you cant care for me by the time I get discharged then you just tell me and I wont even ask you to give up any boy friends you may have all I ask is one chance to prove to you that I care and that I will try my best to make you happy then as I said when Im out of the service if you still don't care just say so and Ill go away.

Well I suppose you are pretty near done with your exams now, arent you? Dont forget Ill come up there pretty soon and Im going to try to come before graduation time because Im afraid I wont be able to get a furlough then. Ill close now because Im going to send another small letter so write soon to your

Porter

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va May 5 1927
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

May 3, 1927 Quantico Virginia

Dearest Beatrice:

I received your letter today and if it hadn't arrived when it did I believe I would have lost my mind. I was starting to think that you weren't going to write anymore.

This day has been quite eventfull. We had a review by the A & I and this afternoon I received my new medals for Expert Rifleman. I lost my old one so I just needed a new one Tonight the A & I held office hours to hear all tales of woe and remedy them if possible and our new band was well represented because we have been taken from band duty again and we are once more doing guard so he promised to do his best for us so no telling what may happen in the next few days.

If I get the motorcycle going dont worry about me because Im always carefull. Ask Lill. She will tell you how I drive.

My furlough looks pretty bad one way but Ill get it and you can bet your last cent on it because I always have a few good tricks up my sleeve in reserve dont day anything but just watch my smoke. I could get the furlough next week if I had a mind to but Im not quite prepared for a furlough yet but dont get restless just have patience.

I know you havent forgotten my bright idea and please dont. I am banking everything on that idea. I have been pretty blue today but the thought of that idea inspired me to study and I finished another lesson.

We took a walk last week and took a few snap shots Im like a wild beast on the picture Im sending. I just crawled down the tree in time to sneak in on the picture so I look rather shabby compared to my buddy. He is a Abbey. Do you like his looks?

Well Bea: I havent had a real long letter from you yet and Im still waiting for it so sit down sometime and write me a nice long story book romance or otherwise. Ill be expecting that kind of a letter so get busy and Ill promise to come home and see you real soon.

Im going to close now Bea and hope to hear from you soon. Also please say yes to my bright idea give me a chance at least to try to make you happy. I would do my best.

Write soon to your

Porter

XXXXX

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va May 16 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

Union Station Washington D.C.

Dearest Bee:

I am sorry I couldn't write on the train last night because I hadn't any paper etc. I tried to get some from the Porter but couldn't. Good Lord! That porter could get me anything else under the sun from a pin up to a gallon but not paper, so I finally fell asleep and slept till just before we hit Washington.

I dont think I will be able to finish this letter before my train comes so I will probably mail it at camp.

I never really realized just how much I missed you until I left last night and then I sure felt awfull and I still do. I am glad that you gave me your promise on the pals idea last night. I'm not giving up the ship you see all the same I will always love you as a pal or a sweetheart or – no I won't think that far ahead.

Im now on board the train on the home stretch honey and there is a little comfort in knowing that and still it makes me feel sad and depressed. I saw one of the boys up here who is taking lessons on the oboe and he tells me that our date of departure is now set for Saturday at 12:20 P.M. so that sounds pretty interesting if true.

Dont forget honey my mail follows me no matter when or where I go so write to one who loves ever

A Pal
Porter

May 16 1927 Back Home

Dearest Pal:

I started to answer your note on the train but I feel so bad today that I hardly know my hand from my foot. I didn't even answer your little letter in it so I decided to send this letter with it.

I have some more news for my lil ole pal now though. We are not going to San Diego Cal. Nevertheless we are getting transfered, over to the first Regiment I think.

Are you sorry after all, that you left me kiss you? I hope not. I would like very much to know sometime that those kisses meant as much to you as they do to me perhaps if you are sorry you might want me to return them! Do you? I hope not.

I hope you really do think of me often dear pal. I wish I did have the right to use the word I started but Ill wait and see. I haven't given up yet.

Sure tell Helen that I said thanks for those cookies. I meant to tell her while I was there but it always slipped my mind.

Jimmy and Erv and Jimmy's girl took me to the train and they showed me what real friends they were. They stood out in all that rain and waved to me just as long as I could see them.

Sure weve got nicer weather here than it was in Cleveland but its not as nice as it could be.

I couldn't very well tell you much about the trip back because after trying to make the porter understand that I wanted some writing material I just go so tired that I dropped to sleep and the first thing I knew we were just outside Washington.

Well honey Im on guard tonight already and Im going to try to sleep a little and practice a little. I think this will be our last week of guard through because they have a regular guard company in the First Regiment.

Im sorry to think honey that you were crying because I felt hurt that night it was cowardly of me to show how I felt and Im sorry I made you feel that way.

Well I think Ive written enough now so Ill close this with a sad heart but high hopes and aspirations

Still
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Write Soon

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch May 13 1927

May 17 1927 Guard House Tenth Regt.

Dearest Little Pal:

I suppose you will notice that I am writing this from the guard house and as I haven't even a locker box here I've got to use my knee as a desk so you mustn't get peeved if you can't read it.

More rumors out now. They sent about 400 more men to Nicaragua last week and the rumor now is that 500 more men are going. Hope I get to go.

I was corporal of the guard last night so that means I've got 24 hours on & 24 off so I've got to do another 4 hr watch today and I've got to hang around here until its time to go on. The night was very nice last night and I only wish we could have had a couple like it last week. Boy what I mean. I sure am lonesome now after a week of seeing you I just can't see what the dickens I'm going to do without you. I sure would've liked to have had you here last night. I was singing or rather humming that song last night. (Dear old pal how I miss you I'm lonesome tonight)

Do you know what I did Sunday night in my big hurry? I ran off and left your picture and my sisters at home. I'm going to write and have Lill send them. I missed them as soon as I left and it made me feel pretty sore and mean.

Well dear girl I guess I've said all I can without breaking my promise and making love to you so I'll close

Lots of Love & plenty kisses from The Greatest of the Great Devil Dogs

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Write Soon

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch May 19 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

May 18, 1927 Tenth Regt Quantico Va

Dearest Pal:

Ive been back here about 2 days now but boy it seems like it might be two months. The days seem to be so dull since I left you. I never realized just how much you meant to me until Sunday night when I had to leave. We haven't heard anything new today about our transfer so the latest dope is First Regt. And stay in Quantico. I wouldn't mind now because then I would come to see you again about in Fall or in winter but on the other hand I wouldn't mind going to China either.

I happened to think today about your scrap book and I have a R.R. ticket here that Ive had for some time now I got it from another fellow it is for the Niagara, St. Catharines & Toronto R.R. The ticket means nothing but you might want it if not why it burns as good as any other paper. Im also enclosing a piece I took out of the paper you might get a little kick out of it. I know I did. I wasn't drunk either. I was just dazed to think that after finding you I must leave you so soon instead of having you for my very own just a little dazed is all.

Im getting so disgusted with the way Im loosing out here that Im going to close up the business. Im getting tired of working for a few months to get things running smooth and then to lose everything so Im going to quit and make both ends meet on my present income. I got a fairly good offer for the cups percolator knives spoons etc that I have and I took the offer so now Ill get a little more time to practice and to write letters and much less worry.

I wrote to Lill yesterday and I sent a note to Ervin and Jimmy. I told Lill to send me the pictures that I left behind by mistake. I miss the picture almost as much as I miss you. I used to have it set right on my shelf where I could always see it even when I went to sleep at night also when I woke up in the morning and I got so in the habit that I feel lost without it.

Well Pal, I expect to hear from you tomorrow and I expect to hear more so dont fool the

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va May 21 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

May 20, 1927 Tenth Regt Guard House

Dearest Bee:

I haven't heard from you yet since I returned from my furlough and Im worrying. Why dont you write? I miss you so very much since I returned and then not to hear from you for so long makes it harder to bear. Get busy and write to a pal once.

I wanted to write you yesterday but I was on guard, for that matter I am yet and will be till 5:30 tonight but my watches are over and all Ive got to do now is stick around for reliefs at mealtimes so Ive got time to write for a while now.

We got definite information today that we get relieved from guard on Sunday and restored to band duty, then on decoration day weve got a big parade and celebration of some kind to play for in Fredericksburg so I don't think we will get transfered before then. That dont make up for last night though. I walked the corporal of the guards post for 4 hours in a 40 mile wind and it rained so hard I thought it was a cloud burst. This morning it is very nice though it has quit raining and the sun is out and almost no breeze. Just the kind of day I would have liked to see last Sunday.

I don't know if you noticed or not honey but I said some pretty rash things last Sunday and if they have offended you I am sorry but I just couldn't help it. I have to say some things to get myself mad sometimes when Im with you, if I didn't I believe my passionate nature would get the best of me and spoil everything and I would rather say something out of the way and tell you Im sorry later than not to say it and maybe lose you. I havent got you yet and even though I haven't given up hope yet Im sure I don't know what I would do if I were ever to find out that you were someone elses. You asked me in your note to the great private not to do anything rash in a case like that but that is one thing I can't promise. I believe I would rather get hanged than to know that I have lost out. I havent given up yet but oh! How much I love is something that no one else can possibly understand.

Now dear pal dont forget the old soak down here and send him a bit of encouragement because he sure needs it.

Tell Hoppy and Ann that I still think of them sometimes and give my regards to your folks.

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. Your letter just arrived so Im writing a bit more.

Letter no. 2 May 20, 1927

Dearest Bee:

Ive already told you in the P.S. of my first letter that your letter just got here. I was just about wild to because I couldn't figure why you didn't write.

Well I guess Ill have to write on my knee again because these boneheads chased me away from the table so they could play 500

Sure honey I hope to say that Lohengrin is a pretty selection only a week ago you wouldn't agree though.

I think they might at least have gave the contest to a band that played a real number even if they didn't give it to the best band. I like Stars & Stripes Forever but it is to common a number to play for a contest anyway for such a big one.

Heck no I dont mind about those pictures paste them on the walls if you like. I told you before that what you do is O.K. with me just so you are happy.

Im sorry Ive never taken any special notice of Levey so I cant give you a very good description of him now but I will try to see him and observe more closely in the near future. However tell Hoppy to eat drink and be merry for he is very good looking I will try to see him and tell you more later.

I dont suppose you can read this as Im using my knee for a desk but try to decipher it and write soon to

A hopefull Private
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch May 23 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 10th Regt Band Quantico Va.

Quantico Virginia May 22, 1927

Dearest Bee:

Im going to try writing you a few line but I dont know if I will get them written first or die first. I did a twenty four hour watch for another fellow last night so he could go on a week end liberty. He said he would be back today in time to stand my watch but he isn't back and I got relieved at 5:30 PM and mounted guard for myself again for another twenty four hours. Im waiting to go on post now. Im on from ten P.M. till two A.M. and Im so tired now that the sight of a bunk makes me sick, Im afraid if I was to lay down I would never get up again.

So much for the sob stuff now for the bawling out that you get. Why in the heck dont you write? All Ive heard from you this week is the note I got from you the day before yesterday. Im anxious to hear from you, and you know I am so please write.

We are getting transfered to the First Regt. Next week and from what I hear there is a detail going to Haiti next week or the week after. I may get to make that detail.

Now Im going to tell you a little secret just tween you and me. If I dont make that detail then my bunky and I are going to come up there over either Labor Day or Thanksgiving. We are figuring on coming up on the motorcycle. We want to try to get a five day furlough and a week end which would make us seven days all told. How would you like that?

Say talking about scraps for your scrap book would you like to have something from China? My bunky has some Chinese R.R. tickets and several other things and he told me I could have them if you wanted them. I don't know just what you want for the book myself but if you want these I can send them.

I haven't had a chance to see Levey yet but I will and Ill try my best to get you the desired information. Im not much at that myself but Ill try.

Ill close now honey but dont forget to write soon to

The Great Master
Emil

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va May 24 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Post Band Quantico Virginia May 24 1927

Dearest Bee:

I received your letter about two hours ago while I was in the act of loading my property etc on the trucks. We got transfered today and Im in the Post Band again but I don't know for how long. I would like to stay now but Im afraid I wont. I heard of a tropical detail that was to leave here in the very near future and it goes to the worst tropical post there is, namely Cape Hatien Haiti.

How should I know if the sun is great in Cleveland when I haven't been up there for a week or over. It seems to me like a month must have passed since I last saw you. It sure is to bad we didn't have any nice weather like weve got here today.

Dont worry about your man getting into anymore dutch down here. I can do my remaining two years standing on my head if they tell me to.

Im glad you can make use of that ticket and Ill send you some more junk like that if you want me to. I can get something like that from China I think.

Do you think of our trip to Brookside every once in a while? I see you do, and I do to. Do you realize that beside that little trip we were never really alone together all the while I was home. That little trip was very muddy and wet but it was heavenly. I shall never forget it. I only wish we could be together like that always, just the two of us.

Well I guess Ive told you that Ive given up the business haven't I? To much chance to lose money in it. Id rather not have the extra worry anyway. I may also lose one of my specialist ratings by this transfer but I will still have 5th class and although I dont expect to hold solo in this band because it is a much larger and better band I wont get set very far back though. There is a trip and a parade scheduled for Fredericksburgh Virginia on Decoration day but Im going to try to get out of it because it will be in Full Blues and the weather is to warm here for that.

I haven't heard one word from home yet. I suppose Lill is still bullheaded and sore. She wouldn't even say goodby to me when I left. Im not worrying though, she will write before long.

Well I don't suppose its any use asking you if you have decided in my favor yet because if you did I am sure you would let me know right away just like you promised. I cant hardly wait though I suppose you can guess why? Because Im afraid of losing you.

Well honey no more to day now so goodby for the time

Yours Only

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX – 2 minutes

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

May 27, 1927 Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dearest Pal:

I have waited for both mail deliveries today and no letter from you in either one. Why didn't you write? I haven't heard from my sisters or my buddy's up there either since I came back, but I wouldn't mind that if only you would write.

Tomorrow morning we leave here at 8:10 A.M. for Frederichsburgh for some celebration or other. I may get back Tomorrow yet and I may have to stay over night to play for some dance they are giving up there tomorrow night so no matter when I get back I wont be able to write till Sunday and if I get a letter in tomorrows mail I won't know about it till late tomorrow night or maybe Sunday.

I suppose you have read in the paper where the Marine team beat the Japanese team from Waseda University of Japan. Well we did, the score was 9 to 6 in our favor. That's not so bad when you consider that the same team played an exhibition game with the Giants and beat them. I dont remember just what the score was but I think it was 12 to 5 if Im not mistaken. So I dont think our team is so rusty after all.

Say honey Ive got about two and a half copies of the (Leatherneck) here and Ill send them to you sometime Ive also got two copies of the (Metronome) here. They have some good dope for violinists in them and a couple of orchestrations.

Well Bee: Im going to try writing a letter to my father now and Ill find out why they havent forwarded the pictures that I left at home and why they wont write to me. Boy what I mean Ill bawl out the whole crew up there and I don't mean maybe. I miss that picture and I mean to have it if I have to bawl out everyone on Ira Ave.

Have you seen Erv or Jimmy yet since I came back here? Jimmy had a picture taken in my outfit you know and Im dying to see one of those pictures. Ill die from laughing if I ever do see it.

Ive seen, "McFaddens Flats," here since I came back and its pretty good. I saw Lon Chaney in "Mr. Wu," last night and it wasn't so very good. But if you get the chance go to see, "Let it Rain," I know you'll like that it is a marine picture and nearly as good as, "Tell it to the Marines," so see it if you can.

I guess Ive said enough for this time because Ive got to get my cloths ready for tomorrow so Ill ask you again to write soon to

One Who Loves You

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch May 28 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

May 28 1927 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dearest Bee:

I just returned from the Fredericksburgh trip, and found your letter waiting for me. I knew that it was there without seeing it and knowing it was there I could hardly wait to get back so I could read it.

I just dreaded that trip before we ever got started and boy she turned out to be just as hard as I expected and then some. It wouldn't been any worse than I expected if they almost starved us to death and then put us out to lead the parade and play for every float etc that came by and we stood in a sandy place and when we were done we were to our knees in sand.

Im glad to hear you say that you can understand me, everyone else up there takes everything I say the wrong way, even the sister that I thought might know me. I trusted her with my innermost thoughts, things I wouldn't tell anyone else and still she didn't understand.

I don't think I'm going to get put on that detail after all, anyway I hope not. I don't know what you mean that it would be a hard trip on a motorcycle. The motorcycle would go by freight and I would be with the rest of the detail but I don't think Ill get to go on the detail.

You tell me that you witnessed the first street fight last Monday night. Well you don't know how near you came to seeing several of them when I was up there. I sure would have liked for someone to say something about my uniform. I was so disgusted with myself that I would have welcomed even a riot. Im still disgusted with myself and I still think that any baby that is born as ugly as I was should die. It would be a blessing because if it didn't it would always regret it. I know I wish I had. Then I wouldn't have to face failure. Maybe!

I am glad and proud to hear that you made such as good average in school. That is what I call excellent, to be eighth out of 137 students is no small task.

I hope you didn't forget to write that letter because not only am I anxious to hear how the field meet came out but Im also anxious to hear from you. I am always in better humor when I hear from you. I suppose that is the penalty for being in love, to be disgusted until one hears from the loved one, and then to be miserable again until the next letter arrives. Ill be expecting your letter tomorrow also the secret that you promised to impart to me. When I read that you had a secret, for just one minute I had a wonderfull hope but since then I saw myself in a mirror and realized that I had hoped for to much. I agree with you though that the fun of a secret is to tell someone, it lots more fun than keeping it locked up tight where it never see's the light of day.

I have no lucky number honey but my favorite march in the black book is number twelve its "Fort Lawton," and a pretty march I say so I like twelve for a number. Why do you ask though? I would like to know what is happening that can be connected with My march.

Right this minute there are a bunch of fellows sitting around the bunk across the way from me playing the game of, "five hundred," I cant see how they can do it after that trip today. I am so tired myself that I feel like sleeping right where I sit now. Im so tired that if these barracks started to burn right now I would refuse to move I would take a chance on the fire department getting here on time and doing a good job. I really believe I would rather roast than move.

Well honey I suppose I have to close this letter unless I want to tell you some more about how much I love you but I guess that gets pretty tiresome so seeing as Ive told you all the news I know at present Ill close

Semper Fidelis
Porter

Write Soon

XXXXXXXXXXXX and a couple of hugs OO

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

May 29 1927 Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

Your letter that you started in the study hall arrived today and if anything ever made me happy it sure did, especially the part where you told me about having a better chance since Ive been home, and also the part where you told me about your name being put on the cup for Domestic Science. That sure is an honor honey and Im proud of you. Id like to be up there now so I could hug you for it.

Talking about Erv and Joe reminds me to tell you that Ive received a letter from Erv the same time I received yours and also one from Chisler Jimmy. I havent heard so much as boo from Joe and I dont intend to write to him again till I hear from him and he better make it snappy to. I haven't heard from home yet either. Nice people!

Im reading some very excellent books now to honey Im reading The electricians Text book by Bullard and Naval Warfare By Mahan. I sure need all the knowledge I can get out of those two. Math and all.

I hope to say Ive finished with guard duty and Ive caught up on some sleep in the bargain. I hope Ive done my last guard and I dont think Im hoping in vain.

Maybe you think I dont wish I were going to that senior picnic with you. Im so jealous that Im always afraid Im going to lose you altogether when you go somewhere where other fellows will be present. Im looking at things broad minded though. Im in here for two more years and even if you had promised which you haven't yet I would still think that you are entitled to some fun so Im going to restrain my jealousy and be glad you are having a good time.

I hope you make up with Hoppy pretty soon honey because I know how it feels to be disappointed with a friend. I know it will blow over though because you are pretty close friends and she probably feels as bad as you do.

Ive got a bunch of stuff for your scrap book honey all came from China. Guides and concert programs etc. I will send them when I send the Leather necks.

I dont know what promise you are trying to get out of me so how can I promise? I dont know what it is all about so if youll tell me maybe Ill promise.

Say young lady dont I compliment you on your volumes every time they arrive. Ive told you that no matter how large or small they are they make me happy and no bunk, and your latest edition has made me the happiest of all and if you ever write one with your promise then Ill remain happy.

Well honey Ive did a little work today. I repaired a phonograph that had a broken spring. I couldn't get a new spring so I had to fool around and fix the broken one because they needed the darn thing for a party for tonight.

Ill close now for nothing new has happened since my last letter but write soon to

The Great Private
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX OO

Box 1: folder 15

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 1 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

May 31, 1927 About 9:15 PM Post Band

Dearest Beatrice:

Your commencement card arrived here and boy you can't possibly imagine how sorry I am that I cant be there. I sure would be happy if it were possible.

I was kept very busy all day yesterday and today. It seems like everyones radio went on the rocks last night and the night before and they all seem to pick on me to fix them, then beside that we are the duty band and had to play colors and an outside concert beside a very stiff rehearsal this morning so Ive been kept so busy I couldn't even write till now.

I suppose by this time you have made up with Hoppy haven't you? If you haven't then you ought to be spanked because high pride is a bad thing in a case like this.

Beatrice honey I'm going to go crazy yet if you don't promise to marry me. I can't possibly see why you won't promise or at least give me a trial, you have told me already that there is no other man and you have told me to that I have a good chance so why not give me your promise or at least a trial. I love you so much that I believe I would die if you ever married someone else. I have been thinking of that for the last couple of days and the mere thought of it nearly drives me mad. I know I shouldn't be telling you all this now because we said we would be pals – but when a man is in love he just can't help it. Im afraid if I can't at least tell you about it I would find myself in a upholstered room with bars over the windows and a sign on the door with the inscription "Viscious" on it.

I got demoted as far as music is concerned and Ive lost some of my rating and I don't seem to have ambition enough to buckle down to work to get it back but Im going to start tomorrow and work hard to get it back. Im sitting 5th chair now quite a difference isn't it? and each demotion makes me feel worse and lose more ambition.

Well honey I guess this letter is going to be about as cheerfull as a county morgue to you but I just can't help it. I must pour out what is in my heart and to whom else could I tell this. No one I know of. I only hope to God you don't get so disgusted with me that you quit writing. Your letters are about the only comfort I have now and if they ceased to come it would simply be disastrous.

I know that its going to be hard to read this and the spelling isn't very good but try your best and write to a

Love Sick Marine

XXXXXXXXXXXX OO

Box 2: folder 1

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Newark Ohio
Registered Jun 2 1927 [return address] M.C. Lehman 711 East Main St Newark, Ohio

June the first

dear beatrice so glad to hear from you & that you got along so well I am sending you a little gift I
wish it was more be a good girl & you will get along in this world where there is so much sin but giving
trust in god to be true to him & all will be well you have my blessing let me know if you get it just a

—

from granma

box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Cleveland Ohio Jun 3 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

June 1, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Your letter arrived here this afternoon so Im sitting down now to answer it. It does seem a bit different to write a letter at home where no study hall teacher can bother you. I know just how they pry into other peoples affairs.

Im sorry to hear that your trip was spoiled on account of roads but cheer up you can always make the same trip some other time under better circumstances and Im quite sure you will enjoy it as much then as you would last Saturday.

Ill tell the world my honey has some original wit and if your car shone like a Marines buttons for inspection then you sure must have done a good job.

Im glad you stayed home and wrote me that volume instead of going fishing with your Dad although Im sure you would have had a nice time but Im sure I should have been jealous as the dickens because the fellows next door was along.

I dont suppose its any use telling you again what a flop our trip was but I will say that if our return train hadn't come when it did I would have started to walk back. I was that anxious to get away from there.

No I didn't know that I was being decorated for decoration day but now that its all over I suppose its to late to kick. I am thankfull though for the kiss and the bear hug that I was decorated with at the end of your letter. I think Ill see Coolidge and have him declare 365 decoration days each year.

Ive met the Rev. Knapps of whom you spoke. It was several years ago but I remembered him the minute I saw the name in your letter.

I hope your scales lied a little because I dont want my light heavyweight to be to much light or to much heavy either.

Well honey there goes my call to arms. My bunky has asked me to do him a favor and I havent much time now he ready to go already so Ill have to make this short.

Ill have one of those pictures taken the first chance I get if the camera dont break. Im glad beyond words to hear that you really remember Brooky and I hope you never forget. Ill close now honey and go with my buddy so write soon to the

Hopefull

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OO

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 4 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

June 3, 1927 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dearest Beatrice:

I waited for the mail today morning and afternoon and no letter from you yet. I had hoped to hear from you today although I just knew I wouldn't but I'd almost bet I have a letter tomorrow.

Im sending you some scraps for your scrap book, most of it is from China and some race track tickets to. Dont think though that Im betting on the horses because Im not. These are from the fellow that gave me the rest of the junk. You will find some with this letter and some in another envelope. Ill send some more later on. A Chinese city directory etc.

Weve been pretty busy here lately by playing for the farewell ceremonies of Maj. Gen. E.K. Cole yesterday and last night and the welcome ceremonies for the new, Maj. Gen. Nevell and I hope that's all we play for generals for a while at least although Im afraid it isn't.

Im having a nice time here trying to write. I write about five words and the lights get dim and I can't see so I have to wait about ten minutes for the lights to go on again trouble in the power house.

Have you seen my sister since that day you saw her? She hasn't written yet. Im getting real sore at her now. I disgusted and sore and don't know what to do. Do you?

We have to play concert again night after tomorrow. We have The Bronze Horse Overture and Vision of Salome and a couple more Columbro Overture and several Fox trots and a couple of Marches its all pretty stiff stuff to You would like this concert Im sure. Its going to be worth hearing. Not throwing any roses you know because now Im an, "also ran." Just one of the clarinet section so without throwing roses Im telling you its going to be good.

Im lucky I came home when I did and I just found out today. They aren't putting out any furloughs at all, not even sick leaves. Im going to try again in fall though. I should worry for the present time.

I bought myself some very good French imported clarinet reeds yesterday 40¢ each. Boy. Ill never again run into a bargain likes that so I bought thirty of them enough for a year. It's a pleasure to play with a reed like that. I get a much nicer tone and I can tongue just about twice as fast.

What is my sweaty doing at Tech now? What is Tech doing in the athletic line? Tell me all about it in your next volume. Tell me about Hoppy and Ann to, you know youve never told me if your falling out has blown over yet or not. Im anxious to know.

Im going to close now before I start making this a mushy letter. I know you dont like me to tell you how much I love you in every letter so Im going to write every other one like this.

Write soon to a Lonesome Marine
Porter

Love and Kisses

XXXXXXXXXXXX OOOO

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 4 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

June 4, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

I going to send the two copies of the Metronome and a couple of old Leathernecks I have either this afternoon or Monday morning.

I wrote a couple of letters yesterday or rather one letter and an envelope full of scraps and I told you I would hear from you today and I sure did. I felt it in my blood. I just felt that you couldn't keep me waiting any longer. Im glad to hear that you and Hoppy are still friends and still running around together. I know how it hurts. I know how it feels to have the best pal tell or rather say something that hurts like that. Ive felt it and not so long ago either and it still hurts.

Oh a trip to Cleveland on a motorcycle wouldn't be so bad. That's only about 550 miles or maybe a little better and if I could get to make it I think it would be worth the jars and bumps.

Im going to write Lill a nice letter today seeing as she denies having received the other one and Im going to register it so there wont be no mistakes made. Im going to do the same to Joe.

I really shouldn't be trying to answer your letter today because I feel all out of sorts and all my other letters sound enough like a funeral without writing when Im disgusted to a point where Id like to committ murder. One of the fellows went up to Washington today to get married and boy what I mean every fellow turned out to see him leave and wish him luck even if he is only going to be gone till Sunday night. I can't tell you how it made me feel except that it made me realize more than ever that I havent even got a promise yet and I just feel like tearing loose and doing something. A riot or a fight or even a cyclone would suit me fine right now.

You said that a girl prefers a man who is physically fit, who keeps his teeth shining and who has a straight forward look in his eyes. Well Im trying me best to be all that so what more do I lack?

Im going to try to get one of the radios around here working so I can listen in on the 12th Id love to hear your orchestra.

Well today was the Irish Flag -- ? I mean the Jewish Flag day in camp here in other words pay day. It doesn't mean much to me though so Im not excited most of the fellows get week end liberty and go to Washington on payday but I cant not if I want to take lessons. I cant afford it especially since Im transfered. Im only getting \$32 per month now although I expect to do better soon again then maybe Ill be able to be thrifty and even if I was making three times as much I would rather stay here and play pinochle or practice a little. I get more kick out of it and its much easier to keep out of the brigg that way.

Now honey Im going to ask you some more why you wont marry me. Is it something the matter with me? Something I can remedy or is it just that you dont ever want to settle down? I would like to settle down and make a home myself and I thought you would or I would never have asked you. Then you know that I love you and I always will. I would give up anything for you and you know it. All you have to do is to day the word and – (“Not mine to question Why, mine but to do or die,”) I dont know what Id do if it wasn’t for the fact that I still have hopes. Im starting to doubt however if those hopes will last very long. I was at the point a few days where Al would have thought nothing at all of dishonor and that’s why my hopes look slim.

Now do you see why I cant keep my promise to be just pals? Ive simply got to get those things off my chest so you may expect lots of letters like this. Dont be surprised if you do but at the same time dont think I dont mean every word I say because I do and Im still waiting for the promise. Its not sympathy I want cause I can find that in the dictionary and I dont want it any way. Just give me your promise or at least a chance to prove my words.

You must be just about asleep trying to read this so Ill say Chin Chin for the time being so write soon to

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

June 7, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

I wrote you a nice letter last Saturday and put it in my pocket to be mailed and forgot to drop it at the post office Yesterday my bunky and I decided to put on some old cloths and we took a couple more fellows and hopped a freight train for a ride. I put my hand into my pocket for my smokes and found the letter still there unmailed. I didn’t have any stamps along so I brought the thing back here to be mailed. I changed my mind and decided to mail this explanation with it.

To begin with I just came back from mailing the Leathernecks etc. that I was going to mail Saturday.

Yesterday on our freight ride four of us left here about 2:30 P.M. and started out for Richmond but we got as far as Dumbarton and got off that is five miles before Richmond or eighty six miles from here. We got there just at supper time and no restaurants so Stankus my bunky goes to the General store and buys some Bread, cheese, ham, and pie enough for four of us and some left over and they asked all of 48¢ for all that stuff. I think Im going to live in that town some day at that rate. The biggest piece of change they ever see there is a half a dollar. We caught our train back and should have been back here by ten oclock but the air brakes on our Quantico Special (Freight) locked and we were tied up for two hours half way between here and No mans land so we got in at midnight we were sleepy to and I dont mean perhaps so I slept till breakfast time this morning. I didn’t know anything about it when reveille went I just slept till it was time to eat again.

I(don't suppose I have any right to ask why I havent heard from you seeing as I forgot to mail my letter but nevertheless I havent heard from you since Saturday and this is Tuesday. Is that Nice?
Write soon to

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 10 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

June 9 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

Im afraid you are going to have to make the best of a letter written with pencil because the band isn't here and my buddy has our pen with him. I used my influence and got out of the trip thinking I could practice and write. You see your letter got here some time yesterday but I was on another one of those freight rides and coming back we caught a local and rode it for five hours making the progress we should have made in one hour. It was two oclock this A.M. when we decided to leave it and wait for a faster one and it was 3 A.M. before our fast freight came. We made good time with it and got back just in time for reveille, then I slept a while and after dinner I practiced and now Im writing.

What was there about Let it Rain that made you so lonesome? I can't remember any such a part in the picture.

I hope to sneeze that picture of Jimmy is good. I got it some time ago and I thought I told you about it. I sat down and laughed till I cried when it arrived here.

Now who is Nellie supposed to be and how should I know if I like her chocolate pie I dont even know who Nellie is nor what kind of pies she makes. Make your statements clearer or Ill always be in the dark. I dont suppose I would be human though if I didn't like chocolate pie.

Say Bea: tell me how much does Hoppy's brother mean to you? I hope – never mind I dont even hope any more I just take things for granted.

Why don't you think I should send so many kisses? You admitted yourself that the only reason why you ever left me kiss you was because the kisses were nice and you liked them so why decide against them now? Ill send twice as many for that and dont worry about me ever running out if Im not economical because Im not built that way

Why tell me that I should think of you sometimes when you know that that is all I do all day long and all night long and those same thought are liable to make me nutts if you dont come across pretty soon with that promise. I can't see yet why you wont tell me one way or the other then I could run according to schedule. Oh I have every move figured out one way or the other so dont laugh because I mean every word I say.

Ill close this now with more Love and twice as many kisses

Semper Fidelis
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. Write Soon and dont forget

E

P.S.S. I have found an envelope already addressed in ink so dont think I found a pen in the last inning because I didnt

Porter

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

June 10, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

I finally got it figured out just when to expect mail from you and I expected your letter today so I didn't go away and sure enough here comes your letter.

Im praying for your nice day monday alright but what for do you all want this nice day? Going on a picnic you say. What kind of a picnic is it? Tell me all about it. This letter will get to you just as soon as you get back from the picnic so Ill expect all the details.

Did you receive those magazines and Leathernecks yet? And the Chinese Restaurant sign? I used that sign here just as a joke and as there is no more restaurant left I sent you the sign.

Sure I sent Lill a letter. Do you think Im talking through my hat? You know I dont do that.

Im sure you wouldn't have enjoyed that concert because the solo clarinet ruined it. I could have done as good as he did myself.

Well they are pretty stingy alright with the furloughs but Im going to try for one this fall or winter and its going to be a real long one.

Why the heck dont you go to the formal? You dont necessarily have to be in love with a fellow in order to go to the formal, so why be so d!!X! particular. You talk like you was going to pick a husband instead of a companion to the formal or rather an escort.

If your definition of a mushy letter is like you say ("Silly and untrue) then I take back that word and Ill just call those letters (Love Letters) How is that?

Im not doing anything very interesting or at least nothing beside practice and read. I read two and one half books yesterday. Neither of them was much good.

I havent any more to say now unless I want to write another one of those -- ? shall we call them Love Letters? Ill write more later but don't forget Im still waiting for your promise or at least for a chance.

Semper Fidelis

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 14 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

June 13 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

Your kind of luck that today isn't Friday because I wouldn't write if it was but I dont mind writing on the 13th but if the 13th comes on Friday then I get scared.

Im glad you liked the magazines I sent and I wish I had many more to send.

What do you mean when you said you signed Tatlers? Did all the seniors sign Tatlers?

I guess you always wind up on or around the athletic field when you start out with nothing to do I dont blame you because it gets pretty interesting sometimes

Im surprised to hear you ask if it was you that hurt me. You know it wasn't because there is only one thing you could do that would hurt like that and you havent exactly done that yet although you have hinted that way, but it wasn't that. Ive been hurt that way twice once when Joe Joe may turned back on me and now when my own sister goes back on me.

No danger of me having any peg leg or arms like a scarecrow they are perfectly humane flesh even if they are rather dark and sunburned and I try to keep them as muscular and pliable as possible. Sure Ill admit that "Patience is a Virtue," but sometimes my patience gets out of bounds and I cant hold it try with all my might.

Well I guess you are human to just like any other woman only I dont believe you know how to translate or interpret your feelings I know for instance that I could make you happy and you say you dont care that way but still you care enough to write all the time and always think of me. I know you care only you dont know it That is why I want you to give me a chance anyway and maybe I could help and at the same time I would feel more sure of myself.

I got a letter from my Dad yesterday and it turned out that it got here just one year after the last one he wrote. June 12, 1926 was the last I heard from him till yesterday. You know I wrote to Lill and Pa about that picture and I was waiting for word from him and most of all for that picture but he never even mentioned it. I wrote back and told him for the last time to send it and if he dont Well there is more than one way of getting personal property returned when it belongs to a service man and Ill go the limit

I sot suppose its any use of me telling you what I think about my sisters good looks or try to compare them seeing as you already know what Id say and then you would only call ne a fibber but call me what I you will Ive got my opinion.

I suppose Ill have to stop being so disgusted if you say so though I dont know how unless you really mean that you are My Beatrice.

Write Soon Honey to

Emil

XXXXXXXXXXXXO

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 20 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

June 19, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

Ive been waiting all week now for the letter you was going to write after Monday and it finally got here today. I believe I would have gone crazy or come up to meet the letter if it hadn't got here today. You don't know how miserable I feel when I dont hear from you in such a long time. Im always worrying and thinking maybe Ive said something to offend and it nearly makes me sick when I worry I was a little sick this week anyway from Monday till Thursday and then when your letter didn't get here I got, well you might call it bloodthirsty

This band has been on the go all week playing for the Marine Corps Reserves that are here, and as sick as I was I never missed one formation I stuck right with them.

Last night or rather yesterday afternoon was the first peace we got this week and then I got a little job on the side repair job on a motorcycle and I need all those little jobs if I expect to keep on taking lessons.

Well now that you are out of school what are you going to do? I suppose you are going to start to working now I know Lill is because you told me so and so did my father.

I havent heard from Erv or Jimmy for 3 weeks now so I expect a letter from one of them tomorrow or the day after.

Well honey today I have two years and two days more to serve in this Marine Corps. The past two years seemed to go by on wings I cant even guess where they have gone to. I seem to have a feeling that part of those two years have been wasted although I hope it is only my imagination because I have no use for a man who wastes time. I would rather have anything else said about me than that.

I dont suppose its any use asking if you have changed your mind about me in the matter of matrimony yet, but I dont see any other way out of it but to ask you every time I write. I sometimes think it is hopeless but then Im one fellow that believe (A man may be down but never out) Do you believe that?

Im sending you one picture I had taken on a trip we made to Dumbarton Va. via freight train. We all wore just what you see on me a civilian cap a white shirt the white trowsers from our blues and civilian shoes. Im sending you this picture hoping you can help me to decide which side of my face hurt me the most when the picture was taken. We found an old stone quarry that was filled with clear water from an underground spring so we went in swimming and it was swell only we couldnt find even one spot where we could touch bottom so I climbed a cliff about 45 ft. high and dove of and tried to touch bottom but failed so I tried jumping off with the same result although the time I jumped I went so deep that the pressure of the water was so great on my eardrums that I couldn't hear a sound for half an hour. I believe you could have fired a cannon beside me and I wouldn't have heard it.

My father hasn't sent me that picture yet and Im getting darn tired of waiting but Im giving him another week and if the picture dont get here a week from Monday I put the matter in the hands of our company commander. Don't say anything about it but just watch and see if I get that picture or not.

Well honey I havent much more to say only to ask you to marry me again. Im not even going to go into detail because you must be getting tired of it by now but it never hurts to ask does it? It would make me very very happy and I am sure I could make you happy if I got the chance or I would never ask you. I still believe we were made for one another.

Im going to close now and Ill write more soon hoping you do the same

Semper Fidelis

Porter

P.S. I havent had a chance to take that picture in blues yet but Ill have it taken and send it the first chance I get.

Porter

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 23 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

June 22, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Dont think that I have neglected to write to you as often lately because I didn't want to because I did want to very much, in fact this pencil is very dumb when it comes to telling you how much I wanted to write or how much I love you. I am still a soldier you know and my first thought must dwell on duty but I promise the second one shall always be of you. I wont have to put you second very much longer though dear one because yesterday I started the down hill journey I passed the two year mark. I hope the next two may pass as quickly as the first two did

I got a roll of films today and when we fall out in blues Friday Im going to take your picture. If – it isnt raining again. You havent a picture with blues and white cap cover have you? Ill take one of those to.

No I havent heard a thing about my family going to Michigan. Tell me more about it. What do you mean a part of the family. What do they intend to do there? I suppose my dad has that silly beet raising idea again. He has decided to do the same thing eleven times in the last twelve years and changed his mind each time.

I think Levey is either paid off or on leave or doing duty some where else now cause I cant seem to locate him around here anywhere Im sorry I cant give Hoppy the desired information because I dont notice those things. The main thing with me is that he is an excellent athlete. I do know though that he is Jewish and his hair isn't red so I could notice it's pretty dark in fact. He seems to have a good set of teeth so far as I can remember, but did you ever see a Marine who didn't? Those are some of the physical requirements. Ill see Cal about that Army vs Marine Game and Ill also see to it that mister Emery the weatherman up there is on the job with plenty of sunshine.

Now to start the old story again. I wish you would get the idea out of your head that it wouldn't be fair to give me a chance to make you happy by giving me your promise I wish you would just take my word for it. It seems that I can get just so far with a letter when all I can think of is I love you and more I love you and still more. My pencil seems to want to write nothing else but that. My heart is saying the same How can I help it.

Well honey Im afraid Ill have to close because I seem to have only nine minutes till taps and I cant write in the dark. Ill mail this tomorrow A.M. the first chance I get. Dont forget now honey I want you always so give me your promise in the return mail to

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX OOOO

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 25 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

June 24 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

Your latest volume arrived this morning as we were going out to practice parading for the benefit of those darn Reserves. Boy we sure did some tall playing to to Agilance call then march the troops on the line then sound off and march from one end of the line to the other and back we call it the trooping of the line Then officers center and pass in review Then we started all over for review and inspection which meant playing all those same ceremonies and one more in addition while they inspected the whole Batalion and keep repeating it until the whole Batalion was inspected Then we went over the formal guard mount for their benefit and after that we had to play to bring them back. Tomorrow we fall out early in the morning in Blues with white cap covers to do the same thing for the Major General Comandant etc. Thats when Im going to try to take those pictures.

Does it seem like so much more than two years since I left home? I didn't think that you even knew when I left. I think or in fact Im pretty sure I can get another furlough this fall But I don't know if I can afford one now because instead of getting better ratings we lost what we had when we came to this band. I still have a small one though and even at that if I do get leave Ill come up if I have to ride a freight. Ive smashed my motorcycle you know. I fell on a slippery pavement. I didn't intend to tell you but you would have to know sooner or later anyway. I may fix it up but I dont think so its to darn dangerous on those things anyway (Sour grapes) my post permit was also revoked on account of the accident. Nobody hurt though.

Why do you start my letter in such a formal way (Mr Thomas) sounds like you wanted to cut my throat. Who addressed the envelope? That sure wasn't your handwriting – Was it? Must have been Helen's seeing as you wrote the letter at her house

I even envy a dog. Can you imagine why? It for the simple reason that I wished you thought as often of me as you do of dogs. I think Ill have to catch a couple of dozen of those around here and send them to you.

Ive been trying to do some reading to but I dont get much time Ive read, "Une Vie," by (Guy De) Maupassant and also "The Odd Number," by the same author. He writes some very good and select books. They seem so different from those written by other authors. If you havent read some of his try them Im sure you will enjoy them. You must understand him though in order to really enjoy his stories.

Well you better go with Hoppy and learn all there is about the Saturday shopping because I mean to have you do our shopping sometime Why do you keep putting me off all the time? You know yourself that sooner or later you will come around to my way of thinking. I have told you for the last year now that I would do my best to make you happy and I know I would succeed. That is my big ambition Why keep putting me off.

Im closing now to clean my Blues for tomorrow so

Love and Lots of Kisses

From
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX OO

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jun 27 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

June 27 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dear Beatrice:

I received your last letter and it made me feel happy to know that you are tempted to say the word but you said you wonder how it is possible that I can love you and I couldn't understand that part. It isn't really possible to know you without loving you I cant help it. I wish you would forget this fooling around and promise to be my wife That should be fair exchange you would be promising that and I would at the same time be promising to try my best to make you happy. You would in the vows be giving yourself to me and I would be giving myself to you I just know you would be satisfied and Im certain that I would. I would be very proud. Im afraid I would get a swelled head.

You said you wish you could put down what you want to Why don't you? Try that sometime. That's a good way to get things off your chest. I know when I wasn't to get anything off my chest I wouldnt want to tell anyone only a loved one.

Ill agree with you that housework isn't easy. That's why I think you are making a sacrifice if you say yes to me but in return you would be made happy Still in spite of all that I cant say what would be a ladylike word to use. Im not a lady you know I would probably tell you what a real he man would say D:!!;?-d could you pronounce that? I hope not, at any rate dont try.

What did Hoppy tell you when you stopped to look at the recruiting Sgt. You said it would keep but Im afraid it wont. Im curious. Then to if you keep telling me about the men you stop to look at etc. Ill be getting so jealous that Ill be biting my arm off or something D----- ouch! Some guy got some candy and he was hollering at me trying to give me some and when he couldnt make me hear him so he hit me with a carmel. Boy that thing was hard as rock. I even got a bump in my head.

Do you mean that you are going to Cumberland Maryland? If you was coming up there I could have come up there to see you on a week end liberty. I guess you must have gone to some other Cumberland though.

Ive taken those pictures but the Post photographer is closed and I havent been downtown to drop the film in there I will have them back maybe this week maybe next. Ill send them as soon as I can if they are half way decent.

I went on another one of those freight rides Saturday I had a week end liberty. That is till 5:30 A.M. this morning we slept in in the woods (4 other men and myself) and went swimming till noon yesterday and came back. That is, we started back at 12:15 P.M. and we broke all records by getting back here in two hours and eight minutes. That is we got back at twenty three minutes past two yesterday afternoon then I slept till suppertime (5:30 PM) and slept from then till reveille this morning exactly twelve hours

Say! – if that darn sun is keeping you from writing to me Im afraid Ill have to do some thing. Ill have to send some awnings for your window or Ill have to pray that it should rain up there or something like that.

Please excuse me for running out just now but the photographer just came in and I got word of it so I took a run over and dropped the films. I think I will get them back Saturday if I can find a minute or two free when he has the shop open

I just heard more news. I heard that I am making a 5 day trip with 19 other men to Whitestones and Cahoe starting Saturday. I dont know what time we start or anything but I know we go Saturday unless I can get out of it. On a trip to the backwoods like that we are always considered city slickers and people treat us like Generals. They dont let a person forget that they are wearing a uniform they make us feel like big butter and egg men

Well honey Im going to try some baseball this afternoon so Ill close now. dont forget to try telling me what you want and try saying yes. Get the habit.

Write soon

Only yours
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX O

Box 2: folder 16

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch 1927

June 30 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

I was expecting to hear from you today and waited for both mail deliveries but no letter so Im writing one instead.

I don't remember if I told you that we are making a trip to Caho Va with a twenty piece band this Saturday. We were supposed to stay five days but Im only staying over Saturday and Sunday. Its going to be some job. We had a special rehearsal yesterday and today and weve got another one tomorrow. The music was passed out yesterday and weve got about a hundred numbers, some Fox Trots some Overtures a couple of Serenades and a few trombone Smears.

Ive been trying to remember to tell you in the last two letters that I cant see my way clear to let my folks keep that picture. I would be an awfull coward if I left them get away with it. That picture was given to me. I hope there was a reason. No matter if there is or not that picture means much to me, so if I start any trouble Ill have to hope that you will forgive me. I just cant see no other way out anyway I havent seen it yet.

Do you know what I did? I traded in my old motorcycle on another one Im getting a Harley Davidson now. Its all tore apart now being overhauled. I traded my other one for it and Im putting a few dollars worth of parts in this one and Ill have a good machine I intend to make a trip home on it in a couple of months. Now what do you think of that?

When the heck are you going to write and tell me that word. Im still waiting for it. I love you so much that I lay awake nights just wondering and hoping. I wish you would say yes pretty quick now. I sure would be happy and Im sure you would to. Im so much in love right now that my pencil dont know what to write and my mind is dead for fear that you might refuse me. I love you so much that I dont know what I would do if you should refuse me. I honestly believe I would go crazy. Say the word wont you honey? I want you worse than anything, whats more I mean to have you if I have to steal you.

What are you and Hoppy doing now? I suppose you are still looking for work, arent you? Work is something that's pretty hard to find now, especially for women. Are you really anxious to find work? Or are you just doing it to pass the time away.

I havent finished my course yet and havent even sent in a lesson in a month because there is no more Marine Corps Institute now. They were forced to close out when they sent all available men to the West Coast for China and Nicaragua. Ill start work again and finish the course as soon as they open up the Institute again.

We played baseball Tuesday with the Aviation team and we lost 6 – 5. It was a close game to in the morning we had two men on base with two outs and one of our best hitters was batting and he hit a long fly to center field and the center fielder caught that ball in a way that was a miracle. Ive never seen

such a nice catch. That catch won the game for them and they sure deserved it with a play like that. We are tie for the company Championship with the Aviation now. I only hope they dont win games like that all the time we play the series off with them. They sure are the fighting boys though. Last week when they played the Signal Battalion they were losing 8 to 3 in the 8th inning and won 18 to 8 at the end of the 9th. They sure fight right to the end and they are good sports to. All of them.

Well honey weve got a little concert yet this afternoon so I guess Ill have to close this letter now. I havent anymore to say anyway unless I want to tell you a couple more times that I love you. I don't hardly suppose that is necessary though. You must know it by now.

Well honey write soon and dont forget.

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOO

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

July 3 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

I just received your letter now because I just got back from that trip now. I believe the letter got here yesterday yet but Im not sure.

The trip didn't turn out a failure for a change The whole performance was for the benefit of the church which they are building. They were charging 25¢ and \$1.00 admittance for the concert. The open air concert all day was free.

We ran into some reall Southern Hospitality up there. We stayed with private families last night and nothing was to good for us while we were there. All they w3anted to know was what we wanted and they got it. The sky was the limit. We made the trip from here to Fredericksburgh in a buss and the rest of the trip in private cars.

Now honey you shouldn't bawl me out just because I have a little accident. Those things happen to the best of drivers and it makes me feel bad when you bawl me out like that. A Post Permit is like a liscence plate only smaller it shows that the driver has permission to own and operate a motor vehicle

Im sorry I forgot to answer that part of your letter about the belts. No we aren't supposed to run around without them we are supposed to be in full uniform at all times when out of quarters. That means when we are anywhere where we may be seen by the public. That fellow probably took his off so the rain wouldn't make the polish run onto his uniform.

Thanks for the picture honey I sure appreciate it and I only hope that the individual in the picture will be mine as well as the picture and I hope it will be real soon if she don't tell me soon Im afraid Ill go crazy.

Good Lord honey. Do you realize that if I have to wait for your bright idea until I get to go on another furlough it will be late this fall? Do you intend to keep me in suspence until then? Ill be getting desperade and do something rash if you make me wait that long. I cant wait.

Why dont you say yes and tell me what size ring you wear and what kind you want and Ill get it and send it to you. Please honey don't make me wait any longer I just can't stand it. Im only human you know and you also know that I love you and even though you say you aren't sure you care still Im certain that you do. I saw it in your eyes honey. I saw it more than once now please dear don't try to goad me any more and dont try to fool yourself anymore either. It dont work. Now please dont think that Im just trying to get wise, because Im not. Im just telling you for your good and my good just what I know to be true. Im telling you what your own heart is telling you.

Ill tell you what honey. Ive thought this out to a tee. This will have to be the last time I ask you and the answer will have to be one way or the other. I only hope it will be yes. Im saying this because I know it is the right thing to do but still it hurts to say it. You dont realize how much it hurts but I do because I realize what it may mean it may mean joy and happiness for me and it may also mean sorrow and grief To write letter after letter and to hope in vain is breaking my heart so I guess it will have to be up to you if I keep on writing and always waiting in vain Im afraid the boys will start calling me a cry baby. Im going to leave it up to you now Bea. Im going to wait for your decision. You know that I love you more than anything and that I would do anything for you. Anything to make you happy. I would sacrifice anything including my honor and self respect. What more can I say?

Ill close now and hope and pray for one thing so tell me soon as possible that you will belong only to

Porter

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 9 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

July 9, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Your letter arrived and Im afraid my pencil isn't capable of telling you how happy I am. I have been waiting for that letter now for six days. Those six days seemed more like years to me. I just couldn't wait for it. I thought I would go mad when I didn't hear from you at least by Thursday and when I didn't hear yesterday I was wild. I was rather hard to manage the last week. In fact Ive had a couple of little scraps with the bandmaster. Ive got it smoothed over now already.

Im so happy honey that Im afraid its all a dream. I really can't believe it although Ive been pinching myself and reading your letter over and over for the last half hour.

No honey the Harley Davidsons aren't about the best because the Henderson is a four cylinder motor and the Cleveland is putting out a 4 cylinder affair now but of the two cylinder ones I think the Harley are considered superior.

Have you named your nice new Chevy, Elizabeth? or were you in another car? Just think now. If I had been there when the machine stuck in the mud then you could have sat on my shoulder and let me carry you through the mud.

There were two little children at the place where I stayed at Caleo to. Both girls one was six and the other eight years old. I made a nice acquaintance with both of them the older one was Dorothy and the younger one was nicknamed Buster Bean. I love children and they were no exception I played with them all night on the kitchen floor.

Ive got those pictures I took that day they all turned out punk as you will see from the ones I am enclosing. They look like I had a pain in one side of my face. They were taken while we were falling out for the big doings just before the Reserves left. There is another bunch of Reserves coming in tomorrow to keep us busy for a couple of more weeks.

I know you would love one of those Marine rings honey and Ill get you one of those but you will want an engagement ring and that is the one I meant when I wanted to know what kind you wanted.

Ive had two offers now to get transfered to the motor transport company to work in the garage. More chance for advancement there and they need mechanics and drivers but I think Ill stay in the band for a while longer after all the advancement and better pay isn't everything, not unless a man wants to put more time in than four years.

Im afraid darling that from this letter or any other one I can write you would never know how happy I am or how much I really love you but Ill make up for lost time when I come up again and I hope that that time may be soon.

Im going out to the triangle now honey to work in my machine but Ill write more tomorrow – so drop a line when you get this to one who is

Semper Fidelis

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOO

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 11 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

July 11 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

I promised to write this letter yesterday but I went out to the garage right after breakfast and worked so late that I nearly missed the concert last night. I just barely got back in time This morning weve played colors and went to the depot to meet another company of Reserves. We just got back and Im writing this letter

Do you know honey Ive been trying to get transfered to the tropics for the last eighteen months and never got it now there is a Nicaraguan detail going this week. Since youve said yes Ive been very happy and now I don't want to go. So far Ive missed this detail but I may have to go yet. Then if I dont go on this detail Im fairly sure of going in September to Haiti if that's the case, Im going to try to get another furlough before I go so I can come up to see you. Im just so much in love with you that I cant bear to think of putting more miles between us than we already have. There is a better chance there for a man to get a rating but I just dont want it but of course what ever my superiors say goes.

Have you told your folks that you have said "Yes"? I had forgotten but I think they might have something to say about your ----- shall we say (ball and chain) or shall we say your (hubby to be)? Nevertheless I think they have something to say and Ill have to ask them when I come up again. Dont you think so?

Do you know what I did honey? I looked over a couple of the new Chevrolets and when I get out of here Im going to get one and build it over into a speedster that's going to be so fast that nothing will pass it. Ill put a long classy body on it. How would you like that?

Next Saturday the same twenty men that went to Calio go on another trip to some Hick town around here Hicks crossing is the name I think. Im not sure though and I really dont care.

What are you doing with yourself? Are you and Hoppy still looking for work? I suppose you look for a job all day and for a good show at night, dont you? I wish I were up there with you so I might go where you go

Do you see my sister anymore? If you do see her please dont give her a bit of information about me. If she wants to know anything leave her write to me. That surely isn't to hard for her to do. I hope you get angry because Im telling you this Bea: but I think Im doing the right thing in this case. Dont you think Im right here? You remember how she insulted my friends and I even wrote first after that and she never answered so Im not going to write to her till she tells me that she was wrong.

Do you know honey that I worked all day yesterday even missed dinner and supper to get my motorcycle engine overhauled and I burned the old paint off with a torch so I can paint it I expect to

have it all painted and ready to run by the end of the week. Ive put in a lot of new parts the crankshaft bearings the connecting and bearings new wrist pins and bushings and a mob of new nuts and bolts. I washed every part with coal oil and put the engine together already to put back into the frame. I had every part off every nut and screw. There wasnt a part I didnt have entirely apart. Im going to put a tandem on the back when I come up and Im going to show you what kind of speed that thing will make.

By the way honey I have a chance to get transfered to the Motor Transport Co. here to work in the garage if I want to. I would lose money at first but Id make up for it and I wouldn't have to leave the States. Do you think it would be wise? Tell me what you think about it honey. You are the big Boss now you know. Whatever you say goes you know.

I suppose by this time you are wondering just why you took a chance on me and said "Yes" Arent y9u honey? Are you sorry? I hope you will never be and Ill do my best to keep you from being sorry. Ill make you happy or Ill know the reason why. I know Ill be always happy as long as I have you. Do you know I still cant believe its true. I have to drop everything about a dozen times a day and read your letter over and over just to be sure Im not dreaming. I sure am a lucky devil.

I was dreaming of our trip to Brookside last night and I was going to take you in my arms and kiss you and instead I fell out of my bunk. My bunky has threatened to move down the other end of the barracks for fear that I might dream of fighting. He says he dont mind a black eye as long as he can stand up to get it but he's afraid of getting one while hes asleep. Wait till you get to know him. He's going to come to Cleveland with me when I get discharged. Boy he's a reall buddy.

Well honey Im going to close now with lots of Love and Kisses

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOO

P.S. Dont forget these nice fresh hugs Ill make them good some day soon I hope

P

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 13 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 12, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Im in charge of quarters tonight and cant leave so I thought I might as well get a little practice in writing. I only wish I could write well enough to tell you just how much I love you. So far Im quite sure that I havent succeeded. But! Someday Some-way in the near future Ill prove it.

My intuition tells me that tomorrow I should have a letter from you. Am I right? I hope so. I dream about you all night honey and then watch the mail truck all day hoping to get a letter from you and after the last mail truck I begin all over by telling myself that your letter will arrive the next morning. Im proud as a peacock and as happy as they make them since youve said you would be my wife. That is now my big ambition honey. That and making you happy. I know and Im sure you do to that I wont be able to keep you in luxury all our life but Ill sure be able to make a comfortable living for the two of us and be able to put aside a bit. The first thing we will have to get will be a Chevrolet for you for Im sure you would never be happy without one. At the rate they are paying me now I wont have very much saved when I get out of here but Ill show you how to save money in two years or so. Ill be able to save enough at any rate to make a nice sized payment on a house or to get some furniture with, then we wont have to do like my sister did. She had to stay at our home till they got theirs ready well beat that. Well have one ready. Ill tell you what Id like to do for a honeymoon Beatrice. Id like to motor all over the western part of the United States unless you might have something else to suggest. Of course we can always cross those bridges when we get there but I just love to plan things out like this. Dont you Honey? I love to sit around and just think how happy we will be. Im so happy now that Im afraid I wouldn't be able to stand the greatest of the great happinesses but if I can die that way Im sure I won't mind

The men from Nicaragua who havent much time to do came in tonight and I expect the replacement will leave in a couple of days now. Those men sure were glad to get back to the good old U.S.A. Those boys would do any kind of work tonight without a growl because they are so glad.

Well dear Ill close now because its nearly taps and Ive got to turn out the lights and secure the quarters for the night so Ill close this volume. Ill write tomorrow if I get the chance. Write soon to the one who loves only you and who is only your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOO

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 15 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 14 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Your letter arrived this morning but weve been busy all day. You'll have to excuse me for saying with those damn Reserves but thats the only way I know of referring to them. Weve been out with them since 7:05 A.M. this morning stopping only long enough for dinner.

No I didn't have anything the matter with my arm last week honey. Ill tell you why I didn't write. Do you remember my very impatient letter that I sent about the third or fourth of this month? Well I was just as doubtfull as I was impatient. In fact I still cant figure how I could be so lucky, any way I was so much in doubt about what your answer would be that I couldn't write till I heard from you. I was so restless that these fellows must have thought I was a maniac. Do you understand now why I didn't write?

All right honey Ill agree to the Marine ring all right so lets go. They dont have regular sizes in those rings so you will just have to tie a string around your finger and cut it so it will just fit the finger and send me the string and Ill get the ring.

The Triangle is a small dot on the map. That is on some maps. The place forms a triangle where three roads run together. They have three garages and a general store there. What did you think the Triangle was.

Im not surprised to hear that your tummy hurt if you eat as many cherries as you do pieces of candy every hour. I think if I ate so much candy as you ate one Sunday Morning when I was there I think ----- well I think they would start measuring me for an overcoat. I might as well add that it would be wooden.

By the way honey. If you really dont want me to start a war on account of that picture you will either have to get it and send it to me or get another one. The only pictures I have of you now are two snap shots one that was taken in a pair of overalls and one with the sweater. Both of these just fit in my billfold but none to go on my shelf. Try to get the one I forgot at home if you can I would rather have that one. It seems to mean so much more to me.

Guess what Im figuring on doing honey. Im figuring on making a nice furlough in about a month or a month and a half. I might come up on the motorcycle. Ill save about \$14.00 each way and when a man looks forward to getting married he's sure got to think of saving all he can. I was just going to add to buy the baby shoes but instead Ill say to buy a wedding ring.

I would like to have you see the way Im sitting here right now. All Im wearing is a pair of trousers and a undershirt and a towel around my skull to keep the sweat from dropping onto this letter.

This sure is a hot day here. When we came in from playing for those *-!! Reserves we were soaking wet. We all made a rush for a cold shower and a change of clothes and every one is trying to keep cool. Not even I the practical joker and champion kidder is cracking wise. That is saying a lot for me as a rule I'm always taking someones bunk apart or putting nice tight knots into someones bed sheets or tying their bedding to the ceiling or nailing their bunk up there. That is of course when I'm not writing or studying. Then I don't fool around and nobody that likes the way they are put together ever bothers me at a time like that because I'll tie them to a rafter or something if I have to knock them cold to do it. I can't think when someone bothers me and these fellows all know it and when a new fellow comes in he soon learns.

Well honey I'm going to close this letter before I miss my chow and I'll be waiting for your next letter.

Heres lots of love & Kisses from

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOO

Don't forget you'll give me these or I'll take each one double

Porter

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 18 1927

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 17 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Well honey, I went on that trip yesterday and just got back at five oclock tonight just in time to play the Sunday night concert. When I got here I found your letter laying on my bunk waiting for me.

Ive made up my mind to stay in the band a while longer anyway honey. I didn't intend to go to the Motor Transport to get in practice you know honey because I get all I need on my friends cars around here. I would like to do duty in the tropics dear, but I just couldn't bear to think of being away from you for eighteen months.

You saved me a little job then didn't you honey? I mean by telling your mother about being engaged and Im glad she consents and Im glad she is strong for me as you put it. Of course I dont care if you tell Hoppy. You may tell her anything you like you are the boss. The only persons I don't want to know are my folks. How did your Dad take the big news? Did he say he was going to beat up on me if I take his daughter?

Well honey I don't think you will need the advise Im going to give now but Ill say it anyway. If!! Lill or anyone else ever says anything about me that you dont like please don't you get your temper going but just tell me. Let me do the fighting for this family honey you can do all the bossing and managing but please let me do the fighting.

My word, honey, sure you can keep a collie or any other kind of a dog you want. Ill get you a dozen of them if you want. You know dearest that Ill get you anything in my power just so you will be happy.

I think Ill be able to get one this fall but Im not a bit sure of it. A man never can be sure of anything in the Marine Corps except food and a place to sleep. In the service language we say, (three square and flog each day.) Thats how we tell how many days we have to do, we just say so many and a flop which means so many days and an extra nights sleep. Im afraid we might not be able to arrange for my buddy to get a furlough the same time I do so Ill have to come alone but don't worry you will meet him some day sooner or later.

Sure I would have to drive most of the time honey girl. You dont know of very many times when I went out in a machine that I didn't do the driving, do you? Except on occasions when I had a good excuse such as holding you on my lap or when I was trying to steal a kiss when you werent looking. Otherwise I almost always do the driving. I suppose if your Dad thinks enough of my driving to let us use the car then he must approve of me

Oh! I nearly forgot to tell you about eh adventure I had Friday night honey. Its a long story I was a deputy that night and I brought back a brand new Hudson Coach with 120 gallons of corn whiskey in it I happened to be working at the garage on my motorcycle when the Marshall came in and caught one bootlegger and got information that another one was going to pass in a while so he gave me the power of deputy and put me in charge of two men and the fellow that owns the garage was one of the men so when mister bootlegger comes by we went after him in the garage mans motorcycle side car and all. We couldnt catch them but we could keep real close so we shot holes in their rear tires and they deserted the car and took to the woods. We never did get them but I got into the Hudson and drove back with the 120 gallons and the Marshall confiscated both car and whiskey.

I agree to the Marine ring all right honey but I havent been silent about it. Have I? I don't think so anyway.

Im glad to hear you say you are thinking of me honey. You cant possibly realize how really happy you are making me dear. Im afraid Im the only one who can fully realize that, because my vocabulary is to limited to explain it fully enough. I haven't a voice for singing honey but nevertheless that is just what Ive been doing since you said (yes)

Ive been swimming a bit and Ive tried the big swim but cant quite make it. Im to short winded four and a quarter miles is my limit and the big swim is about 80 ft less than seven miles. I bit off more than I could chew.

Ive seen a couple of small games around here but one big league games. They never play those there you know.

Well honey Ive told you all the latest news so Ill close now but write soon to your Greatest of the Great Privates

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX add these up

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 22 1927

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 21, 1926 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Your letter arrived here is the noon mail yesterday but I was out working on my motorcycle from 9 o'clock in the morning and didn't get back till 3 o'clock this morning. I was going to come back at about 7 o'clock but the constable required my services on the revenue squad. I couldn't quite get my motorcycle working so the garageman let me use one of his. We had a bit of information saying that the big bootlegger was going through again last night and we were ready for him but he didn't come so I came back here at about 3 o'clock.

I found your letter here and I'm sorry to hear that your grandmother has passed away. I sure would have liked to have met her sometime.

I'm sorry I didn't come up to your expectations by writing at least two letters by today. I would have written sooner today but we've been busy all day so far now we've got forty five minutes off then we fall out for a funeral. There was a bugler here who dove to deep while in swimming and hit something. His neck was broke. They are having a military funeral for him at 3:30 P.M. This lad was about 16 years old and well known and well liked and every one will be out to pay their last tributes to him. The nice part of these funerals is when they blow taps over the coffin and as this lad was a bugler I think it will be a very touching ceremony.

Say there honey if you go talking about eats here very much I'm going to have to do something, especially if you talk about olives and baked ham and other such luxuries. I'll have to go down and buy me about four quarts of nice olives and bake myself about twenty pounds of ham. I'm afraid I would eat myself to death.

I'll admit it is loads of fun to ride the roller coaster honey but I know something I would have looked for before the roller coaster could even be heard. I would have looked for the roller rink. Do you ever do any roller skating honey? If you don't then I'll have to teach you someday. That's great sport and it's also very healthy.

I'm going to work on my motorcycle tonight if I can find time. I've got to get it in good shape so I'll be able to come up to see you dear. I'm thinking of coming in September but I'm not sure. I just can't seem to wait. I want to hold you close to myself so bad that that month and a half is going to seem like ten years.

I'll close now honey seeing as it is nearly time to fall out in Full Khaki for the funeral.

Lots and Lots of Love and Kisses

Porter

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Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 22 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 22, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

I had some good intentions to write you today but Ive been busy all day. I argued with the First Sgt and Lieutenant till I got blue in the face. I was trying to get liberty tonight so I could go out and get the motorcycle tuned up and running good. I finally got the liberty but it dont start till 3:30 this afternoon and its now 2:45 so Ive got 45 minutes to wait yet so Ill try to write a letter in that much time.

Are you sure honey that your ring size is 7 ½? Why that is a half size larger than the one I wore when I was home I only wear a seven. I think you better get a piece of paper that just fits your finger and we are more liable to get the right size. You send something like that and Ill get the ring the next time I get to go to Washington.

How do you like the way the big fight came out yesterday? I was pretty sure Dempsey would win and at any rate I was wishing he would because I know that Dempsey can beat Tunney anytime and the same for Sharkey and the last thing I would want to see would be for a gob to take the title from a Leatherneck. Id much rather see Dempsey get it back.

I haven't been doing much practicing here lately. I got so disgusted as far as music is concerned that I believe I would have sold my musical knowledge for two cents and considered it a bargain on my part. I guess I was just overdoing it. Those things shouldn't be practiced to much either because to much is worse than none.

Did you find out yet if your dad is going to beat me up for taking his daughter or if he is giving his consent.

What is Helen doing now? Is she still keeping house for her father or is she working now? Tell her I said hello etc. and tell her that when we get married we will leave her come and keep house for us and we will leave her bake bread.

Do you think you are going to like my motorcycle? Ive painted it sky blue and instead of the dark red stripe Ive got a silver gray stripe. The name is light red and trimmed with gold and the foot boards and pedals etc. are all black, also the lights and seat are black.

I like a motorcycle. I dont know what is nicer than to ride along at about 50 miles per hr and feel the air in your face. I dont know of anything nicer unless it's a chance to kiss you but next to that honey I like a motorcycle best.

Well honey its time to leave now cause I want to get started as soon as possible so write soon. Heres more Love and Kisses from

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOO XXXXXXXX OOOOOOO XXXXXX

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 25 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 25, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Your letter arrived here yesterday but again I wasn't here when it arrived. I started out Saturday to go out on my motorcycle and when I got out to the garage the owners wife asked me to take one of his motorcycles with a sidecar and go to Alexandria to tow him in. He went up for supplies for the garage and for the lunch counter and coming back he broke down. I got up there alright but he made repairs by then and came in by another road and my battery went dead so I worked around trying to get it started but no use so I called back to the garage long distance so he came out to me with a battery. That one didn't last long either because I had a short so I taped that up and started again and it was dark as the dickens and no lights except to follow the garage mans tail light at about 48 miles per hour then to make things worse my chain broke 6 miles from the garage so he towed me in. We got back in time for breakfast so after that I went to sleep in the back of the garage and slept till about three oclock then I took care of the garage till nine oclock last night so he could get some sleep because he stayed open all night in Sunday. I stayed with him till two oclock this morning and now Im all in.

Why the deuce didn't you send me your (wobbly) letter as you call it? Im sure I could have understood or rather read it. I know your handwriting pretty well now so dont hesitate to send a letter even if it is wobbly. Ill dope it out.

You would let on a gob! Why didn't you ask me who to bet on. I know because you couldn't get anyone to bet on Sharkey on a bet. Not even the gobs in the sick bay. Sharkey was no match at all for Dempsey. Sure thing honey the fight in September will prove much but thats going to be an even fight and I wouldn't bet on it at all unless of course if I got some nice odds. Nobody but a fool would bet otherwise on this coming fight honey so go easy no matter which way you bet.

I sure wish I could be up there to protect you from being mobbed by your bunch. Ill be doing that some day alright but Id like to start right now. I love you so much honey that even this life that I liked here is a bore. Im always thinking of you now and the life here makes me sick when I think of the joy I could get out of life if I were with you.

I dont know what to make of this weather here honey some days its nice and warm sometimes its extra hot but half the time its cold as winter on the nights when the day is warm we have to use two blankets and I never use much more than that all winter. Im beginning to think our summer will start this November or maybe December.

Well honey I havent any more news now cause nothing is happening around this dump but Ill write more as things happen around here

Semper fidelis

Porter

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Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 27 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 27, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Im afraid you have the big advantage over me in the matter of writing letters honey. You answer at most any hour of the night but Ive got to write during the day with all kinds of noise and scuffling going on Ive got about twenty minutes till chow time now so I dont expect to get much of this letter done by then.

We are having some pretty heavy rehearsals this week. We are preparing a big program Sunday night. Our band officer Lieutenant Culpepper is leaving for duty with the Gendarmy in Haiti and he is going to direct us Sunday cause this is his last with the Post Band. Boy what music they are putting out. The Sextell from Lucia is one of them and a couple more I cant remember all the names and I havent got time to go find our from my folio if I want to get this written. There goes chow call now. Back from chow and feeling fine.

Well honey I dont think four quarts of olives can be much worse than two quarts of Bacardi Rum and Ive gone that much down at the Bay and didn't even get sick. Thats why I quit drinking cause I dont get anything out of it. I dont even get a headache like most men do. dont worry. You wont have to go in mourning cause Im not built to die. Im built to die in my boots. In other words food will never kill me.

I dont know just when in Sept Ill come up and it may not even be in Sept Then again chances are I might not get another furlough Im going to Haiti in the next bunch that goes and no one knows when that will be. I do know that Im on the list though. If I do come up just let me know when in Sept Ill let you know if I can make it and you tell me when and Ill try to come then.

Sure honey I put in lots of time on my motorcycle. Ive painted it and striped it and everything. I also put in new bearings and wrist pin Bushings and ground the valves.

I guess you were pretty near right after all about your ring size. I didn't think I could get a ring of yours on my small finger but according to that string you sent I sure can. Ill get the ring the next time I go to Washington

That is the Reform school at Mansfield not a penitentiary The penitentiary is in Columbus Ohio and it looks lots different. You wouldn't think the Pen is so nice if you had to put in a little time in it. When it comes to brigg's just ask me.

I didn't even know you were taking a course in math honey. When did you start?

Ill close this letter now honey and Ill write more tomorrow

Love & Kisses
Porter

XXXXXXXXX 000000000

Box 2: folder 17

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 29 1927 [return address] Pvt. .G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

July 29, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Your letter arrived here this noon but Ive been unable to write sooner. I wouldn't have time now if it wasn't raining. Like this the concert for this afternoon is called off.

Last night the whole gang that goes out to the garage got together. That is all those men who are in the band and we all went to some benefit chicken dinner and dance and we were known as the Triangle Tire and Service Co orchestra. They had both round and square dancing. Did you ever go to a square dance? Boy what fun honey. I didn't know the first thing about them but I soon learned and I danced one set. I sure enjoyed it honey I only wish you could have been with me so you could have enjoyed it to. I got so dizzy from swinging and turning that I could hardly stand up. I don't think it would have been very hard to make a mistake and think I was drunk either, I was just that dizzy.

No honey thats no way to look at a prize fighter. I don't like Dempsey either but I still think he is a better fighter than Tunney even if he isn't as much of a sport. I don't think that he deliberately lost that other fight with Tunney I still think he wasn't fit physically but I think he is now.

So you just kept quiet when your Dad mentioned a hope chest. Well honey I thought he knew about me but seeing as he dont think Ill have to let him know about the secrets that his charming daughter keeps from him. Do you think he would spank you for fooling him? I know I would if I were him. I think Ill have to let him know about it.

Do you know why the first place I think of when I think of my last furlough is always Brookside? Ill tell you dear it because that was the only time when we were really all alone. The rest of the world just seems to fade out and leave Brooky dominant. I'll admit it was wet and muddy and everything honey but I would go up to my ears in mud any day to have you all to myself like that again. Im afraid I would b]never leave you go again.

Yes honey that fellow was my buddy on that picture. Do you think you would like him?

I wish I could be there to hear Sousa's Band. I sure would enjoy hearing them. I say Lindy at a distance of about 250 ft You know the U.S.S. Memphis came right up the Potomac going to Washington and everyone went to the dock to see the ship pass and Lindy was on the bridge.

Well honey no more news now but I'll write more soon

Love

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 00000000000000000000

Box 2: folder 18

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 2 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

August 1, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

You aren't the only one that was mad I guess I was pretty mad yesterday. My buddy and I went out on the motorcycle Saturday. We had only the weekend and we had to get excused from concert to get that. We started out for New Freedom Pa. That is about forth miles north of Baltimore just over the Pa. border. We got there fine and stayed over night. Yesterday morning we started back right after the heavy rain and I hit some wet sand and took a nice spill. I didn't get hurt though except to take all the skin off my right knee and also my right arm. They are both pretty stiff right now but they will soon be all right. On the way back we stopped at Jepson Maryland to watch the Motorcycle Hill Climb. That was great sport and I wanted to try but I didn't belong to the club and anyway those fellows use special machines so I had to be satisfied to watch the sport.

Why make me wait to tell me why it is Im going to have to bake my own bread. What's the matter? Is Hoppy going to get married, or something? Tell me why Ill have to bake it myself. Dont make me guess at riddles all the time honey cause Im really no good at guessing.

Ill try this coming stunt in September although Im not sure how things will turn out. Yes Ive got to go to Haiti. In one way Im glad but in another way I dont want to go. The time passes much quicker down there but on the other hand there is no chance at all of coming on furlough while Im there and I dont see how I could stand that. If I go down it will be for a period of eighteen months and I would be a short timer then I would have about three or four months to do when I got back. The duties down there are the same as here only (Mano Mano) meaning more so and maybe a little police work and guard thrown in.

Oh honey what a dumbbell I turned out to be. The light just now shone through my head about that Math course. Of course I know what you mean. That wont really be Math though. It will be only addition, in other words only a branch of Math. I think Ill have to study auditing then.

Didn't you ever see a stamp like that one before? Gee honey thats a White plains stamp. They are supposed to represent the battle of White Plains which took place during the Revolutionary war.

Im afraid you will have to do all the praying yourself Im afraid God dont hear my prayers but Im sure he won't refuse to soften someones heart long enough to give me a furlough I sure want one bad. I love you so much honey that the days here drag along like months and because I know that my furlough is no certainty I get even more restless. I love you and I want you and I don't think the Marine Corps is playing fair when they won't let a fellow go to see the girl he loves any way its not fair when they do it just to be stubborn and for no apparent reason at all. I have one consolation though sweetheart. I know that you will be mine one of these days and that thought alone is enough to make me extremely happy.

Do you know what I do down here most of the time? Ill tell you honey. I just day dream. I build castles in the air and unlike the proverbial castles in the air in this respect. They seem to stand, they dont break so easily

Well honey Im afraid if I keep telling you of my castles in the air and how substantial they seem to by you will be thinking my mind is wandering so Ill close with another lesson in Math

Semper Fidelis
Porter

P.S. I dont know but what I ought to make this lesson in something beside addition but the only thing I can think of is multiplication so take this lesson

$(X) \times (100X) \times (100) = ?$

Porter

Box 2: folder 18

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 2 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

August 2, 1927 Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dearest Bea:

Ive just been teasing around with, "Stubby," Thats the dog that one of the fellows brought back from Port Au Prince Haiti. Ive tried to buy him several times but couldnt get the fellow to part with him for love or money. I havent anything to do today except to lay around here. I went to the sick bay for my knee this morning and was put on light duty and restricted to the quarters.

They are asking for five men to get transfered to the Navy building in Washington and I was thinking of going because then I could stay in the states, but they wouldn't let me out of Band duty. Im afraid Im doomed to be a bandsman the rest of my enlistment and if I do it means Ill have to go to Haiti. Last spring or last fall I would have been only to glad to go but now things have changed. Its very funny how a man changes when he falls in love, he seems to look at every thing from a different angle anyway I do.

I guess you should be wearing a big smile today honey. Your favorite team, (meaning the Indians) won yesterday. I don't think it will do them much good though theyve lost to many already. Id like to see them put out a real good team next year. It seems that all the men they get are real good until they start playing with Cleveland and then they always seem to go stale.

I got a new pair of officers Breeches today for motorcycle purposes they are tough Khaki waterproof and lace tight around the calves of the leg which makes them very neat. Ive got to get myself a pair of leather puttees now then Ill be all set. Id like to ride tonight but cant get away because Im restricted to quarters.

Well honey I really didn't have any news to write about today in the first place but I was just thinking of you all day so I decided to write you a few lines.

Write soon to your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO more math

Box 2: folder 18

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 5 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

August 4 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Im still on light duty on account of a sore knee, so Ive nothing to do now but write. Ive practiced all morning and waited for the inspecting officer to come through but I guess he isn't going to come, so Ill try to write a few lines. The lord only knows what Im going to write the way this knee bothers me. The knee wont let me sit still long enough to think what Im writing about.

Do you know what I think honey? I think Im going to give up the motorcycle idea. The darn thing weighs quite a bit and especially when it tips on to of a fellow. I don't want to break a leg or anything like that you know because then I wouldn't really be in good shape to get married and that is the thing I want most you know. I think if anything happened now so I couldn't marry you. Well I don't know what I would do. I think all in all it wouldnt be a half bad idea to stay away from motorcycles. This is the second time now you know. What do you think about it honey.

If my game leg permits traveling I think Ill go up this weekend and get your ring. Ill have to be off of light duty though because they wouldn't let me check out when Im on light duty. I think Ill be all set by the weekend though

August 5th
Same Place

Dearest:

I quit writing yesterday because between my knee and my headache I was having a very nice time. I received your letter in the noon mail and I was happy to learn that you were thrilled when I kissed you goodbye. This is the first time I knew that honey judging from the way you always tried to get away from me when I tried to kiss you I would have said that you didn't like those kisses. Im glad to know that you did like them after all. I know I did.

I believe you are right about anyone having a job on their hands if they were going to try to spank you. Im afraid I wouldn't want the job, even if I could perform the operation I wouldn't want the job.

There is no definite information to be had about Haiti as yet everything is still rumor except the fact that I go with the next bunch. I know that.

Ive read, "The Mark of Zorro," but its been such a long time ago that Ive even forgotten what it is about.

How did you like, "The Yankee Clipper." I liked it myself. I missed out on, "The Big Parade," but Ill see it when it comes around again.

I just approached the Drum Major about a furlough next month and he wouldn't say yes or no so that means that if Im still here he will do his best for me. I hope Im still here and lets drink to his power and influence I love you so much that if he gets me the furlough Ill kiss him. You dont mind do you

Love & Kisses

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 18

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 11 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

August 10, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Your letter arrived here but I couldnt tell you when. I got a pass the day before yesterday and slept till this morning I just checked out on liberty and stayed asleep until my pass was up and then got the pass extended so I could sleep some more. Im sending you a couple of passes so you can see what they look like.

Say listen honey. If any of these fellows around here ever write to you don't pay any attention to their letters. There are some fellows here that like to swipe an address and write to any girl they get a chance to There was one fellow wrote to my sister like that once and I dont approve of their method of getting acquainted. There have been two fellows trying to get your address and Ive had to be very carefull not to leave any letter or anything else laying around for them to get your address from. If any one ever writes to you like that don't answer their letter but just forward it to me.

I went up the other day to get your ring honey but I couldn't get the kind I wanted and the other kind they only had in large sizes. They expect a new shipment of them in about the 18th or 20th of the month. I was so mad I was going to get you another kind but you told me you wanted a Marine ring so thats the kind you will get. Its to bad and Im sorry you have to wait so long for your ring honey but I cant help it. I wish I could!

You tell your cousins husband, The one thats the ex gob that you know a dandy Marine who likes to have gobs start to use him for breakfast and tell him Id be glad to accommodate him any time Im home if he wants me to I weigh 182 lbs and never train so if he wants to let him come up to my weight. Ill give him an exhibition of a Marine. Ill have gob hash for show yet.

My knee is still stiff but Im doing duty now. Im still limping though. Im one legged Pete around here and peg leg and all such things.

Which gas station on which corner do you refer to in your letter? We stopped at about a dozen and passed many dozen more. Do you mean the one between Ira and Wetzel Ave. on Pearl Rd. I do remember our Brookside trip though. You had me so much in love on that furlough that you are the only thing I can remember of the whole furlough.

In your letter before the last one you asked how you were going to wait eighteen months more and told me how the girls are driving you crazy singing, "Thinking of you," and, "Lonesome and Sorry," etc. Now I know that, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," I knew you would get to care just like I do in time. I told you so all the time you were hesitating. Didn't I? Dont worry honey. Im not gone to Haiti yet. I may have to go but Love will find a way. I imagine I could get a furlough before going if I tried but if I go it will probably be before payday and I dont know where Id get the necessary funds from

before then. If I do go Ill try anyway Ive just got to come up there honey if I dont get to see you soon
Im afraid Ill go crazy.

I guess stubby could tell a lot if he could talk. In fact he could tell more than Id want you to
know about Haiti. Im afraid you would be worrying about me if I went if you knew what Stubby knows.
I know how to take care of myself though honey and I love you so what else matters.

Only Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO add this to your
lesson

Box 2: folder 18

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 21 1927 [return address] The American Red Cross Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Ticket Stub: Washington – Virginia Ry. Co. One First Class Passage Good This Day Only Arlington Jct. Va. to Arlington, Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 11 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

I suppose you will be surprised to receive a letter on this kind of stationary and I guess you are still wondering what its all about Well the Red Cross is getting big hearted and is furnishing us the paper, and just at the right time to. Im just out so Ive decided to use this if you don't mind. I wish they would get us furloughs this way, Don't you? Im sure I wouldn't kick.

I received your letter this morning but I was a little bit puzzled. The handwriting isn't quite the same as in the majority of your letters. I was thinking that someone else might have addressed the envelope but the letter was written the same way. What is it all about. I thought at first that something might have happened. I thought you might have been excited when you write it. I sure was relieved after I read the letter and nothing was wrong.

Now I know I wont kiss him if he gets me a furlough. Im jealous of him because you said I should kiss him for you to. Ill split the difference with you though if its all right with you. Ill take a punch at him to see how he looks when hes surprised. Hows that?

What do you mean that Helen dont like heavy duty, and why underscore the word, "heavy." Im not sure that I catch the drift.

Say! Young lady. Don't you ever get tired of going to shows? I should think five in one week should be enough. How many do you go to? About three each night? Ha Ha. Do you know honey Ive tried going to the show several times since Im back but Im afraid I can't really enjoy one unless you sit beside me. I turn around and look for you on either side about fifty times during every picture but only find a Marine sitting next to me every time.

I hope you have had a good time on your moonlight ride, honey. I wish I could go along. Im only afraid that someday you will meet some nice guy on one of these trips and Ill be heartbroken. I just cant bear to think of it. I cant imagine anyone else getting your kisses or your love. I think Id go crazy if that were ever to happen.

Ive already got rid of the motorcycle. I sold it to a fellow that needs it. He's got a wife in Fredericksburgh and he is trying to support her on \$30 per month and still go down and see her once a week. The motorcycle saves R.R. fare for him and I sold it to him for just what it cost me and Im giving him time payment priveliges to Say there Sweetheart. What do you mean calling me the, "Boy

Friend"? Do I look that way? From now on if you can't think of any worse names to call me Im just "The Old Man." Do you get me?

Im getting to be the big cheese around here as automobile and motorcycle mechanic. They consult me before buying new car and before buying or repairing used and old ones and want advise about repairing them and also want me to do all the big work when it comes to the overhauling part. I just brought down a new Studebaker Special Six Coupe Comander Type body from Alexandria today for our Bandmaster. I also gave another fellows some advise about buying a used car or rather some used junk. He wants to buy a Jewett Sedan. Then I told a fellow that owns an Excelcior Super X motorcycle just how to go about gearing it up so he can get 90 miles per hour out of it. I think Ill start a garage here when I get out. From the reputation Im getting as a mechanic now I ought to have a lot of steady customers. Dont you think so? I would start something like that if this state only wasn't so far in the interior of Russia or Japan or somewhere If Virginia only was located in the United States and not in No Mans Land.

Well honey I really dont want to send this by freight so Ill have to close while it will still go as mail. Ill write more tomorrow after our concert if I get a chance

Love & Kisses
Porter

Add this XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOOOO

See other side for P.S.

P.S. By the way dear. When do I get that long promised picture. Soon I hope

Porter

X mm – Boy that tastes good.

Box 2: folder 18

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled}
Quantico Va Marine Branch [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Sunday morning Early

Dearest:

The first mail today just arrived and with it your letter. Im sorry honey if Ive caused you to worry by my not writing oftener. I wrote on Thursday but then that is when you wrote this letter. I think you must have received mine by this time though. I intended to write some more on Friday night and mail it in the morning yesterday but Friday night I got one of these last minute notices that I would have to go with the 20 piece band to Hamilton Va. We had to start right after colors yesterday so instead of my writing I had to prepare for the trip. We didn't get back till about 2:30 A.M. this morning. I should be making up for that lost sleep now but Ive simply got to write this letter first. I hope you will understand honey, that I didn't neglect to write on purpose. Don't worry about me honey cause if I do get shipped out of here in a hurry Id sure find some way to let you know about it. Id either find or make time to write or tell my buddy to let you know. They always tell me that, "Love will find a way." Do you think so? I do.

You said in your letter that neither of you felt like dancing on the moonlight ride. Does that mean that you didn't enjoy yourself? I rather hoped you would honey. I lay awake half of Thursday night just thinking about you and hoping you would be having a good time.

I feel Beastly this morning. These country affairs always make me feel that way the next morning. You know the people appreciate our coming to play for them and are always ready with the best of food and drink. The most of the fellows forgot when to stop though. Those of us that did know when to stop sure had a job on our hands to get the others back so they wouldn't get locked up. I'm beginning to think that, thats their reason for making me go on all these trips, because I know when to quit and Im always able to take a couple of the fellows in hand that don't know when they're beat.

Yes dear. I did get a letter and a card from Jimmy and a card from Erv that I havent answered. Im going to answer them when I get this written. I really should have written to both of them much sooner but I just didn't. I will Today.

Ive just had a little intermission of about five minutes. I felt a little sick so I went out for a little fresh air. I feel much better now. I guess I had to much Lemon pie yesterday. Thats my old favorite you know.

I think Ill lay around and day dream some this afternoon. I can't seem to get my ambition to practice today and anyway Id much rather day dream and think of you.

Do you know what Im singing all the time? Theres one line goes like this, "To think that im the Lucky one. I cant believe that You're in Love with me." I really cant believe yet that Im the Lucky One.

Im always afraid Ill wake up to find it was only a nice dream. Tell me if Im dreaming honey or is it really true. I wish someone would stick a hat pin or something into me.

Ive been poking my nose around the office quite a bit for the last week but I cant seem to get any more information about tropical details or about furloughs either. I know I can get the band masters O.K for a furlough but the Drum Major is going to be a little hard. If I cant come in Sept Ill come in Oct. Ill tell you a little secret. The Doctor at the sick bay gave me what we call G.O. time I other words he claims I hurt myself due to my own misconduct and Ill either have to do a month extra after my time should be up or Ill have to forfeit a months pay so I told them to stop my pay for a month Id rather lost twice as much than to do an extra month now and then to if I was to do an extra month it would go on my record and even onto my discharge and its worth that much to keep G.O. time off my record. Dont you think so honey? Ill be alright though if I can only get a furlough. Ill be up if I have to walk. I just cant imagine myself walking though as long as the trains beep running. Can you? Ill make it some way though. Trust me.

Well honey I dont know if you will be able to make head or tail out of this letter or even be able to read it. I cant write nor can I think of anything to write about now so Ill close and Ill try to write oftener.

Only
Porter

P.S. If I dont get a picture pretty soon my arm will get so it will stay up by my left hand shirt pocket naturally cause Ive got to reach up there every time I want a look at you. Do you want a deformed husband?

Porter

Box 2: folder 18

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 18 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 16 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Beatrice:

I received your letter this afternoon just before time for concert so I had to wait till I got back to answer. Dont you think that I got a laugh out of your last letter honey cause I didn't I know just how it feels to look for a letter day in and day out for a week as you say. Ill admit its enough to worry a person.

Im not exactly worrying about the ring but Im kicking myself for not going for it about a week earlier because they had a full stock of them.

Since I remember the gas station on Broadview honey and I remember putting water in the radiator but Im darned if I remember any girls being across the street. If there were I didn't know them.

We don't have Heavy Duty around here. Light duty is hard enough work and straight duty is twice as hard as any respectable nigger would work in civilian life. Do you mean that you and Hoppy both dislike hard work? How do you know what hard work is like? Oh! Yes I remember now you are the hard working young lady aren't you? Really honey you've never answered that part of one of my letters which asks you why Hoppy wont bake bread for us. I asked you if she was thinking of getting married.

Really dear I think you would rather see a wild west show and so forth than to eat a good meal.

You wait till I come home and if you say so Ill hit a couple of dozen men for you so you'll get used to seeing accidents. It will do my fists a lot of good to. Is that satisfactory?

I dont know as its my place to give this advice but you said the more you earn, the more you spend and Im about the same way. Thats why I shouldn't say any thing but if I were you I wouldn't get into the habit cause its hard to break.

Im going to Fredericksburgh tonight to a wedding. One of the fellows here is getting married and Im going to be best man. I don't like the fellow myself cause I think hes crooked but when he asked me I couldn't very well refuse. Could I? That would be an insult. Ill learn something about weddings anyway and thats something Ill need to learn anyway someday.

I had such a large head the last letter I wrote that I forgot to give you a lesson in math, and I dont want to lose out on those kisses so count the ones in this letter twice. Half of them are meant for the other letter

Write soon to

The Old Man
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOO

Box 2: folder 18

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 18 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

About Aug. 18 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

My clarinet is in the repair shop this morning getting a new set of pads put on so I don't have to go to rehearsal this morning nor can I practice without it so Ill try to write you a few lines.

I saw an article in the morning Herald on a page that I very seldom read but the subject caught my eye and I read it. Im enclosing the article so you can read it. I think its good common sense. What do you think if it?

I spent all day yesterday working on the band masters car. I took out all the valves and refaced and reseated them and then ground them down. I was going to write last night after that but a fellow from the Triangle came in for me so I could go out and fix his radio. I didn't get in till after taps again so I wanted to get in some sleep today but again I can't because we have inspection of quarters this morning so I guess Ill have to wait till this afternoon for my nap.

I wrote to Jimmy and Erv the other day. I expect to hear from them again about Sunday or Monday. I also had another letter that I wrote to you night before last but I forgot to mail it until yesterday on account of going to a wedding where I was Best Man and yesterday I was downtown working on that car most all day.

No kidding honey Im getting a drag with the Band Master. Yesterday he told me that the Drum Major gets discharged in a couple of weeks and there is going to be a captain takes his place so he is going to use his influence as Band Master and try to keep me if that detail going to the tropics. Id like to go in one way but I think its best that I dont go, so Im glad hes going to try to keep me off the detail. He also said he would approve of my furlough but he says he don't think Headquarters will. Not next month anyway.

Do you know honey I kind of expected a letter from you this morning and still at the same time I knew there wouldn't be one. I just felt it in my bones. I don't think there will be any in the later mail delivery either. Not till tomorrow morning. I do expect that picture today though and Im keeping my eyes open for the mail.

Well honey there is really nothing ever happens here so I haven't any more news but Ill write more later. Write soon and let me know what the answer to all our math lessons is Ill close now with

Love & Kisses
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

P.S. See other side

P.S.S. They are showing Rookies here tonight so I guess I might go to see a show for a change. I wish you were here to see it with me.

Porter

Box 2: folder 18

Letterhead: Triangle Tire and Service Station Vulcanizing and Repairing Auto Electricians Gas, Oil & greases Washing and Polishing Quantico, Va.

August 23 1927

Dearest:

I hardly know how to start this letter seeing as I have so much to say, and still I suppose by the time I get to it Ill forget half of it.

To start with thanks for the picture. I also received two letters from you since I wrote last. Ill try to answer both of them in this one. I went on a liberty with the fellow that bought my motorcycle because he cant drive yet. Our rear tire blew out coming back and we took a spill. The other fellow and I got knocked cold when the motor fell on me. I came to first and carried him back to the first garage where a pint of bootleg was secured and it sure revived him. Well I didn't get back till today. I got liberty extended and I went out with my buddy today to look at a Dodge Sedan he wanted and he bought it so you see honey this is the first chance Ive got to write

Well honey Ive got my experience at Weddings so I guess its your chance now. I hate the idea of standing before the minister Id just as soon go to a "Justice of the Peace" cause they don't make a man as uncomfortable as a minister does. Of course Im not trying to tell you how we will get married cause thats up to you just so you do marry me. You can have any kind of wedding you want.

Yes I saw Rookies and I honestly believe I got as much kick out of it as I did the first time even though I wasn't watching the picture to close the first time.

I wish I could get that habit of going to the bank every payday. Im afraid the banks would go bankrupt if they depended on me though.

Tell Helen thanks for accepting the job if baking our bread even if it will only be for holidays etc. Tell her I said she should get married so you can get a little experience.

Im writing this out at the garage sweetheart so you will have to excuse the paper etc. Im even using a pen from out here and it sure is no good. I don't think we have anything to do tomorrow honey so Ill try to write some more then.

The idea! Taking my coat and pants to the shop to be pressed and leaving me to go home in a barrell You better wait a while for such monkey shines honey.

Ill close now and write more tomorrow.

Lonesome but Happy

Porter

1 year and a butt.

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled}
Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 24 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 24 About 7:00 A.M. Post Band

Dearest:

I wrote you a letter last night but I didn't get to a place where I could mail it. I guess it was about midnight when I wrote it and the General store and Post Office was closed so I had to bring it back to camp so I might as well write some more.

We took the Dodge out onto the road after the traffic thinned out a little and I taught my buddy to drive. We drove back and forth from about one o'clock this morning until our liberty expired which was 5:30 A.M.

Today we are going to take one of the motorcycles from the shop and go to Alexandria for the title and a set of license plates and when we get them we are going for a little ride.

I was talking to my buddy last night and we are going to try to get a furlough together and come up together in the Dodge. What do you think of that idea? If it works out. Pretty nice I call it. If I can't do that then I'll come home this fall sometime at the first chance I get. I can hardly wait for that chance honey. It seems that now that I've got you to look forward to, the days seem to drag by so much slower, each day seems like a year.

Who are you going to get for a girl friend for Paul if he comes home with me? Have you any Lithuanian girl friends? Real nice ones you know or are you going to be nice to Helen and leave her go with him?

How did you manage to get that picture? Is that the same one I had before. Have you seen Lillian lately honey? Do you know Sweetheart that no matter how sore I got at Lill and as sore as I still am I still expect to hear from her. It feels sort of funny not to hear from her in such a long time. I can't be worried though. I've still got you honey and nothing else matters. I only wish I didn't have so much time to do before I'll be able to see you all the time. I wish I was an officer so I'd marry you right away and take you along every where I go. I think you would like the tropics. In fact I know you would.

Well honey I'll have to stop for a while now to get ready for colors and I'll finish after colors. Well I'm here again honey. I really don't know how I'm keeping my eyes open or anything but here I am any way still trying to write.

Paul is on his bunk right now trying to see just how much sleep is equal to two hours or so. We intend to go out and take that run to Alexandria in about two hours and he is intent on making the time till then count. Do you know what honey? I'm going to learn to pray and I'm going to have to employ those means every time I ride that motorcycle until I can get a decent set of tires. Oh say Bea. You must be puzzled cause I told you I sold the motorcycle. Well I've another one now that I have the use of until a fellow gets back from China. This one is a Harley Davidson to, not so fast as the other one but its powerfull and dependable all but the tires and I'll get a good set some time and I'll be all set. This Harley

is slow but the slower I go the less chance there is of breaking my fool neck and 68 miles per hour is plenty anyway Im satisfied.

Well honey you arent sorry that youve promised to marry me are you? I hope not. I know Im not a bit sorry. In fact Im so glad that I love you more each day. They say that absence makes the Heart grow fonder and Ill back up the man that makes that statement and Ill also say that it makes the heart yearn.

I wrote a letter to Erv and one to Jimmy but I have no answer yet but I guess Ill hear from them soon. Ill close now honey so write soon to Your

~~Porter~~ Old Man

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 18

The American Red Cross envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 27 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 26 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

This is Friday night and everyone has gone over to the enlisted mens dance so Im going to try writing a letter while its quiet.

To begin with I would have written sooner but I was on a working detail to get Ferns, wild flowers, and leaves from the woods to decorate for some officers dance, and weve been out all day.

Last night I went to Fredericksburgh to tow in the motorcycle I sold cause after our spill we just left it there in some garage. We went up and I towed it in with mine. We started out right after concert which was at 4:30 P.M. and we didn't get back till midnight.

I was looking for a letter from you today honey but for some reason or another it never arrived I suppose it will tomorrow though so I wont kick. Ill just stand by and watch the mail tomorrow until the letter gets here.

Do you know what I just did honey? I just got an inspiration to draw your picture just as I see it and I started to draw it on the blotter pad So far Ive made a pretty good job of your head but Im terribly afraid Ill never get the nose and eyes in the way they belong. If I ever do, Ill send it to you and see what you think of it. Ill have to wait for further inspiration to finish it Im afraid.

Id like to do a little practicing tonight because I havent been doing it as much as I should lately but Im afraid I cant because my one hand is full of poison ivy and it makes my fingers stiff.

We aren't hearing any news here lately about tropics but the last I heard was that they are going to send the detail down a couple of months late. That is instead of September it might be October or November before they go. Id like to go in one way. To get out of this (Sunny Virginia). This state is the coldest in the United States. We havent had any real summer yet this year except a couple of days and they were nothing to boast of, and now its getting colder again. Right now Id like to wear an overcoat it so darn chilly.

Im afraid I can't finish my course in electrical engineering honey because they are discontinuing the M.C.J. Schools for an indefinite period of time. No one knows for how long. If they ever start up again Ill finish though cause I liked that course. I think Ill send my reference books away for storage or Ill throw them away or something. I get so mad to think that I cant finish the course now that Id really enjoy doing something to them just for spite.

Well honey Im getting cold sitting here and Ive been sleepy all day so I think Ill just tumble in.

Your Porter
Emile

Box 2; folder 18

Triangle Service Station Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 29 1927

Letterhead: Triangle Tire and Service Station Vulcanizing and Repairing Auto Electricians Gas, Oil &
Greases Washing and Polishing Quantico, Va.

August 28 1927 About 3:30 A.M.

Dearest:

I received your letter today just as I was about to start out for the garage and I intended to answer it as soon as I got out here. When we got here though the work was standing knee deep and three deep so I pitched in and helped by doing all ignition work and weve been kept busy most of the time since then and that was about one oclock yesterday afternoon. There seems to be a lull right now though so Im going to try to write.

Of course I still love you honey. I love you more than anything else. Please dont think that I dont love you anymore just because Ive neglected to write a couple of times Ill really try to do better honey cause I know I should write oftener but I just leave things slip like that, but honest honey I do love you and I always will.

Yes Im still on the outs with Lill. God knows I would write if she only would but I wrote the last letter in fact I wrote the last two letters with no answer so its up to her to break the ice I think.

Ill tell you how fast we were going when we took our latest spill. We were going about 20 miles per hour and we are darn lucky we werent going faster or we wouldn't be here to tell the tale cause the spill took place on top of a big bridge. I cant tell you now what made me slow down unless it was another one of my lucky hunches.

Ive got my motor out cause a hanger in my frame broke and Ive either got to weld it or use one of the frames that are laying around here. Thats what I came out for in the first place yesterday.

I dont know when you will get this because I dont know when or where I will mail it. Im all alone in the garage now so I cant leave now but Ill mail it first chance I get.

Can you read this letter? Im writing this in my lap using a magazine for a desk. Ill write more later on honey and this is just so you will know that I still love you as much as ever and Im still tickled pink to think that you are to be my wife.

Well honey its getting daylight around here and Ill have to keep the fire going so the steam pressure dont go down so by by for this time. XX
XX
XX

I Love You

XX

Porter

Write soon honey to

Your
Porter

Box 2: folder 18

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Aug 30 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 30 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Your card arrived this morning and it sure fits. Ill admitt that much although I wrote to you I mailed the letter yesterday honey. I wrote it out at the garage on Sunday Ive landed myself a spare time job at the garage now. Im getting \$10 per month and I make about as much on tips so even though it is small wages its experience and even those small wages help. I got liberty yesterday and made a run to Washington on business for the garage to get some tools and also some parts for a job Im working on now. I stopped in to see about that ring and he didn't have it yet so I told him not to bother and I found another place to get one that even nicer than what I could have got at the other place. Im going up again on payday to get some stuff I need and Ill get the ring then. Would you rather have one like mine was with the red glass or ruby or what ever the dickens it is, or would you rather have one thats gold and no stone? Either one is nice. I don't know which one I like best myself.

Well honey they are making up a detail for tropical duty right now but its going to be Nicaragua and not Haiti So far Im not on it yet and if I can help it Ill not be. I think I would die if I had to go down there for 18 months now, still if I was one the detail I don't suppose there would be anyway out of it. Still if I did go Im afraid Id die of a broken heart. Ive set my heart on coming home to see you and Im afraid I might not get there if I was on the detail and I love you to much to leave without seeing you first. If I should be on the detail Id try to get a leave honey although if it comes before payday Id have to ride freight trains so you would have a pennyless lover on your hands for a few days. No shows or anything. I don't think we have to worry about that though cause myself I dont think Ill have to go so I won't be coming up for nearly another month or so when Ill be rich enough to come up by train or motor so lets not worry any honey.

Im not feeling so rozy today because Ive got a cramp in the tummy for some reason or another. I guess its some more of this good Marine Corps chow that cant be digested. Ive had these cramps since 9 oclock last night and its one oclock in the afternoon now so that gives me about 15 hours of misery so far. Lets hope it quits soon.

I found a nice poem in last night Washington Herald. One of Edgar A Guests poems and Im going to enclose it. Do you know honey that man writes some of the most beautiful poetry that Ive ever seen. I cant understand where or how he gets all his ideas and thoughts. I read his poems every time I get a hold of a paper with one in it.

Weve got a concert to play this afternoon at the Generals house and if everyone is feeling like I do Im afraid it would be all noise.

Gee honey those cramps kept me awake most all last night and Im so sleepy Im almost going to sleep sitting up here while Im writing and I sure don't want to do that. I just now had to bawl out my

buddy for making so ~~damn~~ damn pardon lady I meant to say darn much noise. He was rolling around wrestling with women other bozo and I was called upon to bawl them out and if they start again Ill feel called upon to beat up on them. Now I just got through trying to tell these guys about regulations on furloughs. I won the argument though.

Well honey Ill close now and start getting ready for concert Ive got to shave yet and I haven't any to much time so bye bye for now and write soon to

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran ~~4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio~~ Pataskala Ohio R.F.D. 4 [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 2 1927 [return address] E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Sept 1st 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Your letter arrived this noon but till now I have been busy with a rehearsal and a concert. Its raining out but we got into the band stand and played just the same. We just got back so I decided to write till supper time.

Thats what I call nice entertainment It seems to make one feel like an entirely different person when one does something to make some one else happy like that, especially when the someone else is a child.

Have they got Balts and his team mates at Brookside permanently now? Id like to see them when I come home again. Lets hope that is pretty soon.

When you were in Brooky did you think of our afternoon together? It seems to me that the whole park has a different glitter to it since then When I think of you now I always think of Brookside at the same time and I never think of Brookside except in connection with you.

Do you know honey Im not really slipping on my music cause they dont give a fellow a chance to slip but I am getting disgusted with myself as a clarinetist and although they tell me that its just my imagination Im sure that Im playing worse every day instead of better but Im sticking by my boots and saddle just the same

Dont worry about me going to the tropics for a while honey cause Im not on this detail now although I was. I got another clarinet player to request to take my place.

Im going out to the garage again tonight in fact Im going in about 20 minutes cause Im going to finish the overhaul job Im doing now and Ill collect a couple of dollars. The little extra money I make there sure comes in handy or anyway it has so far this month.

I going to see about a furlough tomorrow so Ill let you know more definitely what its all about either tomorrow or as soon after that as I can find out for myself.

If I come at all I think Im going to come up on the motorcycle if I get that far. If I dont get that far just send a bunch of violets and never mind the mourning part.

Well honey there goes chow call so Ill have to close in a hurry and Ill write some more as soon as I get some information. Tell Hoppy hello for me and dont forget to keep writing no matter what happens

Yours
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran ~~4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio~~ Pataskala R.F.D. 4 [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 3 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Saturday Morning Library

Dearest:

I received your letter yesterday but didn't answer because I was at the garage when it came and I was working on a big job. I decided to write this morning and just as I was about to start I hear of a police detail being made up so I came over here to write and I might be able to keep out of police work and get this letter written.

The first thing I did after colors this morning was to put my name on the liberty list cause Im going up today to get your ring. You haven't told me yet ~~which~~ which one you wanted so Im going to get the one you asked for first. I was going to go you yesterday but I didn't get the chance but Im going up today in spite of everything.

Well honey the detail for Nicaragua is approved and Im not on it. I can't tell you just how it all happened because I dont know myself. It's a big mystery to me, but I have more than a hunch that the band master was working for me because I don't see any other possible way it could have happened.

Do you know what I wish? I wish I had the means of supporting you for the next year and nine months. Id bring you down here and we would go to the tropics together. Thats one place Im sure you'd like. Do you know why I said that honey? Its because a soldiers or Marines wife always lives the life of Rielly as they say because they do plenty of traveling. I only wish you could share this life with me honey. Im sure you would like it.

Im going to get the best of my dumb pride today and Im going to write to Lill today if I don't get caught on that detail. I dont know I may be foolish and I may not but Im going to get over this stubborn spell.

Im thinking of a furlough the end of this month or the first of next and Im going to go the limit for it. Ill go so far as to fight for it if I have to. They can't do any more than lock me up you know and this wouldn't be the first time either.

Im afraid if I didn't get a furlough you would think that I dont love you any more but I do. I believe from the scarcity of letters I write you have already formed a little doubt, and I really can't blame you either. Well just you be patient and Ill do my best for a nice furlough.

Im going to expect a letter from you tomorrow or ~~Wednes~~ Monday. You will have to excuse the scratches but I havent much paper along and I dont want to go to my quarters on account of that police detail.

Well Bye Bye for now honey and write soon to

The Greatest of the Great Privates
Porter

XXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 7 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 6 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

I wrote you a letter Saturday so I expected a letter this morning but I was fooled for none arrived. Ive been away from here since Sat. noon. I stayed at the garage all night helping out and got new liberty from Sunday night until Reveille Tuesday which was this morning so Paul and I went out for a little Labor Day trip in his Dodge and we had a nice time we went to see his friends at "New Freedom Pa." It's about 118 or 120 miles I guess it might even be more or less we didn't watch the speedometer Just think honey I was about one fifth of the way home then.

I believe I told you in my other letter that I was going to get your ring Saturday and send it didn't me? Well Im sorry honey but I didn't get it yet. I got there too late. They didn't have a ring in that size left with the emblem. I was going to get a seven but that's too small and there is no sense in getting one to small you know. Ill get it as soon as possible though honey.

Gee Im sleepy today. I stayed awake all night Saturday and all day Sunday and we didn't even start on our trip till Sunday night and I drove all the way because traffic was heavy and Paul is just a beginner at driving so I drove all night Sunday and fooled around all day Monday and drove all Monday night till we came in this morning. I was so tired I fell asleep at the wheel two or three times. This morning at our rehearsal I fell asleep while playing and Id always wake up just before Id fall out of my chair. After rehearsal I started to get my stuff out to write to you and fell asleep doing it so I just layed down and slept all day. Im still sleepy though.

There were some men came back from China and some from Nicaragua last night. All men who are ready for Discharge. I don't even know if they are going to be replaced or not but why worry.

I still love you honey so write to me real soon and let me know what all is happening

Only Your
Porter

P.S. Do you still count these honey?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 10 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 9 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Why don't you write? Ive gone half crazy in the last week trying to figure out a reason for you silence. You aren't sick are you? I hope not and I felt sure that you would have let me know if you were sick and I can't figure any other reason for you silence unless I might have said something that would make you sore at me but I really cant think of any thing I might have said that would offend. Well so much for that Ill just have to be patient until you do write

I got a letter from Erv if you want to call it that. It seems he is trying to learn to operate a typewriter and is trying to learn on my sisters machine. Im enclosing a part of his letter so you can get a good laugh out of it. Id like to send you the whole letter but I can't for it is written in such a way that it even makes a hard boiled Leatherneck blush. I sat down while I was reading his letter and laughed so much that I very nearly missed colors by forgetting to fall out.

Ive been quite busy here the last couple of days. Some drunken fellow ran smack into the side of the Dodge on me and the sheriff got him and told him to either get the car fixed as good as new or go to jail so he is having it fixed, everything new, including two doors. The accident will cost him plenty cause the Bill for Pauls Dodge will amount to over two hundred dollars alone then the fellow will fix his own car up I suppose. I had to go to Washington last night on account of that to see that two new tires are put on and to see that the doors are fixed properly.

I went to see about your ring while I was up there but he hasn't one in yet he said to come in Monday and I told him if he hasn't got one Monday August 12 that I would send to the factory for one so now I know he will have one cause if I wrote to the factory and told them that I tried to get one at his place and couldn't they would take his agency away from him.

We are having a lot of duty around here lately. One thing after another, parades colors fall out to meet someone or another and concerts and trips to different fairs etc. They are splitting this band up into three orchestras and two bands tomorrow. The two bands each play for a different Fair and the orchestras for God knows what kind of dances and functions. I think Ill have to break my clarinet and take a chance on not being able to get another one for a few days.

I don't suppose you know it but Ive been bawling you out half a dozen times each day for over a week now cause you know thats how long it is since your last letter arrived. Ive got so I cant look at you without giving you a bawling out for not writing cause you know I havent any way at all of knowing just why you quit writing and the suspense is terrible. I don't suppose Ive got any kick coming though cause I did the same thing not so long ago. Im making up for it though ~~cant~~ am I not? I believe that is better English.

Well honey I still love you as much as ever and I still think of you real often and you are still part of my dreams. I believe I love you more than ever if that is possible. By the way honey you told me once that you don't know what (love) is. Have you found out yet?

Well sweetheart Ill close this volume now and hope to hear from you real soon so write to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOO

[portion of letter from Ervin J. Laykun]

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 12 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

August 11 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Your letter just arrived and it has solved the big mystery. I just couldn't guess why you weren't writing and all the time my letters were going to a different part of the United States from where you were. I saw the light of day just as soon as I saw the postmark.

Oh Ill admitt I dont exactly dote on police work but after all you know a fellow really can't be blamed.

Im sorry but I guess you will have to wait a few more days for your ring. I hate to do this but Ive just got to because I simply can't get away today or tomorrow and it might not do any good if I could. I wasn't supposed to make that trip to Indian Head yesterday but I was told to go in the last minute so I missed my chance to go up yesterday on that account.

No Im not on the Nicaraguan detail and don't want to be either. Im going to try my best to get out of every detail that leaves and then maybe Ill get to come up with the band that goes to Cleveland for the football game this fall. Dont misunderstand me honey Im not worrying about the tropics because there have been lots of men went there before now and I think I can stand as much as anyone so you see it dont worry me only I dont want to go now.

See now honey if you had your hubby with you to fix the flat tire you might not have had to cuss cause you could have made me fix it. Thats one of the advantages.

Grrrrr!!!**??!;,. Why in the heck do you always insist on talking about goodies such as home made ice cream and so. You know I never get any of that here and it makes my mouth water. Cut it out. Orders from Comanding General Emil G. Thomas the Greatest of the great privates.

Sure thing sweetheart we can go anywhere you want when I come home and Id love to meet your folks. What are some of these obstacles we have to overcome to visit these people? They say that Love will find a way so we ought to find two ways cause I love you just twice that much.

Do you know honey I haven't overcome my own pride yet. Not enough to write to Lill anyway. I suppose I will one of these days though.

Why worry about diets. Don't forget you are still my light heavyweight you know. Ill be the proud man when I claim that light heavyweight for a wife. Don't think I wont either.

Well honey Ill close and you will hear more from me soon.

Your Lonely
Marine

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO X

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Washington DC Sep 14 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Sept 14 1927

Dearest Bea:

I received your letter a couple of minutes ago and Im going to try to answer it although this one will have to be in a hurry if one ever was.

Do you remember my telling you about the drunken fellow running into my buddy's car and smashing it up? Well they are taking every one concerned out today, that is the Post Inspector is and they are either going to straighten the trouble out or that fellow has to face a charge of being drunk while driving and hauling whiskey in his car and take a chance on getting from \$100 fine and 6 months to two years imprisonment which would mean that he gets a bad conduct discharge and loses 17 years of service that he already has to his credit. The Post inspector is taking us out to see the sheriff and have a look at the booze that was found in the fellows car and they are going to try to bring all of us to an agreement. So you see honey why I say that this letter is going to be written in a hurry.

I thought you told me you are working? How can you go to watch football practice then? Or do you quit in time to go over there.

I had a nice boil on my neck and just opened it this morning and boy what I mean they sure hurt especially while opening. This one hurts so much that I cant even move my foot and the boil is on my neck. It interferes with my wiggling my ears to.

Well honey Im going to have to close now but Ill write more tomorrow morning cause I dont expect to be back till late tonight

Only
Porter

XXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 17 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Sept 17 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Do you want to know why I didn't know about your going to Pataskala? Ill tell you cause I just found the letter. Who ever got the mail that day just put it under the cover of my table and I never found it till just before.

Yesterday I was on a police detail all day and started to go fishing at night or rather crabbing. We started out on three different motorcycles and they all broke down we got two of them running again and went on then and we had salted Herring for bait but when we got to the place most of it was gone. The fellows in the second motorcycle ate the bait. We fished for crabs until 1 oclock and then we lost the one dip net so we ate our sandwiches and drank our coffee and after swapping yarns for about an hour we came in minus crabs. The darn things saw me coming I guess. Next time I go Ill disguise myself behind some wiskers an sneak up on them.

No honey I havent given up hope for a furlough yet in fact I put in another request this morning for the sixth of next month but I dont know how far it will get. All I can do is hope it goes through cause I sure want to come to see my sweetheart in the quickest way possible.

Im going to go to Washington again this afternoon for that ring and if they havent got the right one now then Ill wait till just before my furlough if it comes through and Ill bring it with me. Will that be alright honey? You dont know how much I hate to keep you waiting so long honey but there are no two ways about it and if they havent got one by next month then you will get a real ring whether you want it or not. The old man is speaking now.

We are all waiting for the twenty second but very few bets are being made although everyone expects Dempsey to win and although it is customary to give odds in favor of the champion no one seems to be willing to give odds. I believe this is going to be one of the best fights in the history of the ring.

Tell Helen that I agree with her about shows they are alright if an exceptionally good picture happens to come along but otherwise Bah! And Humbug!

I feel like bawling you out some more cause ~~th~~ you are starting to threaten me and Im hoping you beat me up good cause I need it. Ive nothing to bawl you out for though.

Well sweetheart I guess you will have your hands full trying to read this much so give me a kiss and let me close this letter.

just Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 21 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

September 20 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

I just received your letter you wrote on the twentieth of September and mailed in the nineteenth. Don't you think you had better turn your time back a day or so up there anyway I was glad to get the letter no matter what the date.

I was just up to see about my furlough this afternoon and I think Ill get it cause two fellows backed out and now I think Im fourth on the list and that gives me a chance anyway. If it comes through it will start on the day after payday and by the time I get up there Ill be nearly broke. Ill only have about twenty dollars so we wont be able to see a show each night. But if you don't mind Im sure I won't. I wouldn't mind if I had to walk home. All I want is to see and be with my sweetheart.

Yes that drunk sure was a Marine and he is a fair example of what the Marines can make of a man in one way and of course there are examples the other way to. Just what a man makes it.

Honey Im going to have to hurry this letter a little to get done by supper time. I just found out that our supper comes at 5 oclock now where it used to come at 5:30 oclock and its nearly 3 oclock now.

You asked what Ive been doing lately. Ive been thinking of you and wondering how I could manage to get a furlough short of committing murder. Do you know Ive been thinking of you so much and wondering about a furlough that Im getting down right lazy and the only remedy for that is a furlough. Im only hoping they will let me undergo that treatment. Id love nothing better.

Well honey time is getting close so I suppose Ill have to close but Ill write more as soon as I get more definite information about my furlough so now Ill close with

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 25 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Sept 23, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Your letters are making me fall more and more in love with you all the time I was getting kind of disgusted on account of Tunney getting the decision over Dempsey and then along comes your letter and drives the blues away.

Certainly honey certainly I know that Ill get your ring but what gets me is all the useless delay.

I don't care how bad you think a motorcycle is sweetheart but I know that if my furlough comes through my motorcycle is going to be a blessing cause if I didn't have it Id sure have to walk but like this everything will be rozy.

Honey if you mention the (Mr Bryant from downstairs) again Ill have to beat him up when I come home so he will know better next time and not fool with my girl. Private Property

Today we had general police work again. We have every Friday now. This new Comanding General sure is ambitions when someone else has to do the work. My knuckles are all skinned up and bruised up and what is left of my hands is all torn and bleeding from the thorns. My left eye is closed because I got a cold in it from the motorcycle rides of course. All in all considering the second boil on my neck Im a very good Marine for the shape Im in. I think Ill live though unless they leave a couple of bombs lying around loose for me to stub my toes on.

Do you know what I think Im going to do starting in November? I think Im going to manage the garage out there during the evening until about next spring. It will be a wonderful oportunity for me to learn all about the tire repair business and maybe Ill realize my big ambition some day and be a master mechanic. I can make an automobile engine do everything but talk now. A little experience with tires and a little more ignition work should fix me up fine. Dont you think so?

Well honey I really should be out at the garage now so Im going to close cause the boss is waiting for me so bye bye for now and Ill let you know more about my furlough later

Your Old Man
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 26 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Sept 25, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

This is Sunday afternoon and as Im not doing any thing else I thought I might as well write a little.

I was out at the garage all the afternoon and drove one of the fellows eighteen miles over a dirt road last night to a square dance just for his sake and I nearly froze. The nights down here are worse than winter. I came back to the garage at about two A.M. and it was closed and no one there and me without my keys so we came into camp and Im not going back out till after concert tonight.

My request for a 30 day furlough went in to Washington yesterday so if everything goes right I should be home by the eighth of October cause Im going to drive up and seeing as it gets pretty cold Ill just have to take it kind of easy and make a stop to get warm every once in a while. Ive been looking up the roads and if the maps don't lie I should have good roads all the way up and if I have a warn dry day and my tires dont get to hot I should make it in 16 hours but Id rather take it a little easier and be sure of getting there. I may have a riding companion most of the way up if his furlough comes through.

How much did you win on the fight? I lost but Im not saying how much. I do wish I had bet the way you told me though. I could have made a nice 6 months furlough on it. I dont know how you judged the fighters but you did judge them right and my hats off to you. If Dempsey came back again Id bet on him again though cause I think he is the best man and I still maintain that there isn't a man living that can knock Dempsey out. I dont care how big he is.

I dont know why it is but Im still froze since last night. I slept till noon to plenty of time to thaw out but I dont seem to be any warmer. I think I should have slept till supper. Im going out and work on the motorcycle some more tonight cause I want to be darn sure its in good condition before I start my furlough. I dont want to breakdown on the road no way.

I think Ill have a letter from you tomorrow so Ill close now so Ill have something to write about then so bye bye for this time with

Love & Kisses

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. Dont forget to Write Soon

Box 2: folder 19

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Sep 30 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Sept 29, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

I received one of your letters yesterday afternoon and one this noon so I'll answer two in one. I would have answered the one last night already only I went on guard and it isn't like the Tenth Regt. guard was. There isn't a chance to write between watches here. I came off at 8 o'clock this morning and got breakfast and went to sleep till noon and still I could sleep quite a bit more.

Sure thing honey Im coming home to see you if I have to come A.W.O.L. – but I dont think Ill have to although I won't be able to come on the sixth. Im fairly sure Ill get to come on the tenth. They arent giving any more furloughs till then on account of the tri monthly report but I am figuring on the tenth We will have to consider ourselves darn lucky that I get a leave then because it isn't the custom to give furloughs to the band during the football season but I think Ill get mine anyway.

Our football season opens this Saturday when we will beat Washington University or at least when we hope to. The game is going to be played right here and I suppose the entire camp will turn out. I know one private that will.

When you told me you were calling for Lill to go to church I knew without my reading another word that my father would ask about me but! The idea is Did Lill ask about me? I suppose not. I guess she is just as stubborn as I am. I really dont care how much my dad knows about me just so I don't have to do the telling.

Im afraid you dont quite understand honey. In the service a man can never say anything for sure so I really can't see into the future far enough to say for sure when I will come. All I can say is when my furlough is requested for and if I think Ill get it or if I think I won't. I have a half way decent reason though for thinking mine will go through and that is why I seem to be so confident.

For the love of mud honey wish for anything but snow cause Im going to drive that motorcycle home and snow would make the driving pretty hard. You know It would make it nearly impossible.

Well honey all I can think of is I Love you and I can't get my mind off of it long enough to think of anything else to write so Ill close hoping for a nice furlough to come through real soon

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 20

The American Red Cross Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled]
Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 6 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Oct 5, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

I suppose you will be wondering if Im still alive or not but I really am very much so Ask the Top Sergeant He knows because he tried to trick me out of my furlough and in trying to do so he made a bad actor out of me result 1 black eye not on my face though. I have a good reason for not writing to. I had my hands swollen to an extra large size from poison ivy that I got while on police work last week now that Ive got rid of that Ive got a boil on the end of my nose. I just got back from the sick bay where I got it cut. My blood must be in pretty bad shape because that is the only thing that could cause those things.

I went up and saw to it myself that my furlough request got made out and Ill personally see to it that it gets signed and sent in and then it is up to the General. If he don't approve of it then you can write to him and tell him to give the old man a furlough. That is a sure way.

Well honey Ive finally got your ring but its not the kind you wanted instead of the red setting this one is black and the ring is gold instead of silver. I like this one better. Im having it cut down because they arent made in half sizes so I had to get the next size. This one has a nicer emblem to, than the other kind had.

Im expecting a letter from you today yet so Ill quit this one now with love and kisses to my sweetheart

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 20

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 11 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

October 10, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Im going to try to write this letter so it can be read. I dont know how Im going to do it though, because my knuckles are beginning to hurt already. They are still sore and swollen. Im getting them lanced again tomorrow morning. They seem to be pretty peeved around this place cause I can't do duty. They are trying to put something over on me again. Theyve been trying it ever since I fought trying about my furloughs being revoked. Theyve been trying to catch me asleep ever since. Im afraid there won't be no furlough for me now till Christmas or after.

Did the ring arrive yet? If so do you like it? I liked it better than the other ones myself. The ones with the red setting were such cheap affairs. Im glad they didn't have any on hand the day I went up.

Do you know what I did? I wrote and told Erv I was expecting to come home and when my furlough was revoked my hands were to sore to write and tell him otherwise so I bet he is still waiting for me to get home. Ill have to write and tell him otherwise.

I was kind of expecting a letter this morning but none came so it may be in the late mail and if not it may get here in the morning mail tomorrow. I dont expect Ill be able to answer it for a couple of days if it comes tomorrow cause my right hand will be in bandages and I cant write left handed anyway not so it can be read.

Dont you worry about my not getting a furlough honey cause I still love you, and after all you know that is all that really counts and Ill get another furlough before I get discharged and that will just divide up the time. I know how you feel and everything like that cause I feel the same way. I was even thinking of writing to the Major General Comandante in Washington but that would make things worse for going over the heads of our office. They would never give us any peace after that.

Well honey Ill close now and go for chow and then after chow Ill write to Erv. Write soon to The only great private

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 20

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 15 1927 [return address] From, Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

October 14 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

I received a letter from you Wednesday and another today. I would have answered sooner but my hand was in a nice bandage. I was going to remove it this morning but I was on the police detail and I didn't want to take a chance of breaking the scabs by working so I kept the bandages on and all I had to do then was be present to make the required number of men for the detail. My hand feels very stiff but otherwise it seems alright. I made a trip to Washington in the sidecar with the boss on business last night and we sold 186 volts of Edison batteries for \$90.00

Well honey Ill admitt that a boil is painfull but Id rather have one of those than to have a sore inside my mouth any old time.

Im only wishing that you should like your ring as well as you did the description of it. I sure tried my best to get as close to what you wanted as was possible. I only hope you like it honey. I hope it may make you very happy I only wished I could be with you now so I could hold you in my arms and kiss you. I would have been there to only on account of our Top Sgt. Being such a damned runt. You will have to excuse me if I use a little rash language for a while now but Im so mad cause my furlough didn't come through that I believe if I get the chance Id tell the General to go to hades. They couldn't do very much more than to lock me up and Ive been thrown out of much better Briggs than they've got here or ever did have or ever will have here.

Ill bet your new sweater is a peach as you call it and I sure wish I could be there to see it. Ill bet Id hold it in my arms most of the time when you get in it.

Ill explain the furlough request proceedings and so forth some other time honey. You just ask me some other time but Im really finding it hard enough to keep my eyes open now and I sure couldn't keep them open for about three extra pages. You don't mind, do you honey?

Im sure you did have some very nice things all planned for my furlough honey and Im sure I would have had a good time but its no use to cry over spilt milk.

Dont you worry about my Love for You being something indefinite honey its only the way I mince words in a letter that makes it sound that way. My love really is positive and Im sure it will last honey. I could convince you much better if I were with you so I could kiss your doubts away. Believe me honey when I say that I love you better than anything else and always will think sometimes of

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. How I wish I could cash in on those right now.

Porter

(over)

P.S.S. Give my love to your folks and also to Hoppy

Box 2: folder 20

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 18 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

October 18 Post Band

Dearest Bea:

This is Tuesday morning and as it is raining there were no colors and for some unknown reason or another there was no rehearsal and so far Im not on any of the working or guard details for today so I think Ill try writing a letter. Ive got another motorcycle now. I traded the other one in on it. I got a very good bargain so I took it. I had a few dollars and the rest Ive got 6 months to pay and it sure is a wonderfull engine in it. The frame could stand some paint but the engine is fine.

Im glad you like your ring honey and Im very glad that you are happy. I only wish I could have come home to see you but I guess you know as well as I do that it is useless to argue in the service. Ill try to come when the band comes to Cleveland if they do. I wont be able to see very much of you if I do get to come but I will at least see you which will be better than nothing.

Do you know honey that the time is coming now when we have to think about Xmas and gifts and I dont know what to get for anyone give me some ideas you ought to have some better ideas that I do. You should at least know what your folks would like and Im sure you should know of something you would like. Tell me about it so Ill know what its all about. Ill be trying my best in the meantime to get a nice furlough for December or at least over Christmas or New Years. I hope I get to make a couple of my bets good for the football season. If I do win some Ill try to get 30 days instead of just the usual Christmas leave but if I lose like I did on Dempsey and on the world series then I think Ill have to committ suicide or something like that cause Ill sure be a pauper then. Ive lost over \$300 between Dempsey and the series. Dont say anything to Erv or to Lill about it cause they sure would call me a fool if they knew. I dont think you will bawl me out or call me a fool or I wouldn't be telling you although you are really entitled to know what I do.

Well honey Im just now wondering if you have ever had reason to be sorry that you have promised to marry me. I have tried my best to make you glad and happy and Ive kept straight and been true to you, so I was just wondering if there was anything else I could do to make you happy.

Well honey Im afraid this letter is getting worse and worse all the time so I guess Ill close and hope to hear from you this afternoon. Say howdy to Helen for me and also to your folks and say that Im trying my best for a leave in Dec. so lets hope for the best for

Your
Porter

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Box 2: folder 20

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Oct 21 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

October 20, 1927 Post Band

Dearest:

Im going to try to write again although Im afraid Im like you I forget half of the things I want to tell you about. I don't even have to look at a ring to do it either. I just have to glance up at your picture and right away I forget everything I want to say. All I can do then is to wonder how you could ever think enough of me to promise to marry me because I really have nothing but my love to offer you. I could understand more easily why if I were good looking but this way I cant understand. I do love you though more than anything else so I guess Ill just have to make good with the help of that love.

You asked how that game the Marines played came out. The Marines had a score of over 60 to Washington Colleges Q and the Marines have won the rest of the games so far but they havent started to play the hard teams yet. Levey shipped over about a week before the first game and done some excellent work for no training but weve got two more dark horses this year who are supposed to have Levey skinned a mile. Ive forgotten what their names are now but both of them can out run Levey and even give him a handicap I know those fellows names now one of them is Shapely and the other is Woods.

Sure thing honey I meant every word I said when I told you to write a book when you felt in the mood. Two hundred pages of you want to. Im always happy when I hear from you. I think its only natural that you can't write to much to suit me, cause I love you and still in the position Im in now I cant have you with me so naturally a letter is the next thing to a kiss, cause it shows that you think of me sometimes and that makes me happy.

I do wish you would tell me one thing about your last couple of letters though. What do you mean by Chin Chin. Im not a chink so I really cant guess.

Well honey these is really no more to day except that if you call writing me nice long letters revenge. Just go ahead and get lots of it cause I like it and as long as you will be mine Im sure Ill be only your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 20

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Oct 24 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va

October 24 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Your letter arrived here a couple of days ago but every time I started to answer it I get about three words written and then I either have to go on guard or police work or out to the garage or something and it always happens in a hurry to. Ive been over to the hospital to see a friend a couple of times to. He hurt his foot while he was working on the milk delivery truck, got his foot caught in the wheel and all these little things have kept me from answering sooner. I started this letter this morning but had to put it aside in favor of police work so lets hope no more work shows up today.

Ive cussed the Top Sgt. For you and for me but believe me I didn't put in a good word for you. In fact Im inclined to think the word I used must have shook up the whole state.

I sure would enjoy hugging your new sweater some providing you were inside of it all the time. Ive got a new sweater to and also a new pair of whipcord breeches and tailor made leggings

Dont you worry about my gong to England honey but instead you might expect my transfer in a pretty nice hurry and again you might not. I came pretty close to a Port Au Prince detail this morning but Im still here. Then to these is a nice detail going to Nicaragua soon. I might have to go and I might not dont worry about it till Im gone.

Talking about a strong wind we had one here about two weeks ago during a young cloud burst. I was on my way back from Washington by motorcycle and I was going backwards and there is no reverse gear on a motorcycle. I got a little wet and cold to. In fact I thought of taking off my clothes an swimming back.

Yes honey I have written to Erv and Ive also written to my sister Lill. Ive asked how to bury the hatchet and be friends. I havent heard no answer from her though.

Im listening right now to an argument about love. Some fellow here who falls in love with every girl he sees and right away falls out again is talking. He is telling the fellows never to be true to any one girl. He claims they appreciate a fellow more that way. I get disgusted with a fellow like that. He dont realize what love is or he would never talk that way. He talks about being broadminded and still he is the most narrow minded person I know of. He dont realize what love is nor how it changes a fellow when he falls in love.

Well honey I think Ill close this letter so if this argument gets to hot I can tell them what I think and stretch a couple of them out for the count Well ta! Ta! Honey write soon to

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 20

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Oct 29 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

October 28, 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

I have a letter here that is just dying to be answered for the last two days. Yesterday was Navy Day and we were supposed to go to Washington to play. We were supposed to leave at 6:30 A.M. on a ship from the Washington navy Yard but that ship never left Washington on account of the heavy fog, so we started out on another one and half way up the river we ran off our course and found out that we were lost in the fog without any idea at all of our position. The skipper decided to head due East until we either found our course or run onto the Maryland shore so we finally found ourselves on the beach in Maryland about a quarter of a mile due South of Indian Head so we made for the dock at Indian Head at Slow Speed and tied up till the fog lifted at about 11:00 A.M. so we called in for orders and were told to return to Quantico so we missed out on Navy Day. Today everyone has a cold from that fog. I am a little (~~horse~~) hoarse now. Im on guard today and I should be sleeping now but Ive got this letter to write first. Tomorrow we go to Washington for the football game at Catholic University Stadium. I have an idea its going to be a very good game. No the former Tech man is not the captain of the All Marine team. I think he might be captain of the Parris Island team though.

Well if chin chin means goodbye why do you use it in your letters. I hope you aren't tired of me and want to say goodbye. Do you? I know I don't. I dont recall ever having used the expression in any of my letters and thats why I asked what it meant to see if you knew and I couldn't imagine where you got the expression but I see it all now. I think Ill not send you any more things like Chinese American dictionaries cause I dont like to get scared like I did. I like to think that your mine and the very thought of losing you makes me sick.

Sure my new motorcycle is the same as the other one (A Harley Davidson) only it's a better motor and in better condition. No I havent had a spill for a long tome so knock wood.

Yes I wrote to Lill but so far Ive had no answer from her. Im afraid she is even more stubborn than I was and I dont think she will write but I at least know that I did the right thing so if she don't write its not my fault. I think Ill write to my dad tomorrow when I get back from the game. I havent the time now cause Im on guard.

Yes honey Ill have to quit betting on sports if I ever expect to save enough to get married on. Ill close now honey cause Im late now so write soon to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 21

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Nov 8 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

November 5, 1927 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

Your letter arrived yesterday while I was on a working detail so I left it till this morning to answer. We had a carload of flour to transfer from the boxcar to the bakery. There were 35 tons of flour in that car and only four of us unloading, so you see we were pretty well played out. Im still all stiff this morning.

Well honey Ill admit my letters are always short and pretty far apart but really honey I can't help it. I don't get the time I used to get. I think we will pretty soon though, because I heard that a bunch of rookies are coming here from Parris Island and if they do then we will be relieved from guard and police work. Ive been kept so busy this week that I haven't been able to go out to the garage since Tuesday. I think Ill quit going out anyway. Im losing to much sleep on account of that place.

Im glad to hear that you and Hoppy have ended your odds because it seemed to me like you was sulky all the time and I dont want my sweetheart to be that way. I want her to be bright and cheerfull, not ready to bite all the time.

Ill tell you about Navy Day honey, or rather our part in it. We were supposed to go to Washington and make three formations and we were supposed to go up on the gov't. boat but that boat never got here so another ship was supposed to take us and about half way up we got out of the channel in the fog and got lost. We had an awfull time getting out and when we did we were so late that we got orders to come right back.

Our game came out fine. We won as usuall. We play a game today that I dont think we will win but we will see. The same goes for next Saturday. I hope we win, but Im afraid we wont. I hope West Tech wins. If for no other reason at least to see East Tech beat.

Well I cant swear that Ill get a Christmas leave but Ill sure try and for once Im thinking it might come through approved.

You havent given me any idea yet about what I should buy for gifts and I haven't the least idea what to get myself.

Well I wrote to Lill sometime ago honey and I haven't even heard one word from her yet. I guess she just dont want to be friends. Well Ive at least got the satisfaction of knowing that I humbled myself and made the first break. I think Ill make a break to my father to and see what he has to say.

Well honey Ive no more news now but I have an appointment with the Chaplain so Ill close now and Ill write more later.

Porter

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Box 2: folder 21

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave. Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 9 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

Nov. 8 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Ive had all day today off so I slept till noon cause I just came off guard this morning. I woke up to find a half inch of snow on the ground, our first snow all this year. Its turned to rain now. I didn't know what else to do with myself this afternoon so I took out all your old letters and re read them.

Sweetheart, do you remember the letter you addressed to "The Greatest of the Great Privates"? The one that was to be read on his trip back to Quantico. You wrote from the "Greatest of the Great West Tech Rooters. I found it among the others. You started that one with a "Dearest Pal." That is one letter I never could clearly understand it seems that every time I read it I get a different meaning. It made me happy in one way and in another way it made me feel blue. Do you remember what you wrote into that letter? You said that maybe you shouldn't have left me kiss you and you went on to tell me that Anne or Hoppy wouldn't have, and you went on to tell me you couldn't help it cause it was nice but you still insisted that it wasn't playing real fair and under the flap you had S.W._._K. Thats one letter Ill never forget. Then the other one is dated July 7th. Thats my red letter day. You wrote in that letter that, "Really you didn't know if it is Love or not but you said it is awfully nice so you were going to take a chance and say, "Yes" Oh how happy you and that letter made me honey. I haven't the education to tell you in words just how happy it has made me. I guess Ill just have to prove it by good deeds and Im hoping to prove it by being an exceptionally good husband I went through all your letters and found some that went back as far as June 10, 1926. That was the first letter you wrote me since I left home and I believe I can show you that no letters are over two weeks apart except during July, 1926 when two of them were 16 days apart and each one of those letters brought me joy. Im really beginning to think that I must have been born under a lucky star, but then they say unlucky at cards, lucky at love – and I believe it.

Honey Ive bought you Christmas Gift already and I don't want to keep it here cause something like it is a temptation for somebody to steal and I have no one else to send it to so I want to send it to you now but I want you to promise not to peek until Christmas. Will you promise? I wish you would honey cause its to risky keeping it here cause there are quite a few crooks in this outfit and nothing of any value at all is safe here.

Well honey I borrowed a pen to write this letter with and wrote small so you really have a __ing book in only four pages and its taken almost an hour to write it so I'll quit and go up to show so write soon to

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 21

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Nov 17 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Estelle Hummer Evergreen 900 J.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

November 12 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Yesterday was Armistis day so we went to Richmond for the football game between Wake Forest and the marines The score was 39-10 and half of the game was played by our second team in order to save the regulars for the Army game. The after the first half of the game they took us away to play a parade for the American legion. All in all we were on the go from 6 A.M. yesterday till Midnight last night. We were asked to play a Radio Concert last night but couldn't find the time. We got back here and I found your letter waiting for me. I wanted to answer it right after breakfast but couldn't. We had to play colors and a parade and here it was 10:30 before we got back and Ive put in a half hour now already but Ive nothing more to do till dinner time now.

Im sorry honey if I havent wrote as much as I should and Ill sure try to mend my ways Ill try to be a regular guy as you say and try writing at least two letters a week. The Marine Corps is pretty short handed right now and that is saying a lot.

Darn right I know what Im in for if you are going to pull my ears good and hard as you say. But. What I cant figure out is if I should look forward to this ear pulling or if Im supposed to dread it.

Sure honey Ill admit my kid sister is witty in fact both of them are but also stubborn. Ive done my best and they wont answer. I dont know what more a man can do than to apologize for something that he didn't do or that wasn't his fault. What do you mean by (Thomas Jr.)

Oh sure I can swear quite a bit when I want to but I still say that I cant swear Ill get a leave for Xmas. I can swear though if I really want to. I learned all about that when I first joined the Marines and Im a seasoned trooper now and can swear as such.

What I want to know now honey is if I can have your promise not to peek if I send your present in advance. I dont want you to see it yet and still I don't want to keep it here cause there is to much danger of someone stealing it and I havent got a place where it would be safe so let me know if its all right to send it.

Im going to try to sell my motorcycle again cause I want to come home first chance I get and winter is no time to cross the mountains on a motorcycle and I cant come if Ive got all my money tied up in the motorcycle.

Say listen young lady. I believe you made a remark once before about my still loving you. I told you that Im not much at putting my thoughts into letters so please dont take everything like that the way it sounds. Of course I love you still and always will. Does that sound better? You know what I mean anyway so why all the argument. Write soon to

Your
Porter

Love and Kisses and a few hugs

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. Are you still adding these up? If you dont you might get cheated.

Porter

Box 2: folder 21

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 14 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

November 14 1927 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Here it is Monday again and I haven't had a thing to do all morning although I lay around all morning just expecting to get sent out on a detail any minute. How they forget me is a big mystery to me. Im glad they did miss me though cause I was very tired today as you will see when I tell you about my week end.

To begin with we had a nice warm day Saturday so Morris and I (Thats the owner of the garage) decided to go motorcycling over the week end. We started at noon and rode till 4 oclock in the morning which was Sunday we came back and slept till 9 oclock and started out again I was excused from Sunday night concert so my liberty was till Reveille this morning (5:30 A.M.) I came back in at 2:00 A.M. and I sure was cold and tired. Is it any wonder that I was glad to be forgotten this morning?

Do you know what? I may never be a good clarinet player. I cant say for certain but the sore I had on my lip has been gone a long time now and still my lip is weak and no matter how much I practice my lip don't seem to want to build again it just remains soft and flabby. I went to see Dr. Dickson about it and he said that he cant say for sure, but it may be that my lip will never build again. I was afraid I might get put out of the band now but it seems that Im not. They are going to keep me here and let me struggle along as best I can. I think that is darn nice of them dont you? I havent given up hope yet though. I still hope that it may be a mistake and that my lip muscles will build up and get solid again if I practice long enough and hard enough.

My bunky finally got his furlough honey. His request went in eight (8) months ago. What do you think of that? I hope mine dont take that long or its liable to come back just before I get discharged. Thats when his came back cause he gets out on the 15th of January. When he comes back from furlough he will have just 32 days to serve. I think he might get a job right close by here so he can stick around a year and a half and wait for me and then we will both come to Cleveland. At any rate thats how he is going to spend his furlough. Looking for a fairly decent job somewhere near here cause really you would be surprised how close we are. I dont know what I would do if he went away all of a sudden like that weve grown so very fond of each other.

Well honey I dont know of anything more to say except Im expecting a letter from you tomorrow morning. Thats really all sweetheart unless you want me to tell you again that I love you. Now dont forget the old soldier

Love and Kisses from
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. You may kiss Hoppy for me if you want to.

Porter

Box 2: folder 21

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 22 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

November 20 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

I received your letter Friday or rather it arrived Friday but I was on guard so I didn't really get it till yesterday morning and I was supposed to make the trip to Washington yesterday for the Army Marine Corps game I had an abscess on the thumb of my left hand and was also supposed to go to the sick bay to have it cut but I didn't want to miss that game so I let it hurt and made the trip Boy I mean if I had lost my thumb because it wasn't opened yesterday I would still think I got a bargain. That sure was a good game, the best I've ever seen and the best I ever hope to see. The Army had a heavier team and they fought like wildcats but our team just seemed to get around them for two touchdowns and also kicked the two goals making the score 14-0 in our favor. That game had plenty of variety to. First Tunney was present and he stood by the band and shook hands with those that were lucky enough to be near him I was one of the lucky ones. Then Nick Altroch was present on our line as a cheer leader and comedian. Then to top things off about 30 army men tried to steal the big Marine Emblem we had standing at one end of the Stadium so a bunch of Marines went up and it ended in a free for all fight. There were three real blows struck and three soldiers went rolling down the hill and the rest went down as best they could. After that three of us stood guard over the emblem but no army men came up any more. Then some of our men swiped that mule of theirs and rode it Boy I never had so much fun in all my life.

This morning I went to the sick bay and got my finger lanced and you should see it now its as big as a sausage and as sore as a boil cause the abscess was right under the finger nail and it sure is tender there

Good morning sweetheart. This is Monday now. This letter was unavoidably detained on account of my thumb giving me so much X:--!!*- That means pain. I had to have it cut again I've had it treated again this morning.

I believe I'm going to look forward to meeting some of your relatives when I come home honey. You tell me so much about your Aunt Mamo and your Uncle Miles that Im the one that wants to meet them.

Yes I've heard of people dying of curiosity and now that you've reminded me of it I'm going to think twice before I send that package I'm thinking twice any way cause I'm not sure if you will like what I got, cause I've had no experience at buying gifts for girls you know so I just took my buddies advice and also the advice of the clerk at the place where I got this I wish there was some way I could tell if you are going to be satisfied or not and still not let you see what I got. Anyway I think I'll put off sending it cause I don't want you to die of curiosity.

Well honey I really don't know if I should keep on fooling around with motorcycles or not. They are great sport and everything like that but gee I cant keep it in camp now and Morris is closing up his garage so now Ill have no place to keep a motor and then to I really should be putting something away instead of into the motorcycle cause a person can't get married without money and those ten of fifteen dollars every month might amount up to something in a years time so I think Ill give up motorcycling and start the New Year out right by making an allotment for every month until I get paid off. Then I should get a bit of money saved up that way.

Say! Did you ever give Hoppy that kiss I told you to give her? If you don't I will when I get up there.

Well honey this morning is just about gone and Ive got to soak my finger again before noon so I guess I better close now and I guess you better write to me. I really expected a letter this morning so I suppose it will arrive in the noon mail or at least I hope so Well Ill close with much

Love & Kisses

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 21

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
Post Band Quantico Va

Thanksgiving Day Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

I decided to write today and Im going to do it in spite of all Hell and high water by that I mean that Im not supposed to be moving my hand around on account of having blood poison in it and the blood racing into the hand makes it swell still more.

We sure had a swell chow today we had Roast turkey, oyster soup, mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, cold ham, bread, butter, coffee, milk, oyster dressing, peas, plain and stuffed olives, celery, lettuce, mince, chocolate and pumpkin pies, cake, candy, ice cream, cigars, cigarettes, oranges, apples, bananas and nuts and last but most important we had sweet pickles and as much of this stuff as we wanted. I really think I ate at least three jars of sweet pickles and at least a half jar of stuffed olives.

Sho honey I guess my lip will harden again if I practice enough but I really cant practice until my finger gets better.

Never mind socking Hoppy, you are liable to hurt one another just tell her, "If you dont someone else will."

Are you going to get that new Semper Fidelis record when it comes out? What kind of an instrumentation are they going to have? I suppose it will be a military band again just to make us hams feel cheap when we hear it.

I hope to say Im glad to hear that my fire haired step sister got married. I only hope her husband lives in Canada or Russia or somewhere and goes back there to live I only knew here ten days but that was two weeks to much for me. If I never see her again it will be about two years to soon to suit me.

Oh. I dont know I think my chances are pretty good for a Christmas leave but still Im not so sure if Ill be able to come but Im sure going to try my best honey and I guess thats as much as can be expected of anyone.

I meant to send that package the first of this week but Ive been put on light duty and cant leave the quarters except for show so I really can't go to the post office but Ill try to get off light duty by next week if Ive got lots of luck

No I dont think you need to be afraid of being cheated cause I really believe in being honest with

Love & Kisses

Porter

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Box 2: folder 21

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Nov 30 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

November 29 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Bea:

No certainly writing don't hurt my hand its holding it on the table while I write that hurts. Im supposed to hold it up to keep the blood from running to the sore thumb and there is the chance of catching cold in it. I done that anyway yesterday so I sent out for an electrical heating pad to keep the hand warm and Ive got it wrapped around my hand now. The doctor gave me heck this morning cause I caught cold in it. He says it will take every bit of six weeks more for my hand to get well and I told him to chase a cow cause this hand is going to be well in time for me to get a Xmas leave. They won't let me go on leave as long as there is anything the matter with me so you just watch this hand get well.

I suppose by this time you must have guessed that this is the answer to your letter it just arrived today and Ill say Ive sure been waiting for it. I kind of expected it to be here Saturday but it didn't come till today but then this is the regular day so I cant kick.

Im inclined to believe I would rather have seen West win that game than Cathedral Latin although I don't know why.

Well your president may have a failing for pumpkin pie but Ive still got to see the man that can eat more lemon cream pies than I can Thats the only kind of pie I like and then the lemon has to be at least an inch thick. Boy thats when Im a real Marine and I sure know how to be a chow hound.

This coming Friday the band makes a trip to Philadelphia with the Parris Island football team but !-* the greatest of the great privates don't go. He's got light duty on account of his finger. I would like to see the game but I guess that is out of the question now although I might be able to go to carry the extra music.

Yes sweetheart I hope I get to come to. I hope so as much as you do and I also realize what a long time six or seven months can be and Im pretty sure of coming but in case I can't please dont forget honey. Its my duty to Uncle Sam to be a soldier first. Oh honey I dont know why I always mince that one word (but) in every where. I really dont need to cause Im pretty sure to get that ole furlough.

I wish I could say like you do honey I wish I could pick up the old clarinet right now ‡ and practice some. It wouldn't do any good though cause my left hand is altogether useless right now and a man needs two good hands to play clarinet and mine couldn't exactly be called good right now.

Im glad honey that you are still my heavy lightweight. Just as long as you are mine you will never hear me kick.

Im glad you like the ring honey and I only hope I can always get just the thing you want, but Im really not much at picking out such things.

Ill close now Bea but write soon and often cause the days are pretty long when Ive got to nurse
this hand and your letters help to pass the time along honey. I actually forget my sore finger when you
write to

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OO

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 2 1927

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

December 1, 1927 Post Band Quantico Va

Dearest:

Im writing this letter tonight cause Ive just got to tell my troubles to some one. My spirit is pretty low tonight so Im afraid this letter is going to make you feel just about the same. Im kind of stuck here though I don't know if I should send the sunshine or the rain first. Ill send the sunshine first. Your package is on the way. I went to the Post Exchange for supplies today and at the same time I sent the package. Im sending you the insurance slip so in case it don't get there you will be able to make a claim on it. don't forget though no fair peeking Im not sure if you will like it or not but it will be your fault cause you never even gave me a hint of what you wanted.

Now for the cloudy side – Im afraid I can't come home for the holidays, for two reasons. First the Doc. Says my finger won't be healed by then but I could get around that alright but now I cant afford it cause Ive made out my pay for allotment so Ill have some saved when I get out. I figured on collecting money Ive got standing out so I could make this leave but only two small debtors could manage to pay this month so I guess Ill have to wait till after the New Year. Dont worry though honey, Ill get 30 days instead of 10 days when I do come. That will be worth an extra month or two, wont it? Oh I feel bad about it and it does just about spoil my faith in human nature but well just have to remember that absence makes the heart grow fonder.

I guess by the time I have a couple more rotten months like the last one Ill start refusing to lend these bozos any money even if there whole family dies and they need it to go home on. My profits for this month should have been \$32 but as it stands they are just \$2.00 if Im lucky. Well so much for that homey girl I really don't like to tell you all this but I just had to so you could see why I can't make it. Oh there still is a little chance but it sure is small.

The band left tonight for Philadelphia for the game that the Parris Islanders play up there. Im sure sorry I couldn't go along cause I think they are going to see a darn good game if you ask me.

Weve got a very good programm at the show here this month. I think Ill try to sneak over tonight yet. The show tonight is Adam and Evil and its supposed to be very funny. Ill sure try to see it. We have "What Price Glory," again this month on the twentieth. We also have, "The Dress Parade," this month and another Marine picture called, "Devil Dogs."

Well honey there is nothing cheerful about this letter so I guess Id better close now with all kinds of Love & Kisses

Porter

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P.S. Id sure like to make these real right now.

P.S.S. Dont forget to write soon.

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 4 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas %Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

December 3, 1927 Quantico Virginia

Dearest Beatrice:

Your letter reached me this morning and although it was short it sure served the purpose. You see it was this way I was just getting ready to turn in to the hospital when your letter arrived. You know what my turning in means, dont you? It means I wont be out in time for an Xmas furlough and quite naturally I was peeved and sore as a boil, but when I read the letter I kind of got over it and although Im still sore about missing out on a leave in that way still I feel much better just for your letter. Im really glad you started the month off right.

I want you to write always honey, even if there is no news. Do I always have news for you every time I write? I guess not. Half the time I fill up two out of three pages simply with "I love you." You don't call that news, do you?

We had a lot of rain all day yesterday and this morning we had winter to. I got up and it was snowing to beat the band and it didn't stop till this noon either.

You say youve done nothing but work so far this week. Is that right? Well Im glad someone is doing the work for this family. This part of the family sure can't do any work for a while. Not till after the first of the year anyway.

Who do you think is in the same ward with me here in the hospital? None other than my old friend Cain of Marine Corps Football fame. Boy weve had a good time this afternoon talking about football. Ive talked it so much today I bet Ill dream about football tonight.

Is that very lady like to claim to be a good cusser? You better be careful young lady or the first thing you know you will be able to out cuss me and that wont do at all.

I saw a good picture last night and boy it would make a blind man laugh. The name is "The High School Hero," staring Sally Phillips. See it if you get a chance cause your sure of at least two dozen good laughs in about the middle of the picture. There is one place where the crowd roared so loud I was afraid of the walls falling in.

Well honey Ill get a furlough as soon as I can so just be patient another month or two Ill write often and please do the same honey. Im sure Ill welcome the letter no matter how little news there is in it only write it soon to

Porter

I Love You

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 6 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

December 5th Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

Im writing this in bed and with only one hand. The left one is bandaged so heavy I can just barely lift it. They have cleaned it out and put a drain in it this morning. They also tell me that the chances are ten to one that I must lose at least the first joint of my left thumb and maybe even the whole finger. They are going to try to save the whole thing however although the doctor claims it is a waste of energy. Lets hope not.

I still have good hopes even if the doctors havent. If I do lose the finger or any part of it that will mean I get discharged with a small pension, probably about sixteen or seventeen dollars a month. Still I really wouldn't mind the finger as much if it didn't mean losing you. Of course you know I won't be holding you to any promise because I was real fit when you promised and couldn't hardly expect you to marry a misfit and that will be about what Ill be without that thumb. Lets wait till I lose the thumb though.

There is a fellow right across from me who was burned by a gasoline flame and they are dressing his hand and foot and after seeing how that hurts him Ive just about decided that Im not in pain at all.

I havent even had a thing to read ever since I came over here but this afternoon my buddy is going to bring over some reading material. Its been kind of lonesome just looking at the ceiling except for a couple hours each night when we have radio. Ill bet I could draw an exact duplicate of this ceiling and put every spot in the right place to.

Ive written my dad a letter letting him know just how things are I dont know what he will say. I expect to hear from him tomorrow, maybe today yet. I suppose he will think Im asking him for help now, but Im not. Im only letting him know because he is my father and I wrote because I knew he wanted to hear from me and not for help cause there is nothing he can do.

Ill close now honey and just remember no matter what happens I Love you, so write real soon and make me happy.

Always
Porter

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 8 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A" Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

December 6th Ward "A" Sick Quarters

Dearest Bea:

This letter is being written at the End of a perfect day. Oh yes perfectly uneventful. This morning early they changed the dressing on my thumb which consisted of taking it apart and putting it back together again. I mean the dressing, not the thumb, although it felt the same way. Id take that every morning though for what the doctor told me this morning. He said that the chances of saving the tip of the thumb are just about even now. I had a good night last night and the same for my finger. Im getting the Daykins treatment and it sure did a lot of good for one night.

I sure felt down hearted yesterday though. The way he talked yesterday I didn't seem to have a chance but oh how different he talked this morning. Ill most probably be in this place for quite a while though. They treat us very nice here though. Ive been soaking my hand in bicloride of Mercury 1 to 10000 strength and mercury sure does sap the strength right out of a persons body. Then to they are afraid the pain in the finger is liable to get the best of me on account of that weakness so they made me a bed patient and Ive got to stay tucked in all the time. The hospital corpsmen and nurses are very considerate though and they see that we have everything we need. We even have radio a couple of hours every night. We have a plug behind each bed and every one has a pair of earphones.

I kind of expected a letter today but it never arrived yet. Whats the matter are you sick? Or are you sore at me for some reason or another? Ive sent about three letters now since I heard from you last. Did your package ever arrive? I don't think you will ever guess from the size or shape of the package what is in it. Ive kind of wished you might cause then I might get to know if you like the ~~par~~ contents. I hope so, because Ive really tried very hard to get something you might like and Im really inexperienced.

I dont know if it is the pain or just what it is but something or another has kept me sweating steam and breathing fire today and if it dont stop pretty soon Im darned if I dont go out and get cooled off if I have to go in pajamas and barefoot

Well honey no more news so Ill close now but please dont forget to write and make it real soon

With Love & Kisses

Porter

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 12 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A" Quantico Va.

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

December 10, 1927 Ward "A" Sick Quarters

Dearest Bea:

I received two of your letters today both of those you sent to sick quarters. There are also two at the Post Band Office but the band is away on a trip so Ive got no one to bring them over.

I was very glad to get these two though. This is the first mail in a week. Im glad to see the stand you took about my finger but now I think that danger is over. Ive been perfectly helpless since Wednesday morning. They took the defective bone out of the first joint of my thumb and didn't use anything to kill the pain because they were afraid to freeze it on account of not getting all the chill out and maybe causing it to infect some more. The pain left me so weak I couldn't even hold a spoon with my other hand. The thumb looks like it was going to get better now though. I had two more X rays taken this morning to be sure that the bone in the second joint is perfectly solid. They have kept a tube stuck into my thumb up to the joint for irrigating purposes ever since Sunday morning and the put in two C.C. of Clorazine at 110° Farenheit every two hours day and night. I think my thumb will get as well as it ever was except that it will be minus a bone. I didn't leave them take it off though.

I hope to sneeze Ill like the Tatler and the books. Ive read just about every magazine that was ever published and Ive done all this in the last week. I even read all the Advertisements in them every word. If I did miss a word or two its because I was getting to sleepy or something.

Im afraid that anything you might send the chap that got burned might be in vain. He had a high fever last night. 106° and Im afraid he wont pull through. He has been very dilerious

Hoppys friend the football player got out of the hospital today. He had a twisted knee. He just barely could navigate but he is getting married tomorrow and he wasnt going to miss that if he had to leave here in a wheel chair.

I don't doubt that Hoppy wanted to know all this but I dont think she is the only curious person. I actually believe I got jealous when I found out why he was leaving so soon. I didn't like to see him go cause he sure helped to keep the clouds covered with a silver lining.

I know darn well you would never guess what is in that package or I would never have sent it so soon. The only reason I did send it was because everybody in this Marine Corps isn't honest and that package was quite tempting to a fellow like that.

I can see right now where I better get out another sheet of paper

Darn right Im going to tell you about cooks reading while they cook. You better not get in the habit cause I know how it tastes to put Climalene into the sugar bowl by mistake or pepper into oatmeal instead sugar and I dont like that taste.

Honey you cant wish you were here any more than I wish I were there. It sure makes me feel miserable when I think of missing out on the holidays again this year.

Yes Ive tried many times to write when about 20 guys were talking to me all at the same time. That day I lost two pairs of work shoes and a pair if civilian shoes.

Ill swear sweetheart I cant keep my mind on this letter. The fellow with the burns is very restless and he does make the weirdest sounds in his dilerium

I noticed something in the lower right hand corner of that last sheet of your letter. I dont know if you meant to put it there or not, nor do I know if I was supposed to see it, but I did. It looks something like this (Beax)

Well Ill close now with

Love & many X's

Porter

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 13 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A" Quantico Va.

Dress material	6.50
Candy	1.85
Kids	1.50
Hankies	.50
Stockings	1.35
	9.75
	58.59
	68.25

16.39	
Stockings	1.00
Bud	.25
Hilda	.15
Hoppy	6.48
Esther	.20
Elsie	.20
Ornaments	.25
Tickets	.50
Grand	.50
Shop	.50
	10.30
Cards	1.00
	11.03

Letterhead: U.S. Marines & symbol

December 12 1927 Ward "A" Sick Quarters

Dearest Bea:

Your books and the Tatler arrived yesterday noon and I managed to keep myself busy with them all afternoon. Thanks very much for them they came at just the right time.

They sure razzed you about the Marines in that issue of the Tatler. They weren't satisfied with razzing you in one place they had to put it in two places. I looked over the graduation class and find that I knew quite a number of them.

You do have some good ideas, don't you? Just think though if they left every sick patient go home until he recovered they would be no use for a hospital or a medical corps and all these doctors would be out of work. I wouldn't have anyone to tell where to get off at.

Dont you worry about your lemon pie. Ive never yet seen a lemon pie I didn't like and Ive seen quite a few bad ones.

The doctor got tired of me growling this morning so he left me get up out of bed. I just couldn't see sense in making a man stay in bed when, with the exception of a bad hand or two the said man is able bodied.

Yes the Philadelphia game came out in our favor although it wasn't the all Marine team. That was only the Parris Island team. I don't know what the score was all I know is they won.

I also got that letter from my dad yesterday He didn't have much to say except his same old line of sob stuff, and a lot of pretty raw cracks about being glad to have heard from me the first time in 6 months. I didn't know that he was out of work most of the time since I left. I still don't believe half of what he told me because he has a very bad habit of stretching the truth like the statement he made about working for six dollars a week. He tells stories like that so naturally I think he believes himself half the time.

You may not hear from me again for three or four days because they won't let me go to the barracks yet and Im out of supplies so unless my buddy gets a chance to bring over my supplies I may not be able to write for a few days. I think he will be over tonight though

I sure enjoyed "The Flaming forest" and Im half way through "The Flying US Last Stand." The librarian got kind hearted again and brought over a few magazines so we will have something to read now for a couple of days. Ive also got a deck of cards and I play a lot of solitaire.

Well honey I just know there is something else I wanted to tell you but I can't think of it right now so Ill just close now with love

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 17 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A" Quantico

December 15 1927 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Beatrice:

I kind of had a little hunch that I would have a letter from you today and sure enough here it came. I believe if Christmas was any further off than it is. Well I don't know. You would either weaken or the suspense would kill you. Well I almost forgot to tell you. I didn't have any nice paper to wrap it in so Santa Clause better re-wrap it for you. Maybe you could guess better then but I doubt it.

Im having it pretty nice here right now writing a letter and listening to the U.S. Army Band playing, "Rose Marie." They have a very good band and I wish I was as good as their solo clarinet player. Ive been listening to them for a while and that solo clarinet sure can tongue faster than a snake.

No honey Im afraid they couldnt very well do anything else but take the bone out without anesthetic. They were afraid of catching a cold in a sore that was so very inflamed and I dont believe in being rendered senseless. Id rather stand the pain. So you can easily see just why all the monkey shines and then to they were afraid to give me gas or either because I had a cold and my tonsils were in bad shape. They dont take any chances of strangulation you know.

No honey I dont believe you told me anything about no contest at Church so go ahead. I used to enjoy those affairs even if they did always make me wash the dishes afterwards.

Im going to tell you something that happened today. Two men walked in here both of them in civilian clothes and asked for Thomas. The one of them flashed a badge and told me that he was the sheriff and the other one was a notary public. The old sherriff wanted to kid me so he said "Im sorry I have to take you back to Cleveland." I havent a guilty conscience or anything like that but I started looking for a door. I thought Id rather die than to come home under arrest and maybe in disgrace. Then the old buzzard of a sherriff started laughing. All he wanted was to serve a court order and a notification on me so They'd be darn sure I would know my father is selling the house. I got so mad I wanted to hang both the sherriff and the notary to.

You may send my gift right here if you want to just like you do these letters.

I almost forgot to tell you about my thumb. Its getting better but I just found out today that they are trying to give me a medical kickout of the service. That would mean that my discharge would brand me as physically unfit on account of my thumb. I found out cause I tried to sign the regular S.M.R. but couldn't theyve got me on a non pay status. Ill soon get the idea if a medical kick out of their head. I believe I would just as soon have a dishonorable discharge as one like that. Im figuring on getting returned to duty about the middle of Jan. so Im figuring on coming home in February and if we didn't have to wait so long for spring Id wait till then to come home. Ill be up in February though. Im pretty sure.

Listen here young lady Im going to have to bawl you out a little. You said what I though I saw might or might not have been. I didn't say I thought I saw it I said I did bee it. Just like this (Bea x) and I was happy to think that you had sent me a kiss and now you say it might ---

Im sorry sweetheart but I dont feel in the mood to write tonight, maybe tomorrow so for now its Love and lots of Kisses even if you don't like them from

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. excuse the paper please

Porter

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio

December (?) 1927 Sick Quarters Quantico Va. Ward "A"

Dearest Beatrice:

Ive been pretty sure so far that Id be in the hospital over Christmas but now I know it. I always had just a little hope left that I would get out in time for a Christmas leave. I intended to surprise you but its out of the question. My thumb is healing alright but its so darn slow on account of the remaining infection. Im afraid this thing wont be well even by the middle of Jan. 1928. When I do get out of the hospital though Im going to request a furlough first thing off the bat for Feb. 5th if possible

We were all sitting here playing "five hundred" last night when the ambulance brought up an officer and his father in Law. The two of them were slightly (top heavy) and had tried to push a Washington Richmond buss off the road. The officer had his face all cut up but his father in law may lose one eye and he had his chest and ribs caved in and a broken arm. He looked just like one stretcher full of blood when they brought him in. Im afraid the authorities will hold his son in law for driving while intoxicated.

Do you know what honey? I haven't even written Erv or Jimmy a line since my finger went bad. Its so hard for me to write this way cause the paper always slides all over the State of Virginia so if you see either one of them at any time tell them why I can't write.

Did I tell you about one of these hick sheriffs trying to serve me that court order on me? Well I haven't got a guilty conscience or anything but I sure started to see which door was the closest. I sure wish I was home right now though Ill bet Id convince my father that it isn't necessary to sell the house. I wouldn't argue with him through the mail though because that would please him to much. That is the big reason why he is selling cause he's expecting me to raise a protest and keep him from it in the last minute. He is only starting this racket to get us sore.

Well honey I suppose you are still trying to guess whats in the package. Cheer up honey only six more days to go. I only hope you will like it when you do find out what it is. Dont lose any sleep trying to guess though cause you might be sorry later on.

No more news now honey except to remind you to write soon to your

Lonely
Porter

XXX

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
Sick Quarters Ward "A" Quantico Va.

December 20, 1827 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Bea: Your regular Tuesday letter arrived this morning just in time for me to tell you about my promotion. Ive been promoted to general now. you know what I mean? General errand boy. I do all kinds of errands around here now. I was a general before to only that was general gold brick.

Ill wait till seven oclock Sat. night to open my package so we will both be opening ours at the same time. I hope it don't get here before Saturday morning anyway cause the suspense will kill me otherwise. Im sure Ill like it though regardless of what it is. Its who the thing comes from that counts by me.

I believe you allright honey when you say that Hill does think a lot of me. Im pretty sure she does in fact cause after all she is my sister. But you can't expect me to do more than I have already toward making peace. If she is sending me something for Xmas it better have a note with it that tells me she is willing to make peace cause if it doesn't she will get it back.

Ill bet Babe will be tickled silly with a wrist watch. Thats a usefull present for her to.

Yes honey I guess that does make a good excuse for signing off. Ill bet you heard that voice say, "Get to Bed," more than once though before you became the obedient daughter. Ill bet you even tried not to hear it the first two or three times.

Dont worry sweetheart Ill help the hand along all I can. It was almost down to normal size this morning which means it wasn't swollen over a half inch at the most. Thats the best its been yet but it will still be pretty close to two weeks before Ill be able to get out of the horsepistol so till then Love and Kisses

From
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

P.S. Tell Hoppy Merry Xmas for me.

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 23 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A" Quantico Va.

December 22 1927 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Bea:

I received your letter this morning and also a slip for an insured package requesting me to call for the same. I decided to wait till tomorrow to call for it cause then Ill have so much less time in which to wonder what could be in the package. They tell me that curiosity killed a cat but Id be willing to catch a dozen cats for curiosity to kill if it would help me to guess whats in that package. Oh well only about forty seven and 27/60 more hours to go till Saturday night at seven sharp.

I don't remember ever having heard or having played, "Vagabond King," anyway if I did I really couldn't be expected to remember it cause we play so many different ones and hear still others played so I couldn't say for sure if I know it or not. Now Ill ask you one. Did you ever hear or play, "The Wedding Ring" Overture? Someday if my finger gets better Im going to be able to play the solo clarinet part to that if I have to practice it the rest of my natural life.

No I don't suppose I could do an awfull lot about it if they decided to kick me if they really wanted to get rid of me all I could do would be to let them know what I think of them and in that case I believe my thoughts could easily fill up two and a half hundred pages of a dictionary and that would be mild.

I suppose you know enough about me by now to know that I wont put that furlough off any longer than I have to and I guess you know enough about this ole Marine Corps to know that the man higher up is the man with the say so, but don't worry Ill be home to see my sweetheart as soon as possible.

No you didn't say you didn't like them you said what I saw or thought I saw might or might not have been. Ive looked a dozen more times since then just to make sure it was there and be sure I wasn't drunk, and its there all right. I didn't think my eyes had gone bad on me that quick.

What do you mean by a better than nothing letter? Of course I'd rather have a long letter and rather than none of course a short one but I can't really expect you to write a long letter every time.

Hold on a minute honey. You wrote that you were glad my name is Porter cause I sign it so nicely. Don't go so fast cause Porter isn't really my name. Thats the name you gave me at W.T.H. and thats why I sue it.

Well honey here is wishing you and the folks all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 27 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A" Quantico Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

December 25, 1927 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Bea:

I wanted to write last night but I couldn't. We had the Christmas program by the Red Cross starting at six o'clock. I just took my package along cause I was bent on finding out what was in it and I only had an hour to wait. I opened it while the quartet was singing and I don't care what they thought I would have written last night yet only the lights were out when we got back and I'm not much for writing in the dark. They sure treated us nice though. We had a Santa Claus and everything. We got Christmas stockings with many useful things in them also fruit and candy and each man got two packs of smokes and a deck of cards. The Red cross gave the smokes and cards and fruit and they also gave us a stocking so we each had two stockings.

Thanks very much for the pen and pencil set. I didn't think I was going to get anything so nice and still useful. I really love them. I was wishing for a pen the other day but I never dreamed that my wish would come true so soon.

They brought in a little boy and his mother yesterday. They were struck by a machine out at the Triangle. The boy is in this ward with a broken leg and his mother was put in the family hospital ward with a broken neck and other injuries, all internal. They operated on her last night but she didn't pull through. The boy's father is sure half crazy this morning. That was a nice Christmas present for that man. Wasn't it? I can just about imagine what Christmas will mean to that family after this.

Well honey I'll write more later cause I've got to clean my bunk up for sick call so I'll close now with Love

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 27 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters "A" Quantico

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

December 25, 1927 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Bea:

I wrote you a letter this morning but when I found another one from you this noon I decided to write another one. Im not writing because my hair are wet but because I like to write with my new pen especially when its to my sweetheart that Im writing.

Im just wondering if you like the pearls. I hope so. I just couldn't guess what to get you when I saw those pearls and I just had a hunch to get them.

Well if you like to look forward to nice things then I guess you are looking forward to the same thing I am. Im looking forward to the time when we can get married, when Ill be able to call you my own. Thats one time when I sure will be proud.

I sure do remember "The Black Tulip" and I think "Dumas" is a wonderfull writer only Ive just about decided that his mind was wandering when he did his writings either that or he was in a trance. Thats the truth though you can't enjoy his works unless you are alone in such a time that your imagination has plenty of room, because he sure leaves a lot to your imagination. The words give one story, and between the lines we find another.

The fellow you saw in the gray uniform with the N.A. on it must have been from the Naval Academy at Anapolis Maryland.

Don't worry honey Im sure having a nice Christmas. Not like I'd have liked to have had, but nice nevertheless. The nurse thats on night duty at the Family Hospital gave me a gift this noon to. She gave me a carton of Chesterfields.

I guess this is enough for today so Ill bid my sweetheart by by with

Love and Kisses
Porter

P.S. Dont forget to write soon.

Merry Xmas

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 28 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

December 27, 27 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Beatrice:

This is Tuesday morning so I expect my regular letter will arrive some time today. Im going to write now though instead of waiting for your letter.

I went to the show last night to see, "Devil Dogs." I had heard that it was very good. Ill admitt it was funny but not half as good as I expected. It showed the Marines in war but it wasn't no where as real as "What Price Glory." It showed divisional headquarters so close to the front that a plane could be seen over the enemy lines.

Ive read a good book. The name of it is, "Kindred of the Dust," and the author is, "Peter B. Kyne." I liked it well enough once I got started although it was pretty hard to get interested at first.

I just now took a little run for myself and hid for a couple of minutes because some one called up and I heard the nurse say she would send him over. That generally means me so I just laid low for a couple of minutes.

My hand is coming along fine now. Its healing up pretty quick and don't hurt much any more although it didn't feel so hot last night. I expect Ill be able to convince them to let me out of here in a few days now.

Do you know what I think honey? I think you got something way to good for me for Christmas. Im not used to handling anything so good. Ill have to be carefull or Ill get a swelled head from using such a nice pen and the first thing you know Ill be writing all ten page letters. Then you will be sorry. Then you will have to write letters equally as long and you'll get writers cramp.

Do you know what Im going to do the day I get out of tis hospital honey? Im going to jump on the First Sgts. Neck for a furlough and Im willing to bet even money Ill get one to. Ill get one for February around the first part of the month and I don't mean if.

Well honey Ive got less than a year and a half to do in the service now so pretty soon Ill be free again. That year and a half (almost) will be pretty short even if it don't sound that way. Just compare it with the two and a half Ive already served and I think it will seem pretty short. Then if I request to get discharged three months ahead of time why Im really a short timer.

Well honey Im still looking forward to that big day, but we'll talk about that and about short timers when I get my furlough so now Ill just close with twice as much love and kisses

From

Porter

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 29 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

December 28, 1927 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Bea:

Im glad the pearls are so adorable cause I was starting to think they might not be. I thought they were nice as long as I had them here where I could see them every day but after I had mailed them they didn't seem so very nice. Im glad you like them though.

Tell Hoppy and Anne that I wasn't to know if they think that was so nice to turn out the lights when you were writing to me.

I was just thinking of murder and two or three other gentle pastimes when I read that you were stepping out with a boy friend and the worst part was it took me a half minute to find out which one of the three sheets was the one containing the rest of that sentence and also which side of that sheet was the next one but my collar cooled off a little when I found the right sheet where you told me that the boy friend was your cousin from Akron. Im also glad to hear that he prefers blondes but just the same let him know next time that its my girl he's out with.

Yes I guess we did have some good chow. We generally do at the hospital though. Our ration allowance is almost one third larger over here so instead of being allowed seventy four cents for each man each day they are allowed one dollar a day for each man so that makes our chow better and then on Xmas it makes the chow fit for a King. They even forget the toast and rotten eggs on that day.

Certainly I still Love you honey. But why ask that? I think you just put that in to see if Id say it the same way and I did. I don't care how it sounds you know what I mean anyway. You know that I love you more than anything else and whats more I always will.

So the ice skating is good up there now, is it? You didn't tell me any thing about that before. I wish I was up there so I could go skating with you.

Im glad to hear about Babe being tickled with her watch. She sure deserves some happiness. Sometimes when I think of how Lill bullys her around Id love to take Lill over my knees. The Babe is really a very good child though in spite of it all.

I havent even had one word from or about Lill and please honey don't always get me to try to overlook Lills faults cause if I did she would be making a door mat out of me and I sure wouldn't like that. Ive done my part to burry the hatchet so the next move is up to her. For your sake Ill try to be what you call a good chap although Id call it being a good Chaplain or maybe even a good Santa Clause

The doctor came in with a grouch on last night and started to take it out on my finger. I came near being A.W.O.L. this morning. Lucky though he didn't have that grouch this morning any more so I decided to stick around awhile.

I hope to be well enough to get out of here soon and then Im going to make a furlough some way or another.

Well honey I guess Ill close now before I use up all the stationary in Quantico so for the time being Ill send my

Love and Kisses

Porter

"See you later" a dozen times

Box 2: folder 22

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Dec 30 1927 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Letterhead: The American Cross

December 29, 1927 Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

I really don't know what Im going to write about in this letter I wrote so much yesterday.

Sure I like my nick name or I wouldn't use it if I didn't. That name seems to have some kind of a hold over me. I don't know what it is unless its because it reminds me of days long gone. That must have been every bit of five years ago wasn't it?

Do you know what I often think? I think if a woman couldn't take a half day off every once in a while and chew the rag she would die. I notice most every time you go to Hoppy's you either go to a show or spend the afternoon (gabbing) Don't blame me now cause that is the expression you used yourself. You at least admit the fact that you've been chewing the rag but most women don't (Thats Why I Love You)

I see you always will tell me about all the good eats. Like doughnuts etc. Do you think that is nice?

Say I believe this Mary Katherine Falhaber is the same old gossip that used to start all kinds of talk. Isn't she? If it is then she better stay out of my way.

What do you mean is so good. John Gilbert and Greta Garbo in "Love" or do you mean (Love) itself? I don't know so much about the picture but "Love" in person I do know and to me it seems to be very good.

The finger is coming along in such a way that its hard to say if it's a good or bad way. I hope its good though.

Well honey Im going to do my best to see you in February and also see you later

Porter

See you later a dozen times

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 3 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Jan. 1, 1928 Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Dearest Bea:

I kind of expected a letter from you today but it didn't seem to get here. I guess my intuition must have been off side a little.

Yesterday was a dull day for us considering that it was the last day of the old year. We didn't even have anything to celebrate with. But at about eight oclock last night we got some liquid celebration in the shape of a quart jar, so we really felt pretty good when the old year left us. I only wish I could have been with you when the new year came in. I didn't make any resolutions except to myself I resolved to do my best in everything I undertake in the coming year and to knock off the foolishness

Today I feel like a misplaced part of 1927. I cant talk see or think straight. I hope you had a good time when the new year came along. Did you?

Ive written a letter to Erv. I wrote it Friday but it layed in the other room on the nurses desk until yesterday. I wonder what he is going to think of me for not writing sooner and oftener. I think he will understand though.

I think the day nurse is going to recommend me for a 30 day sick leave when I get out of here. Wouldn't that be nice honey? As it is Im just sick and tired of this nonsense of keeping a man away from his sweetheart. First one thing then another.

I saw the Top Sgt. The other day and he told me that if I cant play the clarinet when I get out they will let me play a trombone or something like that.

Well honey I havent any more news now so you tell Hoppy and Anne that I wish them a Happy and prosperous Leap Year. I guess it better be just a New Year for you though and don't forget to Wish the same for your Mother and Dad from me.

Write soon honey to

Porter

See you ~~later~~ later x 500

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Jan 6 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Ward "A"

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Jan 4, 1928 Ward "A" Sick Quarters

Dearest Bea: I haven't been feeling so good for the last two or three days. I seem to have caught cold in the head and eyes. They give us some wonderful treatment for a cold over here. A dose of (M.G.S.O4) If you know what that is. That means nothing more or less than salts and they don't make it a small dose either. Then they gave me an orange for a chaser or else they gave me the orange for the cold and the salts for a chaser.

I received a letter from you Monday and you said you were going to write more that same night so I waited till Tuesday to write cause I didn't have any news anyway so when the letter didn't get here yesterday I decided to wait till today and when it didn't come today I just had to write.

I suppose you have been reading about the Nicaraguan noise for the last couple of days. Haven't you? Well there is a Battalion of men going on Friday and they take a twenty piece band along. I don't go. Id like to though. Ill bet Id bring me back a couple of niggers toes and they wouldn't be the kind that grow on nut trees either.

Do you know honey I still cant figure how the dickens it happens that I got you to say yes. I never can believe its true. I always have to get out your letter and read it over again and again. In that letter you told me that you don't know if it is Love or not but you said whatever it is it is nice. I always wonder if you are convinced yet that it is Love and if you still think it is as nice as it was the day you said yes. For my part if you ask me Id say it gets nicer every day cause every day brings us closer to the much looked for furlough.

Well honey Im sure I get a letter tomorrow but if I dont answer it tomorrow it wont be my fault because tomorrow we have to get this ward in good shape for an inspection Friday by the Post surgeon.

Write soon to your

Love Sick
Porter

"See you later" a dozen times

P.

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 9 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas % Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 7 1928 Sick Quarters ~~Ward "A"~~ my error

Dearest Bea:

I guess Im due for another month here with this finger They have made me a night Hospital corpsman and given me night duty at the switchboard here in the O.Ds office so from now on just leave off the Ward "A" part on my letters and just mark them Sick Quarters cause this is where they get sorted out.

You better prepare yourself to answer many letters now cause this business is pretty slack at night and Ive absolutely got to stay awake so Im going to take it out on you. If I havent anything else to tell you Ill just write about how much the thermometer says or Ill maybe tell you that Ill "see you later" or something but Ill sure have to write about something.

Im reading another good book now I don't know if you will like it or not but the title is, "Twenty Years Later." It comes in two volumes and is written by "Dumas." The same author as, "The Three Musketeers." I like all of "Dumas'" books he seems to write so different from all the others.

I received your lessons in ice skating today. Or was it a letter? Whatever it was I sure was glad to get it. You had better be carefull though honey. Those flops on the ice may be a joke now, but if one of those flops was to send you to the hospital you wouldn't like it so well.

I hope to cry or sneeze (or something like that) Ive read about the Nicaraguan affair. Thats all Ive heard about or been able to find in the papers here for the last four or five days. Everyone with six months or more to do was sent down. I couldn't go cause Im on the sick list. Id have liked to go and have a try for Sandino's scalp. Still I guess maybe afterall Im still the lucky bird.

Im getting over my cold pretty nicely now I can talk and make myself understood pretty well even if I do snuffle a little yet. The O.D. was just in and wanted to know what Id do in case of an emergency. The first thing we are supposed to say is send the ambulance and then the rest of the details.

Well honey Ive no more new so Ill sign off till tomorrow night and I hope you will write soon cause I love you and Im lonesome as heck when you don't write to

Your
Porter

a couple of times (See You Later)

box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 9 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 8 1928 11:30 P.M. Sick Quarters

Dearest Bea:

This is a nice time of night to start writing a letter. Isn't it? Good little boys should be asleep by now you know.

This is another one of these nice all night watches at the switchboard and Ive got to do something to keep awake. I got my thumb dressed when I got relieved this morning and went right to bed and didn't wake up again till just before supptime. I mean breakfast time. Then I took a little stroll after chow until time for me to go on watch. So far Ive had no chance to get lonesome yet. The Officer of the day and a couple of Gobs were in here chewing the rag with me until 11:30 so when they left I started to write. Its almost time for my dinner now but Im going to try to finish this before my relief gets here cause after chow I just know Ill be too lazy to write.

There is nothing much happens around here so there isn't any news for you tonight except that Ive heard a rumor that they expect to keep me here another month at least with this thumb. Im going to fool them though when I do get out of here. Im fairly sure Ill get 30 days sick leave and Ill just wire in for about 15 or 20 days extension. These people don't know it yet but they cant keep me away from my Sweetheart and get away with it. Ive already been recommended for 30 days leave by the Senior Medical Officer here.

You remember when I told you I wrote to Erv? Well I haven't heard a word from him yet. I wonder if he is sore or if he just hasn't had time to write. Im expecting a letter from him tomorrow, one from you Tuesday and my wings and Identification card for the Aviation Society.

Do you know what honey? Im going to have to get permission from the commanding general to wear those wings on my uniform. They wont ~~wea~~ let me wear them till I can show them sixty hours on the air twenty of these are supposed to be solo. Ive got the proper number of hours alright but no proof cause I never had a flight book never thought I would need one. Ill get permission some way though honey.

Dont forget to write soon honey cause Ill be waiting for your letter to

Your
Porter

"See you Later"

X 12 12X

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 10 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 9th 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

Your latest letter to the "General" got here this morning and Im going to try to answer it now although god only knows what Ill tell you about. There just don't seem to be any news. I seem to be leading such an uneventful life. All I do now is to get my finger dressed in the morning and then go to bed. I sleep till anywhere from two to four thirty in the afternoon when I go down to supper which for me is really breakfast then I lay around some more till nine oclock when I go on watch here and I stay on till seven in the morning. Isn't that a rather exciting life honey?

Ive a good mind to get my rate changed to hospital corpsman and get transfered to the Navy. They at least pay good wages here and have nicer quarters than we have and also much better chow.

Good Lord honey. Here I was really waiting for you to bawl me out for taking come of that liquid entertainment and all you say is "Hmmm ---." Here I was actually dreading the arrival of this letter. You sure are one wonderful sweetheart. I don't know how come I to be so lucky as to get you. Ill sure try to be worthy if you though honey.

I suppose I would have quite a fight on my hands if I tried to get on one of the details that are going after my twin brother, "Sandino." I dont suppose he or his gang of stupid spicks would give me the worst fight either.

Don't you worry about my hand being full when I come home and especially by anyone but Beatrice. Any way my hand dont want to be full. Only my arms. My arms are all out of practice honey and if you dont get to fill them pretty soon Im afraid those arms will be getting stiff. Yes thats all I do all the time Im awake is to wonder if Ill ever get that leave and wish that I was up there right now. Im sure do look forward to this leave. Im coming on it if I have to walk. Lets hope its soon.

I just now had a little intermission while I ordered the chow for our midnight dinner tomorrow night. Ive always got to order what we need for the next night and I almost forgot tomorrow's list. Im glad I didn't cause I don't want to starve myself and the other night corpsman would likely kill me if we missed out on that.

Well sweetheart be good and dont forget to write soon and much to

Your Ole
Porter

Will you see me later?

I will!

A dozen times

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 11 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 11, 1928 Sick Qts Quantico

Dearest Bea:

"See you later" Thats a nice way to start a letter off. I cant help it though its just the way I feel.

I meant to write this letter yesterday but yesterday was three minutes ago when I started this so this has to go as Jan 11th. Id have written it yesterday to only as luck would have it a long distance call came through just when I wanted to write and I had to stand by at the board for to make the connections and to locate the party etc.

Im reading a lot since Ive been in the hospital and much of that is magazines. Do you ever read "War Stories" Thats a magazine and if you ever get a hold of one of them Ill guarantee you will get a good laugh out of each story. Im also reading a lot of good books here lately. Did you ever read, "Twenty Years After," by Dumas Its kind of hard reading at first but once you get interested it's a good book.

Well honey its now a known fact that Im coming home on leave pretty soon. Im sure of a sick leave just as soon as my hand gets well enough for me to go without medical attention for a month so start in right now and get your nose powered cause you told me once that you didn't want me to sneak up on you before you got a chance to take the shine off of it.

Im writing to Erv tonight or rather this morning. I don't know why but he hasn't answered my letter yet.

I got my permission to wear my wings now. I also got my flight card for identification and record purposes. Im going to try my best to get a pilots liscence to but Im not sure if Ill succeed.

Well honey I guess Ill have to quit now so write to

Porter

"See you later" X 12 = X X = 12X see you later X = (X)X(12)

box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 12 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 11, 1928 Sick Qts Quantico

Dearest Bea:

This seems to be just another night toward my furlough from the way I feel. I can't say that there is anything wrong except the blues. I only wish the time was here already when I could start on my way to Cleveland. Ill bet there would be no blues then. When I come to think of it I think I know what it is. I just heard the Silvertown Tire Quartet singing "Beautiful Ohio." That was on the radio. I guess its made me more homesick that anything else. Can you imagine me getting homesick after two and a half years?

I received your letter tonight when I woke up and I can't see why you should be so horrified just because you like to hike through the woods and fish and stuff like that. Those thoughts seem to me to be perfectly good for a girl. I sure like those things myself but if I didn't I fail to see how it would be so terrible. Im sure that I love you enough that if you wanted to hike I would go hiking with you and no matter how much I disliked it at first Im sure Id change my mind by the time we got back.

I really believe that you would rather pick up a stray pup on the streets than to eat a good meal. Wouldn't you? I don't know that I can blame you though. They tell me that mans best friend is a dog. I believe it to.

I know that eight months seems an awful long time honey but just be patient. Dont forget that hose eight months also mean that much less time till I can come to stay for good. If I get out three months ahead of time, and I think I will, Ill be getting out in a year, two months and ten days. That isn't so long when you come to think of it. Ive already served two thirds of my time at that rate.

You don't need to imagine thirty days of happiness just stand by and you wont inly imagine but realize that thing.

I think Ill write to my father tonight or tomorrow night and see why he don't write. wrote to Erv last night so he's got two of my letters to answer now. I expect he will get busy now.

Well I don't know of anything that is happening and as there is no news I guess Ill have to close now

Porter

"See You later"

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 13 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 13 1928 4:30 A.M. Sick Qts

Dearest Bea:

I don't know just how it came about but this night nearly passed without my writing a letter. I was reading a book and I guess I got to interested anyway I just realized that it was four thirty and I hadn't written my letter yet.

There isn't much news except that my watch refused to run again and I had to see what was inside of it and when I got it together again it started running. The only trouble is that Im afraid the darn thing wont stop anymore now.

My finger looks for all the world like it was healing but Im darned if it feels like it. There seems to be a tender spot right on the end that keeps getting sorer every day.

I havent written the letter to my father yet that I promised myself I would write. I got to tired to think last night and almost forgot to write even to you this night so Ill have to write as soon as I come on duty tonight.

Id better have a letter from you tomorrow or you may get a bawling out. Not that you have neglected me lately or anything like that only Im in a mood to receive mail tomorrow or rather later this morning and if I don't, Ill just start a war of my own.

Do you know where I want to go when I come home honey? I want to go to Brooky. Down there where we took a walk once before. Do you often think of that trip through the mud? I do, and everytime I see a mud puddle I want to Jump into it. I kind of have a feeling that the mud that day brought me much closer to my sweetheart than Ive ever been before or since, with the exception of a certain day last July when I received your letter that told me you would think of becoming my wife.

Ill close now honey but write more when I come on duty tonight

Porter

P.S. This is Friday 13th My lucky day. "See You later"

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 14 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va. catholics cross hose flesh whip

Letterhead: United states Marines & symbol

Jan. 14, 1928 Sick Qts Quantico

Dearest Bea:

Your letter arrived today as per expectation, so I guess Ill have to be sociable seeing as I cant bawl you out.

I just wrote a letter to my father and I sure asked him plenty of questions. I only hope he can read between the lines. I had to m[put my real message between the lines cause for all I know my step mama may read the letter first and that wouldn't do. Nevertheless compared to that letter a bushel of garlic is weak. I just asked for an explanation of everything in general.

Ive been listening to the fight between Sharkey and Heeney as the radio man saw it. I think it's a shame to call that fight a draw. I think Sharkey did the best fighting in every one of the first ten rounds and in order to give Heeney the benefit of the doubt I would give him the last two.

I don't fancy my new position at all. If you mean how do I like it why Im satisfied but this isn't a tea party or anything that could really be called fancy. No I havent done everything there is to do in this Marine Corps yet. I really havent had a chance to step on the Generals pet corn yet.

Do you really like this stationary? I like it cause it writes very smooth and I don't seem to collect near so much trash on the end of my pen.

I read Chico the Jester, but I didn't know that twenty years later is a sequel to it. In fact I cant seem to see any connection whatever.

When you read a news paper why just believe half of what you see and nothing of what you read. Thats a lot of bunk about National Guard deserters training those bandits. They are being trained by some German Ex Army officer. He used to be a Captain in the German artillery. Thats how come those bandits to be using the anti aircraft guns etc. When that story started they claimed that it was a couple of Marine Deserters and now its National Guard deserters so you can see that its all talk. In the meantime Major Bourne has started to fly down there with our newest Bomber. A Fokker three mother monoplane. If those fool gooks still fool around why he will simply fly over the island and drop a couple of those nests of eggs and blow all of Nicaragua out of the ocean.

Well honey Love and Kisses until tomorrow so write more soon

With Much Besos & Pesos
Porter

“See you later”

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 16 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 15, 1928 Sick Qts. Quantico Virginia

Dearest Bea:

This is Sunday night to most everyone else but its just another night to me. They all seem pretty much the same on this job.

I had company last night. The ambulance driver wasn't sleepy so he stayed in the office with me all night, consequences were that I didn't write to you last night. Ive paid for it to. I was tired as the dickens today and I couldn't sleep all day. Every time I started to fall asleep I would realize that I had forgotten to write. Im pretty tired right now and its only 11:20 P.M. now. What will I be in the morning at this rate?

Ill bet I toss a wastebasket or a desk chair at one of these sentries if they dont quit coming in here and asking me foolish questions such as what the time is and why the heck do I have to sit up all night at the telephone switchboard, and dont I get tired and is that clock right etc. Its really enough to make a saint swear.

How do you like the new Cheve.? I think they are sure putting out a nice and neat car there and I think they will be able to meet the every day tests that are put to a car.

Have you seen my sister lately honey? When you do just keep your ears open and try to hear how my Dad took that letter I wrote the other day. Ill bet he plows up three city lots when he gets that letter. When he reads that letter he'll be able to kill an elephant with a look. I put it on heavy on purpose though cause the only way to make him snap out of it is to get him reall sore.

Pardon the intermission honey but I just then discovered a stick of gum in my shirt pocket, and as my one track mind always works better when my jaws are in motion I decided to skin the gum alive and give it a chew.

Well honey if the keep me on G.O. time much longer before I prove my injuries not due to my own misconduct, why Ill have quite a bit of money coming to me when I get discharged. Ill come home in a nice Ryan monoplane with an O.X. 5 engine. Then we could spend a honeymoon in the air. That wouldn't be so worse we could see three times as much in the same time as we could in a machine.

Well ta! Ta! For this time sweetheart and write soon

With Love
Porter

"See you ~~later~~ sooner"

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 17 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters M.B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

This is without a doubt Jan 17, 1928 at: Sick Qt. State: Va. Town: Quantico Via: Official Channels

Dearest Bea:

Today I received a letter from Erv and promptly answered it. I wanted to write this letter first but I was afraid I might get tired by the time I get this written and then I wouldn't write Erv's so I wrote his first cause I knew Id write this no matter how tired I got. I do wish that I had written this first though cause I sure felt kind of rambunctious before where I feel a bit tired now.

Erv was telling me that they ran a dance at O'loughlins on Jan 10th and they made \$100.00 clear and he also went on to tell me that they are planning another one during the first part of Feb. and he said he was hoping I would be there to act as a bouncer. Can you imagine that? He must have the impression that Im a hard guy and he forgot that my hand may still be sore and that I might not be able to use but one fist for a while. Have no fear though my sweetheart I took great pains to disillusion him and to make the whole thing plain to him about where I intended to be standing when an argument starts in the next couple of months. I sure used plain English when I meant black and white when I meant white so he would be sure to understand. You see I know Erv and even understand him and I know that there are only two ways to get something through his skull and the one way is with a very sharp ax and the other is a very sharp ~~tongue~~ tongue in other words either swear at him or kill him out right and Id never kill a friend.

Well honey seeing as there is no news today Ill have to tell you again that I love you and wish that you were here. I realize that it must sound foolish to keep telling you the same thing all the time but I cant help it.

With Love
Porter

See you soon X

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 18 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters M.B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan. 18, 1928 Sick Qts. Quantico Virginia

Dearest Bea:

Tell Hoppy that Im much obliged to her for getting interested in a book long enough for you to write me that letter. I was sure expecting that letter to arrive here as usual on Tuesday, and I believe I would be broken hearted if one didn't arrive on Tuesday.

Well if my writing a letter a day is going to spoil you why Ill just have to quit it. I think I will after this week. Now do you see what you've done for yourself by making such suggestions? Are you still afraid Ill spoil you? Is one letter a day to much? I only wish I could this minute get one kiss for every letter Ive written you. Im afraid Id get writers cramp in the near future though.

Sure thing honey. Sure I can get a leave when my thumb gets better and Im going to try to make that real soon.

Who is the other little wild cat that you refer to, or are you counting yourself twice. Hoppy is one and you are the other but who the heck is the third? Dont worry about me needing a regiment to finish any little wars of my own making, cause I can lick twice my weight in wild cats and Im no light weight. That means that each of you wild cats can weigh about 121 ½ lbs.

Do you think I could ever forget the trail that we took through Brooky that day? I can still remember every step we took that day including the ones I took in the mud. What would be the good of going over a trail if we were going to come out where we started?

I can't figure where half of this night went to here it is almost two oclock. I guess the big part of the night was spent trying to make long distance connections for some Sgt. Major who didn't know what it was all about then and who doesn't know yet.

Im going to adopt a new name since Ive been elected telephone girl. I was thinking of Alice or Rose. Those two sound like a telephone operators names, don't they?

What do you mean by, "Have I tried the imagination scheme." Ive tried the smoke picture scheme and result was that I smoked to many cigarettes a day.

Im just wondering

Love your
Porter

"See You sooner"

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
Sick Quarters M.B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan. 19, 1928 Sick Qts. Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

I received your letter today along with one from my father. I was expecting both of them to.

I guess you hadn't better try to spell what little German you know. That used to be my ambition or rather something like that. I always wanted to talk a little Hungarian and some of the fellows down at, "Davis Hunt Collister's," used to tell me what to say. I was all set to spring my line on my father and mother one time and practiced on some fellow during the day. Well I got a sock in the nose that I still feel, but when I found out the real meaning of what I said I sure was glad it didn't get as far as home. My Dad would have killed me. Motto: Leave foreign languages alone and no one will punch your nose.

What do you mean poor Dempsey? Why Tunney never was and never will be the man that Dempsey was when he was up to form, and that's how he is going to be for the next fight. I'd bet my shirt on Dempsey this time.

Don't worry honey if I step in the General's toes I'll have a big crowd around so he won't know who done it. I think I'll wait till I get back from furlough though cause I'd rather step in his neck anyway.

Why should I get bawled out cause you are the only single one on your floor? Didn't I offer to remedy that? You tell those women they don't know a thing about it, even if they have been married. You just tell those cats that you know all about your guys likes and dislikes and you understand him to. You do. Don't you? There is no such a thing as chance in marriage. The whole thing depends on how much the couple think of one another and how much common sense they've got. If a couple get along well before marriage then their married life just depends on their good judgement and their desire to co-operate in order to make this thing a go. Will you please tell me what likes and dislikes and whims have to do with it. A fellow should have more sense when he thinks of entering the state of matrimony than to expect every whim to be gratified.

Who is the fellow at work that told you about that basketball center who is 7'8" tall?

How am I going to know which ending of which letter you refer to when I write one a day. Tell me what kind of an ending it was and I'll explain. Would it hurt you to use your imagination.

That, ("Ever Yours) part of your letter looks extra good. It makes me feel like a young man again

Love and Kisses
Porter

P.S. Did you mean that (Besos Ye Pesos) ending?

“See you later”

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 21 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters M.B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Midnight Jan 20, 28 Sick Quarters U.S. Navy Hosp. Marine Barracks Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

This is another one of these (Sunny Southern nights) 50° F below. Of course its not quite that bad but Im darned if it don't feel like it. The gold bricks that are afraid they will have to work in the cold tomorrow are all turning in. Its sure surprising how many people can discover their appendix hurt on a night like this and, oh! about forty eight hours before some nice detail is supposed to leave. I sure pity the ambulance driver tonight cause it don't look like he is going to get much sleep tonight. It was the same thing night before last.

Well they tell me that it isn't always the cough that carries you off, but often it is the (coughin) coffin, they carry you off in.

I answered my fathers letter last night and Im afraid he don't understand what I say in half of my letters or else he tries to misunderstand cause he sure does write sarcastic letters.

Well honey this waiting around is getting my nerves tomorrow Im going to see how soon I can get my furlough Ill either find out or know the reason why I can't find out.

What do you think about those plans of mine honey about following up aviation when I get on the outside again? That seems to me to be the big job in the future. I think that ten years from now aviation will be a bigger thing than the automobile ever will be. Then to a man don't have to be up in the air all the time. There are seven men work on the ground to every one in the air. That includes mechanics crew chiefs etc. All of those men draw good money and Im interested in the game so I can't see why I shouldn't be in on it. Let me know what you think about it.

That was another half hour, shall we say intermission? The Ambulance driver just burst in here in a 110° heat. He was half nuts because the ambulance isn't in the pink of condition and he raised 7 ¾ kinds of particular hates because the gasoline had water in it and he wanted to know what kind of a *!—X::;- fool he was anyway. I told him in plain English. (That is, it was as plain as he used.) that I wasn't responsible because I really wasn't buying nor manufacturing the particular gas that he was using. He has gone to bed now slightly cooled off but still hot enough.

This pen sure is a blessing to me honey cause if Id be using a pencil Id be lost half the time trying to find something to sharpen it with.

Well honey, have I said enough for one night? Write soon

With Love & a couple Hugs
Porter

“See you later”

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 22 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 22, 1928 Sick Quarters Marine Barracks Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

I received your letter just before I went in search of the Senior Medical Officer. I was looking for him because he is the only one that can give me any info about a furlough. I didn't find him though. It seems I forgot all about it being Saturday so I slept till well after one o'clock only to find that Saturday afternoon is a holiday for the doctor as well as anyone else. Now I'll have to wait till Monday to see him.

I went over to the band after I couldn't find the S.M.O. and ("boy do you smell the flowers coming?") I found out that they can't get along without me. Why I hadn't been over there three minutes before three different fellows wanted me to fix their radios and one wanted his machine overhauled. Just think of those three radios and a Studebaker Special Six Roadster rotting just because I can't go over to fix them. I just wonder what the mechanical world would do if I'd never been born?

I wonder how much of a success a basketball or football game would be if you weren't there to yell your head off. It seems like you must come from one game and go right over to the next cause every letter I get, almost, you tell me about some game that you saw. I only wish I could go with you to see all those games. You know I'm always worrying. I always imagine that some day at one of those games you are going to meet another guy and I'll be out of luck for a best gal. Oh well a little better than a year and I'll be free again and if you are still mine then I'll keep you if I have to beat up on every guy in the city. If not -- Well I don't know just what might happen. I'd probably get to see China and people to get lost very easily over there.

What do you think of my writing since I'm using this nice pen? Does it look like it is improving any? I'm kind of careless when I write a letter because I'm generally pretty sleepy but I think my writing is improving to such an extent that if I tried I could really write a letter that could be read. Shall I try?

Well honey I've been doing some battle with the old sandman all night and I'm afraid he is going to be the victor so pray with me that when the board or phone rings that I may hear it cause if I don't and it does I'm liable to see that long desired furlough take wings, so pray hard for

Your
Porter

"See you later" -- not much

XX

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 24 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan. 24, 1928 Sick Qts. Marine Bks. Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

This is Tuesday morning very early. I decided to write tonight because I was afraid of spoiling you but as I said before Ive got news for you.

I went in to see the Commander yesterday just as soon as he arrived and I asked him about my leave. He refused to commit himself but he told me that they will send me to duty soon and he also hinted that I might also find some papers in my hand letting anyone whom it may concern know that Ive got authorized leave. He only said I might. Well if he isnt willing to give me the same I always know of another way to get one. Ive got a little notation in my record book which says to give me leave so I can always fall back on that although that wouldn't give me 30 days.

We are having our hand full here the last couple of days but today has been the record day. We took in and admitted seven patients in less than one hours time and about twice as many during the rest of the day. We were almost forced to open up another ward and if we get many more tonight or tomorrow why we will have to.

I have a sort of a hunch that my regular Tuesday letter will arrive this morning as per schedule. I dont know yet if I will answer it right away or not. Depends on the contents and also the number of things that happen around here for me to write about.

I don't believe its necessary for me to tell you that, "I Love you" but you may like to see it written out. I really havent anything else to write about so Ill close now

Besos ye Pesos
Porter

"See you later" X 100

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 25 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 24, 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

Your lecture arrived this morning but I am afraid it was already in vain. I didn't miss three days in writing. Not in a row at any rate, anyway you shouldn't bawl me out for carrying out one of your own, shall we say, "hints"?

What are all these means that you are going to use to punish me? I'd like to know before hand so I won't make a mistake when they occur and think you are being extra nice to me. When you want me to roast, why I want to roast so be a good sweetheart and let me know.

Now let's get at this kissing part of your letter. I can't quite understand it. I'm given to understand in your lecture that I don't care for your kisses. Some mistake here somewhere. I can't seem to remember having said that. In fact I don't ever remember having refused one when there was one chance in ten of my being about to get one. By the way I remember in the letter that you wrote for me to read on the train you told me that maybe you shouldn't have left me kiss you. You said that Hoppy wouldn't. Do you still think the same way?

Oh come now honey you haven't told me yet who the third wild cat is. You know very well that it isn't Anne. She is too quiet to be anything like that. I might not be able to lick two or three wild cats but I know one that I'm going to take over my knee if she doesn't give me some of those kisses she is kidding me about. Muchyo Pronto

What are you trying to tell me about the piano? Are you trying to say that it is out at your house? Do you mean at 4805? Please break loose and explain a little more about said music box.

When your letter got here and I saw the Respectfully Beatrice Keeran part of it I said so much that my exhaust gas – I mean my breath nearly burned down the building. I saw light though in about two minutes. My guess is that Hoppy got impatient and finished the letter for you.

I wore a pair of boots to come over from the quarters tonight and if there is anything hurts more than a pair of these ***--?! Unregulation boots I'd like to know what it is. When I get this letter finished I'm going to take them off and throw them as far as I can.

I'm going to bring this epistle to a close now and I only hope you haven't denied me the right to send my love and kisses to the only girl from

Her

Porter

"See you later"

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 27 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan. 26, 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

I don't know how much of a letter this is going to be. Im afraid not much. In the first place there is nothing new to tell you about and in the second place Im not getting much time tonight on account of an emergency operation.

There have been many patients brought in in the last couple of days. Today we got two bad ones at almost the same time. One is a broken leg compound fracture, the other is the case they are operating on now. Then to make matters worse a lot of little accident cases have been coming in till about a half hour ago. I havent been getting much rest trying to admitt those who need it and keep records of the rest. Then I have to stick at the telephone to in case of an ambulance call. Theyve had me standing on one ear all night. I haven't even had a chance to get my dinner tonight. That is about two and a half hours late now.

Duty calls.

Love
Porter

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 28 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan. 27, 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

Your second reader got here today. Sure am glad to see that you felt real oblidging and wrote. I believe those are the very words you used in your last letter when you told me that you might write on Wednesday.

I was forced to cut off that letter rather short last night. It seems like everything came up all at once last night and knock in wood Tonight we havent had a single patient come in. I nearly did have a nice fight though. I finally found out who the thief is that has been stealing the night Corpsmens chow. I caught a sentry from the prison ward at it red handed and offered to take him outside and he refused. Im kind of glad he did though. He is built in such a way that Id have my hands full if I could use both hands, which I cant. Id sure enjoy taking a punch at him though for all the chow he has swiped in the last couple of weeks.

You say you think aviation would be very interesting. I could have known you were thinking because I smelled a peculiar odor way down here. I thought it was a forest fire at first. Now who is the biggest tease? I'll let you know more about this aviation noise when I get home.

Do you blame our ambulance driver for being such a puritan? I'll bet even you could use strong words if every time someone got sick they rang a bell for you at most any hour of the night and you knew that 5 minutes from the time that bell rings the ambulance has to be out of the garage and gone. He has to get dressed and come here for his orders to all in 5 little short minutes. I might add that that ambulance can't always start easy when its cold. It's a white truck ¾ ton and has to be wound up no starter. Would you use strong language? You might. Buttttt dont never let me hear you use it.

Ive got about five shirts but you better not let me cause you will get all you want of my shirts when we are Ball and chain. Then to Tunney is the Champion and his backers have to give heavy odds so it would really take almost a years wages to cover my bet. Just think you might have to work a year for nothing.

Why not write me about these few points that you claim are wrong in the shop argument. Im interested seeing as Im the husband to be.

Why tell me that this ardent sport fan at the shop has a wife and family? Those are the kind of fellows that generally elope with the single girls just like the single me generally run away with another mans wife.

That little Spanish at the end of that letter mean Love and Kisses. I thought you knew that.

Maybe you will be so good my sweetheart as to write and tell me who your Alice is and why you want the bell to ring to wake him up, and what bell?

You will have to wait till I go to duty for those films cause they are in my box and its turned in for safe keeping

Six Bits
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX "See you later"

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 28 1928

[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters M.B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan. 28, 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Virginia

Dearest Bea:

Here it is two A.M. already and Im just starting your letter. Ive been making radio hook-ups all night. I really don't know what that darn Post Band is going to do for a radio man when I get paid off. They won't leave me rest even in the hospital.

Its snowing here right now and it is starting in to look like it meant some business this time. We'll have two feet of it by morning at this rate.

I wonder what is the matter with this camp tonight. No emergency calls yet so far. Knock on wood. I guess the big majority of the gold bricks don't know its snowing yet. I should worry, as long as I can sit in a steam heated office all night and sleep in a steam heated room all day Im satisfied. The cold don't bother me.

I wonder what it means when I think of you so much that I cant sleep. I guess that must mean that I need a furlough pretty pronto. Am I right there? Ill get it to sweetheart. Ill bother them so much until they give me the furlough for breakfast, dinner, and supper and two or three times between. Do you remember what Perry said when he got shot? Beside asking for water. Ill keep that up and soon Ill be able to say, "I came I saw and I conquered."

Have my folks moved yet? I haven't heard from them in the last couple of weeks. I suppose my father is so busy he don't know where to start.

Im expecting a letter to get here today. I don't know who it will be from yet but Ive just got a hunch. Do you think it is a good hunch? I hope so cause Ill be real disappointed if no letter comes.

Well honey there is nothing new down here except that I took my semi annual shave before I came on duty last night. The orderly on watch at the time refused to turn the watch over to me cause he thought I was someone else. Didn't recognize me. The only way I could prove my identity was to take and show them my sore finger. By the way I think you asked me to raise a soup strainer the last time I was home, Didn't you? No sooner said that done. Ill have one by the time I hit Cleveland.

Mit Liebe
Porter

"See you later"

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX X X

P.S. These cant be helped

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jan 30 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United states Marines & symbol

Jan. 29, 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

I really haven't a bit of news for you today but Im forced to write anyway for several reasons. First this matter of kisses for letters and second cause I don't want you to think that I forgot you so easily Then to your letter got here today and Ive got to answer that. Then last of all Ive nothing else to do cause someone swiped my deck of cards and I cant pass the time away by a solo game or two.

Oh I agree with you on that alright they don't pass out the furloughs so very fast around here. Ill get mine though. Im afraid it may be a couple of weeks though cause my finger is still open on the end large enough to stick a lead pencil into it. The cold last night and today didn't do it any good either. It is tender yet to be any good.

Why do you underscore the we when you told me about enjoying your musical hour. Are you sure that you and your uncle are the only ones that know good music when you hear it?

That new paper and paint stuff is alright but dont forget the Welcome doormat when I get my furlough or the paper and paint might scare me right past the place.

When you write again let me know when my folks have moved to. Will you honey? Im afraid Id never find out if I left it to them to tell me.

What did my Dad do with our, "mustard colored cant"? Is he still running it?

Well Im afraid thats all there is this time sweetheart so for the time Ill have to close with

Besos Ye Pesos
Porter

P.S. The lights just went dim then, Nearly out. Ill bet that was for that Love & Kisses part

XXXXXXXXXXXX

[illegible]

Box 2: folder 23

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Marine Branch 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan. 31, 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Virginia

Dearest Bea:

Did you ever operate a telephone switch board? Well if you did I think you would cuss them to. Sometimes I sit here all night without a call coming in then some nights for a couple of hours every station on the board calls. All at the same time and gee how it gets on a mans nerves. Tonight I had every one of the stations busy and two trunk lines beside and boy what I mean by head feels like the wreck of old ninty seven or something like that.

I didn't think I should write tonight on account of this same headache but decided to ask you if I should or not. What do you say?

All fooling aside now. I never saw so many me trying to be admitted to the hospital all at once. I had them standing in line here from my office out into the waiting room and still the calls came in for walking cases to be called for by the ambulance. The doctor examined them here in this office and I sure heard a bunch of organ recitals. From sore toes to heart failure and suspicion of death from old age one guy came in here and so help me God he was weak in the knees had headache sore teeth his hair was falling he said his appendix hurt and he thought he had a broken hip. That same fellow was here 3 weeks ago with the same complaints. We gave him every possible test including blood counts blood tests and X Rays and they sent him away after a week of observation as perfectly physically fit. I can't see what a guy like that comes into the service for hes got such a good imagination he should make good headway in civilian life as a teacher of "Christian Science" In my own estimation he should be backed up against a brick wall and shot at sunrise or before if possible. As a Marine that Guy would make a Grade "A" street cleaner.

I just now saw the Medical O.D. and asked him about my furlough and he told me to see the Commander in the morning. I think I will. I wanted to start Thursday morning but they figure there is to much danger of infections yet and one of those would mean complete disaster as far as my finger and maybe my hand is concerned. Im not going to give it a chance to infect though. Im watching it close.

Its starting to snow outside again sort of half snow half slush. It makes me kind of homesick to be writing to Cleveland and see it snowing at the same time.

I wish you were here now sweetheart. I wouldn't care then how many hours I had to do. Id be satisfied to know that you were near. Well I hope it wont be very long now anyway so until then Ill just say By. By.

Your Six Bits
Porter

“see you later” X

P.S. Id like to fill the page with those crosses but my head is ready to split now.

Porter

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 1 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

February 1, 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

Don't worry about that lecture cause you wont get it. It seems that you were in luck and that letter of yours must have come double quick cause it got here as it always does on Tuesday morning.

I was going to see the doctor about my leave this morning but that headache I wrote about in last nights letter got worse and this morning I had a temperature of 101° so I took a nice dose of Cascara and went to bed. Im feeling fine tonight though so tomorrow Im going to find out or rather this morning cause its past one A.M. already

No it don't sound like temperament to say that you didn't feel like writing. I often feel that way. Id rather just sit and think about you and build my "air castles." That generally happens when there is no news cause its really harder to write a letter with something to write about than without. Ive often thought that a person that can sit down and write page after page when there is really nothing to write about should get a medal. Understand now. Im not asking for a medal for myself only saying what people like that should get.

Why do you say ("Darn letters")? Dont you like them? Do you want me to think that you dont appreciate my letters? Ill write fewer if thats it, only the last time I don't that you called me down for fair. Don't you worry honey I know what you want to say alright only I purposely make like I didn't. I take things the wrong way on purpose just to tease you. Im an awfull tease you know.

That thumb is coming along so-so. In other words no one knows. One day it looks and feels fine and the next day it looks and feels rotten. Im afraid the hole in the end of it wont ever close all together or if it does it will take a long time. The Doctor says it will close in time but Im inclined to think he is batty. Just plain nuts. I dont hesitate to let him know it either.

Im not worried about your being interested in any married man. It's the single man Im worrying about and wondering if you would be interested in his getting married. Do you remember the guy I mean? I dont know him but his initials are E.G. and hes got a funny last name. something like Thomas. Thats the guy Im worrying about your interest being placed in.

Dont worry about liquid refreshment and me. I swore off every thing but an occasional glass or two of wine and of course I couldnt very well swear off the usuall

Besos Ye Pesos
Porter

P.S. You are making me very happy and I wont forget either.

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 2 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Sick Quarters Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

February 1st 1928 Sick Quarters Quantico Virginia

Dearest Bea:

Now you may prepare yourself for a bawling out. In your letter that got here you promised me a letter for tomorrow so this morning instead of going to sleep I waited for your letter but it never got here. I did do something worth while though. I saw the Commander this morning so – tomorrow I go to duty without a sick leave, But (like a goat) I went over to see our company commander and he said to put in my request tomorrow and it would be back in a few days so powder your nose cause Im coming to Cleveland. I also went to find out about my being on a non pay status and found out that that was released but I wasn't over there to sign the pay roll the 25th so Ill have to wait till next month for my back pay but I won't be here to sign next month again so Im going to have it put on the books. That will mean so much more money to get married on when that time comes.

Send all my letters to the Post Band from now on and not here cause this is really my last night here so Im listening to a lecture on the radio entitled, "The Blessedness of Marriage and a good wife." The guy that was talking just said good night so now Im listening to some of "Wagners" music and it is beautifull.

Today I wanted to see how much truth there is in the advertisement, "Not a cough in a carload" so a bought a pack of "Old Golds." The first one I smoked must have been from the second carload. I coughed so much I nearly choked.

I hurt my hand today. Ive been inactive so long now and acheing to go so when I said black was black today some guy tried to tell me it was white or green I forget which anyway I got in a hurry and hurt my hand on his Ivory chopping block nothing serious though only my hand feels sore I guess that is because my hands are so very tender from doing nothing for so long a time.

If that confounded phone rings once more before I finish this letter Im going to cut the wires on it and the switchboard and throw them both out of the window.

Well honey tomorrow is going to be my busy day so Im going to sleep at the switch tonight and leave the new night nurse answer the phone in case it rings. She said it would be alright and I guess she should know cause she is next to the O.D. for rank and say so.

Ill close now honey cause there is no more to say for present except to say that I refuse to share you with anyone the first day or night of my furlough.

Love Your
Porter

X

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 5 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Jan 4th 1928 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dearest Bea:

I cant tell now if you need a bawling out or if I need it. I haven't had a letter from you since Tuesday. There may have been one at sick quarters today. If it is Ill get it tomorrow, if not (----?) I don't know what goes in where those lives are yet.

Well when I got back here they refused absolutely to put in my request for a furlough but I later talked them into it so my request went in yesterday. The result to be seen later. Heres hoping the results are good. Boy maybe you think I didn't feel bad when they refused my request at first. Im telling you if it hadn't been for you Id have gone over the hill I was so sore. I can't understand why they always make promises and don't keep them. I know why they wouldn't send in my request this time though. There is a direct order from the Major General Comandant that no furloughs will be granted in the immediate future. Mine may come through though as special leave. God knows Ive tried hard enough for it.

Im on Light Duty so I dont have to work around here and Im sure lucky to be that way cause they sure are doing everything but band duty. They are working on the coal pile and making concrete butts for the rifle range and tearing down buildings and doing general police work all around. I almost feel ashamed of myself when I see those men go out day after day to work and Im getting out of it all with laying on my bunk doing nothing I went to sleep at 6:30 pm. Wednesday cause I did my last Telephone watch the night before and I couldn't get transferred and sleep to so I turned in early. I slept all day and night yesterday to. Ive been checking up a radio all day today. I just now decided to leave it be and write a letter cause I can always finish the radio tonight.

I wonder what is the matter with my father now. I havent heard from him in a while and Ive been trying to get a reply to the last two or three letters I wrote him. I suppose he'll write when he gets good and ready.

Well dont forget honey I want that letter tomorrow or you better stand clear cause you'll get a bawling out sure. On the other hand you told me what a tongue lashing Anne is capable of so Ill just let her tell you about it. Now will you be good?

Do you realize that its harder to write now than it was when I was in the hospital? It is, cause my whole left hand is extremely sore from the finger stool on it. They try to make it hurt so as to toughen the whole thing up cause it wouldn't be no good to me as sensitive as it is. I cant even hold a pipe or a box of matches with it. The darn thing keeps me awake all night so the best I can do is to get my few hours beauty sleep during the day.

Love & Kisses from Somebody Else
Porter

X

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Carrollton Ohio Feb 7 1928

Dearest Bea:

Im here in Carrollton paying my Dad a little visit and Ill be home in a day or two I hope. Im waiting for a bus now to take me out there and have only about 7 minutes before we go. Ill write tonight if I get a chance so

Love
Porter

XX

It wont be long now

Box 3: folder 24

Western Union Telegram

1928 Feb 16 AM 10:51

Private Emil Thomas=
4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio=
Ten Days Extension Granted=
The Commanding General

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Pittsburgh PA Feb 16 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Feb. 16 1928 Pittsburgh Pa. Depot

Dearest Bea:

Ive arrived this far on my journey safely and Ive been gone from Cleveland less than four hours. I was going to write on the train but found I was just out of envelopes and anyway the train was shaking to much. Even now Ive got to write in pencil cause my pen is dry and my ink is in my grip and that is checked.

I tried to sleep in the train a little but couldn't so I just stayed awake and thought of you and of how happy you have made me and I only wish I could have stayed another day. Where did you go to when I boarded the train? You disappeared fast. I looked for you when I got on and wanted to see you just as long as I could but you were gone. Oh well honey I guess it was just as well cause I felt pretty bad about having to leave so quick and you staying would only have made it harder for both of us.

I dont know how much of this you will be able to read but it cant be helped cause Im writing this on my lap. My intentions are good at any rate. Ill close now and see when I leave here so

Love
Porter

P.S. Dont forget young Joe the crack basketball man.

X

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 17 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band M. B. Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Feb. 17, 1928 Post Band Quantico Va.

My Own Derby:

I arrived here this morning two hours late but the sgt of the guard Checked me in as being on time so I was all set there. My bunk was turned in before I left so I didnt have a place to sleep so I curled up in a corner and slept like a rock till Reveille. The Drum Major came around soon after I woke up and I started raising the roof on account of the extension so he told me that my extension had been granted only it was late. He himself had taken it to Post Headquarters and saw the General in order to get it because the company commander had refused to grant it. I only wish I had stayed there even without the telegram. The major goes on the mat before the General for refusing a hearing on the telegram because it was really on a sick leave.

Ive been drawing my bunk and property all morning or I would have written before. Then to I was up to the sick bay this morning and got put on light duty.

I wonder if you know how much it hurt to come back when I did. I certainly can't tell you honey because it hurt more than I can tell. I know it hurt you to cause if it hadn't I don't think you would have left in such a hurry. I sure would have liked to see you those extra few seconds till the train left but Im sure I would rather have you leave the way you did than to see you with tears in your eyes. Ill confess your eyes sure looked nice with tears in them the night before I left but tears generally mean a heart in anguish and a sickness of the heart isn't nice to experience nor to see in the eyes of the one you love. I only wish I was well enough fixed to bring you along. The last year sure would be nicer with my wife present. Oh well Ill just have to make the best of it, although I don't suppose it will hurt any to dream, Will it? Well I don't expect Ill be able to make another furlough for a while now but maybe you can do what you told your Dad about coming down here and if he can't come maybe you can tease the folks into letting you come alone I don't think we should need a chaperone anyway still Id rather figure that way if I could help it. Id rather come up there myself.

Well honey Im going to mail this with the stamp Ive got and when I mail it Im going to get more stamps so I can write to Max and Min and Jim & Erv tonight if Im not to darn tired.

Im sending you the money for that telegram and you may paste it in the scrap book as the furlough that I refused. Don't forget to send those shoes honey.

The best we can do now sweetheart is just to Love one another more and more each day and look forward to our next meeting and toward our wedding day and may the sun always shine on it and its anniversaries

With Beaucoup Love & Kisses

Your Porter

P.S. For the 100 candle power For those lips

[illegible]

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 18 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Feb. 18 1928 Library Quantico Virginia

Dear Heart:

I know my extension got there after I left and although it is a bitter disappointment I guess the best thing is to do as you say. Just take it shoulder to shoulder.

Im glad you said what you did at the depot. Im happier than a person would guess just because I know its true. The only fly in the ointment is the tardiness of my extension. Dont you worry about my forgetting what you said when we parted honey, how could I? Don't you realize that, that was the first time you told me of your own accord, that you love me?

I wonder if you realize just how happy your letter made me this morning. You know, every soldier thinks a lot more of his sweetheart when she is brave and Im no exception honey so lets just be brave and take things as they come. We have known each other five years now and if things must be I think we can wait for another thirteen months although I dont exactly relish the idea.

I took my writing tablet (one of them) and came over to the library to write this morning with the intention of writing to Jim & Erv after I finish your letter but I come to find out that this tablet has only got one sheet in it so they will have to wait till this afternoon for their letter. I wrote one to Max and Min yesterday afternoon but was to tired to write to Lill or Erv. I went to sleep at 8:00 P.M. and slept right on through everything.

Did you go to the game last night? Who won? Did Joe shine again last night? Id have liked to have got there. Dont forget though honey I don't care how much you see him play nor how much you admire him don't forget you are mine and so you mustn't love anyone else. I don't know what Id do honey if you ever left me now.

Well honey I can't think of anything to write now and anyway your letter was short to so Ill close for this time cause if I dont Im liable to say things I don't mean. By that I mean Im liable to make a mistake and write what Im calling the Marine Corp on account of my extension being so late.

Much Love & Kisses from

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 20 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Feb. 19, 1928 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dearest:

I was writing to Lill this morning and I told her I was going to write to you when your letter gets here and sure enough here comes your letter while Im finishing her letter.

I sure wish Id have known about that extension in time. Id sure have enjoyed that game. I might even have been able to take some of that dirty work out of those West guys and might incidentally have got some much needed exercise.

Don't start worrying about a name yet and anyway "Joe" seems to be as good as any I know of and at least he would be named after, "shall we say an idol?" and the name is no tongue twister.

Sure honey the first few days after a parting are always very trying, in fact every day of a separation is trying only the first few are worse than the rest. I was kind of wishing you wouldn't open the telegram until my letter got there because I knew it would give you a bad minute or two. It couldn't be helped though. The man that caused the telegram to be delayed so long was our company commander a Major and he has been warned by Headquarters that another similar act and he would be given the privelidge of resigning his commission or being court martialed because in the case of a telegram there really is no way of knowing how seriously the extension is needed especially when the reason is personal as given in the telegram or when the furlough is a sick leave. I didn't want them to ask him to resign, Oh no, I wanted them to muster a firing squad and put me in charge.

Sure honey you know just about how I felt after the last furlough only you don't feel it as much cause after all Im expected to come back but after my last furlough I felt on top of the parting that I was a failure and I wasn't wanted. That is changed now though so that part don't hurt anymore. Dont blame yourself for that cause it wasn't your fault. You loved me then only you didn't know it or Im sure your answer at that time would have been the same as it is now.

Im more glad than you can guess to know that that little pin is such a comfort and a consolation to you. Well dont worry honey it wont be long now until we can be together always and then nothing will ever separate us again. Then we'll make our dreams come true.

Im glad to hear that your cold is better honey and I hope it keeps that up and then after that if you wear your boots when you go out and a slicker on wet days you wont catch another so easily.

Ill try my best honey to make out that list but Im not sure how correct it will be cause Im so much in love that I forgot to keep up my book to.

Well here goes what I know. I arrived at your house about 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday Feb 8th and spent the evening with you till about 1:30 A.M. Then Thursday I got to your house about 7:30 and we stayed in again until about 2:10 A.M. Then Friday I met you at May Co's entrance at 5:15 P.M. We went to Hoffmans to eat some supper, no success. From there we went to the square for a car and met Hoppy's sister then to Hoppys house and then to the game at West tech then home till 2:10 A.M. Then on Saturday afternoon we waited for Lill and John till 9:30 P.M. I had supper at your house that night. Lill and John took the car at about 11:30 P.M. and we came back till almost 2:00 A.M. Sunday afternoon Erv and Jim tried to get me stewed no success and Sunday night I got over at 8:00 P.M. and went for the Chevy with your Dad then we got Anne and the four of us went to the Airport and afterwards through the flats and got stuck off of Spring Rd. in a deep rut. Monday the 13th you stayed home from work and I was over all day and we went to a show at night. We saw Chas. Chaplin in the circus had a good laugh. Tuesday we went to Mins house for a while and came back and I stayed at your house till way after 2:00 A.M. Wednesday I called you up downtown after sending my telegram and we went home together and waited all day for the extension. Again no success so we went up to see erv and Jim to say goodbye and also to Mins to pack my grip. Lill and John came over so after saying the farewells we went back to you house. Thursday morning we met on the corner of Stickney Ave and went to the depot together. Then you told me for the first time of your own accord that you love me.

Note: We did not go to Brookside

It got cold down here again to. It was so cold this morning I could hardly more.

I hope you do get your fiddle out today like you said and practice some and just forget the time and do it often. I want you to honey cause you are liable to forget how altogether if you dont practice.

That, "on the square" and also "How could I forget", makes me happy and so does the
"Love"
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Good for musicians lips

XX Good for 40 candle power

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 20 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Feb. 20, 28 Post Band Quantico Virginia

My Own:

I just couldnt wait another minute to write this morning Im the closest to being happy right now that Ive been since I got back. I drew my clarinet out of the store room this morning and cleaned it up and tried playing – and honey I actually got a noise out of it. No bunk. But how? I have no lip at all and my complete register is about six full tones and Oh! what tones. Just like my dads Ford and my fingers refuse to synchronize with my lips and I had to use a mirror to be sure I still had a tongue in my mouth. It simply refused to function. Now after about an hour of practice it promises to loosen up but now my lip is dead so while Im resting it Im going to see if I can still write a letter.

The Drum Major was real nice to me and has been since I got back. He told me that I didn't have to start practicing yet if I didn't feel fit but I was just dying for the old gob stick. The Drum Major also hinted to me that I may go out in a detail to Port Au Prince Haiti cause they are making out a detail now and are short I men. Nothing definite only he told me that they might have to take men who have as little time to do as I have. That would kill my time in a hurry and give me a chance for a better rating but I don't want to go now. Still duty is duty and its not for me to question my superiors decisions if they say go I suppose Ill have to go. Ill try not to though.

Well honey are you over the blue spell yet? I hope so because it does more harm to brood over things that can't be different than it does good and I signed my name for four years to do or die and its to late to cry now.

Well honey I guess Ill close now and try my hand at practicing again so

Love
Porter

See You Later On the Square

X

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 23 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va. Real reason for fasting S.W.A.L.K. X

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

February 21 Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dearest Derby:

You and I both feel so all alone, honey. Yet all in all Im happy. Im happy because I know that you and I are going to be one, and because I know that at the same time you will be all mine. Im happy and thankfull for all these things and still I feel all alone as you put it just because we had to part so suddenly after the happiest week of my life so far. Oh well maybe its all for the best as you put it. Only I wish you would set our wedding date. Im sure anxious to know when so Ill be able to count the weeks and days. Thats liable to kill my time more quickly. I think I told you in yesterdays letter about a tropical detail. Well there is nothing definite out yet today but I don't think Ill get to go. Ill let you know either way so (take it easy).

Do you know how much in love I am sweetheart? Well for example this morning I slept in cause Im on light duty and so Im not forced to make reveille so I slept in and missed my breakfast. When I woke up it was nine oclock. The first thing I thought of was your letter cause it was time for my Tuesday morning letter and I hadn't received one yesterday so the first thing I thought of was you and my letter. It was there to. Five pages full. Gee that made me feel good.

Im glad Grandma put you to bed with all those mustard plasters honey. Im afraid you don't take good enough care of yourself honey. Im afraid some day one of those colds will get the best of you and Ill be all alone in this world again. Don't let that happen honey, please take good care of yourself for my sake.

Certainly a soldiers sweetheart must be brave honey and you were to, but of course there is a limit to everyones endurance and I think your and my limits were just about reached.

Talking about that money honey I forgot all about it till this letter got here. I remember saying I was enclosing the money but Im darned if I remember doing it so I checked over my months expenses so far and they check without including that so I think I didn't send it at all. I think you are fibbing again. Aren't you? Dont forget the answer to this question. (On The Square) Im just curious to know if my accounts lied and Im not going to forget about our partnership so let me know.

Certainly were partners honey were going through life shoulder to shoulder even if we are separated for the time being. Partners now and always will be. Lets seal that with a kiss. X

They played quite a few numbers at the state when we were there sweetheart and I can't remember names so Im afraid you will have to tell me what role you bought. I miss the piano to. Are you doing what I asked you to honey? With the violin I mean. Please put in a little time on it honey.

I didn't notice that Anne made any remark that might cut honey. All I heard was a little good natured kidding and I took that as it was given. Its quite natural for an engaged couple to be teased you know and they cant afford to get sore because they would lose to many friends. You just forget all about it cause if she did say something she didn't mean it.

You don't know what icy cold means cause it dont get at your bones the way it does here. Boy we get all the moisture from the Chesapeake Bay here beside what we get from the mountains, the Atlantic and the river.

Now your talking honey when Im looking forward to the time when we go to buy that paper at the court house and that little ring. Boy that thought was all that kept me from staying in Cleveland when I saw you leave the depot. That thought is all that keeps me from going Bolshevick right now. Id sure like to be with you as long as I can do it honorably and as much as I love you and long for you I just couldn't bring myself around to bring disgrace like that on myself and my loved ones.

How lucky do you think you Are? Ill bet a nickel Im luckier than you are. Im watching one of the barracks while the band is out practicing for a parade for tomorrow and the guy thats watching the next barracks just came in to chew the rag and interrupted my train of thought.

Well honey Im going to close now and don't forget to tell me what I asked and if possible let me know the big date cause its up to you

Your Puritan
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX OOOOOOOOOOOO XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Forty Candle powers XXXX

Write Soon

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 23 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

February 22, 1928 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

I just received your letter as I was fixing to write. You see the band left for the Washington's Birthday Parade in Alexandria and Im left to watch the barracks again, so I decided to pen a few lines and then practice the rest of the afternoon. You see honey Ive really got to do an extra amount of practicing now if I expect to have my finger get tough again and my lip hard. Although the chances are even both ways still I might have to go to Port Au Prince and if I do I want to be in good enough shape to hold down a decent rating and a decent chair. The only way I can see of doing it is by Muyo practice.

Sure honey I believe you when you say that you are interested in Joe only as far as sports goes, and I agree that his grit and playing is to be admired.

No I never read, "Under Two Flags," maybe some day Ill run across it and Ill read it then. Say honey, Is it a good wifes duty to chose the books for her husband? If not, why you better assume those duties anyway cause Ill warn you, I can't pick a good book to save my life. The Librarian here always picks my books for me. Boy what taste! The books she picks are just like she looks, but she's so darn nice that I hate to disappoint her by not taking them. She means well.

Why don't you have Hoppy come over to play cribbage every night then Id get a letter a day. Maybe. No honey I didn't get a cold. Those things weren't made for good Marines. Sure theres an awful lot we are missing all the time only we dont realize it and once we do why we always try hard not to miss it. New we were probably in love ever since we went to school together only we never knew it or rather you never knew it. What other girl ever inspired me to write poetry to them and when did any of them ever get me to write more than once a week? Why they couldn't do it.

Say honey I was talking to the representative of the company where your Pearls were bought about the care of them. I don't know if you know it or not but by washing them in milk they are supposed to get more lustrous. He didn't say how often but he said just luke warm milk.

For a week now Ive been trying to enclose those theater stubs from the State for the scrap book so today I stopped writing the letter long enough to address the envelope and put the stubs into it. I addressed it first so Id be darn sure to get the right envelope.

Well bye bye honey and write to

Your Puritan

Porter

Love and many Kisses and may we always cherish them as we do now. I Promise to ____ to ____ and to ____ Will you promise the same?

[illegible]

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch feb 23 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Marine Barracks Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Feb 22, 1928 Post Band Quantico Va.

Peg O My Heart:

I wrote you one letter earlier in the day and mailed it just a while ago. Since then I got notice from the company that Im going to Port Au Prince Haiti. The detail leaves on Feb 28th so of course I had to write you first of all. Im going to write to my dad and sisters etc yet and thats going to happen as soon as I finish this letter. Then I don't know how much time Ill get between now and the 28th. Not much Ill bet. Well be rushed right along trying to draw clothes etc and packing the stuff that don't go along and standing a million inspections physical and otherwise.

Ill have to go now honey there just aren't any two ways about it. Ill just have to obey orders and please honey please take it easy and be brave. I may have to go now but Ill be back.

Just keep writing to Post Band until I write and tell you Ive arrived there.

Now Ill have to close honey with much

Love and many Kisses

Your Puritan
Porter

XXXXXX

for the 40 candle power XX

box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 25 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Letterhead: United States Marines & symbol

Feb 23, 18928 AD Post Band Quantico Virginia

Dearest Derby:

I really should not be writing tonight cause nothing new has happened today.

Last night after I wrote your letter and a couple more I started to go over my clothes and junk and I separated the stuff Im taking along and what Im going to store. I also took those sailors blues out that Im going to send for you. I sent Erv and Jim their emblems that they wanted so bad and would have sent the blues at the same time but I didn't have a carton or anyother thing to pack them into but Ill get something tomorrow or know the reason why.

Gee honey I don't know what to think anymore. I haven't heard from Lill yet nor from Erv or Jim. Ive had a kind of sneaking feeling that Id hear from them either yesterday or today but no soap.

Well what have you been doing here lately, beside thinking of how unjust this old world is to some of us. Oh yes Ive been doing my share of thinking to and Ive just about decided that we get along better here if we dont think. That isn't what we get paid for. They have some high salaried officers to do that for us.

Well honey if you see either Lill, Erv, or Jim tell them for me that I want them to write soon and do the same for

Your
Porter

X

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 25 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

Feb. 24, 1928 Post Band Quantico Va.

Darling Derby:

Your letter arrived about ten minutes ago so I decided to sit down and answer it now as I have a little time on my hands.

Why do you say my letters arrived? Did they get all bunched up again? I tried to kind of keep them separated.

Ive been humming, "Blue Heaven," all the time since Ive been back now only instead of Mollie and me, it was (Derby & Me) You see you aren't the only one that has been working that song to death.

Im glad to hear that you got your violin to work like I asked you to. Your shoulders may hurt the first few times but just stick by it and do it right honey not half way but just so.

There is no if about my going to Port Au Prince now. Its certain that Im going now We leave on the Norfolk Boat on Monday night

No fooling honey Id like to go to Port Au Prince allright but now I hate to go just because Ill be separated from you by so many more miles. Last night I lay awake till almost two A.M. thinking of you. No kidding honey it hurts to go now. At this time a year ago I would have been real happy for this chance but now Im not. Oh well honey what can a good soldier do but obey orders? Oh the duties down there will be with the band just like here only I don't think we'll have as much police work as we have here. Dont worry sweetheart, there are no dizzy blondes down there. Only Hatien niggers and even if the place was filled with blondes they wouldnt bother me any. You know how I like blondes. The only good thing about Haiti is the beer and the climate.

Dont worry honey your folks may at one time have been disappointed by getting a girl instead of a boy but I don't think they are any more. Im sure they are just as proud of you as I am and some day we may present them with a grandson so that ought to make it up for them.

Im glad you sewed up that tweed skirt honey it wasn't bad – but it showed entirely to much for any mans good health.

Well honey when I go down there I dont know how this mail business is going to be. I think mail comes and goes twice a week if Im not mistaken but I dont mind getting two or three letters at a time

and Im quite sure you wont either and at any rate dont worry or get disgusted honey because I love you and think of you all the time so that thought alone should and will keep me out of trouble Unless I forget to wear my hat and get sun struck, and there is no danger of that cause they dont let us even stick our head out of the window without a hat on. One of the campaigne hats with the wide brim on the peak. The total capacity of these hats is about a half gallon. They are careful not to let us get the half gallon into them though. Each one has four vent holes in the crown.

Well honey I may get to write tomorrow and I may not but dont worry if I dont and dont forget that I love you, so write to Your Puritan

Porter

XX One for each candle power XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX one of these may be for those nose and the rest for those lips

Did you notice the absence of these in yesterdays letter? I was rushed in the last minute and forced to sign off in a big hurry.

Love Your
Porter

X

box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 27 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

February 26 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dearest One:

I received your letter this morning and was happy as can be until noon. Then I missed my pencil from the set and the day is ruined cause it was stolen not lost. I posted a couple of rewards for it but no results so I had the barracks and every man in them searched and still no results. I figured the fifty dollars should bring them around cause I promised to ask no questions but no results. I even tried to get the guy thats got it sore by telling all the men what I thought of the man that took it. What I said was enough to make any man that has any self respect at all get out and fight now and only have one hand but I can still kill with one punch the guy that ever shows that pencil where anyone can see it. I wish I knew what is causing all this hard luck Ive had here lately.

Ive got a cold in the head now to from washing my hair at night and sleeping in this cold place with wet hair.

No! I didn't think that West Tech played like a green team and I think that I can truthfully say that they showed some very good team work and some very neat plays. By the way I wrote to Bill Caldwell and give him a brief but clear outline of the service as I see it and told him that I would try to clear up any points he doesn't understand.

Well honey I expect this will be my last night at the Post Band Quantico for a while. When I get back Ill be able to count the hours of my enlistment on both hands. Im leaving here with a nice thought for the Post Band at any rate.

Ill never forget that pencil and if I ever find the man that got it Ill smash him like a ripe tomato. Im going to Haiti now where the good beer flows free and when I get there Im going to stay strictly to myself no favorites and no buddies. Ill just practice in my spare time. Ill never again trust any man in the service.

Oh Ill see you about our big day alright honey if thats the way you want it only don't forget you are the one that sets the day. There is only one day that will ever mean any more to me than any other day and that day will be the big day so if you have any favorite dates just pick one. Only we'll make it as soon as possible after I get out and get steady work.

Well sweetheart don't forget I love you and always will so no matter how far apart we may be dont forget your Porter. He will always be thinking of you and working toward the day when you will be all mine.

I tried to get some dope on the mail deliveries down there and find that right now its supposed to get there twice a week and sometimes it does and sometimes it don't. At any rate write often and Ill be sure to get at least one or maybe two every time the mail does arrive. In turn I will write as often as possible and Ill make sure that no boat leaves without at least one letter from me.

My address while down there will be 2nd Regiment Marine Band Port Au Prince Haiti

Any letters you may write before the middle of March though shouldnt be sent there send them to Quantico until I write and tell you Ive arrived. Ill drop a few lines every place we stop with

Love from Your
Puritan

XX 40 candle power

XXXX for your lips

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Feb 28 1928

Feb. 27 1928 Post Band Quantico

Dearest Derby:

The shoes arrived this morning thanks muchly for them. They arrived just in time. Ive got everything packed and waiting to leave when the boat gets in. We go as far as Norfolk by passenger boat cross to Hampton Roads by ferry and there we embark on the U.S.S. Kittery as far as I know. If it is the Kittery I know of a bunch of Marines that won't enjoy the trip very much cause she sure is some rocking tub. The Kittery I mean.

Do you know that in spite of the fact that this trip is taking me far away from you and in spite of the fact that the Kittery means so much misery Im still looking forward with pleasure to my trip and my stay down there.

I won't get a chance to mail those sailors blues now but one of my buddies will mail it some time this week and with it a few books those you sent me and one other.

When I mail this it may be the last for a while now. At any rate for a few days. Ill try to drop one when we hit Guantanamo Bay although I doubt if we will be allowed to disembark there. We'll probably only stop to drop the supplies for that post.

Well honey if I dont get to write soon just remember that Im thinking of you and I love you and hope that you will think of me often and continue to love me and write to

Your Puritan
Porter

"On the Square"
XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 candle powers

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Feb 29 1928
[return address] From: Private Emil G. Thomas Naval Operating Base Hampton Roads Virginia

Feb. 28, 1928 Naval Operating Base Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest:

We arrived here this morning after an all night trip aboard the civilian liner "Northland" We stay here till day after tomorrow I think then we go aboard the Kittery for the big trip. The only stop over we make is Guantanamo Bay Cuba. I dont think there will be any liberty because we stop only long enough for coal but Ill manage to get a letter off some way there.

We didn't get paid at Quantico before we left but we did sign the payroll here today and I refused for the very simple reason that theyve forgotten my specialist pay and are trying to fox me out of six bucks. Im not signing for anything that isnt right so Im going to put in a letter through official channels to get the matter adjusted seeing as I dont need the money right away. The only thing is theyve made me mad as the dickens by trying to gypp me.

The first thing they done when we arrived here this morning at about 10:00 A.M. was to give us breakfast and assign us our rooms. Three men to each room. Then they gave us each a certain detail. Three of us got mess duty. This is easy though so I wont kick. The good part of this is that we eat when ever we want to and what we want to. Its to bad this isnt going to last any longer. Im going to turn in and sleep till four oclock now cause that is just time enough to get my supper before we have to serve the regular meal. The rest of the gang will be gone on liberty to see the town all afternoon so I wont be disturbed any. I dont know when or where Ill get to mail this but Ill mail it the first chance I get. I dont believe there would be any use of writing here cause we will be leaving about the time this arrives at your house and by the time you get it we will be gone about our seasick way. Yes I mean sea sick. I dont believe the man has been built yet who can make that trip aboard the Kittery without getting sea sick. She's the worst tub in the U.S. Navy.

I wish you could be making that trip with me honey. That would just about make that trip perfect. Id even forget to get sea sick then. I sure miss you honey, more than Ive ever missed anything in my life. My only hope is that I may be worthy of you and your love.

Ill write more later sweetheart but right now Ill close with

Love
Porter

P.S. I havent heard from Lill or Erv or Jim or anyone yet. Did they all die? xxxxxxxx XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 3: folder 24

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 1 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Marine Barracks Naval Operations Base Hampton Roads Va.

February 29th 1928 Naval Operations Base Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest Bea:

Im still at Hampton Roads but I don't think we will be long. We go aboard the Kittery tomorrow and sail wither tomorrow or the day after before daylight.

Ive been one of the lucky ones to get mess duty while here and although the hours are a little longer the work is easier and we eat when we feel like it and whatever we fancy. Ill bet I ate a quart of olives today and drank enough coffee to float the battleship Maine.

Gee honey Im figuring on doing some tall practicing when I get to Port Au Prince. Ive just ordered myself another exercise book and two books of a six volume studies. These two books contain most of the harder overtures and small Operatic selections. Ive already got two exercise books and now the one Ive ordered will make three. Ill never want for anything to practice from.

Well sweetheart Im not over anxious to go down there nor am I trying to get out of the detail. If I stayed in the States I might be able to make another leave before I get paid off but if I go to Port Au Prince Ill save about \$75.00 by not making that leave. It may make it a little harder for both of us by being separated for so long a time but on the other hand it will mean so much more toward our wedding. Then to it will make us appreciate each other more if that is possible and just think darling when I come back Ill be able to count my days on my hands and then Ill be a free man again and Ill be up there with you. Then Ill bet they'll never separate us again. Not if I can help it.

I haven't heard anything about my pencil yet even in spite of the reward they must be afraid of exposing themselves. Id like to lay my hands on the guy thats got that. Ill bet that bird would think three hundred times before he ever touched another cent or article that doesn't belong to him. Ive got a kind of a hunch that the pencil is right along on this detail with us. If it ever shows up Ill sure get it. If it ever shows up in Quantico Ill be notified by a dozen guys and the man in whose possession it is found will be locked up until I can get sent back to prosecute at the guys General Court Martial. Id hate like the dickens to send a man up four a couple of years for theft or cause him to get discharged dishonorably but if that pencil is ever found Ill sure do that thing.

Well honey Im going to sign off now and get this letter and my order off so bye bye for now and dont forget to think of your

Puritan

I love you more each day honey and if it keeps up like this Im afraid Ill be loving you to death. I still dream of little Joseph. Do you?

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 3 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (Mess hall casual) M.B. N.O.B. Hampton Roads Va.

March 2, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest:

We were supposed to leave aboard the Kittery today but that old tub is so crowded that we are being left behind and it may be a month or more before we get to leave here. Im in the Mess hall now and I suppose Ill stay there until we leave here. Seeing as we'll be here a while you might write to me at this address

Pvt. E.G. Thomas
M.B.N.O.B.
Hampton Roads
Virginia
(MSM)

The (MSM) at the bottom means messman. Thats just a precautionary measure.

This would be a nice place to be stationed if they only had a band here. I can look right out of our window over the Bay and see everything from rowboats to battleships and even aeroplane carriers. That means the new ship (The U.S.S. Lexington) shes out in the harbor now she sails for San Diego on March 7th

I havent written to Min or Erv or Lill or anyone yet since I get here but I think I will today. I think Ill write to Min first and then if Ive any ambition left Ill write to the rest of them. My mail so far has been forwarded to Port Au Prince so it will be another week before I get any of it so write soon. I kind of wish they would hurry us out of here and get us going to Port. Im anxious to get a good lip on the clarinet again and here I am without an instrument.

Well if they don't send me down there pretty soon I won't have much time to do when I do get down there. I should worry though. If they keep me here three months Ill come home on another furlough. I dont mean maybe either and if they get wise about it Ill just turn into sick quarters again and leave them get someone else to do the work Im doing now.

Well honey this letter is being written in spasms. This is the second spasm. I was called away kind of sudden like to serve eleven oclock chow and by the time we got our own chow it was time for the regular mess again.

You can't imagine how much I miss you honey. It seems like Ive loved you since I knew you honey but I never knew how much nicer it is when your love is returned. That furlough sure made me realize what a nice thing Love can be. It makes a man want to get going and get something accomplished. I just can't seem to do enough to suit myself anymore and everything I do I always wonder would she like it this way. Call me a sick calf or whatever you like but its true. I think of you all the time and always imagine that you are there by my side.

I saw two good pictures in the last two nights. One was, "The Wizard" I forgot who was playing the lead part and Last night I saw "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" Im not a gentleman though, Im a Marine and most Marines Love Brunettes and a few prefer blondes, but none of them love blondes. They do say that a blonde is treacherous and can't be trusted. I know a couple that Id trust with anything I own. One especially. This one did me a big favor, a favor Im afraid Ill never be able to return. I wish I knew how I could. Perhaps some little gift from the tropics, when I arrive there, might be appreciated. Do you think so?

Well honey Ive still got an hour to write before I have to go back to the mess hall and at just such a time I run out of things to write about. Ill bet if I was to start working right now Id think of a cool million things to write about but when I sit down to do the writing my mind seems to wander to "My Blue Heaven." You remember The cozy room and the fire place in that song? Thats where my mind wanders to.

When that fireplace and that cozy room comes true and its Derby & me & Joe makes three. Then we'll be happy in our own Blue Heaven. There won't be any squads right column left then anymore.

Well honey Ive still got enough time to write Min a few lines and let her know where Im at so when you get this dont forget to write because Im lonesome for a letter or two a half dozen wont spoil me. Ill always be

Your Porter

Here's some Love & Kisses from
Your Puritan
XOXOXOXO

P.S. Dont forget to write soon

P.S.S. Write soon

P.S.S.S. Dont forget a couple of letters.

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 485 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 5 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (casual) M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

March 3 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest:

Ive just written a letter to Lill and Im going to try to write you a few lines before I have to go to the mess hall again. Im acting chief now and Im responsible to see that all the tables and dishes and so forth are cleaned properly and that the mess men give good service at meal times and I sure have to look alive to make em work.

Some goof just came in and spoiled my train of ~~spuds~~ thought so I threw him out. The darn fool came back at me and was going to wrestle with me. I threw him through a loop the loop and made him say uncle. Hes some kid just came into the service and don't realize how much hes got to learn yet before hes a real Marine.

Ive been on the go since 3:30 this A.M. now I had to get up to help the cook get the chow and Ive been keeping the messmen going ever since in order to get the mess hall ready for the regular Saturday inspection. Im so tired I could sleep for two weeks.

Well honey I havent heard from you in such a long time now that I don't even know what you have been doing or what you intend to do or what pictures you intend to see or anything about West tech.

I saw another good picture here last night. I saw, "Larry Semon" in ~~"The Woman"~~ "The girl in the Limousine" That picture was a scream and I don't mean maybe. I think Ill get to see another good one Monday night. Ill try to get around to it. Its "Karl Dane" in "The Enemy" I think its going to be a ripping good one.

About 3 hours later.

Well sweetheart it may take me a long time to get a letter to you written but I generally do. Its been about 3 hours now since I had to quit writing and go back to work. We had a big chow and served twelve tables which is 120 men and then only enough showed up to fill about eight which means 80 men so we had to empty all those extra dishes and all that extra food and had to clean & scrub the tables all for nothing then we had to put away a bunch of supplies that came in today. All in all Im just about out on my feet. My puppies feel like five balloons on each canal boat.

Well in spite of being dead and tired etc Ill bet if I was given the chance right now I could sit up till 3 A.M. and make love to you every minute of that time. I sure miss you honey, even more than you realize. If I was out of the service now and had you and a good job all to myself Id be the happiest man in this old world. Id never ask for anything more. "Just a Cottage Small" Ive been singing that tune all day now. Gee honey if I was going to stay here the rest of my cruise you could feel perfectly at ease. There isn't a woman of any description within 9 miles of this place. The only time Ive seen a woman since I got here was the other night when I went in to town and the outskirts of the town are just 9 miles

away. This place is nice though. The quarters here are in a old hotel that the Marine Corps bought with the land. It's the Pine Beach Hotel. We sleep three men to a room and weve got plenty of space to spare. Our window looks out over the bay and we see all kinds of watercraft from Battle wagons on down to row boats and at night we can see the lights of Newport News across the bay. I cant see anything but your picture now though. Ive got it right across from me. Oh yes I took it along in my heavy. I wrapped it up in my towel and they thought that was the way I had the towel folded.

Did I tell you about my watch honey? I broke mine and took and traded it for another broken one. The fellow told me it is over 80 years old and I found out today that in July it will be 87 years old. Its one of those that you wind with a key and set with a key a regular antique. If I get a chance to get it fixed I will and if not Ill send it to you the way it is. I dont want to take it to Haiti with me. Its very old but its also very nice flowers painted in the dial and all. Its even in a padded leather pocket case. I wouldn't part with it even if it couldn't be fixed. Lets see now that means it was bought just about twenty four years after the Revolutionary war or about nineteen years before the Civil war. Is that right.

I guess Ill have to close now honey and dont dont forget to write cause if I dont hear from you at least by Tuesday Ill quit writing until I do hear from you so if you love me write to

Your Puritan
Porter

(Love me honey.) XXXXXXXXXXXXOOOOOOOOOXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 7 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (casual) M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

March 5th 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest:

I just got my work for this morning done. We got through kind of early. My men went bolshevick on me yesterday so I showed them my game. I got myself a chair and sat down and made those birds sweep the galley, then scrub it and then sweep it again and swab it. Then we started all over again till the deck shone. Boy what I mean those buzzards worked this morning. They weren't taking any chances on working till 9:30 at night again. They know who is boss now. There was only one reason why I didn't like that and it was because I couldn't write the letter I wanted to write last night.

This is some rotten life honey. Here is another day gone by and still no letter from you. Gee I wish you would write. I guess you did though only the letters are being forwarded to the wrong place. Im lonesome though and getting no mail makes me blue on top of that Im wondering if my Derby still loves me. If her letters would get here I would know but this way I can't tell. Do you realize that its now nine days since I heard from you? Nine days. Thats to long for any man to wait for a letter. But then I know it isn't your fault. Do you want to know what I done? I tore up everything from the way I had it packed in my sea bag and got out all of your letters and read them over. Ive simply got to read a letter from you every once in a while and if I can't have a new one I guess Ill have to read the old ones.

Do you know that its both nice and bad to be in love while in the service. I think there is nothing nicer than true love since Ive tasted it but its also got its bad side because to love someone and be far away from them makes it hard. As much as I like the service, still I hate it for keeping me separated. Still I put up with it all because it all brings us closer to "Our Blue Heaven." That day whenever it may be will be the happiest day I ever want to see. Im always afraid it won't happen though and it hurts to even think that way. I haven't even got a bit of reason for it but every once in a while I think, "Just suppose she should change her mind." Then my whole day is spoiled. I don't know what Id do if you ever quit me honey. I love you so much that I just couldn't live without you. I wish you wouldn't insist on my seeing you personally to decide the big date. Id feel better if I knew how much longer Ive got to wait. Just like the Marine Corps I know just how many days Ive got yet. Ive got 482 more days. I get paid off on the 482nd morning from now so you see Id like to figure that out the same way. That makes the time pass quicker. If you can't decide yourself get Hoppy to help you out. She seems to have a lot of good ideas. Some night when have nothing else to do just get a hold of a three year callender and find a date you like and then let me know how many days.

I had to quit writing when I had finished the word three in the last paragraph and served two chows and got the galley cleaned again before I wrote the rest of the sentence.

Oh well about 20 or 25 more days and then we leave for the land of good beer and sunshine.

Some bozo here thats sleeping in this room with me just gave me a sermon on self control if he only knew. You tell him honey. I stutter to think that he would preach to me about control of our passions. Why Ive got more control of my passion than he has over his own head.

Talk of a sick calf all you want to honey but if I don't get a letter tomorrow Im going to start tearing up things around here.

Doggone it I cant help thinking of that darn cottage small by the waterfall. I have a couple of songs like that and I keep singing them all day long and I just cant get them out of my head for some reason or another but that cottage small runs through my head more than any other. Dream castles I guess.

I suppose by this time you will have received your sailors blues and the books. Haven't you? One of my buddies up there at Quantico promised to send them first chance he got and I think by this time you should have them.

Say I hope old Bill Caldwell dont take to writing to me in Haiti for a while yet cause if he does his letters are liable to travel six months before I get them. Ive written to Erv and Lill and Min and left them all know where Im at. I think Ill write to my dad tonight if Im not to tired. I told him not to write till he heard from me so I guess he's still waiting.

Well darling I think Ill quit writing now and start hoping that I have a letter from you tomorrow cause if I don't have one by then Ill go nuts. If thats possible. Write soon often and much honey or Im liable to think youve forgotten to Love Honor & obey cherish or that you don't love me anymore so if you don't want me to think that write to

Your ~~Puritan~~ I dont like that
Porter

P.S. Dont forget to write

P.S.S. Make it soon & often

Love & Kisses
OOOO XXXX
OOOO XXXX
OOOO XXXX

40 candle power

XX

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 7 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (casual) M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

March 6 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest Derby:

Here is another day half gone and still no letter, oh well it may arrive this afternoon. I just wonder how Im supposed to write and keep my mind on what I am writing when the victrola next door is playing, "My Blue Heaven," and every once in so often it switches to, "Im Drifting back to Dreamland." Thats another song I like very much

I saw Lillian Gish & Cark Dane in, "The Enemy," last night but it wasn't half as good as I expected it to be. It was fairly good though.

Well honey Im starting to think that you are sorry you ever promised to marry me, or else that you don't love me anymore. I only wish you would write soon so I could know for sure that it isn't true. When I get your letters all the time then I know that you love me even as much as I love you. But how am I supposed to know or be reassured when no letters come. I wish I had you here so I could hold you close and kiss you. Then I know that no one could ever take you from me. I can still taste that kiss I got at the Depot and Im not stretching the truth one bit honey when I say that the kisses I got while on that furlough told me of a great and a nice love. Those kisses are still warm on my lips honey. Ill never forget any of them. The memory of that furlough will always be with me honey, no matter where I go.

Ill have to be going to the Mess hall now in a few minutes honey so Id better close this missil with much love and kisses and many hopes for a letter soon so write to you Marine friend and make it Muyo Pronto

Always Yours
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX
40 candle power

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 7 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (casual) M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Va.

March 6, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest Derby:

I wrote once this morning but Ive a little time over this afternoon so how could I spend that time better than by writing to my sweetheart.

I just heard some news this noon. The Marine Corps is going to give me a nice present for my birthday this year. I just heard that the next boat for Haiti is the, "Vega," and she sails from here on my birthday. Oh well dont worry sweetheart that will make my tropical duty so much shorter. They won't keep me there even a year then cause I wont have enough time to do. I only wish I could take you down there with me. That is the land of romance you know. To be able to take you along would fill the cup of joy, but as that can't be I guess we'll have to make the best of things as they come.

Have you been doing any practicing on your violin lately? I hope so. Id like to know that I have a real musical family. Know what Im going to do honey? Im going to make a nice big radio set and Im going to to have a genuine mahogany cabinet made for it. They have better mahogany in Haiti than they do here you know. That will make one piece of furniture we won't have to buy. I think Ill make a set like the one Min and Max have only a nicer looking one.

Gee its turned colder down here today honey. Its so cold that I was just thinking of going down to the galley to finish this letter but I decided not to cause all the cooks and messmen are down there fooling around and they would always be interrupting my train of thought.

Have you decided the day yet? I mean our big day. Do you know honey Ive just been thinking our wedding day will make me a very happy man but do you realize that it wont be the only happy day in our life. If you want to go through with it the arrival of (for the sake of argument shall we say), "Joe," we would always have a binding tie. Of course that's up to you. You know as well as I do what it will mean but if you are willing you'll surely find me the same.

Well honey girl this paper is getting full so Ill close while I still have room for the

Love & Kisses
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Here's drinking to the day. Make it cherry. XX

[illegible]

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 9 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (casual) M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

March 8, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest Bea:

Ive got the blues. No letter today either. Why don't you write? Have I done or said anything wrong? If I have Im sorry. I hope you havent changed your mind and decided that you wouldn't go through with marrying me. I love you to much honey, still if it would make you happier – just let me know. You know I told you that if you found you had made a mistake by accepting me Id go and it may be hard to say or do but I stand by my word. I do hope its not that though. If it is that Ill promise you won't hear from me anymore. This will be the last letter I write until I do hear from you. I heard from my dad this morning and when they handed me the letter this morning I thought it was from you till I saw the front.

Ive been spending all my spare minutes today reading over all your letters and I just couldn't stand it. For once in my life Im afraid, afraid you are casting me off. I sure wish you would write and end all this useless misery. I can't believe though that you would want to break our engagement it has been to beautiful. Ill never forget the happy moments you have given me. both by your letters and your kisses and by your promise. I only pray to God that it may not be over yet. Oh it can't be though. I love you to much to let you go so easily as that. Cant you see yourself honey that I love you? Yes love you more than anything. Why don't you write?

I cant write anymore now as my head ~~huts~~ hurts me and my heart is to heavy to tell me what to write except that Ill love you always now write soon so I may know.

Love & Kisses
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX XX

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 9 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

March 9, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest:

Your letter got here this morning. Ive never knew it to fail yet that when I get hasty and send off a letter Im liable to regret the very next day I always get a letter that had been delayed or something. I wish you would just disregard the letter I sent yesterday. Im sorry I sent it, or even wrote it. I didnt think it was possible that you should forget this love of ours so soon but you know how that goes when no letter gets here for two weeks.

Ive been sick for the last couple of days but I didn't turn in and just stuck it out. I got up early as usual this morning and got the chow out but I immediately turned the whole mess over to an understudy and came up to my room and slept till eleven oclock. I went back down then to see that the early chow was put out and I was feeling better. Since then Ive put out the regular noon meal and got the galley clean and now Im feeling almost fit as a fiddle. I had two letters waiting for me when I got down there. One from you, thank God, and one from Erv. I must have been nuts last night cause Im finding things done that I dont remember doing. I find on the back of the folder of your picture that I have all the, shall we say (red letter letters) recorded. The back of the folder is ruled off into spaces and each (red letter volume) that I ever got is recorded, day month and year. "By red letter volume," I mean a letter that contains something that means more to me than what some of the others do. Maybe just a word or an expression or something. I had to get rid of some of those letters honey cause there was no room to take them along so I saved the most important ones and squeezed them in. They are letters such as the one you mailed July 7, 1927 where you promised to be my wife and like the one to the Greatest of the Great Pmts and the one where after the Post script you signed yourself BeaX. Those are just some of them. There are 114 so far. I think Ill keep up that list as long as the spaces hold out.

Im sorta glad Im not going for a while but in another way I wish I was there already. Im losing money by staying here. Ive got no rating while Im here. If you want to honey Ill put in a request to stay here but Im warning you I stand to lose some money if I do. Id probably get rated but Id lose other ways and that would mean so much less of a start for us.

I didn't even know you were having those pictures enlarged. I suppose you told me about it in the letters that are doing all the globe trotting.

The Lexington left here a couple of days ago. Id have liked to have been aboard her but she wasn't going my way at all. She's heading for the West Coast.

Yes I can see where one Marine will forget how to pivot for squads right column left. He will most probably have to learn how to take care of a furnace.

I believe you are right about Hoppy. What she needs more than anything else is a Prince Charming. Id have like to had her meet Erv but maybe its as well she didn't. He isn't good enough for

her and who should know it better than myself. Hes an athletic fan like her fond of sports but hes a darn sight to crazy yet.

Why should you write that experience is the best teacher? Have you had that experience?

Darn right Ill, "write!", and also, "Love," my Beatrice. No one knows how much I love her and as my vocabulary is small and I keep my mouth shut a good deal of the time Im afraid no one but my Beatrice will ever know, and if there is a God in Heaven Im sure he will help me to be worthy of her or at least as worthy as it is possible for me to be.

You havent told me yet if you have received the two packages Im having sent you from Quantico. Have you? The one had those sailor blues in it and the other had those books in it.

Did I tell you about that old watch I got my hands onto? Im crazy about old things like that. Wait till you see it. You'll be wild about it in place of winding it with the stem you just press the stem and the back opens up to the place where the key is used. Then you pry the next cover up and you see the working machinery in it. Real old fashioned clockworks. Ill send it first chance I get to keep it from being stolen so if you care to see the inside save these instructions.

Im also waiting for the bawling out Im going to get on account of my pencil. I got a letter from Quantico yesterday. They found some guy that had a gold pencil and they had him under guard until one of my bunkies who had a copie of the floral design could get back from liberty. He wrote me about it and said the design was altogether different and anyway it was some other make of pencil not a, "Wahl." I wrote back and told him to offer a reward for me to any one that brought in any correct information. I suppose its useless though whoever got it knows better than to let it be seen.

Honey Im going to give you a good laugh. Im going to rewrite Erv's letter for you word for word and letter for letter. He writes

Dear Buddy:-,

I received your letter of March 3 & was ~~sup~~ glad to hear that you were still in the good old U.S.. I am sorry to hear that the U.S.S. Kittery was to crowded ~~to~~ that it was no room left for you but I think you better off in the ~~it~~ States don't you think so. I wrote a letter sometime in February but I don't think that you have received it as you dont state in your letter. How come ~~y~~ that you are swinging grease balls what in Hell did you do now that you are in the grease ball ~~bushiness~~ business.

For some reason or other my mind is blank today for writing so I will make this letter short but still theres some news it to interest you ~~ya~~ to give the satisfaction, that I have received your letter will write soon as something pops in my head.

Respectfully Your Buddy

Ervin

I have written him a letter telling him they had made a grease ball out of me for the duration of my stay here. That is the letter I received today and all those words scratched out are just as they are in his letter.

Well honey I hope you forget all about that letter I wrote yesterday and will write me often so I wont have to wait so long for another letter and lets hope that it never comes to what I was afraid of in

yesterdays letter. I dont know what Id do if that ever did happen. Think of me only as your Porter and Love me as I love you and don't forget to write soon to Your

Porter

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Have you figured this out yet X

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 14 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (casual) M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

March 10, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton roads Virginia

To the one and only Derby:
Dearest:

I know now that all my fears were groundless and I know that in spite of everything you are still my own _____. Still waiting for the time when I can come and claim you. Oh yes. I think those things to. My imagination is always working. Im always building castles and working toward that day. How happy Ill be and how proud. I know Ill be happy and if I can make you as happy then Id be satisfied.

Who wrote my name and address on the envelope of the letter I received today? It looks like your writing and again it doesn't. It looks like you might have been very nervous or excited when you wrote it. What was the matter? Or are you sick and didn't tell me? The writing in the whole letter seems to be different.

The champion olive eater seems to be in better health and spirits today than he has been for the last couple of days except for a bump on the skull that I got this morning coming out of the supply room. I seem to be O.K. Thats what I get for trying to take six foot of Marine through a five foot door on a run, # it seems I must have forgotten to stoop or else the door forgot to stretch. I havent decided which yet. I guess its about six of one and a half dozen of the other. The finger seems to be coming along fine when I dont bump it and Im being as careful as I know how to be.

I wish I could be with you to hear you play our piece with the violin muted. Ill bet it sounded nice. Still if Id been there I don't suppose you would have played it. You would have been sitting by me, where you belong.

Oh I don't know honey I think the only reason we can't think of a whole lot to write is because we write so often. If I was to write only two letters a week I think I could put more pages into them but Id rather get one short letter every day or every other day than to get a long letter twice a week. How about you? Do you know a little verse that goes with, "Mendelsons Spring Song,"? Its something like this, "Once upon a time famous poet said. Ill pen an ode to Spring. But, when he began to write he found the bird had taken wing. Then someone played a melody so grand, his soul was moved. Tis Mendelsons Spring Song said he" Did you ever hear that verse honey? I don't remember it all but I think that is about what you were trying to tell me. Now I can't write what Im thinking because now Im singing the, "Spring Song."

Is that the best you can wish for honey? To be in the country for an extended period of time. My word, you should hear my wish once and see how simple it makes your little wish. I wish I was with you right now and that I was in a position to make you my wife today. We wouldn't have to cut loose to have a good time then, we would have one another to make us happy.

Say if you dont quit adopting every gas station and railway station that we go to why soon we'll have such a large family that we won't have any room for, "Joe." Better go easy honey. How many stations have we got now.

How come Mom brings the letters to work? Doesn't she start work at the same time you do? Sure you could guess by now that youve got a letter most every day cause Ive only missed three days since I got back off of leave. Thats twenty one out of twenty four.

I had a big argument last night again. Ive got a room by myself now and some guy came in snooping around last night and ended up by making some wise crack. I was forced to give him a lesson in manners and then throw him out on his ear. Can you imagine that guy telling me that you must be Jewish. I guess I know better myself and I guess he does to by now. He's got an awfull time explaining how he nearly put his eye out on the door last night. You cant fool these old soldiers around here though. They know to much cause theyve seen to many shiners to think that that many guys run into doors. I topped off all the fun though by putting him out of the mess hall for making to much noise this noon. He will make an apology or Ill run him ragged.

Well honey dont forget to write often and think of me often and love me a little. Ill always do the same honey always. Ill Love Honor & Cherish my Own.

Love & Many Kisses
Porter

[illegible]

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 11 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

March 11, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest:

I hardly know if I should expect a letter today or not but Im going to try my had at writing anyway.

This day seems to be Sunday to some men but outside of the fact that it brings me a day closer to you, it is just another day for me. This makes 475 more. No! --- I just figured it up again and 375 to do for 3 months early discharge. That would be 10 days more than a year to do.

There was a detail of men sent back from Nicaragua last night, or rather they got here last night. Honey you can't guess how glad I am now that they wouldn't let me go along when I wanted to. These men tell some awfull tales of bad food no place to sleep living in mud up to the waist drunkenness, sickness, filth and also blood thirstiness. One of them shows us a shirt taken from a gook. This fellow had put a whole clip through the gook into a space almost as small as a silver dollar. Then he took the shirt for a souvenir. We fed those men and when I saw how starved they were I gave strict orders to feed them all the could hold and I mean they did justice to the meal. Some of the men were sent back because they got malaria from the drinking water others got other diseases some wounded. Two died on board ship from wounds. Im sure glad now that I didn't go down. The only thing hard about band duty down there is the starvation and what little gold fish & hard tack they get is mouldy. So the worst part of that is the living conditions. Those fellows got under a shower here for a decent bath and almost had to be driven out to give the next man a chance. I hear that one man was so over joyed to get back to the States that when he got into Norfolk and saw a white woman his feet gave out on him. Thats what the, "Glory of War," does for men. They have Chaplains and Chapels here where they preach about the Ten Commandments where it says (Thou Shalt not kill) then they turn the men around and let them, "Kill & be Killed." If they are going to stop all the useless slaughter down there they ought to get it over with as soon as possible. They could put a shot over the Island from any one of their, "Men O War," and blow the place completely off the map without loosing a single Marine. All those fine white American boys being killed just so a few less niggers will be killed. This may all sound kind of radical to you honey but it isn't. If I was called on to go I wouldn't balk any Id do my share like the rest do but what makes me mad is that all those perfectly good White men should be sacrificed to save a few ignorant niggers, without whom the world would be much better off.

I think Id better find out what time it is honey and finish this after we get dinner served.

Well here I am again about three and a half hours later.

Weve served cow since then for twenty men at eleven oclock and cleaned up after that and served chow for 100 more men at twelve. Boy what a chow. Breaded veal cutlets, gravey, mashed potatoes, stewed corn, cream peas, asparagus – tips, celery, lettuce salad, bread, butter, coffee, cake &

ice cream. They sure serve good chows here. They can do it easily enough though cause theyve only got a few men to feed, not like at Quantico where each company feeds over twice as many men.

I just found out that Im not getting a letter from you today honey. Why? Its because there is no mail delivery here, like there is in Quantico, on Sunday. I believe finding that out has taken away much of my pep to cause now Ive forgotten all that I was going to tell you but then why worry Ive two and a half hours to remember it in.

I suppose you will be wondering why I'm using this stationary again. Its because the pen was getting empty and caused a big blot of ink to fall on my last sheet of the other paper and as I have quite a bit of this on hand I decided to use it up. Chalk up 40¢ more saved toward furniture.

Im even doing my own laundry this month. Not because Im trying to save those few dollars but because if I was to send clothes to the laundry here and got notice to leave in a couple of hours time Id just be out that many clothes. I washed a half dozen suits of underwear and a dozen hankys and a couple of towels yesterday and Im washing some socks tonight and if Ive got time afterward maybe a couple of shirts.

I read a good book in my spare moments since Ive been here. The name is, "Mr. & Mrs. Villiers," its got some pretty radical ideas of married life in it. I got a big laugh out of it.

I saw, "Johny Hines," in "All Aboard," and that is a scream, if you haven't seen it and get the chance go, by all means, you'll like it I know.

Gee honey, this world sure is a funny place. Here weve been having weather quite in keeping with the time of year, not too cold and still not spring nor has it been rainy, yet about a hundred and fifty miles north of here in Quantico and Washington they had one of the hardest snow storms and blizzards that theyve seen in years. That isn't so far from here either. One might almost say a stones throw. Id really like to see a real good snow storm just once more before I leave for Haiti.

Ive just been thinking honey they wont be able to keep me down there even a year cause we don't expect to get down there till sometime in the later part of April or first part of May and they dont discharge a person that far from home. They always send them to the closest garrison camp to their home and discharge them from there so if I get down there in May they will either send me back in the early or middle part of March or early part of May. wouldn't it be hotsy to know one is coming back to the states with only a few days to do when one arrives? Gee it will be easier to keep working down there now cause Ill always be thinking, "only a year and so many days and Ill be able to go to her for good. You can't imagine how much it spurs a fellow on with his work when his loves a girl and knows that she loves him in return. Its made me so that no matter what they put me to doing or how much of it I can always sing a song and think about you and even if they were to stop me from singing a song at myself they couldnt no way stop me from thinking about you, and that in itself is a consolation. Thats why I like to get up early in the morning. It just gives me so many more hours each day to think about you and about the kisses I got from you.

Do you still think that everything I want to write about vanishes when I sit down to write? No my sweetheart it doesn't, only the most important things do and it makes me so sore to forget those important things that I dont write the rest of the things I think about. The most important thing I can think of is that I love you but I always forget just how I had intended to put it into the letter and if I was

just to write I love You and repeat it a dozen or two times you would soon grow tired of it. Then what would I do? Id have a broken heart. I can't bear to even think of anything like that honey all I can think of is that I love you and of course I think of a home and kiddies and a violin and clarinet duet to lass the time away. Then a few say about 17 or 18 years later I can see more. Ill bet you cant guess what it is? Ill tell you if you can't guess. Just ask me.

No my darling this life doesn't get boring for you or for me because we have to much to look forward to. It may be that times passes to slowly for us but we aren't bored. We might be able to tell all about what a cruel world this is for keeping us apart but we are never really bored. When you want to get away from everything for a week or two it is a sign that you want to forget routine matters but its not because they bore you but because a change of scenery makes one forget and it makes the time pass quicker.

I hope Mom doesn't have to carry this all the way over town for you honey. If it has to be taken down to you Id advise her to ship it by express or freight or something like that. Ill bet she would cuss me for a month if she had to carry it very far, I wouldn't blame her either.

Well darling I hope you will enjoy this letter although Im afraid that will be pretty hard to do and I hope you will write to me soon, often, and much. That part should be easy. Im closing now so write to

Your lonesome
Porter

Love & Many Kisses

XX

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 13 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia 464 days

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

464 days March 14, 1928 464 and a flop

Dearest:

Please don't think for one minute that I doubt you honey. I don't in fact I trust you more than anyone I know of. I was simply beside myself the other day when I wrote that letter. I hadn't heard from you in such a long time and I didn't realize that it takes a day longer for a letter to reach you from here than it does from Quantico and the same with the letters for me. By this time I think you will have received the letter telling you to disregard that letter where you say I doubted you. I am ashamed of myself honey but I just couldn't help it. I love you so much that my mind refused to figure out anything else. The only thing my mind was saying all day was, "You lost her," and it was torture to think

I just got another letter from my dad today honey. He told me about everything he bought with that check and all about the stock hes got now. He wrote part of the letter in german trying to fool me, but I foxed him and wrote back in german. Ill fool him good some day. Ill tell him something in Spanish and Ill bet he'll lay off then. I dont know much Spanish but what I do know is just that much more than he knows.

Ive started work in my course again honey. I wrote out a lesson on Transformers last night. I sure burned the midnight oil. I worked on it till eleven oclock last night.

That watch I was telling you about cant be such a relic as it is old. I performed an operation on it the other day and wound it up with a pliers and stuck it together and lo and behold it ran for a period of 7 hours and twelve minutes.

Have you received one of my letters yet that was mailed in Washington? I suppose you are wondering how come when I am about 150 miles south of there. Well a buddy of mine went to Washington to get some dental work finished that was started when we were in Quantico so as he was going to Washington I thought he might as well mail it for me and we would give you a small puzzle to work out.

Im getting more time to write here for the last few days. They have been keeping us well supplied with messmen. I just got three more which all means the work gets done so much quicker. These three seem to be a little radical as yet but Ill soon take that out of them. Ill have them working themselves to death for a few days and they'll get so they jump when I yell. Then if that don't bring them around Ive got another method that will.

I wrote a small note yesterday so I haven't much to tell you today but you should have enough news stored up to write me a book.

I Love you more each day darling if that is possible and I think of you always. Only 464 more days.

Muyo Besos Ye Pesos
Your Porter

"See you later"
About 50 or 100 times

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XX

Enclosed –

4506 Oak Park Cleveland Aug 2 – 27 –

Dear Friend, --

I might as well tell you in the first few lines what Ive got to say. Lindy flew to Paris and has just visited Cleveland – but I sent you a letter a short while ago and didn't receive no ans so if you don't get this letter please write to me and I will send it at once. – "Yaw"

Business has been dull since you lefted especially the saloon business. Your wife was took to the insanig assylm yesterday she was crazy to see you.

I saw your boy yesterday for the first time. I thinks he looks just like you but he is all right otherwise so I would not worry if I were you.

I am sending you by Adams Eggs Press your overcoat and as they charge so much a pound to send it I cut off de buttons. Hoping this will prove satisfactory You will find de button on the inside pocket.

I almost forgot to tell you I got married last week I got a pretty good wife. She from Mt Zion but I think I could have got a better one at Newville as they have a larger stock to select from.

Well kid we aint doing much around our neck of the woods no excitement only we held a few beach parties and wiener roast. Also I got into a scrap with the step father because he beat my mother up. I come out the worst he didn't come out very nice I battered hell out of his face knocked out a couple of teeth and blackened his eyes and all I got was 2 bites on a little over my tit and another on the arm also I got my neck all scratched up where he tried to choke me.

Irving is Lifeguard instructor down at Brookside park also he aint working neither is Bill Meyers. I work every day but still Im flat broke week in and week out.

I don't know if you knew that Lindy was here in Cleveland for the 1st and 2nd of Aug. there was some excitement about him I only went out to the airport to see his plane. Boy it's a small one.

As this is all I got to say I will Klose my mouth and aspect you to do da same. Hoping dis will reach you before you get it and dat you vill answer before dat. I remain your confectionary second to the last Kousin

James Anderson
4506 Oak Park
Cleveland

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 15 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas (casual) M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

March 14 M.B.N.O.B. 462 more

Dearest:

Your special delivery arrived this noon and as we just got our tables cleaned and re-set Im through till four oclock so Im going to answer it now.

I think I told you in one of my letters that I had one posted in Washington. Well the fellow that took it along forgot to mail it, gave it back to me this morning so I mailed that a little while ago.

Dont bother your little head trying to figure it out darling, Im getting your letters now and those that were forwarded to Haiti will get to me sometime or another.

Boy what I mean, if you could see me for one minute now to wipe away those doubts that arent here, Ill bet you would never go back to Cleveland till I get discharged. Id never leave you go any more honey.

I believe you when you say you love me darling and Im happier for knowing it, and as for that furlough you might never forget it but neither will I.

It does seem like there must always be a fly in every ointment, dont it honey? Here weve both found love only to be ~~denied that love~~ well the love isn't denied cause Ill always love you no matter how far apart we may be but, they or if you would rather have it that way fate sees fit for us to be separated for a while yet before we shall have a chance to be married and to show our love other ways than by these precious letters that we both value so very much.

What luck Im having here honey. First I get to be in charge of the messmen here and now I get an even better chance. It seems that the all Marine baseball team is going to train here this year. They will probably begin getting here tonight and as they have special chow while training we have set four special tables and Im going to be in charge of those four tables so it will be up to me whether or not the Marine team is well fed or starved while training this year. I will still be in charge of the other men but I won't stay behind them all the time because Ill be busy with my four tables. Don't you wish you were me? Just think of all the baseball players you could get acquainted with.

Know what I was thinking of much of the time when I didn't hear from you darling? Well I was going to get a week end and a 72 hour leave that's 120 hours all told and I was going to come up and take you along with me. That would just have given us enough time to have got married but as that wouldnt have given us time to get married in Cleveland and we couldn't hardly take Hoppy to Pittsburgh I put that plan out to the wind. On 120 hours I could just get to Cleveland at 6:00 A.M. and take the train out again at 8:00 A.M. and I wouldn't have a layover long enough to be married until I'd be almost back but gee honey if 120 hours would have given me time to catch a later train you would be a

married woman now and your residence would be temporarily in Norfolk Va. I mean I was honestly speculating on that only the time tables showed me it couldn't be done and still have Hoppy there for a while I was going to get you and make apologies later but I changed my mind.

I received a letter from Lill this morning about an hour after your letter she hasn't much to say but what she has to say is sure welcome. She says that I shouldn't say Im writing Beatrice a few lines. Lill says to tell the truth and say "I'll write you a few books." She also wants to know, "If you still write me volumes." How does she know you wrote that to me? Surely Ive never told her and Im sure she's never seen any of your letters once they got here. There seems to be a, "gook," in the wood pile somewhere. I guess I'll have to investigate. Did she get out seeing you Sunday? Or were you out? She said she might see you but she said it was such a nice day she didn't think you would be at home.

Thanks for telling me again that you love me and taking such pains to be sure the letter gets here honey I sure appreciate it and it's made me happier than you can guess.

Well I guess I'll close now honey and try to catch a couple of winks of beauty sleep.

Yours Always
Porter

P.S. Thanks for being mine always.

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Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 16 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas M.B.N.O.B.

Hampton Roads Va.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

March 15, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Va.

Dearest:

I received another letter this morning and Im thinking it's too good to be true. The letter I received this morning is, -- well I think I'll call it your relief letter, because you are as much relieved to know that I have received your letter as I am to know that you still love me.

I guess you are right there to when you say it wasn't Erg's letter that cured my sickness. Well honey to tell you the truth about it your letter sure cured the sick heart but the tired feeling was cured more by taking it easier at my work and letting my men do a little more instead of trying to do it all myself. Ive only got about 40 minutes though till early dinner because I had to serve a special chow for the few ball players that got here. It seems they aren't going to stay though. They are going to stay nine miles from here at Norfolk instead. Tough luck.

Im glad you got your packages honey and Im glad you liked the outfit although I was a little afraid it wouldn't fit. Im glad you liked that extra book honey. I enjoyed it myself. Sure I picked it myself but don't blame me because I was just lucky enough to get a good one, most of the books I pick are, "lemons."

Don't worry about that watch honey I'll send it the first chance I get to go to town. I can't very well go to town until Uncle Sam decides to give me my last month's 20/80 or at least it wouldn't do any good. We will get it in a few days now so why worry. I performed another operation on the watch the other night and had it running for 16 hours but one can't afford to take a watch apart every time it needs winding and unless I can get a key to wind it with Im afraid that is what we will have to do.

I wrote Babe a letter last night and asked her to write. I didn't know the baby was sick. Im glad she is better again. I guess I'll have to write Bonnie a little letter one of these days when I write to Min and I'll have to tell her where Emil is and also where, "The lady," is.

Well honey you refer to the trick they tried on me that Sunday. I suppose you mean the time they tried to get me drunk? Honey I could take two to their everyone and still drink them drunk. Ive quit drinking that way though.

Well darling Ive simply got to quit for a while now and go to the mess hall for early chow so Ill write more at about two oclock this afternoon.

1:30 P.M.

Well honey we got through in nice time today everything went as smooth as velvet everyone did their part without any argument whatever.

Ive decided on a new idea since I got Lills letter yesterday. I decided I would write you a book seeing as everyone thinks thats what I should do. Ive decided to answer all your letters as they come with short ones and all the time Ill be writing this ?? Book. It will probably contain many things youve wanted to know for a long time. Don't be surprised now honey if the letters start coming two days apart or more maybe three days but no longer. Im going to look over your letters one by one and answer anything you may have asked me. Then when I get the book done if its alright and suits me Ill send it to you. Is that all right with you?

I guess this will be all for today honey so Ill close with

Love & Kisses
Porter

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XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXX
XXX
XXX

I love you more than anything my darling.

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va. Mar 15 1928 [return address] from Private Emil G. Thomas United States Marine Corps M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia (casual)

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

March 15 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

To my darling Beatrice:

Do you remember the first letter you wrote me after I had enlisted in the Marines? It was posted on June 20, 1926 and arrived at Quantico June 22 just 365 days after I was sworn in. You told me to consider myself bawled out for not writing sooner. That's one of the few bawlings out that I have never forgotten and never will. I had asked you if your dad would have any objections to my writing to you. You went to great pains to assure me that he would not. He used to think different when we went to school, you know, but you told me he had changed since then.

You told me you had never seen me in uniform and you went on to assure me that you didn't mean that as a slam. As if I could possibly take that as a slam. How proud you were of the fact that you had just become a senior. I may not have told you so then darling but I to was proud of you.

You told me you had been to see, "Kiki," "The Blackbird," and Brown of Harvard. I wish I could have seen those shows with you. Do you know that I can never even think of a show anymore without thinking of how happy I was when we went to those shows together, it's then I realize how much I missed you during the time I wasn't writing to you, and just what it was I missed.

That letter was one time when you doubted my word. I had told you that I was studying, and you said seeing is believing you couldn't imagine me studying. I wonder if Lill ever showed you the proof of it when you was over at our house. Oh yes they have presented me a nice diploma signed by M.G.C. John A. Leguine.

You asked me to write and tell you how things looked around Quantico, wanted to know if we had big or little trees, did we have nice horses, did we see any ball games, were there any lakes, boating, or fishing. I don't know if I ever answered that flock of interrogation marks and commas or not. It seems that the trees are about the same as at home only they are all strange. Not one of them had ever been in Cleveland and they were so stuck up they wouldn't talk to me anyway. Yes we had nice horses but it was very hard to get a hold of them cause the officers were always riding. I'm sure I've told you about the baseball games and as for the players you know them as well as I do and know as much about them if not more than I do, so I won't start telling you about them. There are no lakes around Quantico nor are there any around here. The Potomac River went by Quantico and when it gets down to here it is Chesapeake Bay. The fish are plentiful around this side of the globe but so are the confounded eels. We aren't allowed to go boating because it affords another way for dissatisfied sissies to desert.

You closed the letter with, "Your used to be Friend." Was that nice for my sweetheart?

Your next, "Red Letter," came on July 8th. I believe I was in the Hospital at the time trying to argue the doctor out of the notion that I needed my appendix out. I won the argument, by the way.

You asked me if I had turned woman hater. I guess you know why now don't you? Who wouldn't after a loveless engagement just to please an over nosy parent. Yes Im referring to the affair with Evelyn. Thats where I learned to mistrust a blonde.

You told me you had gone fishing with your dad and the fish refused to bite so you gathered water lilies. You were contemplating at the time on a camping trip with your dad and you were going to take growler along. I never did see that ~~beatifull~~ beautiful green bathing suit you told me about. You simply had to learn to swim then. No success I think.

You said never mind the ink you liked pencil better anyway cause ink is so sloppy, yet you gently hint that pencil rubs and fades to easy by giving me a pen for Xmas. Oh! Ive stolen a march on you then I guess.

Do I ever think of old West Tech? How could I help but think of West Tech especially when I realized how much I missed by stopping when I did and above all when I met you there?

That letter was when you asked me to make a furlough before Christmas if possible. You sure were anxious to see me then. If I remember rightly my supervisors weren't so anxious that I should come and see you and had a guardian angel to (protect?) me from all temptation of coming anyway. That was six months later though. Ive several volumes to go through before then.

In your August 14, 1926 letter you showed your first sign of affection also your first sign of Jealousy but not of me but of how good I was doing in music or at least you claimed to be jealous. Well honey thats over now we have one another to look forward to so there is no sense in it (Practice what you preach Porter)

Helen and you had been bathing and your shoulders were sunburned you said I ought to see yours and Helens shoulders. Hm interesting part of the anatomy to be gazing at. Can you make that out?

Your Oct 2 1926 letter is next in line and you asked me what a formal Guard Mount is. Ill try to explain. The old guard Those that are not actually on post form in skeleton squads, that is six men to a squad thusly

X X

XXXX and as many squads as they make is supposed to be as many squads as the new guard has full squads thus

XXXX

XXXX These aren't well kisses you know, each cross is supposed to represent a man. Then they stand at attention and the band plays generally a march after aggilance call is sounded to march on the colors. The old and new guard march over to the right of the band into a single line. Then they stand at parade rest while the band marches in front of the line and back again to its original position. We call this trooping the line. Then we play a waltz or something while the guard are inspected. Then the sgts of the guard report their companies. Then the pass in review.

Next you ask what Ive been doing. Thats so far back I couldn't tell you. Ive forgotten all shall we say unpleasant things that happened so long ago. I suppose though it was either guard or else swinging a pick and shovel or something like that, generally was.

Next comes your letter of Oct 12 1926 you started out with (What do you think?) How the heck should I know what I was thinking of at the particular time that you were writing that volume?

You closed that letter in French with "Your Friend Occupied," I think is what it means, it is like this, "Yotre Amie occupie," was my translation right? Do you want to know what my translation is based on? Its on the word Bon Amis. My uncle who is passed on now explained to me when I was just a kid that it means, "Good Friend," or something like that so I knew that "Amie" means friend and, "ocupee," looks like occupied and, "Yotre," looks like yours. Hence my version of your shall we say , unusuall ending of this letter. So much for this one.

Your October 22, 1926 edition was a bit of advice to stick around cause the service was doing me so much good and telling me how many more good things were in store for me if I stayed. That letter makes me feel like shipping over for the good I get out of the service. Shall I?

You said you cant ever think with your eyes shut. You must have learned how between that time and my last furlough, cause every time you closed your eyes and I asked you you said you were thinking.

October 31st edition you told me you had met my sister and the most of the edition was devoted to raving about her. Here you was in love with the wrong member of my family and here was me willing to give my right eye just to have you love me even to let me love you if you couldn't love me. Here I was ready to shoot up a regiment of men just for the right to love you or be loved by you and you were wasting this perfectly good devotion on my sister.

In your Nov. 9, 1926 edition you promised to tell me some of the things Lill has been telling you if I was good. You never did. I just wonder now. You said (hoping I think who you think I mean) Took up your letters about that time once honey and tell me what that refers to if you can find it please don't forget darling cause I sure want to know.

You gave directions like this soon after that letter. To be taken after each meal with or without water according to courage.

Doctor Bea:

Antidote:

Same as for rattlesnake bite.

In your Jan 2 1927 letter you asked in one breath when they were going to let me out of the brigg and in the next you asked how my music was coming along. Did you think the brigg was built to make us feel at home? If carrying and lifting trash cans full of wet ashes all day makes a man feel at home, it was. Music my eye. They wouldn't even leave us talk cause it made to much noise. Let alone blow an instrument. Anyway the only personal stuff we were allowed to keep while in there was a couple of suits of B.V.D's and some toilet articles and writing material. How the heck could I sneak a clarinet in? Under my B.V.D's?

Well honey this much of the book has taken me all the spare moments of this day with the exception of those minutes I used to answer your letter, and as it is time to retire use Kelly Springfield or, "what have you." Ill close for tonight

Porter

Well this is another day honey which all means another dollar from old Uncle Sam. It means more to me though. It means one more day toward "My Blue Heaven." When I look forward to that my darling I get as happy as a kid. In fact I sometimes get so happy that I can't even think. Thats a good excuse for not writing when one can't think, one cant write either. I only ask to get to see you once more. Ill bet that will be one long time though that once will last the rest of my life cause Ill never let you go anymore. I can just about see us waiting like I told you at one time till about two years after I get discharged. That idea was all O.K. then. Id die now if I had to wait that long. I don't know what it is. I know you love me and I don't think you will give me up any easier than I would you. In fact Im beginning to think it couldn't be done no way. I don't believe they could make you give me up for any reason yet, Im always afraid lest something should happen that would. Honey if you ever do give me up for any reason at all. Well Id never leave anyone else have you.

I just run across a place in one of your letters where it was you that was cheering me up and a few letters later you were the one that needed cheering. I just wonder now if I ever did give you that cheering. If I didn't Im afraid you wont get much of it today cause it's a dreary rainy day out today and the dreariness seems to be contagious.

Your next letter indicates that you didn't need any more cheering but it also says my letter arrived at the right time.

Oh dear! He was such a terrible looking thing, and I came near not having a Beatrice to write me even a short letter. I got so sore when I read that part of one of your letters. I was going to look him up. Well after reading half a page more I find out that ~~it~~ he was a mad dog. Someone else probably had the pleasure of killing him for giving you such a scare. Now Id like to kill him for giving me such a scare.

No Im not 180, Im 21 this year. Oh! pardon me. I see you mean 180 lbs. Oh yes I was that at one time but Ive reduced since then a few pounds. Im about six pounds less now than 180 lbs but if I stay with the Mayonaise dressing, olives, and sweet pickles, I wont be very long. Oh I dont mean that Ill be any shorter than 6 ft but I mean I wont be under 180 lbs. very long.

Oh, you made me say, "Yes," one time and you didn't even give me a chance to argue but you steadfastly refused to say, "yes," yourself for a long time. You've made up for lost time though.

Do you know what the answer to this one is honey? I love you so much that just thinking of the time Ive got to do yet makes me sore at the Marine Corps. I love you more than anything else. I don't believe its possible to love more than I do and still every day I feel like I love you more. I can't possibly love you more though because my love is as strong now as it seems possible to be. Try to figure it out. Im darned if I can. It just beats me some way or another so I cant think of anything else.

Say I always get jealous when I read some of your older letters. You are always telling me about some other guy and I always resolve inwardly to find that guy next time. I get to Cleveland and I always

change my mind. I think Ill have to forget to change my mind about the pianist of the orchestra in the Rialto. You were to stuck on him. Why honey Ill swear you wrote almost a half page about him.

You also had another one of your, "Bright ideas," as you call them when you wrote that letter but wasn't ready to tell yet. I wonder if it is ready now? You never have told it you know.

Here Ive got a letter from you posted March 28th 1927 that gave me warning that it was no nice feeling to have a crushed thumb. That was eight months before I got mine crushed now how did that happen.

I don't know what is the matter with me and my writing today but for some reason or another I can't seem to think of anything to write about neither does my pen want to write.

No I didn't mind your not autographing your picture at the time but later I kind of wished you had. Im liable to get it mixed up with all the other girls pictures I have if your name isn't on it. No darling it isn't necessary to put your name on any picture you give me although I don't mind but I know the picture was given to me so Im satisfied and if anyone else thinks I swiped it Im fairly confident that I can convince them that they are fooling with someone else's affairs and that their intrusions are unwelcome to me. If anyone wants to know who the girl on the picture is. If I feel like telling them I will if not I wont. Im generally glad of the chance to talk about her though.

The next letter I have from you was right after my third furlough or your first one. You asked me how could I go to sleep and pass up all that beautiful scenery on my trip back. If you had laid awake nights for a week wondering (Why) someone refused to be your wife and if had been worrying your head off do you think you would prefer scenery to a bit of sleep? I doubt it.

You called me, "Porter Dear," in that letter. That gave me more hope than anything else. It made me happy and still it worries me cause I couldn't figure it out for myself.

Now to put those letters aside for awhile and give you what little current news I have up my sleeve.

To begin with my music arrived today, a whole half months worth of it. Do you think you can figure out the last sentence Well it means it cost half my months pay. It is well worth it though it has all kind of standard overtures and selections in it. All solo & 1st B [flat] clarinet. I only wish I had a clarinet here now. Id have a good chance to practice.

I dont remember if I told you in yesterdays letter or not but the Marine Baseball team have decided to do their training elsewhere this year. Namely, Norfolk Va. which is nine miles from here. I guess that gives my idea of getting the low down on them a punch in the neck. Poor idea. Im really sorry for it. Oh well Im kind of glad honey cause I expect we might leave here within the next couple of weeks and Id only have to feed them and wouldn't see them train at all from the looks of things it looks like its going to rain for the next six months not only the next two days. Heres luck to them (Bottle of ink) I hope they all break a leg.

Guess what Ive been singing at my work all morning? Your wrong it wasn't Blue Heaven at all it was that Souvenire song that I like so well.

In place halt! Until about 6:30 P.M. or 7:00 P.M. anyway until after supper.

March 17 / 1928 6:15 P.M.

Dearest:

Im afraid I must close this book without finishing it if I ever want you to have it before I get paid off. I wont have a chance to finish it after tonight cause Im afraid there won't be any tables or anything aboard ship to write on. Yes "Dear Heart," you have guessed the reason for all this haste. Im not going to Haiti but to Nicaragua instead. We will probably leave Monday so Im going to have to pack my stuff again and do it when my work in the mess hall is done tomorrow. Well as much as I hate to go to that darn place still in a way Im glad. Im going down there and get me a couple of "gooks," and when I get them there wont be any fight in them at all. Someone has to pay for taking me so far away from you and it might as well be a nigger as anyone else. The funny part is they aren't even sending me as a bandsman but are sending me for straight duty. I think Ill put in either for Aviation or Machine gun Company.

Now honey I know just how you are going to feel about this news but it can't be helped Im afraid, it looks like ill have to take orders like a good soldier and like you will have to bear it with me like a soldiers sweetheart. God alone knows how much I hate to ask you to bear this with me darling and we will just have to trust him to watch over us both and to loosen our burdens.

Oh how I hate that place, Nicaragua. Well they are sending me down there and if I take to free a hand and Kill a few niggers for looking cross eyed maybe they will realize that I didn't want to go to ~~Haiti~~ Nicaragua but to Haiti. Of course you will keep on writing to this address and the mail will get to me faster.

Well darling I love you now and always will if that is any consolation to you. Ill always be looking forward to the day when I will come back to you and will always remember darling that you are all mine and if, "God Almighty," wants me to come out of it all a sound and healthy man why everything will be nice for me but if he wants that I should come out another way beside healthy, Then Ill make every nigger I see pay and Ill not come out. I want you to be brave my sweetheart and no matter how heavy your heart may be look up to the world with a smile on your face.

Im doing that honey. I don't like to go away from you either but there is no one beside you and me that knows it. I won't ever have any one say, "He was a coward," not if I can help it honey. Im going down there with the full knowledge of what I am going into and if they smite me on one cheek Ill turn the other and do it with a smile. Im smiling now but not my heart. That feels like lead. Oh that this world should come to this. They teach you "thou shalt not kill," and then turn around and make you kill. Well I can sure do that if that is what they want.

I suppose about this time you will be thinking my good senses must have left me suddenly or something to that effect. Im going to assure you they have not left me. Oh no, my darling Im simply angry at the hypocracy of it all. They keep books in the libraries for us to read such as is in front of me now. The title if, "In his Steps," or "What Would Jesus Do?" The author is Charles M. Sheldon. Now if he were in my place and someone said, "kill," What would he do? Would he rather obey orders or would he rather stay by the, "Commandment" I believe it would be one pretty hard party if we were to try to lead this life in his foot steps from the "Garden of Gethsemane," to, "Calvary" I wouldn't be such

a big sin to ask us to fight if it were someone with intelligence but to kill those ignorant niggers that are no comparison at all for us and only just for one reason, because the big money sharks on Wall Street have their money invested there. For that reason we have to sin to commit the capital sin. Take life.

Well darling as I said before we will just have to be brave and take things as they come and we will look things square in the face. In other words we won't let other people know our real feelings except maybe our love. That I never would deny. Ill live only for that love darling and for a, "Captain Joseph," later on maybe. I only wish I could make you my wife before I go darling then I know Id be back O.K. Oh Ill be back O.K. anyway honey so lets not worry any more about it. Im afraid as it is you should be the one to preach to me about how brave a soldier should be and how I am worrying to much.

I may send another package of things home to you darling if I can and I may send your picture because I don't want to break it by putting it into a heavy marching oiler and you can send me another small one to fit in my purse as the other one got spoiled one time when I got wet to the skin trying to use a motorcycle to swim through a lake after a cloudburst.

Good night I though all night that I didn't have a thing to smoke but I remembered some tobacco in my pouch that was to fine for a pipe so I just found some cigarette papers and as my thumb wont work rolled one with one hand. Its funny how many things we can do in need that were simply impossible before.

I wrote my dad a letter today and told him I might go but it wasnt a sure thing then yet but Im not going to tell him yet for a while till I get down there. Im not going to write to Lill about it at all nor to Min. There is no hurry about letting them know so you can tell them when you see any of them.

Im losing money by going down here because all Ill be drawing will be privates pay no specialist money but I dont care. Ill have enough to get married on when I get back and I hope Ill be able to earn enough after that to support a wife on. I may make some kind of a rating down there to who knows? I may get pushed into the motor transport company or something with a chance for a darn good rating.

Well darling all we can do is hope for the best and put our trust in God so lets live and be happy in this beautiful love of ours while we may. Ill think of you always and you do the same and we will leave the rest in the hands of our maker.

If you write soon I may get the answer to this when I hit Nicaragua. Ill surely have one more letter before I go aboard ship Monday so Ill remain

Your Lover Always
Porter

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Weve got most of our life to make these good honey and I mean to cause I love you so much

Porter

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Miss Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Norfolk Va Mar 19 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas MB.N.O.B Hampton Roads Va. (casual)

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

March 18, 1928 M.B.N.O.B. Hampton Roads Virginia

Dearest:

Just a few lines to let you know that I haven't left yet but that I am expecting to soon. We leave here to join our Regiment The 11th Regt. At the navy yard at noon tomorrow. I had to draw some more clothes today so I had to repack my sea bag beside that I had to stay in the Mess hall today yet I was supposed to be relieved last night. Ive just through packing and have very few minutes left till Taps so I thought Id use them for a good cause.

Do you still love your Porter honey? Even when he is going down to kill, "gooks"? That's funny but he's more liable to come back to you if he kills them than if they are left to live. No darling Ive kind of got over my blues cause I found out today that very little of our time will be spent in the hills in pursuit of Sandino but we are going down to suppress any trouble that may start at their election of a President to take Diaz's place. Oh. We may get into the hills now and then but the most of ours will be in the bigger cities and in the capital.

Well Darling, does that make you feel any better? Ill write to you often when I get there and again before I sail if I get the chance. Ill try to send the watch before I sail if I can. You just keep writing to me here and the letters will reach me and dont be so very surprised if you dont hear from me for a couple of weeks cause the trip alone will take some time and a letter to the States from there takes some time to so write to

Your Love Sick Marine
Porter

Kiss me by the radio like this XX

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Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Mar. 19 1928 N.O.B. Portsmouth Va.

Dearest:

Here we are at the navy yard at Portsmouth. Not much distance for one day but it's a start anyway. We probably leave here tomorrow or the day after. Just as soon as all the men get here. We will be the 1th Regt. And most probably the 3rd Battalion. It seems funny to do straight duty again after doing special duty for such a long time. There are quite a few of my buddies that came through traing with me that are in this company. I dont know yet what it is all about but its, "Nicaragua here I come," and, "Bye Bye Sandino." I got a swell rifle and boy what I mean those gooks want to keep out of my way if they want to to stay healthy. I was going to start in on a couple of them as we came through Norfolk but the man in charge (a corporal) wouldn't let us.

Im going to send that watch from here if I can and I most probably can as soon as we get some liberty to go to town.

I had to store a lot of my clothes at Hampton Roads cause I had to darn many to bother with on an expedition. I suppose half of them will be missing when I get back but it's the best I could do.

I suppose you will be wondering whats the matter with my writing. Ill tell you. Theres nothing to write on and sitting on a bunk and trying to write in your lap is no easy thing to do unless I can find a post Exchange to get some envelopes why this letter wont get mailed for a day or so. I think Ill get some though.

Well honey I don't know about how the time is going to pass for you but I expect it will pass pretty quick for me cause there will be something new during each day. From what I hear why we will be back in the States by next October when the gook election is over so I may be home for next Christmas. I hope so. Any way when I get back Ill have so little time to do that Ill be able to count the days on my fingers almost. Even if I get back in October then Ill put in a request to be paid off 3 months ahead and Id only have 5 months to do, as it is tis only 159 days. I think.

Im lonesome and blue today honey. Lonesome because you arent here and blue cause there was no letter for me before I left Hampton Roads today and one was due today. You see the mail come in before we left cause we didn't leave till 1:30 this afternoon. That letter should have been there. I think Ill have to have the Post Office Department wages cut.

Well honey thats all for this time but Ill write more before we leave so Love

Your
Porter

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Letterhead: The American Red Cross

March 20. 1928 Still at Portsmouth

Dearest:

This seems to be another day and another dollar earned. Weve been on the go all day and well likely keep going till taps tonight. This is noon and the rest of the gang have gone to show. I went to the Post Exchange and got a small box to ship that watch and Im enclosing this note. God only knows when or where I will get to mail it.

I also got a new Kodak yesterday a Eastman Autographic No 1 I dont know how Im going to get the pictures printed and developed but they will be taken anyway. I wouldn't make a trip like this without a camera if I had to starve to get the camers.

We got assigned to companies this morning and Im in the sixty first machine gun company Eleventh Regiment and we will probably be at Leon Nicaragua. We aren't sure of our destination yet.

Don't be surprised if you dont hear from me for a while honey, cause I don't know when Ill get the next chance to write or mail a letter. In fact I don't know when or where Ill get a chance to mail this yet.

I suppose youve still got the directions for opening the watch just press [illustration of watch] this and the back opens then you see this [illustration of watch] those two circles represent the place where you wind and set the thing. Ive tried to get a key for it here but no one seems to carry any of them

Well honey we have a rifle inspection right after dinner preparatory to turning them in so Ive got to close and Ill write as soon as I get a chance.

Love Your
Porter

XX

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Beatrice N. Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Portsmouth Va Mar 23 1928 [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 61st Machine Gun Co. 11th Regt. Expeditionary Force U.S. Marines Nicaragua

March 21, 1928 Navy Yard Norfolk Marine Barracks

Dearest:

Ive just got to write to you tonight if I never get repacked. It seems that the U.S.S. Ogalala got in today and 16 men have gone aboard already to load and we go aboard tomorrow morning. We leave when she gets loaded I think.

I walked half a dozen miles across lots till I found a post office today and mailed that watch. There is a small letter in the bottom of the box. We had another "heavy" today layed out on the field for eth majors inspection so that means repack everything. We also were assigned machine gons and drew steel helmets, Pistol, blets, holsters, clips etc. and drilled about an hour in the bargain. Some day.

Now its just up to us to put about 3 complete changes of clothes and our toilet articles and mess gear into a heavy and make the roll so tight it will fit into the brim of our hats. Nice people.

I wish we would get started cause the sooner we get Sandino's scalp and put the fear of Christ into his followers the sooner we will be back to our loved ones.

I sent off a letter to Erv today that I had written a couple of days ago but couldn't mail it cause there was no post office to get stamps at but I found one today so now Ive got stamps so I sent it off and tonight Im writing one to you and one to my dad. Maybe one to Lill before I go. Whats the matter with my letters honey? The one that was due here Monday hasn't arrived yet and the mail that gets to Hampton Roads got here yesterday and today so it evidently never got to Hampton Roads or else they've forgotten that I left there.

Ive met about half or two thirds of what is left of my old company that I came through boot training with. Ive also met many of the friends that Ive had at different times since Ive been in the service. This place isn't so hot though for anything else. The bunks are nothing but canvas cots, no mattresses or pillows and the chow is worse than it was on Parris Island. Oh well weve only got once to live and the sooner we get it over with the sooner we'll be done.

You never have decided yet when the big day will be so if you don't decide soon Im going to decide to make it one week after I get home after my discharge. Oh yes that means that I have good intentions of coming home before that once more if I get back to the States soon enough.

Im still seeing things as they should be about eighteen or twenty years from now and Im strong for it honey but first Im looking forward to another big date. I often feel that a dozen guys like Sandino with an army apiece couldn't hurt a guy that's as lucky as I am. I sure feel mighty lucky since July 7th 1927. Im old man "Luck" himself. Lindy's got nothing on me for luck. As far as I know he hasn't found or been accepted by is idea of a perfect sweetheard and mate. I have.

Tell Helen that if she and Anne feel very peppery and quarrelsome to come down and look me up and Ill let them try their luck at beating up on "Our Friend" (Sandino) That should give her a fast couple of rounds and Anne should be able to argue him to death. Please don't take these as slams its just a little fun.

Im going to try to take some pictures while we load ship and some more on the trip and Ill try to get em developed and printed at Ocotal in Nicaragua if we stop over there long enough and if there is a photograpers there. Ive got a dandy Kodak again it is smaller than my other one was this is a No 1 Kodak Eastman Autographic Kodak sure a swell one cost me twelve bucks without accessories

You will find my new address on the sheet facing this. Our headquarters will probably be at, "Leon, Nicaragua," but we aren't sure of that yet so just mark it Nicaragua until you hear from me down there and Ill let you know.

I love you darling and they will never make our return soon enough to suit me cause when we do get back Im coming to see you. Its really cruelty to make a man leave the woman he loves when he loves her as much as I love you. I love you so much that I can't eat in the day and can't sleep at night.

Well honey they cant keep us apart forever so write soon to your

Porter

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Private Emil G. Thomas 3rd Battalion 11th Regiment 61st Machine Gun Co. U.S. Mrines Expeditionary Force Nicaragua

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Beartice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Portsmouth Va Mar 23 1928
[return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 61st Machine Gun Co 3rd Battalion 11th Regiment U.S. Marine
Expeditionary Force Leon, Nicaragua

March 22, 1928 Navy Yard Norfolk

Dearest Derby:

I didn't expect I'd be here to write to you tonight I expected to be long gone but we aren't going to go aboard until tomorrow morning.

Today we were standing by to go aboard and in the mean time we took a little physical drill and machine gun instruction. The later was very interesting. More so than the former at any rate but I'm still betting that the casualties on Sandino's part will be larger if they turn us loose with a couple of straight razors apiece. I don't know much about Machine Guns but then we've got about a twelve or fourteen day voyage ahead of us to learn about the Machine Guns in and when we do look out Sandino and all his relatives and friends.

Sorry to hear that Tech lost that game to South. That was a deciding game to, wasn't it? Oh well it isn't the fact that your beat, that counts. It's how did you fight and why? Who was it that wrote those few lines? He must have been a smart guy whoever he was.

Don't worry about my not knowing what part of Jimmy's letter is bunk and which isn't. When you know him as well as I do you can't help but know which is bunk and which isn't.

No honey I never did receive the letter with Tech Team's pictures in it. I guess it's still trying to find out where the heck I'm at.

Darned if I know what made that fool think you were Jewish but don't worry about it he either thinks different now or else he realizes that what he said was an insult. Anyway he knows better than to repeat his words. I'd break his back in two if he ever did repeat those words so I could hear them or about them.

Why the heck don't you bawl me out and tell me how careless I am to let that pencil stolen on me, or is that bawling out still traveling too.

We just got some definite information now. They told us to be darn sure to have everything we will want on the trip in our ~~sea bag~~ heavy cause the sea bags will be in the hold where we can't get at them so I'm going to repack my heavy again tonight. Here's hoping this is the last time cause if we roll them much more I'm liable to roll them in my sleep and you might wake up some morning and find yourself rolled up in a heavy marching order. You wouldn't like that so well, would you? It might not be so pleasant cause they get rolled pretty darn tight. Something like a corset.

Darn right I'd try the cave man stuff honey. I love you so much that if I was to see you right now I'd never leave you go anymore. They say everything's fair in Love or War and I seem to be having plenty of both right now only even the plenty isn't enough as far as the love is concerned. I'll never get to much

loving and I doubt like the dickens if I wouldn't try cave man tactics right now if you were here and wouldn't get married of your own accord. I wont say that I don't prefer the other way but if the other way didn't work Id sure use the cave man method.

I received a letter from Lill about an hour after yours. A nice letter to. It was three pages long. Its not often that she writes that much in the same letter.

Yes Ill admit Helen and Jimmy would make a good pair in those uniforms but Im darned if Jimmy only had a little more sense Id like to see those two make a pair marching together to the alter. Hes not good enough for her though. Neither is Erv. I only wish he was. Id have liked to see Hoppy struggling with the Jacket of that Gobs outfit buyt Id rather see you in it. In fact Id rather see you anyway.

Don't worry honey I wont gyp you on letters if I can help it but of course you know that I might not be able to write every day while Im down there nore will I be able to receive them every day. I may be some way from a post office most of the time. Depends on where Im doing duty heres hoping its very near a post office

They will probably assign one corporal and two or three privates to preserve the peace in each small village or town and when we go into the hills where Sandinos army might be we will probably be a full squad, eight privates and a corporal. Thats noting though. In 1924 they sent 42 Marines to China to protect two full regiments of the army from the Chinese rebels.

Well honey we leave tomorrow sure so bye bye for a while and write often to me at the address on the envelope. I love you now and always will darling and if dreams come true we'll both be very happy. Think of me often

Porter

[illegible]

Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] U.S.S. Ogalala Mar 27
[return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 61st Machine Gun Co. 3rd Batt. 11th Regt. U.S. Marines
Expeditionary Force Leon Nicaragua

March 24, 1928 Aboard the U.S.S. Ogalala

Dearest:

Your letter of consolation was received by me about 2 minutes before we came aboard the tug that brought us out to the ship. That was yesterday. We spent the day in standing in line for chow and trying to find a place to crowd in our folding cot. We are now almost eighteen hours out, about 200 miles as they go in the navy.

The water is pretty rough today and bound to get worse cause we are scheduled to run into a storm sometime today. We are doing everything but barrel rolls now so what will we do then. I havent been sea sick this trip yet but Ive got a hunch I will be soon. Im going to write this letter a little at a time and when I get an envelope full Ill start another one.

I don't know what to say to tell you how much good those few lines just before my departure done me. I realize how you feel about my going honey cause I feel the same way but it cant be helped so we will just have to make the best of a slightly bad bargain.

Time out.
Sunday A.M.

I was called away from your letter kind of suddenly yesterday when we had a class in Machine gunnery on the upper deck and one thing followed another and I didn't get time to get back at my letter till now. Im going to write instead of attending the religious services this morning. Im sitting on a mine-rack at the stern using the mine-rack to write on. Its not very steady but its as good as anything I could find.

Oh yes we have a class today too. They are going to have a first class M.G. Company by the time we need one. The class meets – Time Out

Monday noon

I started to write some more yesterday but was called down for not being on time for class. We also had to go to church and I met one of the Hoffman boys there. Used to go to school with em. They live on Stickney. I knew he was in the Navy but I didn't know what ship he was on.

Well honey we are getting down into warm country now yesterday morning we passed Key West Florida about 60 miles off the coast this morning we passed San Salvador Where Columbus is supposed to have landed also some other group of Oslands. I don't remember the name of them. We slept under one blanket last night, and were uncomfortably hot. Today it is to darn hot to wear any clothes only they won't leave us run around that way.

I tried shaving last night and Im afraid my face got into the way a little cause I seem to have only half a face left.

I hear we stop at Panama but cant go ashore but the mail gets dropped there. We should get to the canal tomorrow night and lay to and go through Wednesday. They don't go through at night so they always wait till morning to start through cause it only takes about eight hours to go through. Weve been practicing firing the Machine guns through the nime gate in the stern shooting at barrles tied about 1000 yds behind the ship. They are real hard to hit too because the waves roll them around so much.

Dont worry honey I love you as much as you love me and Ill come back to you some way and whats more Ill come back to you as soon as pissible.

It seems strange to me that so many men should be feeding the poor starving fishes and I can't seem to. I eat just as much as any of them and I just don't get sick. I guess my stomach is made of sheet iron or something.

Well honey I want to try to drop Erv a few lines so Ill close soon. I don't know if I will succeed or not at the rate we are having classes but Ill try it anyway. Id like to write to Lill and to Min too but I doubt if I will get the time.

Id like to get a couple of letters at Panama but I know I wont so Ill just make the best of things as they are.

Well honey write soon so Ill be sure to have a letter when I get down there. Ill close now with Love and many Kisses

Your Porter

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Box 3: folder 25

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] U.S.> Oglala Mar 28 1928 [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 61st M.G. Co. 11th Regt U.S.M.C. Nicaragua c/o Post Master Balboa Canal Zone

Date ? 1928 Wednesday

Dearest:

This is Wednesday and we are due to hit the canal today some time probably in tow more hours Im going to try to write you a few lines before the mail is taken up.

More dope – We are getting cleaned up for the canal. We are just two hours out and they are figuring on going through the locks on this side and we anchor in Gatun lake over night and we will probably go in swimming seeing as that's fresh water. Birthday suits regulation What a relief that will be from the heat, sweat, dirt; and salt water.

Well honey I must be moving so write soon.

Our address is now 61st Co. 11th Regt. Expeditionary Force Nicaragua U.S.M.C. c/o Post Master Balboa Canal Zone

Dont worry honey cause Ill surely come back.

Always Yours
Porter

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Box 3: folder 26

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] ____ Apr 2 1928
[return address] _____ 61st Machine Gun Co. 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Expeditionary Force Nicaragua
c/o Post Master Balboa Canal Zone

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

April Foods Day Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

Here we are in Nicaragua. We arrived at Corinto yesterday and after unloading the ship all day we were headed into a train about the same size as my suit case is and started for Leon. We got here about Midnight then started unloading all our Company property and baggage off the train so we got to sleep at about 3:00 A.M. Our supper last night was two ham sandwiches and what warm water we had in our canteens and as we were all very hungry we dropped one of the boxes with canned beans and made a feed. I didn't get a can cause there weren't enough in a box to go around but those that did get them split with those that didn't

I've seen much good beer in evidence but haven't taken any myself for reasons of my own. The first reason is you and the second is cause I quit drinking. The other reasons are a secret.

Im sending you the water ticket I had aboard the "Oglala" to put in that scrap book of ?

You will notice how many buckets of fresh water I got on that trip. We always had to stand in a line about 7 miles long for everything like that and many guys got left

I tried to take pictures coming through the canal again but not much success cause it was late in the afternoon when we got started through the first lock and it got dark quick and a time picture wont work while the ship is moving. Ill see how they turn out anyway. There is no photographer here but I dont think we will be here long anyway so maybe if we go to "Ocotol" we may find a stray one there.

It sure is warm down here honey. Im sitting in a breeze and still sweating to beat the band. It must be 110° int eh shade and there isn't any shade around. You wont even recognize me for the coat of tan Ill have when I get back. Ill look just like (Our Friend?) sandino.

These people here aren't niggers honey. I thought they were like in Haiti and Cuba but they aren't. They are a mixture of Spanish and Indian I don't like them though and they hadn't better give me any reason at all to kill them cause I clean and oil my pistol every morning and I need Half breed hide to make a good suit case.

The chow here is wonderfull they give us all the beans we want as long as we don't want more than one spoonful and all the hard tack we want as long as we dont want more than three. The coffee is good. Just like chewing tobacco juice. The dust and sand , flies, cockroaches, bugs, flies, etc. give the food a wonderfull strength and flavor. Im going to live on fruit as long as Im in the hills and if I stay in a city like this or Ocotol very long Ill go bankrupt buying fruit at a nickel a dozen. This is all Sandino's fault

so he better not let me see him cause Ill put so much lead into his hide they will need a derrick to move his body. Ill quit for a while now to go after more (Beans & hard tack) and Ill write more after dinner.

1 hour later

I was lucky this noon to get through so quick, it generally takes twice as long as this to get anything to eat.

The rest of the company or at least the majority of them are going on liberty this afternoon but little ole Thomas is going to stick around here. There is nothing in this country that I want except Sandino's scalp and he isn't in town or if he is he isn't letting us know about it so Im going to stay in so there wont be any chance for me to go wrong.

You know honey a man is liable to go wrong if he gets out and sees some of the Senoritas around here. Oh yes. There are some of those around here and although they aren't considered naughty around this country, they would be considered very much so at home. Thats why Ive quit drinking cause there isn't so much danger of my losing my head by getting pickled. People have been known to do things they were sorry for later, and the only reason the do those things is because they are drunk. I just decided that no matter how good the beer and booze may be Im going to lay off of it so don't be surprised if I make up for lost time by getting drunk as a lord when I get back to the states where the only danger will be policemen.

I had to draw so much khaki clothes before I made this trip that my clothing allowance is way drawn out. It may be darn lucky after all that I came here cause we may be out in the hills for months at a time where we wont need money so they can check me all they want to and I wont worry.

Well honey Im going to close now so I can write Lill a few lines yet and maybe a few lines to my father. I wish you could be here to see the funny sights and funny people and the houses & ox carts etc. Its all very funny.

We got instructions about Sandino yesterday. They told us to bring him in but not as a prisoner. Now what could that mean. I wish Id meet him. Id bring him in the way they want him. Boy Id make him wish he hadn't started anything to bring me so far away from you. I can't help but think of you all the time honey and wish I was with you. Oh well 446 more days and a flop so Ill, "see you later."

Love
Porter

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P.S. My address is
61st Machine gun Co. 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Expeditionary Force Nicaragua c/o Post Master Balboa
Canal Zone

Box 3: folder 26

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] U.S.S. Cleveland Apr 3 1928
[return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 61 Machine Gun Co. 11th Regt. U.S. Marines Expeditionary Force
Leon Nicaragua c/o Post Master balboa Canal Zone

April 2 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

Im going to try to write you a few lines this afternoon although Im not at all sure how well I will succeed. We drilled so well this morning that they decided to give us the whole afternoon, all weve got to do is clean up our machine gun.

In yesterdays letter I told you that I wasn't going on liberty but I changed my mind and went anyway but didn't drink anything except two bottles of soda water. I went with one of my buddies to hear some gook band play while all the men marched in one direction around the band stand and all the Senoritas in the other direction and they all threw confetti at one another and all wore their best. It seems that the week after Palm Sunday is "Holy week." for them and everyone that can get a hold of a pair of shoes wears them and the womens dresses and shawls are all the colors of the rain bow. I wish you could have been here to enjoy all this with me. Im sure you would have liked it.

I haven't received any mail as yet but I guess thats because the mail hasn't come in from Managua yet. They don't have a post office here so all our mail gets thrown off at Managua and comes up here when ever they find a spare mailman to make the trip up here.

They are working us pretty hard here and every one is growling but for the short time Ive got to do yet I don't care if they stand me on my head until I get paid off. I won't complain no matter how much it hurts. Just as long as I know that you love me. Thats all that matters.

Im going to try to get a young parrot and a young monkey when we get out of here and bring them home as pets so you'd better train any cats you might bring around to leave a bird alone.

My thumb is coming along fine although I don't think that cavity is filling up very fast but I think Id rather have it slow but sure anyway. If it fills out to quicj it would be easier hurt.

How is the weather up there? Is it still cold? I wish it were a little cooler here. Its so darn hot here all the time that half of the time I don't know if Im coming or going. The sudden change from the states to tropical weather is hard on a man and it often is hard to get used to it. Im getting used to it a little bit already.

I wish you could see some of the sights down here. They have some machines. They belong to the wealthier people mostly Castilion Spanish, its only the peasants that are part Indian and they are mostly poor but these wealthy people are mostly connected in some way to the people that came when Ponce DeLeon first found this country. The poorer class very seldom wear shoes and as a rule are very ignorant. They all work at something or another. The women can be seen from early in the morning till late at night carrying baskets and boxes and all kinds of junk on their head and its quite a common sights

to see a little girl six or seven years old carrying 20 or 30 lbs on her head nor for a small boy to be carrying water by the casks on mules back or hauling wood or selling fruit.

I guess Ill quit for a while now honey and finish this tonight cause Ive got some clothes I want to scrub. The clothes get so darn dirty here cause the whole place is so darn dusty. The dust lays 6 or 7 inches deep all over and when you walk you cant help but stir up a cloud of dust. Ta Ta for now.

We have been eating witht eh one company of Marines that were here when we got here but now I think we are getting our own Field kitchen so we will have our own mess. We are quartered in an old Monastary that they are fixing up for a school. They are quartering us here because we don't expect to stay here long. If it wasn't for this old building we would be sleeping in tents and the mosquitoes are bad enough around here without sleeping with a bunch of lizzards, bugs, and sand flees and Id much rather sleep with a couple of rattlesankes any day in the week cause they only bite once and then leave a guy sleep but these darn bugs & sand flees try to eat a guy up and that don't feel so good.

Im afraid Im going to have to make a couple of guys think a train hit them. This is all a new gang and they don't know any better than to pester around me while Im trying to write. Ive got an idea that Im going to start a class pretty soon too.

Well honey don't forget I love you and always will and Ill be back if I have to come with a wooden overcoat.

When with the Spanish people do as the Spanish do

Besos Ye Pesos

Your
Porter

Write soon and dont forget to look at the address.

Box 3: folder 26

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

April 11, 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I hardly know how to start this letter off nor do I think I should start tonight. We are just back from Ocotal where we went as a convoy for an ammunition train. Weve experienced just about a little of everything there is on such a little trip like that, everything from starvation to skirmishes with little rebel bands who would have liked to lay hands on that ammunition. Ive lived mainly on fruit that we bought from natives for the last couple of days we couldn't go off into the woods off the road and get it ourselves cause we were in rebel country so we just simply had to buy it. We all ran out of smokes and had to buy from native dealers and they charge almost enough for a pack of smokes to buy a car in the States. The duty is so darn high on them. We bought enough for a month at 7¢ per pack when we got to a post exchange though. I kind of like this country though except for two things. The starvation for one and because Im so darn far away from you for another reason. We brought our mail along as we came through Managua but no letter for me.

Im restricted for ten days. I can't leave the compound except on duty. Four other guys with me. The five of us shot at a gook and only one man hit. No it wasn't a case of poor marksmanship it was a case of assassin unknown so we were up before the C.O. and got 10 days restriction so the natives would be satisfied that we were punished so we got 10 days with a little Extra Police Work.

Next day

I had to quit last night cause it was getting so darn dark and I was tired as the dickens anyway.

More excitement. They just put up a detail for shore patrol and everyone went to see if they are on it or not. Im not. I expect to get a nice detail the end of this week or the first part of next on another ammunition and supply train going into the hills.

There is only one thing that has kept me from going crazy this last week. That was thinking of you and remembering what a nice reception I got when I came home and because I want to get back for more is the only reason I didn't go nuts. Ive kept sane enough to keep away from booze and these Spanish women also the gook women and whats more I haven't even had a desire for a glass of beer and no sign of weakening yet. There won't be any either not if I know about it. The time has been going very slowly since I came back off that leave. Ive been very lonesome but just thinking of you helps that along. Thats all I live for now, to think about you and to get back to you.

Box 3: folder 26

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

April 14 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

Im going to start this letter tonight although Im sure I don't know what Im going to write about, all I know is that Im lonesome for you again. Ive been thinking of you all day again so Ive simply got to write to let you know how much I love you and long and wish for you.

Ive been doing extra police work all day so I took my daily bath and washed some clothes after supper and now it is pretty late. I wish you would try taking a bath in a bucket of water once. Its lots of fun (for a halfwit)

The ammunition and supply train that was supposed to leave today didn't leave and if they don't leave pretty soon they won't leave until after the rainy season which is due to start in a week or two and when it does the mountain roads get impossible and by the time the rainy season is over the election will be over and Sandino most probably brought in or driven from the country. If we stay in Leon here for the election we may probably start back for the States in October or November. It would be kind of hard on us in the mean time cause while we stay here we do intensive training but thats a darn sight better than burrowing around the hills in a half starved condition and dirty as pigs without a chance to even wash our hands or face half the time and its also better this way cause Im surer of getting back to you. If we knew for sure that going into the hills meant death it wouldn't be so bad but chances are 10 to 1 that if we get hit at all we will just be wounded and maybe crippled. That would hurt most, so I guess its just as well that we stay where we are for the present.

There seems to be something doing right now. They are looking all over for the property Sgt. To get out the reserve ammunition and we are now standing by in quarters, they are sending out men to round up all the liberty parties in town. Looks like we might be due for some excitement tonight yet, nothing definite only playing safe for some reason or another. It wouldn't be a new sensation though to have call to arms go in the middle of the night so Im not worrying any. I only hope that if they do start anything that Sandino himself will be there so we can get all this over with.

Well honey the next time the mail gets in here I want a couple of nice letters and the more the merrier and we will hope that I get back into the state in time to be in Cleveland for Christmas so for now bye bye my Derby and Dont forget to write to

Your
Porter

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Box 3: folder 26

April 17 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest Derby:

This mail around here runs just about like the trains. The schedule says during or about the year 1928 such and such a train will arrive. The mail is just about the same. There were 105 bags of mail got here from Managua yesterday but it hasn't been given out yet so I guess it hasn't got this far yet we expect it sometime today though.

I was on a patrol last night from 5 to 10 P.M. No excitement except for one spick that got a little silly from drinking this darn "Wiro." One punch in the mouth soon fixed him up so we took his pig sticker from him and turned him loose again. They drink this "Wiro" cause they can get drunk on a dimes worth of it but the trouble is when a guy gets drunk on that stuff he would walk up and take a punch at the devil himself. It makes them goofy.

This country seems to be doing my thumb a lot of good. I split it open a few days ago and its healed already and its getting tougher and tougher all the time. Its filling up too, slow but sure.

I found a photographer the other day but didn't know how good he was so I just left one of my worst rolls to be developed and he burned up all but one film by using an arc light for printing. Im sending you that one to laugh at, it's a picture of the only sea port in Nicaragua and therefore also the biggest. Thats one of the largest towns down here. This city is the largest and Managua is second Ocotol third and the (seaport) "Counto" is fourth. The two largest cities put together are about as big as one half of Akron. Im also sending you two stamps I picked up . One is an "Austrian" stamp the other is "Italian."

Ive been reading over the two letters that I think so much about and also the (consolation?) note. The first one is of the letter to the (Great Private) from the (Greatest of the Great West Tech Rooters). You told me that you didn't think you had done right to let me kiss you. You said Hoppy or Anne wouldn't have. Im just wondering if you still think the same way. The next letter was about your "Cumberland" trip and also you said "Yes" but you were still in doubt as to wether it was (love) or not. Have you found out? Thanks to your mother and Hoppy. The note of consolation is proof of that, also the many happy hours of my last furlough. The unhappy hour when I had to leave also was proof of that. I get very lonesome down here where you are so far away but I can always see you right here in front of me as you looked on a dozen different occasions, especially as you looked when I kissed you. Those memories are all that keep me from going Bolshevick around here. I miss you more than it is possible to tell you in words. We will just have to let the fact that I do miss you and do love you be sufficient.

Im going to try to have a letter on every mail boat that leaves this country and Im going to expect a letter every time the mail comes in so get that pen busy honey.

Im not sure if they will leave me but Im going to try to get a transfer either to a band in "Managua" or else a transfer to "Haiti" just keep writing though cause Ill get it all sooner or later.

Well honey for now Im going to say Adios and Ill write more in a couple of days.

Porter

XX

P.S. Am I gyping you on your letters any more than is absolutely necessary? Im trying not to.

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Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

April 18, 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

Ive received three of your letters so Ive come to the conclusion that patience is a virtue. Im going to try to answer them as the were written. The first was mailed on March 22, and went to Hampton Roads.

You asked me if I was sure that your first letter was received in June '26? No Im not sure by any means because I don't know when your first letter arrived cause it may be that one arrived the year before but it may have been mixed in with some bunch of letters that Ive burned. If I'd saved all the letters Ive received since I enlisted Id have a trunk full so your letter may unkntentionally have got mixed up with some of those, but the first one I have saved is of June 20, 1926. Does that straighten that out?

Ill admitt that I would like to see this, "beautiful green," bathing suit but Id rather just see you. Ill see both though and then raise the bet a couple of times.

I never said that you answered in a dumb way honey. I only wanted to know why you said that you hope I mean who you think I mean. I know now all I needed was to have my memory refreshed.

Darn it all anyway why chuckle because I signed myself, "Bashfull." Im just about right ir anyway I used to be and Im still a little that way.

Talking about snakes honey makes me think to tell you that I may go on a hunting trip here soon, for big game. Deer and Cougar are plentiful around these parts and if I can get three more fellows and can get the permission and leave required and see my way clear to spend about \$40 for the rental of a horse and to buy ammunition and supplies I may go for about 10 days. The reason they may let us go is because the venison comes in handy for the galley.

Now back to your letters. By the way honey if youve never told Hoppy so before you might tell her sometime that I am grateful to her for the decision she helped you make. Id have written her a letter thanking her a long time ago but I didn't know if you'd told her that I knew or if she would like it.

By the way, This big boy is stepping out today. He wrote a letter to another (Miss) who lives in West Virginia. No harm done though I simply wrote to my old buddies sister in the hope that she may be able to aid me in locating him. He seems to have dropped off the edge of the earth, and I knew her first name cause it's the same as "Babes" and I knew his home address.

I kind of liked those men that knew where they belonged in a guard mount but were foolish enough to go and get lost on a furlough. They were good this way but would have tasted much better if they hadn't got lost.

Your next letter was addressed here and was mailed March 26th. Im glad you liked the watch. I only wish I'd been able to get a key for it.

Ill try to see that you receive a picture of the Great Private but don't know if Ill be able to get the machine gun and the tin derby is out of the question. We aren't allowed to take the machine gun out only when told to and there isn't much chance to take a picture during action and during drill it is out of the question almost. Ill try however.

No Im not worrying any Im just sore as heck cause they take me so far away from you at this time after almost 3 years in the States and Im sore because after my spending so much on music they take me away from it.

Im glad you like my sisters so much and am happier than you can know to realize that you love their brother. In fact I believe that if it wasn't for that they might have an awful Bolshevik on their hands down here. You are the only reason that Im not doing some rash things down here. In fact I was boiling all over yesterday and just thinking of raising Cain when these letters arrived to make me think better of it.

Good Lord. Here Im almost out of paper and Ive still got to explain the difference between a sea bag and a heavy. I see right now where I have to hunt up some more paper.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

Here comes my Christmas paper into use again. Well a "heavy" is short for a heavy marching order. Its one blanket, one pup tent with stakes, one change of khaki, one complete change of underwear, and our toilet articles, mess gear etc. A sea bag is a canvas bag about 18 inches in diameter and about three feet deep with a place to close it and lock it. The sea bag is issued to us for the duration of our enlistment and we carry all our clothes in them. They are taken along as baggage and can't always be got to on board ship.

So – you thought you were going to fool me with another one of these French phrases. (mal-de-mer) Ive just about figured it means sea sickness cause if Im not wrong mal means sick and mer means sea, hence my deductions at first I thought it meant, "Man-O-War" but couldn't make it fit so I guessed again. Am I right?

No I dont suppose you do know what a corset is like but I guess you know how it feels to be squeezed, well thats about how it would feel to be rolled into a heavy marching order except that being squeezed doesnt involve being carried on a mans back like being rolled in a heavy would.

So far honey Ive stayed by my word and stayed away from booze and from these (Senoritas) and Im still going strong with no sign of weakness.

Well Honey Im going to close this and leave it hoin yesterdays letter and hope they get under way sooner than the next government transport.

Love and many lost Soldiers
Porter

XX These two got lost also.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Niaragua & symbol

April 22nd 61st Company Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I was on the guard as a runner yesterday and as I was tired and didn't think I would be needed anymore last night I went to bed at about 9:30 P.M. I was called at 11:45 P.M. to round up all the company officers. I found them everywhere except their quarters. They were scattered over all the bar rooms in the town. I finally got them all in regardless of the state of sobriety. They had a serious but hasty conference behind closed doors. The news came at 2:00 A.M. That two platoons would move to Blue fields which is the place where all these revolutions always start. At 2:30 A.M. they announced that it would be the First and Second machine gun platoons that would go. We were sent back to bed for two hours when they blew an early reveille and we were supposed to pack, eat breakfast and sign the muster roll and get under way by six o'clock A.M. we were ready to. The orders said we were to proceed to Corinto by rail and board a couple of the Destroyers that were waiting for us and we were to proceed through the Panama Canal to the East Coast of Nicaragua to a place called Blue fields. We got stand by orders at six A.M. and at 9:30 A.M. we were told to unpack again cause we aren't going. Im glad in one way cause if we had gone Id never even got a chance to drop you a line cause we weren't going to do any stopping at all and I don't think there is any way of mailing a letter from the place we were going to and much less chance of ever getting a letter. There would be so much of my mail going astray that Id never get caught by it. We would probably both be grand parents before all the letters ever caught up to me.

Im putting a couple of labels into this envelope that come off of beer bottles. Ask your Dad if hes ever seen them and Ill bet he can tell you what they are without looking twice. Ill not be able to make such a complete collection as I had hoped to because Ive quit drinking and the toehr fellows aren't interested enough to take the labels off unless they themselves are saving them. Im all-so sending you a merry-go-round ticket. They call it a carousel or play horse here.

Theya re starting four new posts on the patrol today. These new posts each man will be on watch 3 days without coming back to the quarters because these new posts are so far out and in the sticks that it takes a months pay to send a postal card there.

Im afraid Ill have to knock off now honey and try to write more tonight so ta ta for now.

Tonight never did seem to come around yesterday so Im going to try to finish this today. This being written on my 21st Birthday so we could call the writing of this a celebration. Theyve been ringing the church bells in this town all day again. Im not so sure though that they are ringing for my birthday, it might be another one of these religious holidays that these people down here observe. They never have more than 9 holidays in one week and never less than 4

In your March 26th letter you mentioned the fact that you saw the average on my course, please tell me what that average was as that average hasn't reached me yet. Im afraid this detail will just about put a finish to my course and it just happens that Im almost finished too.

Let me tell you something else my Sweet Young Lady, if you ever get your hands onto those pictures of "Emil of some years ago" again Tear them up for me. I think I know which ones you are referring to.

Dont go to worrying about this young mans dreams skipping 18 perfectly good years cause they won't. The only reason my dreams are ahead of yours is because I started mine so much before yours. My pleasant dreams started long before you decided to say, "Yes."

In one of your letters you asked me the old question, "What is Love anyhow." Have you found the answer to that question yet? I know what Love means but it happens that my vocabulary is way to small to even attempt to explain.

Letterhead: The American Red Cross

I believe Id give most anything right now to have that hour or two of ours at Brookside all over. I often think of it when I lay around here with nothing to do.

Well Hoppy's idea that you may lose your passion for doys & horses may be alright, but Im gambling the other way. You better get fond of Nicaraguan Parrotts too cause Im going to own one and whatever ship I come on Im going to try my best to bring him along also a monkey if I can or maybe a honey bear in its place if I can. Il also give you a chance to lose your passion for dogs by having one of those around the house. I think by the time we get all those animals into one vity we won't hardly have room to turn around. Oh well, who wants to turn around though?

Sending out four Marines to preserve peace in some of these small towns is nothing compared to some of the things that happened down here last year when we weren't only fighting Sandino but also the conservative army, which is just another name for a bunch of bandits. The Marines ran across a band of armed conservatives in the hills and took them on as prisoners. The conservatives were only 308 men and the marines were 8 Privates, one Corporal, one Top Sgt. And one officer 2nd Lieutenant. Ten enlisted men and one officer. A shave tail at that.

I believe Ill close now honey seeing as Ive told you just about all there is to tell and here's hoping the mail gets here on schedule which is April 27, 1928 or better yet lets hope it gets here sooner and heres hoping some of those letters that went to Haiti get here soon.

Love
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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like this

box 3: folder 26

April 27, 1928 61st M.G. Co. 11th Regt. Marines Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I started a letter to you day before yesterday when I had the guard but never finished the letter cause I was called away to go on watch.

To begin with Tuesday I went out with the other platoon to fill in for a man who was on guard. We went out to fire the machine gun range and I made high score for that day. (Small Roses?) Well that glory didn't last very long though cause Wednesday when I was on guard some Corporal went out and bettered my high score by two points. I didn't get to shoot yesterday nor this morning so I guess he wins for a while anyway.

Well today is the 27th so the mail boat is due in "Corinto" today sometime so we should get some mail about the first of next week anyway. Im expecting a whole sea-bag full. I wonder if my hopes and expectations will be fulfilled. I hope so.

This darn country sure is the bunk. The time doesn't pass like it does in other tropical countries, it drags here and a weeks seems like a year. Still it wont be long now if I do every day of my cruise then Ive got 418 days to go if not, that is, if I get out 3 months ahead of time then Ive only got 326 days. I hate to do those last three months because Im anxious to get back to you, but on the other hand I stand to lose much money if I get out those 3 months early and that just means so much less of a start for us. However I could make up for what Id lose in three months once I get to working on the outside. What would be the best thing for me to do?

By the way, Ive a little news to tell you but I don't want you to bank to much on it cause its only rumor, but Ive heard that we may get back to the Good Ole U.S.A. for the Christmas Holiday. If we do Then stand by for another furlough but this one is going to be a real one if I get to make it and I doubt if you will remain in Cleveland when I come back for the last couple of months. Oh no. Mrs. Thomas would come right along and would stay along for a few months. Thats exactly the size of the whole thing honey. If I was to come to Cleveland tomorrow Id come with a wedding ring. I miss you so much that Im afraid Id never be able to come back without you.

I just heard some news honey. We are moving out of here tomorrow to toehr quarters. They will still be in this sity though. We are only moving out of this institute building because school starts nest month. The mail comes to the same address (lucky for me).

Did I tell you yet that Im going to work right along with my course regardless of where I am. It wont be no easy matter to get my exams in but Ill manage somehow. I sure had to fight plenty for permission, cause those things must go through official channels and on an expedition things like that are a pain, so if I dont want to have half my lessons lost Im going to have to use plenty of diplomacy and good sense. Im just about ready to write out another exam now so we'll see how it works once.

I managed to sneak off to one side of the firing line today and I got a couple of pictures of the machine guns as they went into action. I don't know how they will pan out. Ill see that later too.

Next day

I had to quit yesterday and last night I didn't get another chance to write. This morning we moved from the old quarters tot eh new. Then I had to go down to Hdqts. To mount guard now Im going to try to write.

I like this new place even better than I did the old place. Weve got plenty of water and nicer quarters and even a flower garden in the center of it. Wish you could see it. Weve got no galley here though as yet so we will have to go clean across town for our meals for a while.

I think we will get our mail today or Monday cause the boat didn't sink and got into Corinto O.K. last night.

So far Ive kept away from this booze down here. I think Im going to get me a little beer and wine pay day night cause thats my next liberty night and one of the fellows is going along to see that I don't get to much. He don't drink at all so he's going to keep an eye on me so I can't get reckless.

Im going to try to write a few lines to Lill if they don't give me some work to do before then.

I think Ill close now honey and try to write Pa and Lill a few lines and Ill write more to you when out mail comes in.

Besos Ye Pesos
Porter

Box 3: folder 27

May 2, 1928 61st Company Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I don't remember now if I ever sent off an answer to your letters that I received Saturday, cause since then Ive done nothing but duty on the patrols and go to the Range and load cartridge belts for the machine guns and in bewenn times when I had a few minutes to spare Id try to catch up on lost sleep. Im on a patrol again today but I don't go on till 8:00 P.M. tonight.

I received a letter from Lill at the same time that I received your four letters. I sure was glad to hear from her. The mail boat and payday are the only real bright days for us, you know and they sure come seldom enough.

I heard some nice news the other day. I heard that this machine gun company is going to stay here in Leon till after the elections and we will probably come back to the States along about in December. Oh well honey don't worry. They cant keep me down here much longer than that even if they dont send us back then.

This is pay day down here and the first thing I did was to get my supplies and then a couple of bottles of beer, The first Ive had since we got here by the way. Boy that sure tasted good. I dont mean maybe. It tasted just like more, but Porter knows better than to let his eyes till his (Will Power) what to do.

I only wish you were down here honey. I wouldn't care then, even if the mail never got in. I wish you could see these women, They carry everything on their head. They sell fruit and other wares on the street corners and sit out in the street with their trays setting on the sidewalk and their days sales dont often amount to much over 3 or 3 ½ dollars and they sit there from about 5:00 A.M. till late at night. Ive bought oranges for 3¢ per doz. and 3 doz. Banannas for a dime. Oh they are sheap enough now cause there is plenty of show here, but when we are on a hike or something where the food is scarce and they know we are hungry they try to rob us by asking big prices. Im eating the 18th banana out of a dimes worth right now. You just wait till I come home. Ill bet you won't even recognize me. Ill be as sunburned as a nigger and probably be very fat from eating many bananas.

The rest of the gang have gone to show now so Ill have a little time to write when on one will bother me. I don't feel like eating anyway.

What's the matter honey? Is this absence making the heart grow finder? In your last batch of letters you seemed to have a bad case of "Blues." They are alright in our "Blue Heaven" but otherwise the are nix. I know its pretty hard waiting and I often feel that way but if you will just forget to think about how long it will be before I come home, I think you will have fewer Blue moments.

Do you know what I often do? I just see you as you looked when ever I kissed you and as you looked when you first met me at the door. Then I imagine Im kissing you again and those – shall we steal a name and say (Dream Kisses?) are pretty nice while they last but then when I get a chance to sit down and think about the time Ive got to do yet then I get more lonesome than ever but when I come back to the "Dream Kisses," then all that leaves again.

Well honey Ive got to get ready for patrol now and go down to Battalion Headquarters for orders and instructions. Ill write more first chance I get

Write soon Honey cause those letters mean very much to me

Semper
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX C.P.

I forgot these in the last letter, XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX C.P.

Box 3: folder 27

May 4, 1928 61st Co. Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

Ive been working all afternoon so far loading machine gun belts with ammunition we use about 4000 round of it for a half day firing on the range. Think of how much we would fire in combat. Just figure eight guns to a company each firing 240 rounds per minute or four shots each second. We never fire steady that long though. We probably shoot a burst of 50 or 100 rounds then change to another spot. My hands are sore and my arms tired from feeding that loading machine.

I hear that there is another mail boat coming in about the 6th so we will probably get the mail about the 7th or 8th. I wonder how many letters I get this time. I hope its plenty and the more the merrier.

I wrote to my father to Lill to my cousin Gust Sharalotta, and to Erv and Jim yesterday. I sent a few lines to let them know Im still alive and kicking.

Do you know honey? That no matter how much I want to get back to you and no matter how much I hate this country still I like it. I just don't know what it is cause there is nothing here that I like and everything except the machine gun seems to bore me. Im a little bit interested in that but then Im no more interested in it than I am in the rest of my duties.

Ill say this much for this darn country. Its harder to soldier and if you want to soldier you just have to keep plugging away all the time, shave at least once a day and take a couple of baths a day and either scrub two complete changes of clothes a day and shine your shoes at least four or five times a day and all on account of the intense heat and the thick dust. Then to every thing is made as inconvenient as possible cause it is made for the use of these Gooks and they are way out of style. We have to take a bath in a bucket, sit on a box for a hair cut, stand in line for chow also wait our turn in line for a bucket of water and to scrub clothes. We line up for so many things that if I was to be woke up in the middle of the night Id run out and fall in before I was fully awake.

The streets are so hot that it burns your feet right through the soles and its hard to march on the streets cause theyre all paved with cobble stones. Oh well honey I still cant see what it is I like about this country nor why but I do like it.

I only wish I could get one punch at Gen. (sardine) Sandino. Ill bet he'd wish Id never been sent down here to play hide and seek with him. I guess we hadn't better make fun of this war though it's the only one weve got. There was one detail of men left here today to go back to the States. They were extremely short timers. Three months and less to do on this enlistment. Two of those darn fools are going to ship over when they get to the States. They are just going back with them. Ill bet even money they'd never send me this far away from you again. It'll be a long day till I ship over too unless they give me quarters and such a good rating that we can both afford to see the world through a port hole. There is no telling but what they might do something like that about the rate. I may come back as a rated man, from what I hear. They are going to make a bunch of men soon and maybe – in the next bunch I might get mine. If I do and the first one is large enough I might make a second one before I get back.

Then I'd have a nice start. Oh well honey whats the use of dreaming though. Id probably get my recommend and then spoil it all in the last minute by telling someone higher up to chase a horse.

I shot high in the range again this morning with 63 out of a possible 80 then in the last minute some bozo fired over and made 65. Oh well being second best with no one else within 9 shots of my score isn't so bad. Maybe the next time Ill beat his score. Id like to beat it but still I don't want to cause if I do Im liable to be made tripod man and have to carry the tripod on all marches and that darn thing sure gets heavy even if it dont weigh but 53 lbs. and your shoulders sure get sore from carrying it.

Im going to sign off now honey so I can get ready for chow.

May 6th

Well that chow lasted a couple of day according to this letter. I didn't get a chance to finish this night before last and then yesterday we were busy fooling with a clothing and equipment inspection. Today Im on patrol again, going on at noon so Ive got till then to write

The mail boat came in to Corinto yesterday so we may get mail today or tomorrow. I don't know just what it depends on but it probably depends on the engineers sobriety, if hes sober enough to run the train today or not. Heres hoping he can't get any booze at all.

Weve been raising particular H!!! – in this company in the last couple of days. Every man went bolshevick and I guess weve just about succeeded in knocking the 1st Sgt. out of the box. I hear we get a new Sgt some time next week. Did you ever heart of, "stock," on the ball team? Well thats him. I don't know how good he will be but I hope he will be better than the other guy that weve got now. He couldn't possibly be worse.

Ive just about ruined my watch I think. I went to set it yesterday and pulled the stem out to far and its parted company with the watch. Ill see what these watch makers down here know. They may know enough to fix it but Im starting to doubt it. They don't make these people that smart. Why the photographers down here cant even develop a roll of films without spoiling them. I took a foll of films to be developed and printed and I think he got 4 pictures good. He forgot to put the films into the finishing fluid and when they were exposed to the light they spoiled. I think Ill have to start developing and printing my own pictures.

Well honey I guess thats all for this time and Ill try to write more and oftener after this if I can so for now Ill close with much

Love & Kisses
Porter

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40 C.

P.S. Im working on my course but seem to be stuck on the one lesson.
Porter

Box 3: folder 27

May 7, 1928 Leon

Dearest:

Ive got beside me three letters from you that arrived yesterday. Don't figure on this twelve day interval stuff to much cause it may mean that you get fooled, cause the mail don't go out of here at regular intervals no way it goes out whenever a ship bound for the States gets lost far enough to hit Corinto

You are most certain that the penant on that car was Chrysler-Club and Im most certain it said (Chrysler-club) no® in the first word. It most probably was Jim.

Yes I heard something about the German Irish flyers, but didn't know if they made it or not. The Irishman must have been good luck cause no square head has enough luck of his own to make that kind of flight.

Gee honey it makes me cool off a little at least, to know that every place in the world isn't as warm as this. I see from the U.S. papers that get here that Cleveland has been winning a few games this season so far. Heres hoping they keep it up.

Im doing everything you mentioned and a couple more things for good measure and that includes traveling around in circles and just living – for the day when they send me back – to you.

To tell the truth honey it wouldn't take very much to build a four room bungalow and it would be just about the right size but Im not so sure if it wouldn't be wise to wait a couple months before we start planning that I mean a couple of months after I get to working steady cause no matter how cheap it would be we would have to make payments for a while. Then to if my luck don't change soon I may not have much more to start on than what Ive got in the bank right now. Ill see though what can be done cause I want that bungalow too.

There isn't much doing in Nicaragua. There was a detail standing by here on my birthday to leave for Bluefields where Gen. (Sardine) captured a gold mine and some prisoners. I was on that detail but we were left behind and another company went instead. Before that detail got a good start, Gen. Sardine heard that they were coming so he took what gold he wanted and blew up the gold mine and made good his escape, so right now on one knows where he is at so there seems to be – A lull in the days occupation – Its not known as the childrens hour though in military circles its known as intensive training, (And How) Mucho Malo meaning very bad in Spanish.

Dont worry honey, if you keep on addressing my mail like you do Ill surely get it, no matter where I go, and dont worry about your cooking. You never heard me growl yet, have you.

Sho, honey Id like to send the films up there for developing but Im afraid they would get ruined on the way up practically all of those four rolls I took over to be fixed the other day were spoiled.

I dont know if these Senioritas keep their shoes polished or not Its very seldome they wear shoes, but the powder. You can smell them for 3 blocks cause they use such strong smelling powder.

I don't know if I will be able to bring a monkey and parrott or not but they cant shoot me for trying.

Dont figure for my birthday cause it doesn't mean anything while Im in the service except that it makes my time so much shorter and that much sooner Ill get home to you. If you'd sent a package it would no doubt have got here but its better not to bother cause it isn't necessary. Its enough for me to know that you remembered my birthday. Thats more than I can say and I do wish you would let me know when yours comes around. I know about when but exactly.

I love you so much honey that all I can think about is you. I can't see right now just how Im going to stick it out down here without seeing you soon. Just the thought that you love me too is the only thing that keeps me plugging away and I think if it weren't for that Id sure be some bolshevick.

Well honey write soon to your

Porter

Bueno Noche

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40 C.

Box 3: folder 27

May 10, 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I was expecting another mail to get here about three days ago but for some reason or another (reason unknown) the darn ship hasn't got to Corinto yet. Its known to be somewhere between Balboa and Corinto cause it got through that Canal last Saturday. Oh well no use to worry I don't suppose only I'd like to have my mail.

This morning we fired the range and when we ran out of ammunition (1400) rounds we came back and scraped and painted the machine guns and tripods, the carriages, and ammunition boxes. Then came my job. I operate the loading machine and I had to load the belts that we emptied this morning. I just finished at 3:15 P.M. and its now 3:30 P.M. so you see I didn't waste much time before I started this letter.

I've been thinking over what you've said about a four room bungalow honey and I think we could swing it alright but what I can't figure out is how in the heck we are going to make only four rooms into a bungalow. You would have to have the Kitchen, Dining room, and parlor on the first floor and only one room on the second. That one room would get lost in all that spare space and if we were to put the bed room downstairs too the house would no longer be a bungalow, it would be just a house like Mins and you wanted a bungalow. I've written however for an estimate on a bungalow, four rooms, and I gave orders that if there was no such thing for one to be invented.

Im going to try enclosing the results of some of the pictures Ive taken so far some of them turned out fairly good, others only half as good and the photographer spoiled what I didn't. It seems like every picture I wanted to take always appeared just after the sun went down so it was always too dark and I couldn't take time pictures cause the boat was moving. These are the results so far. The pictures that the fellows took of me were no good. Either they cut my head off or they kept the shutter open too long by letting the cable kink or something like that. Ill try my luck again first chance I get.

Well honey it looks like Im gong to quit for a while to get some chow.

Next day

It always seems to be about the same thing here when I go to write you a few lines. I always get called away or have to stop for chow or something and some times it's a couple of days before I get back to the letter. Im on guard again today Ive got the prison watch. Theyve got 10 prisoners too. I go on at 8:00 P.M. again.

I just came off at noon and as soon as I got chow I came back to the quarters and took a nice cool bath so now I just feel like writing. Don't get too excited though cause I only feel like writing but I don't know what to write about.

I'm still working on that lesson on, "Motors & Synchronous Converters," but I haven't got over the last part of the thirteenth question yet. I think Ill have to ask for further information on it.

Another hour later

What did I just get through saying? There always seems to be something to keep me from writing. This time it was my bunk broke on me while I was writing, so I just made a good job of it so they couldn't refuse to survey it for me and then went to the property Sgt. and got it surveyed so now Im writing on a nice clean new bunk. It wont be that way very long though.

The boys are working hard this afternoon at painting the machine guns. They were painted yesterday so today they scrape the paint off again and re-paint them. (Marine Corps Efficiency) We may do it all over tomorrow and those guns may not see any more paint the rest of their days.

This is a great war alright for those people that are in the States, but for us its (jut the bologna) Id eat a couple cords of hardwood to get just one good shave while Im down here. Oh yes they sell us blades alright but they aren't any good. I used four blades this morning and still Im not shaved good.

I only wish I could be with you right now for even an hour. Ill bet that hour would be 61 minutes long. Id like that one hour just to tell you how much I love you and how much I miss you. I never thought it possible to love any one so much as I love you honey. Ive found out different though. I keep alone on the knowledge of the fact that you love me.

Well honey two months have slipped by since I left the good old U.S.A. for this place. It can't be very long now. I think we can both stand it that much longer. Oh I know its going to be hard and the (great speed) of the mail don't help any either but we'll just do our best honey and don't forget that I Love You and the time may pass quicker. Think of your four room house and little Joseph the athlete and that may help some. Dreams and air castles usually do.

Uno Besos Del Derby
Porter

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80 C.P.

Box 3: folder 27

May 14, 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

The mail got here last night about a week later than schedule and I had two letters from you.

Oh yes I believe I have heard that every cloud has a silver lining as yet. I know just about where to look for it though cause Ive only got a year to do with a couple extra day, at the most, so thats when Im looking for the silver lining.

Dont worry about those people who have a cast-iron face and can't smile. Just do your best to radiate sunshine yourself and if you do happen to feel blue just mix it with the ink. Im sure I understood and I won't mind if it makes you feel better.

What do you mean when you say Lill was lonesome where she worked? That sounds like she might have quit working at her old job.

Home would be the ideal place for a person who is in love, provided – the other party concerned is there. Oh don't mind that soldiers sweetheart stuff honey. Thats all right in some places but a soldiers sweetheart can't stand so very much more than any one elses sweetheart. I think youve been pretty brave and Im proud of you. I understood just how you feel and I think I feel the same way.

I dont remember having ever sent a letter without putting a return address on it, still if Lill says I did, then I guess I did.

Don't start to worry about me now honey cause no matter how much the papers rave about this war there really isn't much danger cause Sandino wont start anything with the Marines as long as he isn't put to close quarters, and then he just strikes long enough to kill a couple of scouts, then turns and runs. He won't even come within a mile of a machine gun if there is any chance at all of being seen. The worst battle the Marines ever had with him was in February and then there were only 14 Marines hit so you see with all the Marines in this country it isn't likely that Im going to be the unlucky one to get hurt. The biggest danger down here is sickness, insect and reptile bites (All of which can be kept off if one is carefull) Weve got to be very carefull of the water we drink of the food we eat. We never put on a pair of shoes or socks without first shaking them to see that no spideers or scorpions or small reptiles of any sort have crawled into them we always sleep under a net being sure that the ends are tucked in so nothing can crawl under it. Im taking very few drinks of beer in spite of the fact that I like beer, just so there wont be anything to weaken my system. Im staying clear of all natives except in line of duty and especially clear of native women cause they are all infected with different diseases from leprosy on down, and by my living in this manner I don't think there is much danger unless the fever should break out and they are keeping a weather eye open for the first sign of that so it can be isolated. Now don't worry anymore about me cause there really isn't such an asfull amount of danger.

The first platoon is firing the machine Gun range for record this week so we (The second platoon) are doing all the guard and pareol. Im on again tonight in the rebel district with my bunky as my side kick. They always send two men out together on these patrols. Ive got a 4 P.M. to 8 P.M. tour of duty tonight and another two hour tour from 2 A.M. to 4 A.M.

Ive finished the lesson of my course that Ive been working on but I think Ill have to do it all over again cause I missed out on two questions that had me stuck and I had to ask for further information on those two questions. Im still waiting for the other lesson to get back but Im going to go right ahead with my next lesson whenever I get time.

Well honey I think Ill close now and hope you are over (The Blues) and in “Our Blue Heaven” again. The next time you play (Blue Heaven) again play Hilo also for me.

Muyo Besos Ye Peosos
Porter

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Box 3: folder 27

May 16, 1928 61st M.G. Co. Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I meant to write this letter yesterday but I didn't get the chance. It seems that things were happening fast here night before last while I was on patrol. We had a small earthquake. The (Spicks) came running out in all stages of dress that would make me look like I was at the north pole the way Im dressed this minute, and Im in my underwear. They werent going to get caught in their shack no way. The dogs gave us the first warning, about a million pooches held an assembly right near us and took off into a place where buildings wer scarce. I wish you could have been here. You could have picked yourself a nice dog.

Im going on patrol again tonight. Ill see if I can get another volcano exited enough to start another earthquake. Boy, if Id known of any road going back to the States Id still be running. I don't like these earthquakes worth a darn.

Im getting darn lonesome for my clarinet and Im writing to the band master at Ocotal to see if I cant get into the band up there. Its part of this same Regt. and if hes interested enough to try to get me transferred he can.

I guess we fire the Machine Gun range for record next week. Ive got good hopes of making a darn good score. In fact I expect to be either high man or next to high man in this platoon and maybe in the whole company.

Im getting more lonesome for you every day, honey, and if I don't keep busy all the time it just tortures me. I love you to much to be so far away from you for such a long time. Still no matter how lonesome I am Im happy just because I love you. I never knew it was possible to love anyone so much. Don't worry honey. I realize its hard but Ive only go so much time to do and then we'll make up for all this.

Write to me often honey and let me know from time to time how the Cleveland Baseball team makes out. I try to follow them up but dont always succeed. I think they stand third now but I hope they will be first by the end of the season.

Love Your
Porter

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40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 27

May 19, 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I received two of your letters yesterday also one from Min. I was on patrol again last night (Every other day for the last week) so I didn't answer until this afternoon. I slept all morning.

Why don't you explain this meaning of the name of your club (I've never got around to studying the sign language nor Chinese) Then may I can tell you if it is appropriate.

Don't let that engaged couple get on your goat honey. They aren't spooning, merely making the most of there young lives.

I can't understand it honey, you say you haven't received a letter in almost three weeks. I've been wrtng right along every chance I get.

I hope that boy friend of yours dont forget to use that hammer in case my sweetheart needs protection. Why don't you tell me my horoscope seeing as you brought up that subject.

Oh yes Im having a very enjoyable time here. I only hope these people never make a mistake and forget to feed us ~~eggs~~ chicks, or beans or canned sweet potatoes cause if they ever did Id die.

Weve been having quite a time here for the last week, between earthquakes, patrols, and battles with rebels we didn't get much sleep, no casualties though but a few guys got tired of it and tried going over the hill. They all came back though a white man can't travel this country without either a protection from insects or either medical attention so being out two nights generally brings them back sick with fever and hungry etc.

Sorry to hear youve been sick again with your headaches. I hope its better by now cause I know how bum they can make you feel alright.

You told me once that you don't believe in bum dreams so don't believe in that one about my requesting you to write so many letters cause I never done no such a thing and I never will whats more.

Will you please explain this (If I saw you now youd get T.B. or something for sure) This was part of the ending of your last letter.

Write soon honey cause dreams like that one of yours don't come true.

Your
Porter

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Box 3: folder 27

May 25, 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

We got in here yesterday noon tired as the dickens, dirty and hungry but after dinner we soon forgot all about that because we had some mail waiting for us. I had one letter from you, none from home. I was happy though cause you had received one of my letters and were happy. Don't go to thinking that your doctor is to darn far away to prescribe for you. You haven't told me a thing about practicing on the fiddle for a long time and I certainly am sure that my last prescription was, "Much practice."

I believe Ill have to try that, "Please God," stuff once and see if I cant get a couple of letters from my folks and about twice as many from you.

I don't know just what Jennie's brother meant when he said he felt like a kitten on a tin roof. Id just say I feel blood thirsty as heck and Id like to clean this country up.

No I didn't think I had a monopoly on "Our reception." I only put it down that way to let you know I liked it and wanted more. The same goes for our trip to Brooky.

Don't worry honey girl. Im used to all this excitement allright and like it but I only like it because it gives me a chance to work out my grudge against these Gooks and that goes fro all these people of both sexes. Dont you worry about these Senioritas sweetheart. I haven't cheated yet and I don't intend to. There is really no use for you to worry. This life may be exciting as heck right now but don't worry about the life at home seeming dull for me. Id gladly make the change today if it were possible. If they were to tell me to get ready to go back in 5 minutes now Id ask them what the extra 4 ½ minutes were four.

Dont plan on seeing me Christmas cause you will be sure to be disappointed if you do. You may expect me when you see me coming down the street. There are some men here who should be paid off and are still waiting for transportation to the States.

Ive just found out why my letters get up to you so seldome. Ive been using native stamps because they leave here quicker. They catch any old tug out of here but they are liable to travel around for a couple of months to Chinese waters or to Europe or South America or some place like that before they ever see the good old U.S.A. while with American stamps they dont go out so often cause ~~hes~~ they only go on a United States Government boat and therefore get there much quicker. Im going to use American stamps form now on and see if that don't work. We are figuring on going out tot eh Machine Gun range next week for record firing and Ive bet with one of the fellows that Id make 320 and I think I will win the bet.

Ive written to my dad and to Min when I wrote your last letter and if Im not mistaken the one to my father should bring results in the form of a long expected letter. I suppose Lills letter will arrive in the next mail that gets here.

I guess you are the one that is going to get me to worrying if you go to telling me that the mood to write may not come your way again for a couple of months. Id just about die of lonesomeness if I had to wait that long for a letter.

They are figuring on starting a class in (Spanish) here for a few men so we may assist in the coming election. I think Id get into that class and see just how dumb I really am. Id like to be able to talk Castilian Spanish if I could like this I can make myself understood but thats all so I think Ill try to learn more.

I guess this is all for this time honey so write soon to one who loves you and always thinks of you ~~when~~ as you were when I last saw you and I always wish I could be there to hold you in my arms again.

Besos Hablo
Porter

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40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 27

May 27, 1928 Leon Nicargua

Dearest:

This is Sunday and for a change things are going pretty smoothly. (knock on wood) Weve done no work at all today, and weve had a very good dinner. I don't know if we will get disappointed or not, but there was another boat due at "Corinto," this morning but I don't think there was any mail went to Managua on todays train so maybe the boat didn't get in.

Im going to be firing for record in the mornings this week and Ill be attending some kind of a special class at Headquarters where we will be taught how to handle the ballots and the voters on election day, and those that take these instructions will work in the polls and wont be doing guard.

I havent taken any pictures lately because there is no chance at anything nice unless you call, "rain," nice. When I say rain thats just what I mean cause when it rains in Nicaragua its like a cloudburst at home and when it pours here old, "Noahs Ark," wouldn't have a chance

In one of your letters you made the remark, "honey," that Id get used to all this excitement and the life at home would seem dull. Ill tell you how it is sweetheart. I like a good fight, but there don't seem to be enough gooks in any one city to give me a good fight so I get quantity in place of quality and Im figuring on getting so much of it before I get back that Ill have enough to last me for the rest of my life, and even if I do ever feel quarrelsome again I think there should be at least one man in Cleveland who would satisfy my craving for excitement. Oh well honey, you know I may not even be so quarrelsome as I seem. I may only be mad enough to fight anyone who lives in this darn country, cause its partly on their account that we were brought down here. Id sure like to find the man who is the reason for it all. Im so darn lonesome since I last saw you that I just don't know what to do with myself and believe me honey, Ive tried everything. I just love you so much that all this only serves to make me even more angry with the natives. Ive taken all those things into consideration and Ive decided that my biggest desire is to settle down with you just as weve planned, "in a cottage small." (Four Rooms)

Ive made a bet on what kind of a score I nake for record this week. Ive bet that Id makde 320 or better, and Im afraid Ive bitten off a pretty large piece there but (Little Joseph) needs some shoes so Ill have to make 320.

Yesterday we saw a poker deck on a bunk just as we were waiting to go to chow so just for fun one guy dealt two poker hands, he looked at his and didn't draw any cards, I discarded and drew four cards to a jack and made a hand that appears about once in 3 poker players life times, I drew a perfect hand, a royal flush, an Ace, King, Queen, Jack, and Ten of the same suit. I was so surprised to see it that I was speechless for ten minutes. Boy what I mean I was the hero of the day. Today weve been playing some five hundred we played a 40 hand game. I cant keep my mind on those games any more like I used to cause Im so far from Cleveland and my mind always goes back there.

Ive heard the rumor again that all men with less than one year to do will go back in December. I hope so, Then Id have a darn good chance for 3 months ahead of time discharge if Im still in a position to take one like that.

Well honey if we don't have mail tomorrow why it may be two three more days but when it dies get here Im going to expect a few letters from you and a few from my folks so Ill write more then so for now

Hablo Besos
Porter

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40 C.

Box 3: folder 27

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] USS __ston Jun 2 1928

May 31, 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I wrote you a letter last Sunday but never mailed it cause after I got it written I found my envelopes had vanished. We started out into the sticks to where our machine gun range is on Monday so I couldn't mail it until now even if I had an envelope. Oh well they've promised to pay us tomorrow so I'll get envelopes then. Today we came in from the range to find some mail here for us, three letters from you, one from Lill, and one from my dad. I was one of the first bunch to fire for record, that was Tuesday morning I made 21 points over Expert Machine gunner and was high man until the second bunch fired and some Corporal was given a tie score with me and he should have had one point more and I was honest enough to show them where they missed that point. Everyone thought I was a fool for even helping someone to beat my score but I still think it's better to be honest.

Don't you remember when that old convict ship was in Cleveland a few years ago? I went through it then and it sure was interesting even if it was creepy.

Heck no honey, if we had to wear those darn heavy "blues," or, "greens," down here we would all shove off or pass out. We wear khaki trousers and khaki shirt with field hats and when we're in our quarters we wear much less than that.

This darn mail service gets on my goat, half the letters travel to South America or to Europe before they reach the States. Oh the times ~~you aren't~~ I'm not here when they get here and I'm so lonesome when I haven't either you or a letter to comfort me. I'm sure a (Sick calf?) or what have you.

There you go getting my meaning wrong again honey. I didn't say I was going to try to keep away from the Senoritas, cause that is an easy proposition. What I said is that when a man gets to much beer below the belt he is liable to get reckless and forget himself and maybe do things he might be sorry for. Do you understand now? Don't you worry honey, they may have me down here right now where I can't hold you in my arms and tell you how much I love you, but this won't last forever sweetheart I'll be back maybe even before the end of this year then I'll be able to tell you what I have to write now I'll be able to tell you that

I love You

Was that written large enough? Do you think I may be able to find a few of these lost soldiers when I get back? I'm sure going to try my best honey and if I do find them I think they will get lost still more, cause I'm sure starved for some of them.

Don't worry about that last letter honey. I don't mind what you write on the spur of the moment, I'll just try to explain those things and I'll be darn glad to have received the letter. When you get jealous like that I at least know that you love me

If I bring a polly back and it learns to talk that language, (profane), then he will make a darn good meal for the cat. A honey bear is an (animule) animal that resembles a black bear but is only 18 inches long when full grown and their favorite chow is fruit and honey.

Id give my shirt to have heard the Allen Theater Orchestra play, "Mother Marchree." Im wild about that song.

Who do you say you wish you might have known my mother, honey? Im just curious to know why but Ive wished the same thing myself honey. I just got another letter this minute that had been astray this one was from Erv and that makes this an almost perfect day. I suppose you know where I would have to be to make this a perfect day? Ask Carrie Jacobs Bond.

Now I don't want to give you any false hopes or anything like that honey but the dope is that all men with less than a year to do in December will go back to the States in time to welcome the new year. I hope so.

Well honey its just about time for chow so Im going to close now.

Bueno Noches Senorita and
Love from Your
Porter

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XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XX
I Love You
X

Box 3: folder 28

June 4 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

It seems that every time I start to write you a few lines Im always doomed to quit before I get fairly started. Weve been expecting trouble here for the last few days and weve been sleeping in our clothes and on our arms and ammunition just waiting for a call to arms thats never gone. I just wish they would turn us loose on some of these darn spicks, theyre all rabels anyway. Id darn soon show them how a good Marine can fight. Id like to break spick noses, necks, heads, legs, and all. Id get even for them causing me to come down here so far away from you. Its simply dangerous for tehm to let me out on liberty with so many gooks running around loose, the way I feel toward them.

I wish I could be at home today for only an hour, so I could hold you in my arms again, so you could tell me you love me. I still think its all a pleasant dream and that Ill wake up to find it out. Dont worry though honey girl Ill be back soon now, maybe sooner than either of us thinks. Im of the opinion that this darn trouble is just about blown over and that things will quiet down soon now and that we may go back to spend the holidays with our loved ones. Im beginning to get hungry again. I guess it must be near chow time. I wonder if we'll get shoe leather (beef) for show again if we do Im going to make another cocoa nut or banana chow.

Oh well sweetheart I suppose I should be thankfull that I havent got more time to do or Id probably get a transfer to one of the permanent outposts out in the hills. At least no matter where Im at or what kind of duty Im doing I at least know that you love me and I also love you, more than anything else and that helps because it makes me want to get back to you and it makes my stay down here easier and safer in all ways.

Im studying Spanish here now in a class that the Marine Corps conducts in order to prepare us for the job of managing a voting booth at the coming elections. They are going to have one Marine in each booth to run it and preserve order. Im getting along fine. I can talk 26 words already and understand much more. (Usted hablo bein espanol?) That means (Do you speak Spanish well? Si Senorita Yo habla bein espanol y aleman idioma) That means (Yes Senorita I speak the Spanish and German languages well)

Well honey Im going to close now but don't forget to write cause Im so lonesome for you that I hardly know what to do. I could just love you to death if I had you with me now and Ill bet Id get some practice at hugging to so write to

Your Lonely
Porter

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"See You Later"

XX
40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 28

June 4 1928 Leon Nicaragua

Dearest:

I just mailed a letter to you on my way to Spanish class but when I got back I found a letter from you waiting for me so I just have to write another one.

Seeing as you would rather have me come home three months early thats just what Ill do. I was thinking of doing that and going in a garage business for myself anyway but things haven't been running so smooth with me lately but Ill put in for 3 months ahead of time anyway. I may be able to team up with your dad in something.

Just to show you how my luck is running honey I got recommended this morning for Pfc. and this afternoon I find that Im the next on the list for transfer to the hills so Ill probably go on some detail before my recommend comes through and thereby lose my chance.

I guess there is no use pretending honey. This situation down here is getting closer every day and right now things seem to be at a fever pitch and we are only just standing by to see from what direction its going to come.

I guess that picture of the flower garden is out of the question now because weve moved from there and three times since. We dont stay very long in one place down here, not long enough to get any grass grow under our feet at any rate cause it might get to darn dangerous.

Dont you worry about my lessons interfering with your letters honey. Id ten times sooner neglect the lessons than to neglect you.

Ive quit booze altogether now honey, all ~~off~~ of it. Ill explain. I was second best shot in the company so a couple of us that shot high had to go out to celebrate and I simply got disgusted with the way I acted and swore off. I just figured you wouldn't like the way I staggered so I took a dislike to it.

Im going to try like the dickens to come home Xmas time honey and from the rumors we hear I may be successful but don't bank on it and dont bother about your nose being powdered cause I like it any way. I never growled the last time I came home about your hair being half way through the drying process did I? Then I must have liked it the way it was.

I sent Lill a letter this morning when I sent yours honey, and I write her every chance I get. Im sorry to hear she was sick, but maybe it wasnt appendicitis after all. It may have been only a pain in the side.

I was on patrol yesterday and got into a little argument with several spicks and I done one of them up kind of bad from what I heard this noon. I suppose Ill have to see the old man at office hours in the morning and explain but maybe not. It may be that the darn fool has better sense and simply dies and has it over with although it shouldn't be so bad as all that cause I only hit the poor fish with my fist but they think his skull may have a minor fracture or two.

Im going to quit now till after supper.

June 6 1928

Dearest:

It seems that when I stopped for chow, I stopped for a long time but theyve kept me busy ever since till about two hours ago. Im supposed to be on guard right now but got relieved because I didn't rate going on again. It seems though like there is always something or another to keep me from writing a complete letter.

What is the nature of the business your dad is figuring on? Or is it the same as Im thinking about.

Oh I don't say for sure that I can get out three months early honey but chances are good because after the elections are over all men with less than a year to do will probably go back to the States and then my chances would be about 3 to 1 in favor.

I love you honey more than anything that I know of and my biggest ambition is to make you happy so you will never have to regret the fact that you've accepted me. Im always thinking of you and I always dream about you even when Im wide awake and I often imagine (A smiling face, a fire place, a cozy room, and also another basketball player) Ive sure got a good imagination if it only proves to be right. Im still afraid Im dreaming and will wake up sometime or another.

Ive got a big Spanish lesson to do today and Im a little afraid of it. Ill get over it someday though. I can understand the language fairly well and know most of the words and their meaning but I have a hard time trying to construct sentences because half of them are inverted from the English and half of them aren't

I heard today that the gang that was supposed to go to the hills won't go after all and Ill probably stay here until I go back to the States with the exception of perhaps a few trips like weve been having as train or supply guards to some outpost or maybe in case of some emergency but Ill always get back here.

Well darling, I guess this is all for this time so Ill close now with love and many kisses from

Your Porter

P.S. Where is Milton Dane Ohio?

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40 C.

Box 3: folder 28

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] USS _____ Jun 8
[return address] E.G. Thomas 11th Regt Band Ocotal Nicaragua c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

June 8 1928 Managua Nicaragua

Dearest:

Im just going to write you a few lines dear to let you know the news. Ive been transfered to the 11th Regt. band at Ocotal for duty and weve completed this much of our journey by rail during which time I took a few nice pictures that may or may not turn out good we'll see later.

Tomorrow we expect to finish our trip in one of the Fokker transport planes that were brought down here last fall. You remember reading about that, don't you.

Im glad in one way to get back but in another way Im not. I was up for pfc when I got transfered and would most probably have made Cpl. in 3 months time but I dont care even if I dont get as much money here Im at least back in my old outfit at their request.

Thats going to be all for now honey except that my address will be 11th Regt. Band Ocotal, Nic c/o Postmaster Balboa C.Z. so bye bye for now and write soon to Your

Porter

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Box 3: folder 28

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Jun 16 [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas U.S. Marine Forces 11th Regt. Nicaragua c/o 11th Regt. Band c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Temporarily at Leon June 14, 1928

Dearest:

I was at Managua over last Sunday waiting to proceed by plane to Ocotol but for some reason or another I never got that far. Theyve brought me back here to Leon to go to Ocotol with a bunch of rookies that are going up. They couldn't very well send up that many boots alone cause it would be murder in case of an attack or ambush theyve simply got to send a few men along that have been through the mill. Thats going to be a long hike too. 180 miles of mud and mountains. We dont know when we start cause thats a secret at Heqts but we expect it to be soon. Ill sure be glad when its over and I get to do band duty again.

There was a batch of mail got in here yesterday but not even one letter for me. I can't imagine whats the matter, or have you been sick? I hope not, but I just cant help but worry when I don't hear from you.

Its been a long time now since I heard from you and it sure makes it hard but then the U.S.S. Texas gets into Corinto today maybe she's got some mail aboard. I hope so a letter sure will help a whole lot.

My time is getting shorter down here all the time for full time now its 1 year and 5 days but for 3 months early its only 9 months and 5 days. Im going to get all the fighting I want during this time so Ill be sick and tired of fighting when I get out.

The rainy season has set in good and proper here now it rains every day (and how) The curbs are 16 inches from the street and this building sets 7 inches higher than that and the streets flood so deep that the water runs right in here all you see around here now is mud and water. Ill sure be one happy hombre when the send me back to the States and to (the sweetest girl I know.)

Ive often wondered if when I do get back to Cleveland it won't be to much for me. To know happiness after all this misery may give me heart trouble. Is there a sure cure for that? Im not worrying about that though, just wondering. If Ive got my choice I'd say call the doctor but send me to Cleveland. How about you?

Im behaving nice now, no more booze. Not even one drop. Im up the pole.

They arent going to let me take our sea bags along so the only clothes we will have with us will be what we carry in a heavy. There won't be room for writing material or any other such luxuries so once we get started I wont be able to write till I get there we probably wont be able to shave till we get there either so by the time we arrive we probably will be a salty looking bunch and in case of an ambush or a fight, some of these rookies will probably get so scared that they will lose six years of growth and will probably be a sick looking bunch. They will get used to it though, thats what puts a level head on a

man. They will go up there as boys and come back men. I often feel sorry for some of these men. They remind me so much of the mothers boy in, "What Price Glory." Their inexperience makes them just so much excess baggage and a good target for the enemy for their sake I hope this trip is uneventful because if it isn't then its just to bad for them. The only thing the world will know is what the notice in the, "Leatherneck," says about their death. They no longer consider the, "Fallen dead" as heroes, they are just (casualties).

Whats the dope in this business you dad is intending on going into? Youve got me curious. I hope its ine of the trades I like cause Id sure like to work with your dad.

I just heard two shots in the direction of the woods so now we'll probably be restricted the rest of the day expecting an attack and the two shots were probably some one out hunting.

Well honey if I dont get a letter about tomorrow or day after then Im going to start cutting up so write soon and let me know that you love me as much as ever so Ill know that it wasn't your fault that I didn't get a letter aboard the last boat that came in.

Thats all for now my sweetheart so write soon to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

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40 C

"see you later"

Box 3: folder 29

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] From: Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band U.S.M.C. Ocotal Nicaragua c/o Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

July 10, 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

Here I am in Ocotal at last, back in the band. We got in here late the day before yesterday, and I was never so glad to get anything over with as I was when that trip was done.

That trip is bad enough in the dry season and with plenty of chow but in the rainy season its practically 180 miles of swamp. We were forced to start out with 5 days rations and inadequate protection. We only had two automatic riflemen and no "sbu Thompsons" we were darn lucky that we didn't get a real battle coming up cause we had 104 head of (excess baggage) recruits and 16 old timers to take cause of them and protect them. They sure were a bunch of hiking fools though and bears for punishment. One time we worked day and night for two days up to our hips in swamp and black mud getting the bull carts through two miles of swamp and when we got onto a small rise in the land where we set up camp some of those fellows still had enough pep to fight a gruge fight that lasted 50 minutes.

One time we got a spoonful of beans (about fourteen) and three hard tacks and a quarter of a cup of coffee and made an 18 hour hike up the side of what they call a small mountain here. (We would call it going up the face of a wall) It rained every minute of the time and we were up to our hips in mud again. We rested all the next day though and ate what rations we had left cause we were coming to a Marine Post the next day where we could get a few more days rations. That was on July 4th. Then on the 5th we had another clamity the bull cart with our chow upset in one of the rivers and our chow was spoiled so we had to make some forced marches on what we had in one of the other carts. We sure were glad when we got here.

The Band up here is only playing one concert a week (Sunday afternoon) The rest of the week we have Spanish school and Guard. Thats what Ive got tonight. They feed pretty good here though and this duty isn't so bad cause its not regulation. We have to go armed to the teeth though every where we go. We carry both a rifle with 100 rounds of ammunition and a pistol with three clips full of ammunition we look like a darn bunch of cowboys half the time. I took 6 rolls of pictures but Im afraid they spoiled crossing some of those darn rivers. I have a little hope for a couple of rolls of them but that hope is very slight. Ill see how they come out. Im sending them to Managua to be developed and printed.

I got two letters from you just as we were leaving Leon but they got wet coming up so I cant very well answer all of the questions you asked. There was some mail came in here yesterday but none for me. Mine has probably gone to Leon again so I may receive some in a week or so. Oh well it just can't be helped so Ill have to make the best of it and just wait.

I also heard from my cousin Gust S Karabotta when I got those two leters of yours but it will be a wek or sl before I get paid enough to get some stationary so he may have to wait a while for his answer. I was darn lucky I had some very good friends here or Id never been able to borrow this much paper. In fact Ive got such good friends here that they came out to meet the detail with smokes they had borrowed because they knew Id be out so smokes everyone was before we got here. They fixed up a

barrel with a can that had holes in it so I could take a shower and lent me their own clothes and razor so I could shave and get some of the mud off of myself and wear clean clothes and they even took my muddy and dirty clothes to their own wash woman and undid my roll and pack for me and everything. I've sure got some real friends here who were as glad to see me as I was them and it sure makes a fellow glad to know he has such good friends. Two of them even went out and swiped two chickens from some gooks and some supds and got salt and lard and stuff from the galley and swiped eggs and made me a special feed of Spring Chicken and French fried potatoes and some eggs turn sunny side up. I'll sure never forget that reception as long as I live and I'll try to show them how much I appreciate it.

Well honey I've got a two till six watch tonight so I must get a little sleep so bye bye for now and write soon to

Your
Porter

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Box 3: folder 29

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotol Nicaragua c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

Friday 13 July Ocotol Nic

Dearest:

Im doing my Spanish right now or rather Im doing my Spanish Study hour on this letter. If they caught me Id probably get a firing squad and a crick wall.

I wrote a few lines to Lill last night but was in no hurry to write this cause there is no mail collection till Monday, then God only knows when it gets a boat to the States. I hope its soon or you will be thinking Ive forgotten you or that Ive ceased to love you. I havent though. I only wish I could prove it to you. Oh well honey no use to let that worry us any. The election down here comes off on Nov. 4th and as soon as possible after the election as possible they are going to send back those men who have les than a year to do so it will only be a matter of a few weeks from then till I get to the States. Meet me at the depot with a minister and a couple of witnesses.

The time is passing quickly down here but to me it sems like ages. The hike up here only took a little better than two weeks but those weeks seemed like months to me. I thought of you all the time and I really believe that Id never made it if it weren't for those thoughts. I had disintery and food poisoning and I sure was a sick Marine for a few days but I just figured you wouldn't like for me to drop out when all those kids were sticking through. So I just kept going.

Ive been working pretty hard on my clarinet since I got here but no lip yet. I cant get the first C above the staff yet and when I get a lip Ill be able to go an octave above that. I think we are going to have a rehersal tomorrow I hope so cause if we don't have one why I won't know anything hwen it comes to the convert Sunday.

These darn guys around here sure are bound to keep me from writing here first its one thing then its another but Ill fool em.

Sunday 15th July

I guess I didn't fool them so very much after all it seems like I quit writing Friday and didn't start again till just now.

Yesterday morning was passed in getting ready for our regular weekly inspection then we had a rehersal and as far as Im concerned it was all a joke. Pop put me into second chair right off the bat, and I haven't got enough of a lip to play the B [flat] scale let alone the stuff he had out. Im afraid that for the time being Im going to be forced to admit that Im beat, but plenty of practice should put me into some kind of position and condition again or at least I hope so.

I got an envelope full of spoiled films back from the photographer yesterday, but only four good pictures the rest of them were completely spoiled from getting wet. The outside of my camera is spoiled as far as looks goes but I think the rest of it is O.K.

Well honey weve got to play a concert this afternoon so we'll see what kind of music we really can make if its anything like yesterdays rehearsal then I pity the people who will be forced to listen to us.

Im going to close now honey and blow a few notes but don't forget and write soon, often, and much to

Your Lonely
Porter

P.S. Im still up the pole.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

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40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 29

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran Wetzell Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] jul 20 [return address] E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotlán Nic c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

July 18, 1928 11th Regiment Band Ocotlán

Dearest:

I got two letters day before yesterday but didn't answer them yet, for no reason. (Shame on you Porter) I had a kind of a hunch there might be more yesterday but there wasn't.

Those two letters sure made me happy sweetheart. Those days and nights on the trail were just one long torture to me. I'd have felt much better if I'd had those last couple of letters that I received in Leon, so I could read them over on the trail and feel to pieces it was just impossible to keep anything dry when we crossed some of those rivers and swamps.

Oh yes I sure enjoyed that ride in the plane only I'm sorry to day that I was unable to attend the Marine Corps figured I needed some exercise so they left me walk. I'll tell the world I'm doing a bit of traveling down here. The last bit tips the scales at about 180 miles.

I don't quite agree with your Dad about the, "sport outfit" it's not a gun and a horse you want. It's a couple dogs and a horse. I wish I could take back one of these horses for you. They sure have some beauties. They don't get only about two thirds as large as the horses in the States but they are fast and sturdy. I wish I could keep a horse down here. They seem to be the cheapest thing down here. You can buy a darn good horse for 5 or 6 dollars in the hills. They cost as much as 25 or 30 near a town but that's even cheap when you figure what a horse would cost at home.

Yes I'm still taking Spanish lessons here but learning very little they have such a short time to teach us that they are hurrying over it just giving us the fundamentals of it so we will be able to talk enough to run a voting booth. They are slowly but surely getting us into shape now they are going to teach us balloting and voting laws of Nicaragua etc cause that will be more necessary than Spanish cause in reality we will have an interpreter at each booth but we will have to know the laws and rules cause we will be the President of the booth and be called on to make some decisions and see that they have a square election.

I'm sorry my last letters were all so short sweetheart and I'll try to do better in the future. I won't promise to but I sure will try. I'm going to have a hard time for a while unless I come over to school early in the morning and write until school time, cause I don't get much chance no other way cause school holds all morning and a couple hours in the afternoon. We were only having one hour in the afternoon but they've increased it to two hours now so if I want to build a lip I've got to figure on getting back to the quarters and practicing from then till dark and figure on time out for supper and after dark it is pretty hard to write without a light. I've come to the conclusion that this is the logical time to write. Verdad?

I read, "Money to Burn," by Peter B. Kyne. I read that at Quantico, and I sure liked it. That poem is nice to.

Im sorry I never told you I liked my horoscope sweetheart cause Ive never received it. It probably arrived in Leon after I left and my old pal down there is holding my mail till he hears that Ive arrived when he will forward it to me and Ive sent him a short note letting him know that I got here without getting killed and that I was still kicking so I suspect Ill get all that mail pretty soon.

So far I like Ocotal pretty well except that one always has to go armed we always either carry a pistol or two or a rifle everywhere. This is where the biggest battle so far was fought just 1 year ago last Monday July 16. This is what Sandino wanted for a stronghold and so did the Marines, needless to mention it. The Marines are still here, and a salty looking bunch too we look like a bunch of Jessie James characters half the time. There is nothing regulation about this place, no leggings or field scarfs or anything. Darn, I cant write at this darn recreation room here cause every time I start some darn fool starts that Victrola off on Blue Heaven and I just cant write then.

Ive felt like an undertakers job every once in a while and found out all about every muscle in my body but most of the time it was nothing more than the, "Blues." Id even have sworn at times that I saw you just across the street but I knew it wasn't so, so I just kept my hat on more when the sun was hot. This darn sun sure gets a guys nanny sometimes.

Good lord honey only a little more time till school and I havent put a bit of study on my lesson. Write soon to your

Poeter

Much Love and Many Kisses

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40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 29

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nicaragua c/o Postmaster Blaboa Canal Zone

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

July 22 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

This is Sunday and Im not on guard and there is no Spanish class today so maybe Ill get a chance to write a letter.

Ive practiced all morning so far I don't seem to be making much progress so far as building a lip is concerned, but if I keep at it long enough Im bound to get good enough to spend the rest of my time in the service at it. Im afraid though that Ill never be much good again. I seem to have lost control of my fingers.

My time now is ten months and a butt for full time and seven and a butt for 3 months early. My chances for 3 months early look darn good too. They are thinking seriously of sending all short timers back right after the elections so I expect to be back in the States by the first of the year at the latest. I only wish now that I hadn't saved so hard on my clothing allowance cause now Ill lose all that by requesting an early discharge. Oh well Ill have enough to get by on even this way so why worry.

I had to put this away while I ate dinner but I came right back to it and if Im lucky Ill be able to finish without another stop.

There is a boat due in Corinto today with mail but I found out about it to late for this letter to get on it. This letter would have to be in Corinto (220 miles) by now. The last plane that picked up mail to go was Friday morning and I didn't hear of the boat until this morning. Ill have at least one letter on that boat though. I just know I have, maybe more. Who knows. I should have a couple of letters from my father too and maybe some of the mail that went to Leon will get forwarded here.

This country here sure is pretty in some respects. I took a walk up one of these hills last night in time to see the Sunset and it sure was beautiful. I wish Id had some films for my Kodak. I shot an eagle last night. He was sitting in a dead tree and we saw him as we came around a bend int eh trail, and he was almost right above me so just for the fun of it I drew my pistol and tried it out. We also came across two deserted houses where the people seemed to have left in a big hurry and we found telegrams and letters to the former occupant, that proved that he was a bandit General. They were all sent by his Gen. in cheif and the telegram was a warning. The Marines never knew that he was a bandit though he was listed as a quiet peaceful citizen. Those little walks sure are interesting and I only wish I could indulge in them oftener.

I have a kind of hunch tha the woman who does my washing is trying to find out things (military) I think her husband is a bandit. We have him watched all the time now.

I wish you could be here with me darling. Then Id be happy and contented to do anything as it is Im lonesome for you and always wish I could see you so I could hold you real close once more and kiss you. I often feel like its just impossible to wait so long to see you again. I suppose Ill have to wait though. (328 days) maybe even (238 days) Thats always one comfort cause I know that Ive already served about 1100 days so these other few shouldnt kill me. then to the fact that you love me and are waiting for me help too. I believe they help more than anything else. Ive got your picture here now. I don't know how I worked it but I got it sent up here from Leon by air mail.

Love & Kisses
From Your Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

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40 C.P.

My bunky just came back from liberty in town and brought me back some stamps, and if I get this written soon enough he is going to mail it for me when he goes out again.

You should see what all we have to carry on a hike. You know there are eight privates and a corporal to each squad and each squad has one machine gun, the tripod to mount it on, two cans of water 6 boxes of ammunition enough spare parts to make another gun, a tool kit, two shovels, two picks, eight sand bags, one matchete, one hatchet, one clinometer, one compass, one field glass, and one aiming stake & cleaning rod then a couple of more tons of extra junk.

Ive addressed three other envelopes one to my dad, one to Lill and one to Erv but Im not writing their letters till later cause I want to get this one into the mail that leaves today. The next mail leaves Saturday I think.

Well honey write soon, much, and often to your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

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Box 3: folder 29

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran ~~4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A.~~ RFD 4 Pataskala Ohio [cancelled]
Aug 6 and Cleveland Ohio Aug 27 1928 [return address] From Emil G. Thomas 111th Regiment U.S.
Marines Band Ocotal Nicaragua c/o Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

July 26 1928 11th Regt Band Ocotal

Dearest:

Our mail was elayed a couple of days so today I received two more letters from you.

Im afraid you and I both are sorry that I had to hike instead of ride in a plane. I don't know why honey but some way or another I think that E.A. Guest's poem is right. What seems bad is sometimes only for the good. We heard today that the one fellow that hung out at the garage with us last summer was killed in an auto accident. Then if Id stayed behind it might have been me. Then to Im glad Im away fromt hat bunch of drunks cause one of them hit some poison booze and went insane and hung himself. He was a darn nice kid otherwise. Hes got a mother living too. Maybe it's a good thing Ive quit booze when I did. ----? I guess that poem is right.

I wish I could go to Brookside when ever I feel in the mood. Ive invented something to take my spite out on though. When I dont feel just right I go for a walk out into the woods about 5 miles past where we are allowed to go to a place I know of where buzzards and mountain eagles are plentiful and I shoot a couple of these. Then when I get back I feel lots better just cause I took my spite out on a helpless bird it helps the marksman ship though the last eagle I got was 200 yards away and I got him with a single shot. The hunting sure is great around here.

Ill say a fellow appreciates a good show when he gets one after hes made one of those hikes where he can't shave and the wiskers get in his way. He don't wait for Saturday night for a bath either he takes one when ever the water tanks are full and he can find time, even two, or three times a day. That dwindles down to one a day after the novelty wears off but even then they are appreciated more after you've made a hike like that where for any number of days you don't find any water clean enough to wash your hands and face in, course any water that is that clean is promptly chlorinated and used for drinking and cooking purposes.

Hot zigetty. Im writing this in the recreation hall and some !*?!= fool has to put, "Dream Kisses," on the portable phonograph that we have here and it almost makes me tear my hair out when they play that, cause the melody of that is so pretty especially when played on the Tenor Sax or on a cello. They will play, "Blue Heaven," for me in a minute though so why worry.

Tonight is the night of the Turney vs. Heeney argument. We are going to get the results blow by blow by the courtesy of the boys in our radio station here. They have built a loud speaker expressly for this fight and are going to hook up the high frequency set just for the fight.

I have a funny feeling that there may be a spare letter or two at the quarters. Im kind of looking for a couple of the strays to find me soon. Im going over to see and also for chow and Ill write more later.

July 28 1928

Dearest: As usual once I stop writing about a dozen things come up to keep me from starting again. I stiopped this letter long enough to see that I had no more mail and also to get some dinner but just got to the quarters where they told me in no uncertain terms that I had half an hour to prepare myself to go on guard. That one time when I cussed the guy that invented shaving, and bathing and razors and everything else. If the O.D. only knew what I called him he'd still be blushing. I got shaved and cleaned up and was ready to mount guard in twenty minutes including the cleaning of my rifle. We had a regulation O.D. on and he was a pain, made us stay at the guard house between watches wouldn't even let us get our writing material so we could pass the time. That guy sure was a pain in the ear.

Don't worry about anything nice happening down here darling. There is no danger of it. This whole country is just a curse to the world and nothing worth while ever happens here. Ill sure be glad when I can get back to to you. I know Ill be happy then and not before.

This running out of money when you want it most sure hurts dont it honey? Money! The root of all evil still we are always trying to get more of it. That seems to be our one set back if I had more of it we'd be married now. Ive been fairly lucky ~~with~~ in respect to money until I came to this country but now I can't seem to get lucky or stay lucky. I often lay awake at night dreaming of you and of the time when we can get married then theat infernal question pops up. What will we use to live on. I had hoped to have enough saved out of my four years to enable me to start out on a home of our own but Im afraid I counted the chickens before they were hatched. The way things stand now why I wont have much over what I need for clothes an traveling when I get paid off if its 3 months early and very little more if I do full time. Im lucky I lent my dad some of that money I had in the bank and had the rest put into a savings account. That money at least is safe. Oh I may be able to collect some of my money down here yet but Im starting to doubt it cause what I done was to order supplies and sell them on credit to the fellows while I was in Leon giving my savings in the treasury as security and the fellows not paying up promptly caused me to loose what I put up for security but Ive still got a chance to get almost an even break out of it, but that chance sure is slim.

I really don't know why I should bother you with all these measely details honey except that I want you to know that before I can start on the four room bungalow that we want so much Ill have to work and save for a few months first. Its heck to have one's dreams shattered so quickly and so easily honey but lets not worry some way or another Ill make things go and then we'll look back and smile at all this, cause we'll be, "Happy in Our Blue Heaven," and a fire place, nice puppy, little "ca" and above all a wife.

Well sweetheart I guess after all the gloom drips off this letter there wont be much news but you will get cross eyed trying to read it if I write any more than this so Ill just close with

Love & Kisses from
Your Porter

P.S. Dearest One: Im not a puritan, please.

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Box 3: folder 30

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran ~~4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A.~~ RDD4 Pataskala Ohio [cancelled]
Aug 8 and Cleveland Ohio Aug 27 1928 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas 11th Regt Band Ocotal Nic.
c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

Ocotal Nicaragua August 4th

Dearest:

This is Saturday night and seeing as Ive finished my daily dozen (on the clarinet) I thought I might as well write you a few lines about most anything.

To begin with I started the day off by cleaning and shining my pen. I smoked three cigars and saved the ashes just for that purpose you should see it now, it sure shines for a million. We also had our weekly rehearsal today all stuff Ive played before so I didn't have much trouble getting over it. Tomorrow we give our regular weekly concert, then next week it will be the same old stuff. (Spanish school and electoral laws etc) I expect those of us who will run a booth out in the sticks will probably start out about the end of this month or the first part of September cause the registrations start in the early part of September and will cover about two and a half weeks then the elections come of on November 4th Ive stocked up enough supplies to see me through a couple of months in case I don't get in to where I can get supplies. Im kind of looking forward to the elections honey cause it will mean that Im just so much shorter and also I have good hopes of being sent back as soon as the elections are over or at least soon after that. I can hardly wait for the time to come when I'll be able to see you and hold you in my arms again.

I was pretty blue when I wrote the last letter to you but Ive decided not to show the while feather yet. It may be that we wont have the start we were figuring on but with the help of the Lord Ill make things go some way or another. I think that no matter how bad things may be Ill still be able to support my wife or Ill die trying. Im going to try my best to partly make up for what my foolishness has done. Im going to sink every possible extra dollar down in the old account and see if I cant have a few nickles saved up by the time I get out. The a couple of months savings after I get out should put us on our feet well enough to realize that bungalow. (Then we'll be happy.)

I got a letter from my Dad the other day written in German and telling me all about the farm etc. I also got one from Lill and also a picture of Lill with John, and a couple of Lill with her (famous Jack Dempsey Grin) she sure is getting to be one nice young lady. I can't help but think of her as anything but the kid sister so it always surprises me when I look at her picture and realize that she is growing up.

If I can get out three months ahead of time then Ive only got 228 more days and a flop and as far as I can see there is nothing in the world to keep me from getting out then. Im always dreaming of you honey, in that bungalow and little (name Joe), and a fire place and all the trimmings and some times I get so lonesome that I think Ill go crazy but then along comes a letter from you and I start right out at building those dream castles again. Those letters seem to inspire me some way or another and they give me new hopes.

I guess Ill close this letter now and go back to my quarters and build dream castles cause its nearly bed time fo good Marines.

Good Night Darling
Porter

P.S. Do you still love your Porter?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 30

Envelope: Beartrice Keeran ~~4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A.~~ Pataskala Ohio #4 c/o MM Hartsough [cancelled] Cleveland Ohio Aug 30 1928 [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regiment U.S. Marines Band Ocotol Nicaragua c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

11th Regiment Ocotol Nicaragua August 8, 1928

Dearest Derby:

Today I received one of your letters that had been sent to Leon, not the last one though cause this one didn't have my horoscope in it so Im expecting still another letter to be forwarded soon.

Don't never fool yourself honey into thinking that this is the ideal way to learn anything about geography or anything like it. One does learn though very frequently to ones own sorrow and often some things that may come in handy one thing it will do though if a person don't go crazy first it sure will build a guy up physically.

No honey I don't mind if you write me a nice blue letter once in a while. I feel like it would be slighting me if you didn't tell me about it when you are blue. I should be told all about it. Aren't we going to be life partners? I feel the same way and if Im writing a letter at the time whey then it turns out blue I always send it off anyway cause as long as my letters are blue you will always know why its because I love you so much Im lonesome for you. Do you realize that in eight more days it will be six months since we parted at the depot and in another two weeks Ill be figuring on six months and a butt for my discharge. Thats only 225 days away. Do you think you can wait that many days more?

I often wonder what I wold do if I didn't have you to look forward to. Oh yes honey I have my trials and temptations, but when they come Ive always got you as my beacon. I stop to think how you would like it. That thought seems to overcome all my temptations and this life is sure full of them, and to yeild is ruin for a person. Ive sure kept clear of any of that kind of trouble just by using that one thought and now its getting so Im not even tempted anymore. I just lay around and dream of everything that is pretty and beautiful. How I wish you were here for a few minutes honey. I could love you to death. I miss you so much that Im afraid I would never leave you go anymore.

We have a dog here that looks just like the dog you used to have. (Poocher.) He's very playfull to. He always comes up on my bunk to sleep. Ive taken a liking to him and I think Im going to try to take him back to the States with me when I come.

Ive spent the biggest part of the last two days shinning up my pen. I cleaned it with cigar ashes the other day but yesterday and today I used a blitz rag on it and now it shines like a million dollars. I also cleaned the pen point and it writes much better now.

I think we are going to have a make shift concert here tonight like we did last night two guys just start practicing soon some other guy or maybe two or three other fellows join and the first thing we know weve got a young band there.

Well honey I guess Ill get ready for show now and try to get a (pop rehearsal) after chow.

Write soon honey no matter how blue the letter gets.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 30

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran ~~4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A.~~ Pataskala Ohio #4 c/o MM Hartsough [cancelled] Cleveland Ohio Aug 20 1928 [return address] Pvt. Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S. Marines Band Ocotal Nicaragua c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nicaragua August 11, 1928

Dearest:

Three of your letters arrived here yesterday they were 5 days late on account of no planes coming up till yesterday. The mail generally gets here on Monday mornings. The latest one was only 17 days on the road.

Im sorry to hear that you were sick again. I hope you are mucho bueno by now, or rather long ago.

Those three weeks that you didn't receive any mail were on account of the hike up here. By this time youve surely received some. I know just how it feels not to get any mail for a long time cause I was in the same fix all the way up here and a few days more.

Some one stole my Kodak here in the last couple of days past. I guess it was someone on one of the outgoing details. I hope he enjoys it who ever he is. Don't worry honey they haven't sent me out into the sticks yet, although they probably will within the next month but only for the elections, no more, even then we will probably get our mail. They will probably send it out by plane and drop it to us and when ever we send in official correspondence we will probably get to send off a letter or so for ourself.

Dont sympathize with me on account of the heat cause I can stand that alright but the cold at night and the damn rain gets on my nerves cause being in tropical heat for two or three months thins your blood to such an extent that the cold is felt much more.

How do you figure that my letters have such a variety of choice news in them? I never write anything except what happens here cause I don't know any thing else to write about and what I do write about certainly isn't any thing new, it's the same old thing always now you tell me something about Lill, about Helen, Milton Dam, the long distance fliers etc etc. What do I ever write about? Im afraid you'll get fed up on Marine Corps pretty soon and then I won't have anything to write about, and now I guess you will admit Im right wont you?

Dont believe a darn word the papers say about the Marines in Nicaragua because although they send men down here to write up those things still they are most wrong cause those fellows have to much imagination.

I have another watch now. I have a 17 jewel Bulovo. I like it very much but I think Ill have to get a different case for it when I get back to the States. The one I have now is rather the worse for wear and knocking around down here and the case is a silver one and I don't like it.

If you don't want to look for another husband, dont mention the 5th Hungarian dance to me for the next 5 years. Ive seen to much of it and it gives me a pain.

Im getting a pretty nice tome again considering that I payed off so long and havent played but one month since and not very much of it for that month. Im getting a little better though and it encourages me.

Well bye bye for now honey and write soon and mucho to

Your Lonesome
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX C.P.

Box 3: folder 30

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S. Marines Band Ocotal Nicaragua c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

11th Regiment Band Ocotal Nic August 16 1928

Dearest:

I received your letter Monday but didn't get a chance to answer it cause I was on guard and had the mid watch. Then yesterday and the day before we had our hands full here all day it seems that the gooks have a couple of St. days in a row onteh 14-15-&16th of August that they call the (fiesta) and they come in from near and far to get drunk and celebrate the consequences are that the trouble starts between the rival political parties and we lock teh up as fast as they start anything and on the last of the three holidays there arent enough gooks free to start much trouble so we expect a quiet day today. There have been a couple of mounted pareols gone out in the last couple of days to a place out in the hills where some bandits have a strong hold and as the patrols drive them out if hiding the combat planes drop 50 lb. eggs into their midst.

That letter of mine sure took a long time in getting to you honey and it was also a long time between letters but I really couldn't help it. I only wish I could send them as often as I did when I was in the hospital and as quickly.

A "Sub Thompson" is like an automatic rifle only its much shorter and shoots smaller bullets but it keeps shooting as long as you keep your finder on the trigger and feed it the ammunition its right name is "Thompson Submachine Gun." They are real deadly at short ranges and seem to be the favorites where such work is required. The gooks call them "Loco Carbinos" cause they shoot like they were crazy.

I don't know how Im going to stand these next couple of months down here. Im so lonesome and blue all the time. I just keep thinking of you all the time. I thought about you so much that I couldn't seem to go to sleep last night and when I did why I did nothing but dream about you all night. (Wonderful dreams) Im often afraid that its all a dream. I only hope I dont find something like that to be true some day.

There always seems to be some new dope down here they are going to try to have the entire 11th Regt out of Nicaragua by the first of next year now, but if thats true then Id like to know why they have enough supplies here to last till March. One thing I know. The band will be back in quantico before Feb. 1st. The Colonel himself said so and that must be facts cause he should know.

I had to quit to attend school this morning and after that chow then more school so now Im trying to finish this in a hurry so it will get into this weeks mail and I don't think it will take over 15 or 16 days to get to you.

Really honey you ought to see my pen now. Ive got it shined till its dangerous to look at its liable to put your eye out.

Our company has formed a baseball team and they won their first game yesterday afternoon they play again Dunday morning. Hey look like a good bunch of players and I think they will have a good record.

We got our books of electoral regulations today and there is no English translation so its going to mean much study so we will be thoroughly familiar with whats in them.

Well Bye bye for now sweetheart and write soon to your

Lonesome
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX XX C.P.

(see you later)

Box 3: folder 30

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regiment Band U.S.M.C. Ocotal Nicaragua c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces Nicaragua & symbol

Ocotal Nicaragua August 16, 1928

My Own Derby:

This being Sunday with nothing else to do, Im going to try to write a couple of letters. I really should wait till tomorrow and only answer those I receive, but I feel big-hearted today.

To start with three of us started out for a walk into the country this morning in search of a bag of oranges. We armed ourselves with a rifle and a pistol and mucho ammunition cause the country around here seems to be iverrun with small bands of (freebooters) bandits. We were gone all morning (No Gooks shot) and just got in in time for show but I decided I didn't want any so I came over here to write this. Im in the shack that we call a (recreation Hall) and the victrola is going full blast so that I can hardly sit down.

Ive got a picture here that some fellow took on the spur of the moment one day while we were fooling around and it was the only picture that turned out good out of three rolls. He used the same size camera as mine was only an older type. Im kind of glad mine is gone cause it always made me mad when the pictures didn't turn out good, and every one seems to have the same trouble I guess the climate must affect the films some way or another way. This one (goofy) picture turned out good by some miracle or another.

I kind ot expect to catch the guard again tonight Im not sure but Ive got a funny feeling that way. Ill see the guard list later when I get a couple of letters written. Im going to write a few lines to my father when I get this written and maybe a few lines to Min. I haven't written to her in a long time and Im really ashamed of myself after the way she treated me when I was home. Im going to be sure to write her the first chance I get, before this afternoons concert if possible.

There seems to be one satisfaction to every day that passes down here. Im always just that much more of a short timer if I get out three months early Ive got 212 days and one good sleep to do. I don't believe I could stay sane then even with that in mind if it weren't for the knowledge that Ive got you waiting there for me. The day and night dreaming and building of air castles also helps to pass away the time.

I guess we will start out for the different voting districts to take charge for the registration and for the election along about the first part of September. I may be lucky enough to get one of the two or three booths in the district of Ocotal. No matter where I go Im going to take one precaution that we are allowed. Im going to have a loaded "Sub Thompson" in my lap and my pistol at my side always, cause the darn gooks are treacherous as heck in all respects and especially in regards to politics.

Im expecting a couple of letters from you soon and also one from Lill and Im hoping there will be one from my father tomorrow, if the mail gets in. I hope it does though.

Well honey Ive decided one thing anyway. Im going to request a leave the day I hit the states and Im going to come up and see you and maybe put in my application to the police dept or make some kind of arrangements for work when I get out.

Well sweetheart, Im going to close this letter now and if the mail man arrives tomorrow and threats me good, Ill write more. Im going over to the quarters now and write my fathers letter there using my lap for a table so

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 30

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] E.G. Thomas
11th Regiment U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nic c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

Ocotal Nic. 11th Regimental Band August 23

Dearest Derby:

Today five bags of mail arrived here. I got three letters, one from you one from Lill, and one from a buddy in the Sixty First company. At the present they are at El Sauce

8/24/28

They called me away yesterday so they could get me to look over an engine to see that's the matter with it. Some wealthy Spanish family in town here owns a Dodge and they wanted to see what was inside of it and got the motor out of time. I told them what was the matter and refused to fix it for the simple reason that they live in this darn country, even if they are descendants of some Spanish nobility.

I don't remember so much about these pictures that I can tell you off hand what they are about. I'd have to see them.

Lill was telling me that she met you down town as she was going out to lunch and that you went out together. She tells me that she likes her new sister in law – to be. I can't hardly blame her wither. I like her myself. I'd be surprised if you did meet me at the depot with a minister and a couple of witnesses, but it would be a pleasant surprise and I ought to know about it before the train pulls in so I could take a chance on cutting my throat and take a shave, and any way I'd have to get a license and a ring first but if you think I'm trying to back out, why just try me. That would be my fondest dream realized.

Don't worry about that wings pin honey if it's lost and you want another, just remind me of it when we get to the States and I'll get you a new one or break an arm trying. I guess I can though.

Well we've been told where each of us is going for the elections. I drew Telepaneca. There will be two other boards there that means six men and of course a small patrol for protection. There will be two Marines on each board, one president of the board and the other vice president or as the Nicaraguan election laws calls them a (suplente) That's me. The only difference is to satisfy the gods and cause the other guy is my senior for service. He's got 12 years of service already done. I'll probably have to run the darn board half the time cause he's been trying for 2/3 of the time he's been in the service to drink the tropics dry, and he's still trying it can't be done so I've quit trying myself.

Do you know honey what they are doing now. They are organizing what we are pleased to call the (Cocoa Navy) That is they are building three cutters with outboard motors on them and are going to try to make the trip to the East coast of Nicaragua over the, "Cocoa River." They are plain D:XX fools if five of the men that go on that trip come through alive they will be darn lucky. Those that aren't

picked off by the gooks from the banks will be killed int eh rapids and those that live through that will die of fever in the swamps. Still its not quite impossible only it's a darn fool idea.

I weighed myself this morning at the Quartermaster and I now weigh 164 ½ lbs. Ive lost about ten pounds since I left Leon but what Ive got now is all hard weight. This life sure puts a man in good physical condition once he gets through the mill.

Well sweetheart I hope that pretty soon my fond dreams will come true cause Im thinking that in 6 months and 27 days Ill be a free man again.

Its most time for school to start now so Ill close this with Love & Kisses

From Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 30

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] From Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band U.S.M.C. Ocotal Nic. c/o P.M. Balbao C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

Sunday August 26 1928 Ocotal Nic

Dearest:

Im starting a letter because I have nothing else to do this morning or rather this noon. I have no desire for food so I thought it might be a good idea to try to write.

Ive been laying on my bunk all morning thinking of you and longing for you. How I wish that I could be with you for a few hours today. Im sure those few hours would be appreciated. I wonder what you are doing and if you are thinking of me some times. Im most sure you do and that is quite a comfort to me. I only wish I could tell you how much I love you sweetheart but I can't. My vocabulary seems to be much to small and in order to find out you will just have to wait till Im a free man again, which won't be long now(207 days) They now have some kind of information that every man in this regiment with less than two years to do will ~~go~~ leave here on or before Dec 10th and those with less than one year to do will get the preference for the first boat. That means that I might have Christmas dinner at home yet. I wish I could though.

I don't just remember if I told you in my last letter where I have been assigned for the elections. Well it's a little place called, "Telepanica" and I find that in spite of the fact that I hate the idea of being mixed into any of these peoples political squabbles, still Im looking forward to the whole thing after all it may furnish some excitement and I seem to have a – shall we call it a charmed life?

Some of the fellows who were out on a hunting party were coming in last night and reported the various trails leaving the city to be over run by a lot of suspicious looking gooks. I organized on the sliy a five man patrol and we proceeded to have some gun. I wont incriminate myself by giving any details because it was all very un-official but we had our fun and that is all that counts. Im figuring on having more of the same around election time. I may and again I may not. Who knows?

Im getting another guard tonight from two till six in the morning. Ill have to stand guard mount at six tonight but Ill be relieved to play concert and then I won't have to return to the guard house till two A.M. when I go on watch.

I wrote to my father the other day but Im going to write him another letter, a german one just for practice, even if I have to write all nonsense.

Well honey Ill close now and Ill write more soon.

Always Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX
40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 31

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band U.S.M.C. Ocotal Nic. c/o Postmaster Balboa C.Z.

Letterhead: Marine Forces in Nicaragua & symbol

Sept 3 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

This is one of my off days for letter writing. It seems like I haven't a thing to write about yet Im going to write or break an arm trying.

To start with I just sent a few lines to Min and enclosed a small check for her to deposit for me and I told her where I was going for the elections and that we would probably start out in a week form today if not sooner. We will be back sometime between the 7th and the 15th of November no later. Our mail may be forwarded to us by planes so just keep writing to this address. The letters I write won't be so prompt in getting started cause the only time the mail will leave Telepaneca, only when a patrol happens to come through there on the way to some place where the planes can make a landing.

We are expecting to go back pretty quick after the elections are over though. The men with a lot of time to do will probably get transfered to the 5th Regiment at Managua and the rest of us will be sent back to Quantico.

I wrote Lill a letter one time while I was still in Leon and I told her I was experiencing the pangs of "homesickness" and I got a letter from her on last Fridays plane that openly accused me of being not homesick but love sick, can you imagine anything like that? She says that if I could hold you in my arms, and look into your eyes, and wisper sweet nothings into your ear, I would forget all about my old homesickness. I think she is right too, but she talks like she has had the experience.

There was a messenger came into town an hour ago with the information that there is a band of bandits a few miles outside of town and a mounted company is now in formation waiting for the word to move forward on a pareol to discover this outfit and get the dope on it. There was a couple of outfits supposed to have, "Ferarra," and his band all bottles up here last week but he gave them the slip as pretty as you please. These darn bandits know this country so well that they give us the slip in places that are considered absolutely impossible to travel.

Two hours later.

I was called away from this letter without so much as a minutes warning and ten minutes later we had the town so surrounded and patrolled that a fly couldn't move without our knowing it, much less anyone get out of town. Tht bandit cheif was in town somewhere when we went out, he isn't now. That just goes to show what we are up against. These gooks know secret trails and passages that we don't know and consequently we find ourselves up against a brick wall every time. We went out loaded and locked ready for anything in the way of fireworks, since then the mounted patrol has left and two other patrols beside that. There arent 100 men left in town and those that are left are all bandsmen and office personel, which means by the way that we will probably do all the guard for the next few days

until some of these men get back. This affair this afternoon was supposed to have been pretty serious cvause this cheif has a big body of followers with him and they are in the woods outside of town somewhere. Oh well whats a little thing like that? When the news of the bandit got out we had lots of fun watching the gooks clear the streets. They know better than to stay out cause in a time like that we don't stop at anything and most o us are only to golad to have an excuse to bump off a few gooks.

Well honey thats all for now so write to me soon cause there is nothing that helps more than to get a couple letters cause then I always know that you still love me.

Always Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

P.S. Is Lill right?

Box 3: folder 31

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
11th Regt. Band U.S.M.C. Ocotal Nicaragua c/o P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Sept 8 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

Im now about to answer your June 6th letter. Thats the one that has my horoscope in it. Youve sure got me down pat now. That letter also had the picture featuring the West Tech letters. The one of you and Helen.

Ill leave here Tuesday for my post, which is Telepaneca. We had our inspection today for clothes and equipment. Tomorrow and Monday we will be busy getting our ballots, forms, paper, ink, pens, register, minute books seals etc all ready and packed. This last week has been a busy one but nothing like the next two days will be. We will only be allowed to take a certain amount of personal stuff along, and no way of getting any while we are there, so don't be surprised if you get letters written on election paper. Im taking two months supply of smokes and soap etc, and Ill just have to trust to luck for the rest of it to be forwarded.

We got more dope last night about coming home. This time the dope says that on November 15th this band starts back to Leon via ----- foot power and from there we will go to Corito when ever the boat gets in, or at least we are expecting to get sent back then. If not as a band I know of 3 men that are most sure of coming home then. Im putting in my request for discharge 3 months early then unless its a certainty that we will be back in the States by the first of the year. 187 days at that rate.

When I got your forwarded letter I also got one from Erv, one from my Father and a letter from the Marine Corps Institute with a lesson enclosed that I sent in during the month of "May." The grade was 92% and a couple of compliments on my work and a request to try to send in at least one lesson a month. Thats just impossible cause in the first place I don't have my books along and in the next place I don't hardly have time to eat, let alone study. Talking about eats, reminds me that I forgot to eat dinner. Oh well supper is only 45 minutes off and being hungry will just me it so much better tasting.

Gee honey, I can't even think of anything to write about. All I can think of is you, and what fun we'll have when I get out, and thinking of the future, with you. Oh well, what would be the use of living if we couldnt day dream or have pleasant thoughts and ambitions. I just had to stop to give this pen a drink then, it seems to write much better now, dont leave so many words incomplete.

Im always dreaming of you and the future, heres a demonstration. The other day in class the Ensign asked me in Spanish "¿Es su casado?" and I was thinking of "Brooky" at the time he asked the question so I looked up with a blank expression on my face and just took a chance on it being a yes or no question and said, "Si." The question he asked was, "Are you married?" You'd better check up on me.

While we are out on these elections honey Im going to try to write at least one letter per week and Ill guarantee that many, but I wont promise more though Ill try to make it oftener. Ill warn you though that those letters might not be collected for a couple of weeks at a time cause there is only one way to get mail out of the hills into civilization in order to mail it is when some patrol happens to pass on

its was out. My mail from the States will be forwarded to me by plane and dropped but Im sorry to say your mail wont leave there by plane cause they really_cant land on the tree tops and thats all there is around Telepaneca. If they wanted to build a wash stand they would have to cut down 5 or 6 trees in order to get a sufficient open space.

The chow is known to be rotten the water worse, and the bugs and skeeters are bolder than bandits. They claim that its impossible to go out of the door without drawing a 45-70 slug from some hill a half mile or so away, and although none of those slugs have ever been known to hit, still its no fun to know that when you step out of the door that some bandit is drawing a bead on you and the fact that hes to far away is no comfort either, but we will just have to see it through, and if God be willing why none of those slugs will hit me and if my time comes why it will come anyway bullet or not and how could a man die better than by wearing the uniform of his country. Oh well, lets quit thinking things like that.

Well sweetheart the guys around here are starting another one of these goofy arguments that have no reasoning on either side, and anyway its chow time so Ill quit now one of the guys was just shooting some german at me and talking and writing dont mix, especially German so

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 80 C.P.

Box 3: folder 31

Sept 16 1928 Telepaneca Nic.

Dearest:

This is my first Sunday here we arrived night before last and spent yesterday in looking up our political members etc. Today we aren't doing anything but starting tomorrow we expect to be busy most of the time we are here. We will start tomorrow by getting our building in shape we will make the Alcalde (Mayor) fix the roof for us and get the place cleaned up and tables and chairs put in for us.

This place isn't half as tough as its cracked up to be though. Its true that on the night we got here we had information that the town was going to be attacked that night but I guess the gooks realized that they wouldn't stand a chance the way this place is fortified now. They all seem tame enough.

The hike up here wasn't near as much as the one from Leon to Ocotil but it seemed to get under our skin a lot more for some reason or another my poor dogs sure were sore when we got here. Ive got a couple of blisters about the size of our dress caps on my one foot and one about the size of a young watermelon on the other hoof.

There won't be any mail leaving here for a while so Im going to write this letter on the catch as catch can plan. That is a little every time something happens between now and the time the next mail leaves here, and whenever I get a chance.

This place would be darn nice if we only had a regular mail service and a few modern conveniences. We havent even got a decent way to take a bath, only the river and its bad business going out to far in it cause its so swift right here that its nearly out of the question to swim. The current carries a man out and under before you know what its all about.

Oh well honey when I get out of here Ill only have about 132 days to do and the 11th Regt. starts out on the trip to Leon for further transportation to the States on Nov 15th according to the latest dope.

Box 3: folder 31

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
Temporary Electoral Mission Telepaneca Nic.

Sept 18 1928 Telepaneca

Dearest:

Its raining outside now and we are trapped in our office so Im going to make good use of the time and write a few lines.

Weve been all day getting our boards into shape and keeping after the Mayor to repair the building. Some job. I hope I never get roped for another like it. The job in itself isn't so bad cause we are really free from foolish regulations and we come and go as we please but the schooling we received simply isn't sufficient for us to converse intelligently and there are so darn many dialects. The only way I can get results in spanich is by using the cuss words.

Id like to be at home right now. Im really getting homesick. I lay awake half of th night and think of you and home, and build many kinds of air castles. If those ever come true then I could truly say that Im a happy man. It sure is a comfort just to know that I have you and that you love me. It seems like a nice dream to me.

I only hope that when we are through with the electoral business that they send us back like they say. Im going to ask for a leave as soon as I get tot eh (Estados Unidas) in other words the good old U.S.A.

I know Ive got some mail waiting fo me at Ocotal and it will be forwarded as soon as possible but even at that I may have to wait a few days so Ill just have to sit tight. It wouldn't even help it if it were addressed here in fact I wouldn't get it as soon so just keep writing to Ocotal.

Ill close now so

Love Your
Porter

Box 3: folder 31

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S. A. [return address] E.G. Thomas
Temp. Elcectoral Mission Telepaneca Nic. Via P.M. Blaboa C.Z.

Sept 21 6:00 A.M.

Dearest:

There is a patrol going in to Ocotal this morning so Im going to scratch off a few lines to you and let them take the letter in and mail it.

Weve got everything all ready and all our people sworn in ready to start registration Sunday morning bright and early.

I sent a letter in several days ago by the Mayor of Ocotal but I didnt know he was leaving till about 10 minutes before he left and in my hurry I forgot to finish the letter I even forgot the little crosses.

Ive been thinking of you all night again honey. Ive just got some kind of a feeling that Im going to be cheated in the end, cause you are really all that is dear to me. If I could only hold you in my arms and hear you say you Love me, then I would be happy again.

There goes Reveille honey so it wont be many minutes now till this letter leaves. Hoping you aren't as blue as I am and I hope this patrol comes back soon and with plenty of mail for Your

Porter

XXXX

40 C.P. 40 C.P.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Does this make up for the other letter?

Box 3: folder 31

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] USMC 5th Reg 2D Brig Managua Nicaragua Oct 3 [return address] Private R.G. Thomas 11th Band Ocotal Nic. Via Postmaster Balboa C.Z.

Sept 27 1928 Telepaneca Nicaragua

Dearest:

This noon while we were at chow one of the combat planes came over and dropped a nice bag of mail presto – a vacation epistle mailed at Newark. Sweetheart you can't know how good that letter makes me feel the other times that the plane dropped mail I got left, so you see that letter today sure was a blessing to me.

Whoa dobbin I hear another plane but Im fairly sure its no more mail. I sure wish it was though.

I just can't help feeling blue as ink sometimes honey. I just lay in my bunk and think of you half the night and then I feel miserable cause Im so far away and I realize that you must be lonesome too. I often wonder how I could be so lucky.

I can't help but worry just a little about money matters honey cause Id been figuring so much on those few dollars that I had managed to save. I was counting on them as a nest egg.

The other day our old company (the 61st M.G. Co) came through here and stopped for a couple of days. They are a roving patrol now. I couldn't collect any of my money though cause those poor devils haven't been paid since July 1st they didn't have a pack of smokes between them, let alone money. Id have collected about half of my money if they'd had any to collect. I guess you are right though about being to young to worry, after all it was easy come easy go. I wish you would tell me about some of those suggestions so I would know what they are all about.

Yes sweetheart it seems like that is all we do, just wait, but dont worry honey, Ive decided Id come back to you and I will. Ill be getting out in 175 days if Im lucky and I kind of think I will be. My big ambition seems to e to make sure that Ive got you for my own for all time to come.

Why should you ask my forgiveness for mentioning ice cream. That is something that happens in fairy stories now ice is nothing more than a word down here. The only thing that's cold around here is the nights and the river.

Oh yes I still love my, "Derby." I cant help but love her this life is so rotten down here that I don't believe Id stick it out if it wasn't for loving my, "Derby."

I really believe honey that you like the service too. Oh Ill admit it I like the service in one way, but in another I hate it. Id gladly stay in the service if I could have you at the same time, but on the other hand I don't love it so much that I can't stay out of it. Id much rather have, "A smiling face, a fire place and a cozy room." I can just imagine you being thrilled with the site of recruiting officer though.

Well honey weve got two of the registration days over with now so weve only got three more at 4 day intervals and then a 24 day interval till election day with nothing to do except to hold hearings for reconsideration of decisions, and for correcting any errors we may find in the register book or anywhere else. I believe we are going to have a little trouble to it weems that some trick shyster lawyer and doctor who resides in Somoto has been sent here to try to buy votes for eth Liberal party and is trumping up all kinds of goofy charges against Conservatives, trying to get us to refuse them the right to vote. He has sent in some kids as young as 14 years old with the sole purpose of holding up or delaying the functions of the board. I was so mad at him yesterday that I ordered our guard to keep him away from the vicinity of our table and he tried to come around again. I just can't shoot a man in cold blood or he'd be dead by now.

Well honey Ive still got a sheet of paper but again Ive got that same old trouble. The things I think about to write to you when Im doing something else just seem to get out of my reach when I take up a pen and start to write.

Thats all for now honey. Ill try to write more next Tuesday when weve got another entire day off. I don't know when this letter will get anywhere to be posted but I hope its soon so you won't have to wait to long for a letter from

Your
Porter

XX
XX and

XX These are for the headlights with very much love from

Porter

I hope some day Ill be able to rapay you for all this waiting sweetheart. I know its hard and Ill try never to make you regret this wait.

P

Box 3: folder 31

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas
11th Regt. Band Ocotol Nic. Via Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

Sept 30 1928 Telepaneca Nicaragua

Dearest:

I seem to have a (shall we call it) writing streak this week, just why I can't say but today is another registration day so I appropriated one of the tables and a chair here in our office and tried to pass the morning by reading. (Beau Gest) I got tired though and decided to try writing a letter or two, one to you so you would know that I still love my Derby more every day, and am always thinking about her. The other letter I will write is a matter of duty. It (the second letter) will go to my father. I got a letter from him just before I left Ocotol and I'm afraid I'm rather slow in answering it.

Today we seem to be having a bit of trouble by some of these spicks who are under age coming in to register. I've had to start about half a dozen of them on their way this morning already (a kind of painful operation – for them) my hob nails seem to be standing up nicely under the unusual strain.

I've been doing something the last couple of days about what you told me in regard to worrying and I've decided I'd wait till I get home although I doubt if I'll have any time to worry in once I get out, while I've got plenty of time right now in fact I've got more than I can handle comfortably right now.

I wish it was all over with already honey and that I knew what I'm going to follow up on the outside my only worry is for you sweetheart I'm always afraid that I won't be able to give you everything you want and that as a husband I might be a failure. I'll just have to do my best and cross each bridge when I get to it. That might not sound so hopeful honey and maybe even a little blue but it's not. It's merely as you said in your letter. When two young things love each other and are both striving for the same goal they are bound to land on their feet some time and sooner or later are bound to attain that ever present goal so let's play the game.

My mind has been wandering for the last few minutes we have been having some exciting time here with some of these guys and no matter how I try I just can't keep my mind off of those arguments while they last.

I'm only looking forward to March 21st honey cause when that time comes along I'll either be a free man or I'll have 90 days to do. I sincerely hope it will be free.

When I've got you safely to myself darling I'll be happy. That seems to be my biggest ambition and my biggest worry. I can't remember ever having wanted anything quite as much as I want you sweetheart it seems that I can't think of anything else, and I'll try my best honey to make you happy so you won't have to regret having taken that step. I may be rather selfish in respect to you but I just can't help wanting you all to myself.

My side kick just noticed that I'm writing so he said to tell you that he loves you as much as ever. Should I break his neck. I guess not. He says those things as a joke no more. He is really a darn good fellow and means well. I kind of wish you might know him although God knows I'd be jealous if you did.

Well honey I guess Ill close this letter puzzle now and hope I get a letter or two tomorrow or day after.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled U.S.M.C. 5th Reg Oct 11] [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regiment Band Ocotal Nicaragua via Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

October 3, 1928 Telepaneca Nicaragua

Dearest:

This is another registration day and as much rain since Sunday has swollen the river to a great extent we find this to be a most event less day (pronto another letter gets started)

Ive been thinking lately that you might like something pertaining to these elections for your scrap book so Ive collected a few things I think you will be able to figure most of it out by yourself because it is very similar to French and pronounced much the same however Im putting a translation of some of the words on the sample ballot and also on the hand bill. This is the next to the last day for registration so we are expecting quite a rush on Sunday and I probably wont get a chance to write. I wonder whats wrong some mail came in the other day and I missed out someway or another.

I wish I didn't have to be present here today Id go down to the river for a swim a person is pretty sure of at least a half mile swim if he gets into the current today. This river is always swift but when it is high it is more so and it takes a fair swimmer to buck the current long enough to get back to shore in less than half a mile cause the current takes one out into the middle. I find it great sport when the river is high and sure would enjoy myself if I didnt have to stay here today.

Do you know what Ive decided? Ive decided not to join the police force when I get out. (Why?) well if I did my hours would probably be such that Id never be with you except so many hours each day and besides my Sundays would all mean duty. I could just as well stay here then cause Id see almost as much of you. Ive decided that I can do better by getting a post office job or mail clerk or something like that and Id have more time with you in that way. What do you think of that for an idea honey? Will it hold water? Don't forget to tell me what you think of it honey, or have you another idea up your sleeve? I wish you would tell me if you have.

We have been expecting the plane to come over today and drop our pay, but so far it hasn't shown up yet. I wish it would though Id go out in town tonight and look for the nicest looking kitchen and make me up a feast. Id have soup, coffee, fried potatoes, beans, rice, eggs, hot peppers, and alligator pears. The hot peppers Ive never liked before but with a spick chow they are good. Ive eaten so much hard tack, corned bill, gold fish, and shum that Im afraid Ill die the first time I sit own to a good meal. They'd better put tin dishes before me too cause Id be liable to break any other kind cause all Ive seen since Ive been in Nicaragua is my mess gear and a few good dishes. Oh well honey I shouldn't kick though cause Ive seen the time when the chow that Im so tired of now would have been a feast and in the absence of my mess gear a tin can did duty and did it well.

Im having a little trouble with one tooth here lately and Im afraid Ill have to visit a dentist the first thing when I leave her cause this country is hard on the teeth and it dont take them many weeks to decay these gooks dont know what a dentist is and the Marine Corps dentists are all in Managua about 120 miles from here by mule trail.

My watch seems to have had a slight accident some way or another. I cant wind it unless I take it out of the case and hold my finger on a certain part. Oh well, thats another watch added to our collection honey. The only reason I dont throw it down and smash it is because I want to keep it to remind me always of Nicaragua, cause its been through much hardship, bad weather etc with me (Nice pal)

Well honey I guess by this time your vacation is over (es verdad?) I hope you enjoyed it honey, but Im sure you did judging from your letters. I only wish I could have been with you part of the time. I guess it won't be long now honey Ive only got 168 days and a flop now pretty soon Ill start back to the States and then Ill get my discharge and Ill be with you always.

Well honey, I guess Ill close this letter now honey and try to get it off soon.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nic. Via: P.M. Balboa C.Z.

October 6th Telepaneca Nicaragua

Dearest:

Ive simply got to write another letter today so I sneaked away from the barracks and over to the electoral office cause if I was to stay over there all morning Id go nutty as a squirrel. Theyve got the regular after payday games going with all the arguments thrown in for good luck and listening to those arguments is to much for anyones sanity then to it seems that to it seems that Im kind of the center of attraction this morning cause a small corral snake took a notion to drop from the roof of th quarters and as luck would have it the darn thing fell right on my bunk lucky thing I couldnt sleep last night cause if I hadn't been wide awake things might have happened because although the anake was only about 9 or 10 inches in length it was the most poisonous type of snake in Central America. They never get much over 12 or 14 inches in length. I felt him whwn he hit my poncho so I reached over the side for a sock and I took a swing at where I thought he was and knocked him off on to the deck. Theve ben searching the quarters since reveille for that snake and thats another reason I cant have any peace of mind over there. Im going to use my mosquito net at night after this.

I sent you a couple of scrap for your scrap book in my last letter but left out one of the most interesting pieces. A seal for the register book so Im sending it in this letter. I was forced to have null written all over it to satisfy the members of the board that nothing is being put over on them. Tomorrow is the last day of registration then we have hardly anything to do till Nov. 4th except make out a couple of lists and post a few notices.

Ive got you picture here in front of me honey the one of you and Hoppy and really honey Ill bet a months pay I could stand a kiss or two right now. I wish I had the original here but as that cant be I guess Ill have to do the best I can with just a picture. This should bring my time down to 165 days though so it can't be long now. I love you so much honey that its really a sin and a shame that we should have to be separated for so long. I wish we were married already honey then I know they would never separate us again. I know that youve promised to marry me sweetheart and I think more of that promise than I do of anything else but Im always afraid that some unkind fate will keep us apart and that would be just more than I could stand. The biggest of my ambitions seems to be to make you all my own.

I remember how I used to feel before you said yes darling and that wasn't feeling good but when I got that letter where you said yes why I was happy and I always carry that letter along so I can always read it over when I think Im dreaming.

Do you often dream those dreams we used to dream together honey? About a "Blue heaven" abnd a son whose name is "Joe?" I do. Im a lucky man after all darling, just ot get you to say yes is much more than I really deserve but Ill do my best to make up for it by making you happy honey. Ill try my best.

Do you ever practice on the violin any more honey? You should you know or else all the studying youve done so far is wasted.

Im going to try to write Lill a few lines when I get through here and let her know Im still alive so seeing as thats all the news for this time Ill sign off with all the love Ive got and many kisses. Ill always love you darling and be

Your Own
Porter

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

P.S. Don't forget to write soon.

P.

P.S.S. (00) Those are a couple of squeezes for the WTH sweater also for the person inside of it.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Oct 25 1928 [return address] from Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt Band Ocotol Nicaragua via P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Dearest:

This is Tuesday and just one week since I went into Ocotol with a ration patrol. I didn't have to go. I went of my own accord can you imagine me going on a forty mile patrol just for fun? Well we had a little fun and got back Saturday night with a full pack train. I layed around all Sunday to rest up and started to answer the letters I got in Ocotol yesterday but couldnt keep my mind on it so I quit. Im trying again today.

Don't you worry honey you have your good times and don't worry about me cause Im here for so long and it just cant be helped. When I get home and have you all to myself Ill be making up for what Im missing now. That will make up to a certain extent for all theis waiting.

You are always slipping off to a church somewhere honey Im sort of getting lonesome for a trip to one myself. I havent been to church in a long time now.

Now for your questions. A blitz rag ia a polishing cloth with some kind of a chemical preparation on or in it that cleans and polishes metal. That is what we use on our belt buckles on our blues.

Im glad honey that you don't seem to tire of hearing of the Marine Corps cause it is really the only thing I can write about down here and I really want you to like my letters but Im always afraid they will be very dry, but if you like them then Im satisfied.

Yes you noticed my watch on one of the pictures alright. Ive got it on Ocotol now getting it repaired. I broke it on the last patrol. You also noticed white soxs but if you call that unromantic Id like to know what you would call this Marine Corp (white soxs are regulation) Nope! Guess again. That picture wasn't entitled the bucket brigade, that was called (the morning after the night before).

Yes honey. Im sure that was a nice long letter. I sure enjoyed it. I guess Ill second that wish of yours cause I do wish I could go for a ride with you, and Im lonesome too.

I got a letter from my father and one from Erv at the same time that I got yours so they will have to be answered and maybe one to Lill besides.

Did I ever tell you about the boat patrol they were making from Ocotol. They called it the "Cocoa Navy"? Well they came to grief. They were forced to burn the boats at Quilali and return. They had one man drowned and one gone nuts and found the rapids beyond that point unpassable. The dead man was drowned in trying to go over one of the rapids and the other guy was hit in the head by supplies that were dropped by plane. Those men went so long without food that when they did get some dropped to them they couldn't eat it. One of the fellows weighed 102 lbs when he got back to Ocotol and he weighed 164 lbs before he left. They got into Ocotol the day before our patrol got in and they were made heroes of and left to do as they pleased so they all went out to drown their sorrows, and they sure succeeded. I don't blame them either cause after enduring much hardship nothing is a

better tonic than alcohol cause it warms the blood and makes the blood move it even stimulates the heart action. Those men sure deserve credit.

The registration is over now so in about 19 days the election comes off. Weve got 1207 registered here. Weve got the most registered any where in the Department of "Nueva Segovia" I believe we are going to have some kind of help from Ocotal on Nov. 4th.

Well honey write soon so I won't get to lonesome and Ill write as often as I can.

Love & Kisses
From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX
X
XX Do you figure this out.

XX 40 Candle Power.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] U.S.M.C. Second Brigade Eleventh ____ Oct 25 1928 [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt Band Ocotal Nic. Via P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Telepaneca Nicaragua Date (?) Possibly Oct 18

Dearest:

Even though I wrote to you a few days ago, and have no new news for you still Im writing and not only that but I find Im anxious to write.

This morning a patrol left out if here for the, "San Juan Sector," their orders are rather indefinite ao we don't know what its all about all we know is that they may be gone a day or a week.

I wonder dear heart why I ever joined this outfit. I could be with you now and Im sure Id be better off. Id like to know what it was that got into my blood the day I joined. Im positive it wasn't the lack of employment cause I was never out of work and a had a steady job when I joined. I guess we will just have to decide that it was fate that caused me to enlist. (Fate) she sure plays some mean tricks some times. Im convinced sweetheart that it was fate made me do it to keep us apart till a certain time. Oh! no. Im not trying to back out cause its to hard or anything, quite the contrary the service fascinates me in a way. Im only grieving that fate is keeping me from that most precious of all things, "A Good Womans Love." I shouldn't growl though cause after all Ive only signed my name for so long, and in that way the fates have been kind to me because after all God has given me that woman and her love to enjoy forever, if only the time for old lady fates prank were over. Oh well honey after all it wont be long now if things go right I should be free to come to you in 5 months and 3 days.

Do you know darling when I started to realize that my time is getting short, I always get a little scared for fear that something will come between us. That would be just like fate.

Lets forget all these unpleasant reflections and thoughts darling and just be happy and thank the good lord that we have one another to look forward to. We have only one life to live after all so we may as will get as much pleasure out of it as seems possible.

Half hour later.

I quit writing this long enough to eat chow and seing as that burning desire to write is still with me Ive lit a candle and sheilded it so Ill be able to write as the spirit moves me. I only hope that I get left in peace until Ive written enough to satisfy myself.

Ive been catching up on my tardy correspondence in the last few days honey. I wrote to Erv, to Lill, and to my Dad. My conscience still bothers me though cause just recently I got a letter from Erv that has chased me half around the globe, and he told me that Joe May was in the hospital and no matter how sore I was at him still I wish I could have sent him even a small note while he was sick. By gosh honey I think Ill write him a few lines and patch up our silly argument after all I think he felt as bad as I did about it and it really was silly. I see it now. There are no two ways of looking at it. The whole trouble with me is I don't like to humble myself and make the first move.

Well honey, I guess this will be all the raving Ill do for this time but Ill write to Joe yet tonight.
After all we were pals at one time you know. Write soon now honey to let me know you still love

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] U.S.M.C. ____ Reg
Oct 25 1928 [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotol Nic via P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Telepaneca Nicaragua Oct 20

Dearest:

I really haven't a bit of excuse for trying to write a letter today so Ive decided to sit down and start on one of the "catch as catch can" letters. (One line now another when Im caught) and I want it to be real messy so Ive decided to try out one of the nice soft --- election pencils.

Ive often thought honey that after I get out of the service I might forget some of the things that you might want to hear about the most so Im going to write about these things as I think about them and then when I get out you can always ask me about those things, some of them are really interesting to hear about only Im afraid you will have to find me in a nice mood when you ask me questions about this country, or you might learn a new language. (not Spanish) I don't know what we would do if we couldn't growl. We growl one minute and the next we tell you all about the beauty of the place.

Im thinking right now about how all these towns are located and how you always see a big cross on top of some mountain just before you see the town which is sometimes still far away. The cross always seems to be so placed that when you come to it you get your first glimps of the town, and every town has a cross like that. Then too along the trail you often come to a cross at the side and there is always a pile of rocks by these crosses, and the gooks pray before they pass and toss another rock to the cross. They pray for the person who rests there or rather for their soul. Just fancy though throwing rocks at a dead person.

Then too there are the habits of the people. Their methods of cooking, their clothes, the difference in dialect in different parts, Their food, all this I could talk all day about, yet when it comes to writing it Im lost.

I guess my sitting down to write again today will earn me much razzing at the hands of my buddy, cause this really makes the 12th letter Im writing to his two. I wonder what causes the big difference? Maybe he hasn't got a nice little lady who is waiting for him to come home, in fact I know he hasn't. He's been in the service ever since he was 16 yrs old and hes 25 now so you see he dont have much to do with women all he wants is a uniform and 3 squares and a place to flop, and if the cards run his way maybe a machine, or a motorcycle, or a speed boat, or something like that. He's just an old soldier if he looks at a woman its only for a good time, so he cant understand why I write so much every chance I get.

You will no doubt be glad to hear that your Porter is still up the pole and still going strong. I mean in other words that all this real booze down here doesn't tempt me in the least anymore, although I wouldn't mind a glass of good wine (Home made) right now.

I wrote to "Joe May" the other night as soon as I finished your letter, and Ive been tempted to take it back out of our soap box before a patrol takes it into Ocotol, but I always decide that its only foolish pride that prompts it so I leave it mailed.

Theyve got some real American candy in the canteen here and as much as I hate candy still it is the only American delicacy that we can get and that so seldome that I had to quit long enough to get some. (Hersheys and Baby Ruths) ... presto Im six bits poorer and liable to be sorry when my stomache starts hurting then possible salts or castor oil, maybe both. Id like a nice (Lemon pie) right now if I had to swallow all the medicine in the sick bay right after.

Has your dad been doing any hunting? My dad has been telling me something about the rabbits on his farm dont even need a gun, only a good heavy pair of shoes and a pocket full of rocks. According to his story you kill all you want by just stepping on them and in case you want more you simply throw your pocket full of rocks. You really should try it out some time. My fathers letter makes me restless I want to get in on some of these hunts

Well honey I guess thats all for this time.

October 22.

Dearest:

Continue the march. I guess Id better get started if I ever expect to finish this. I had good intentions of finishing yesterday but I wasn't feeling so good. Ive got that tropical sickness again and when a guy gets that he generally feels pretty weak for a couple of days to come. Im feeling much better though. I know just how to fight "dysentery" now. I keep som Bicarbonated Soda handy and dissolving it in a cup of water and drinking it while is sizzles sure helps.

Ive read a few books since Ive been here, and yesterday I found "Beau Sabruer," the sequel to "Beau Gest" and I liked it as well if not better than, "Beau Gest." Ive also read, "Wings," "The Box with the broken seals," "Who goes There," "The Moving Finger," and a few others that I cant remember right now.

We had a message yesterday from the patrol that went out the other day. They had a big contact in which they took eight prisoners, three of them were freed again cause they proved that the bandits were holding them as prisoners when the contact took place. The patrol is expected back here with the other five prisoners today. The patrol may get here but I dont think the prisoners will. If they do why one of the officers will probably select one or two men and say,, "Take the prisoners to San Fernando 22 miles away and be back in 10 minutes. We wont be listening," and good Marines always obey orders. They will be back in exactly 10 minutes without the prisoners. Then on the other hand they may only lock them up and send them in to Ocotal later this week when another patrol is expected to go in. I hate Gook prisoners.

Well honey, if things go right Ill be a free man in 150 days from today and Ill see you 151 days from today. Do you think that much happiness all in one dose is liable to hurt me? ----? Well give it to me in one dose and then call the doctor or undertaker.

Im wondering, honey. Should I get another motorcycle when I get back to the States or shouldn't I it would be handy when I want to run out to see my dad still I almost think Id rather buy a machine.

I guess I look ahead to much and have to much ambition for a Marine. Still who wouldn't if they had what I have to look forward to. I wonder what I should do honey if it wasn't for you do you want to know that I think? I think Id have given in long ago to the temptations that come in a persons way in a place like this. The only reason Ive passed up these temptations when I felt blue was because I always thought of you. Just you, and our love is the greatest things I have. I only hope that I may repay you by being all you want me to be, and a little more.

Think of me sometimes honey and also of a fire side and children (Joseph) and then write honey with those dreams in mind. Thats how Im doing it. I seem always to see "our Blue Heaven."

Always Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Second Brigade U.S.M.C. Oct 29 1928 [return address] from Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Telepaneca Nicaragua Oct. 23, 1928

Dearest:

Our plane came over this morning and "Presto" quarto letters. Three from you and one from Min also a picture of the "Gob." Thanks for the picture honey. Those letters and picture sure made me feel good. Time out!! – I went out into town and ordered myself a meal cause I didn't eat in the mess hall they had good fish again.

Our combat patrol came in from "San Juan" yesterday and what they didn't have, dont count. They had six prisoners, 2 burrows on saddle 1 rifle 6 rifle barrels 1 rifle stock a couple of dynamite bombs, a few machetes and a number of chickens and turkeys and they burned down half a dozen houses where the bandits were staying and found some letters that were being delivered to (Friend Sandino)

This morning another patrol went into Ocotal taking those prisoners in also some mail. The patrol is mounted on mules, the prisoners on their feet and a slip knot in the rope around their neck. They may get in to Ocotal. The only important thing on that patrol is the mail.

How do you mean I pull all the surprises in this family. You are always surprising me. Im always surprised to know or find out that you really mean more to me than I realized before.

Ill have to see that Van Gastels don't work overtime any more if thats what is keeping you from writing so often.

Gee when you wrote your one letter it was only one more week to go in Sept. now Im writing this one and its only a week to go in Oct. pretty soon Ill be a free man again the only difference will be that the next time I say "I do," it won't mean, "four years" but, "life."

Never mind what I think of the picture in the other letter. I couldn't see the picture all I saw or see is "The Pepsodent Smile." And how?

To join the Navy or Marine Corps youve simply got to be single. Will you be eligible for the Navy?

If Id been there I wouldn't have minded the smell of iodine and I think I could have stood for the words, but the tears are out. Thats one thing I cant stand and if I see any when I come home Ill run away and reenlist. I hate sore thumbs to cause sometimes when it gets cold I can still feel mine and I don't want you to feel like I did, and anyway it's most sure to cut my letters short when you do that.

I dont think there is a sure cure for lonesomeness but day dreams and air castles help sometimes.

By this time you should be able to tell me how Tech's football team stacks up, even if it is an entirely new team they may have some good material. Stranger things happen you know.

It dont seem like eight or nine months since we parted honey. It seems like 9 years, but thats cause I have so much time to brood and think if I had some real work to do the time would pass quicker. Anyway I wish the next 150 days would hurry and pass.

I wish Dame fortune would flip a letter into your letter box and by this time I think she has. Write soon and berry much to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Second Brigade Nov 1 1928 [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Telepaneca Nicaragua Oct. 27, 1928

Dearest:

Our patrol to Ocotal came back yesterday bringing our Naval officer along for the electoral board, but they brought something still more important. They brought some mail out. I had two from you and one from Lill. She told me much about her little affair and said to keep it a secret, but it made me so sore I couldn't see straight. That scum that she was going with showed his colors by making a fool of Lill in a public place by dragging her around like he owned her, and by following her around every where she went just to humiliate her. I sure would like to lay hands on him. I'm going to break every bone in his body when I get home and I don't think that time is far off. I wrote him a letter of warning and sealed it and enclosed it in Lill's letter and asked her to forward it cause I didn't even remember his last name let alone his address. So much for the skunks.

Now for the good news. The first bunch of men to sail right after the elections is over sail on Dec. 1st according to the present schedule and I'm sure going to be one of those and if possible you and I will eat our Christmas dinner together.

We had an electoral board meeting today and worked hard all day. The Lieutenant told us that we are to receive some sort of a little certificate, or what have you, in recognition of satisfactory services rendered. That will be a nice thing to keep me from shipping over when the temptation comes to me.

In your first letter you say you shouldn't write just for punishment but I'm glad to see you realize that it was or is no fault of mine.

I see you enjoy the same pastime I do (reading over old letters) The date on them may grow old but the letters don't. I often do that same thing.

I'm sure I don't know what a poor girl is to do in the event that she has no shoulder to weep on. You see darling I'm not experienced in that line (never having been a poor girl myself) That will soon be remedied though.

Oh yes there is another way beside "foot power," if I want to invest in a "caballo," a horse or mule but I hate to do that cause they are pretty hard to sell at the other end and I'd hate to lose so much money cause the horses aren't so cheap here as they are in some parts of the country and saddles are very expensive so I think I'll just hoof it. It don't kill other guys and I've done it once before so I guess I can again.

Gee honey I'm starting to figure on that Christmas dinner already. I'd give up the dinner part of it though if I could just sink my molars into 6 or 8 nice potatoes also my arms around about well say 128 or 130 lbs or Beatrice. I believe you can drop the pork chops and spuds from the contract.

Well honey thats about all Ive got time for now cause my candle is just about used up and the same with the news so Ill close now with Love & Kisses

From Your
Porter

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XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

P.S. Ill bet I could double that 40 C.P.

P.

Box 3: folder 32

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nic. Via P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Telepaneca Nicaragua October 30

Dearest:

I just found out that some good messenger is going into Ocotal tomorrow or the day after so Im writing another letter cause he will probably take the mail in with him.

This night Im on guard owing to the shortage of men here. There was another fast combat patrol left here early this morning bound for the "San Juan," district again. Im also the only machine gunner left behind, so if (which is a doubting word) we should have a scrap Id be safe as if I was in bed, cause Ive got a nice sand bag barricade all around the gun, just as if Id have the gun there in case of trouble in he position that the gun is in now it would be preactically useless. Id darn soon move into the open though. Take my word for it.

Well honey the elections here are only five days off and our departure for Ocotal only one week away. Then if I really am on the "A" list for sailing why Id have just one more month to do in Nicaragua. Wouldn't that be nice. Just hink sweetheart if I really do sail on Dec. 1st Id get to see you for Christmas. I think Id really believe in Santa Clause if that were true. Id consider that an Xmas present from the U.S. Marine Corps. Im coming home if its only for a day when I hit the good old U.S.A. and while Im there Im going to be looking around for some kind of work or some kind of an opportunity and if I get back then Ill be almost certain to get out 3 months early. (Knock Wood) Old lady, "luck," dont seem to have forgotten me even if old lady, "fate," has.

There seems to be just one thing more that would ~~dare~~ make my cup of joy overflow but I don't even dare to think of that yet, not until I can lay away some money and know that Ive got a steady income. I only wish the time were here already when I might make you all my own, when Id be sure that no man or woman either for that matter could keep us apart. Let's hope that time comes soon, and the sooner the better.

I see you are still wearing that lil ole ring – even with the pepsodent smile. I was so interested in that nice big smile that I even forgot to look for the ring but it came to my notice a little later. All I can say is, "Muy Bonita" .. Both Gob and Smile. I can hardly believe that all that happiness could possibly be meant for me. Maybe Im just luckier than I thought I was. Do you think you could stick me with a pin from where you are? Id like to be sure Im awake and not only dreaming all that. Ena how, ---- you'd better tell hoppy to practice smiling her highest grade of smile cause it wont be long now and she will need it. The days seem to drag like lead right now but 142 days and a flop – honey. I hardly believe I can wait even that long. Id like to play chicken hawk and grab my chicken and fly away right now.

Are you going to make me a lemon pie when I get home honey? Ive simply been dying for a lemon pie lately and if I don't quit even thinking about one Im liable to make me a pie crust of mud and try making one myself.

The fellows down here have come to realize Im up the pole and for the last week they have been trying their darndest to make me weaken and come down pretty soon they will realize that I mean what I say and that that junk has not got such a good wrestling hold on me after all. No more booze at all in the tropics and solamente wine in the U.S.A. and very little then. Do you think I can keep all these good resolutions? Especially the one about getting a steady income first? Thats going to be the hardest one. Im afraid you won't be able to realize how much I want you honey and how I dream about you and live only for you. This is all the paper I have right now honey so Ill have to close and dont forget to write soon to

Your
Porter

XX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Nov 8 [return address] Private E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via Postmaster balboa Canal Zone

Telepaneca Nicaragua November 2 1928

Dearest:

The messenger that went into Ocotal yesterday returned tonight and brought some mail along. I had a letter needless to say. It took 23 days for it to arrive but Im thankful for it just the same.

The elections down here come off day after tomorrow we are all set for it we got rid of the last little details today. We have the most registered here of any place in the district also in the department, and are expecting some nice crowds here in fact weve made preparations to work far into the night and we open for business at 6:00 A.M.

We leave here for Ocotal on Tuesday morning if everything goes right and as we are travelling light we are going to take a trail that is impassible with a pack train and we expect to make the trip in one day and get it over with after all we are only 40 miles from Ocotal. Im going to try to get myself a mule for the trip because it means several pretty bad mountains to cross.

You are going to excuse this paper I know, or Id not write on it. I don't want to buy some more paper and haul it back to Ocotal with me nor do I want to throw it away and Ive got a couple of these official scratch pads so this is what Im using for this letter. Am I excused?

Im sorry about that thumb honey. I know how those things can make a person miserable. I hope its sell a long time by now.

We have a hack of a time here too. To heal a sore in this country is about the most difficult thing Ive ever tackled. The whole country is over run with skeeters, and fleas, etc. and every time they bite it always turns to an open sore. They seem to prefer the body to the face, and the arms and legs to any thing else. It takes a couple of weeks to heal those bites even if they receive the best of care. Ill be glad when I get back where the fleas aren't quite so plentiful. (The good old U.S.A.)

Darn right you Marine is home sick, but not so much that as love sick. I think of you always honey and fight the same old fight over and over. There is always something saying get her the first time you see her you are liable to lose her. Then my common sense and pride says not till you are in a position to support her. Im afraid that all my pride and what little common sunse I have got will leave me though when I come home again. Im afraid that to hold you close once more will be to much happiness for me and Im liable to lose my head. The very thought of you seems to make my head swin honey, can I really be so lucky or is it only a pleasant dream? I can hardly wait to get back to the good old U.S.A. so I can get a leave and find out.

When I come home Im going to take a room over town the first night cause I dont want to be on Mins hands and I dont want to stay at Erv's cause I don't like to take anything for nothing and Erv's mother would refuse to accept anything from me unless I was staying for any length of time, and then if I missed so much as one meal she would refuse anyway, so Ill just stay over town the first night and then

find me a place in Brooklyn for the rest of my stay. Im also going to buy my civilian outfit when I get there. (Good bye Bank roll.) I think Ill get Erv to help me select that. He knows more about what they are wearing than I do.

This letter is not expected to leave here before I do and by the time you get it I expect to be on my way back to the coast. First to leon and then to "Corinto" then - - - (Over the fence is out) The U.S.A. You had better keep writing to Ocotal though until I tell you of another address.

Well sweetheart as much as I hate to do it Ive got to close this letter. Ive got a watch to stand tonight and Ive got to try to get at least 3 or 4 hours of shut eye. (Heres hoping the fleas lay off.)

Im getting good honey. I can now eat twenty (service made) hot cakes for breakfast. Just think what I could do to real nice home made ones with real syrup. Those twenty were on a dare though. I dont always eat that many, but on a bet or a dare I could eat Thirty home made ones.

Write soon honey and heres

Love
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] Private E.G. Thomas 11th regt. Band Ocotol Nicaragua Via P.M. Balboa C.Z.

November 5 1928 Teleopaneca Nicaragua

Dearest:

The elections down here are over, or at least they are as far as we are concerned. Things went pretty smooth all day due to the fact that we took a pretty high hand. The Nicaraguan personel gave us a nice recommendation though to the Departmental and national Boards of elections and he told us we would all get a certificate of some kind and if his recommend is any good we will get some kind of badge or medal. I don't expect we would get them though for maybe a year or two, if ever, something like that would be nice as a souveneer. All I care for is to know that I done my duty well enough to be recommended for the medal. (?No es verdad?)

Manana in the morning we go as far as San Fernando en route to Ocotol. We had the final meeting of our boards this morning and wound up what business we couldnt wind up last night. Ive got a few things for the scarp book if I can ever get them away from here without tearing them all to pieces. Just a few seals and so forth. It's just a little to much to send in a letter.

Ive been reading over some more of my letters, as usual, the letter to the Great Private to be read on the train, headed the list. If I remember right you wrote the letter during the afternoon and it was headed "Dear Pal," then at night I believe I asked you to at least remain a pal if you couldn't be more. Thats just another instance of (two Great Minds) Pardon the Spanish capital T but Im doing so much Spanish I forget myself. Im even talking it in my sleep.

I wonder if youve ever decided about if it was or was not right to let me kiss you (Anne or Hoppy wouldn't have left me) That one paragraph seems to worry me just a little bit. I dont remember if I had the nice weather going back that you wished me, cause if I remember right I started building dream castles almost as soon as I finished the letter I was pretty tired you know, and the next thing I knew I was in Washington changing trains.

The day after tomorrow we expect to arrive in Ocotol sometime during the afternoon and Ill probably be to tired to do anything but Thursday morning Im going to try to find out all I can about the first sailing list and you may rest assured that I will give you any information I may unearth, in fact Im pretty sure right now that I will be one of the first to sail for the States. Id almost bet that Ill be in the States for my Christmas dinner.

Well honey this is all for a couple of days now, possibly till Thursday or Friday. Write soon honey to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regiment Band Ocotal Nicaragua via P.M. Blaboa C.Z.

Ocotal Nicaragua November 8

Dearest:

We got in here yesterday after making record hikes for two days in a row. We made the hike from Telpaneca to San Fernando in 5 hours and 35 minutes 22 miles of the darndest mountains and hills you could want. The Looie and I started to see who could walk the other down first and we sure set a fast pace. I dropped out on the 14th mile and they had to life me into the saddle of the Looie's mule. The Looie walked two more miles and I gave him the mule and walked the other 6 miles into San Fernando. I was to tired to even think. Yesterday we made the 18 miles into Ocotal in 4 hours 5 minutes and I had to drop out 2 miles before we got to Ocotal. I was still to tired fromt eh day before. When I got into Ocotal I found four letters waiting for me from Oct 1st, Oct 12 – 15 – and 17th. The first three were rather jolly but the fourth [torn corner] was blue. Whats the matter honey? To much broo[turn corner] Put some of those things out of your head honey. How could a person believe in God and evolution also. I can readily see how a person could believe part of each theory but you couldn't possibly believe both in full. Thats really all we can do honey. (What we think is decent and right) nothing else matters. What a silly question, of course you arent selfish or vain. You only imagine those things when you start to feel blue. Certainly wives have faults, but have you evern seen a husband or for that matter any person like that. You just tell that acquaintance, (who told you that you are vain) to go to the devil. Show them the part in the, "Bible," where it says (Let him who is without sin cast the first stone) or the part about (removing the beam from their own eye before attempting to remove the splinter from someone else's eye) Just you forget things like that as soon as you hear them, as long as you know you are being decent and straight, What else matters and as for being selfish thats the bunk.

Don't you worry about my changing my mind after we are married for a while honey if you were only a passing fancy I would never have asked you to marry me. (Give me credit at least for being a gentleman, if nothing else) Dont you understand, sweetheart, that I love you more than anything, with real love there is no room for doubt. I simply love you honey and Im satisfied, so if anyone else dont like it tell them they are catty. Just forget those things now honey and some day we'll thumb our noses at those people.

There seems to be some new dope out around here about a sailing list but for the present it is being kept pretty dark. I may and I may not get home by Christmas but when I do get there Im going to ask for a leave right away and Im coming straight to you maybe we will make some kind of arrangements and get married then. People cant talk then. The reason that we might not get out of here as soon as we expected is cause of the results of the elections. "General Jose Maria Moncada," the Liberal candidate was elected, and for the present it looks like more trouble but it won't last very long, Im sure. Ive got some more scrap book material but seeing as there is no American or Nicaraguan post office here I can't send a package so we will just have to trust to luck.

Well honey dont forget to write soon to

Your love sick

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX XX 40 C.P.

P.S. please tell me which day is the sweetest of the year and what it means. I know I got a kiss that day but Im darned if I know what its all about. Kisses are to scarce to let them go by to easily.

Porter

a few more XXX

box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Eleventh Regiment
Second Brigade Nov 12 [return address] from Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regiment Band Ocotal Nic.
Via Postmaster Balboa C.Z.

Ocotal Nicaragua November 10

Dearest:

I really haven't any excuse at all for writing today cause I haven't enough news to fill even one page. Ill probably think of those things about the time I get ready to close this letter.

Yesterday I got my certificate for services faithfully performed as vice president of an electoral mesa. They had all the electoral men lined up facing the Colonel and they blew a general assembly and lined the company's up on either side of us and when we got our certificate the Colonel gave each of us a salute and the company gave us a salute in the form of a, "Present Arms." The same ceremony as when a man gets a Navy Cross. Then the old boy declared it to be a holiday, then today is another holiday, "The Marine Corps 153rd Birthday," and tomorrow is another holiday, Armistice day. We are having a sort of picnic today. We each got some kind of fruit that they imported from that foreign country (U.S.A.) They called that fruit apples. Gee I'd forgotten that they made ~~them~~ those things. We are holding all kinds of contests out in the square this morning and a big chow this noon, probably all the real bread we want, as long as we dont want over two slices. I guess tomorrow is the mystery day.

Im going to send you a couple of peacock feathers in this letter and hope to God they fare better than the others did on the hike in. I had nearly enough to make a fan but they were absolutely ruined on the way in. Im going to try to get some more.

There is some kind of dope out now that the short timers don't leave here till Naj. 15th 1929. Two more months. Im going to try to get on an earlier list though so don't give up the ship yet. If thats true though you will probably have to wait a couple of weeks for your Christmas present this year cause in the first place there is nothing to be had around here and in the next place I couldn't send a package if I did have one to send. Don't give up the ship though honey. I may be able to talk the old man into letting me go back earlier.

Are you over your spell of blues yet? I hope so. They only make a person miserable and don't really help any.

Well honey I guess Ill close this letter now with Love and Kisses from

Your
Porter

XX XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Nov 12 1928 [return address] from Private Emil G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S. Marines Band Ocotol Nicaragua via:
Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

Nov. 12 1928 Ocotol Nicaragua

Dearest:

A marvelous thing occurred today. We really got some mail. I had one letter from you and one from Erv. You told me that Lill hadn't received any mail from me for a while so I wrote to her first so in case I got called away I'd be sure to get her letter written without fail or as the Spaniards say (Sin Falta)

Erv tells me that he is now keeping steady company with some girl from the East Side. I'm glad of that cause now he'll settle down and get over some of his goofy ideas. He's also got a car now. A "Moon" if I'm not mistaken. That's a bigger start than I expect to be able to make. A big car won't feed or clothe a wife (I don't think)

I don't know how the handwriting in this letter is going to turn out. I hope it's better than it turned out in Lill's letter. I'm writing this with a straight pen cause the point on my fountain pen is on the blink and I won't trust it to a gook to fix. I saw enough of their work when I had my watch fixed. It cost me five smackers too, and the watch looks a wreck now. I think I'll just worry along like this till I get to the States and get it fixed.

Yes honey, I am feeling much better now, not nearly so blue. I sure wish it was all over with though so I could come back to you for always. That seems to be all I eat, sleep, and live for. I'd give everything I own to be able to spend the rest of my life with you, and please honey don't go to thinking like you said in your last letter. I know that every one has their small failings but I'll always love you no matter what yours happens to be. All I ask is that you should be mine wholly and forever and I'll do my best to make you happy. Don't you go to worrying that I'll tire of you, cause I love you more than that.

No darling I don't miss my clarinet now, cause I see quite a bit of it here lately. We are now doing band duty only I'd much rather be doing husband duty only that would be so much more fun. Think so honey?

Your new coat may be beautiful and have nice soft fur on it but darn if I'm not really jealous of that fur. That darn stuff is so close to you and I'm so far away. Oh well honey it can't be very long now 129 days to go if I'm lucky.

Gee it sure don't take you many seconds to take in all the details when you see a Marine Does it? Medals, packages, and all in 2 seconds.

I got those two letters that you sent to Telpaneca alright darling. I think all my mail has caught up to me now except those that started out for Port Au Prince Haiti. They've never caught up to me.

That letter sure was, "My Bonita." in other words it was very beautiful. Here's hoping I get many more like it.

How are the gossips treating you now? Are they still shooting off their mouths? If I can make some arrangements for your support till I get paid off, will you marry me when I come on the next furlough? I wouldn't have to make arrangements for more than two or maybe three months.

That's the only way I know of to stop gossiping, and to say anything about you when you are my wife would be suicide cause then I'd have the right to protect you and the Unwritten law would back me. anyway I want you honey. More than anything else, and I'll never rest easy until you are mine, all mine.

Well honey if I don't quit soon, why this letter will be one nice mess, won't it? Beside that my candle will soon burn out and I'll soon have to quit for taps so it would be a triple disaster so write soon to your

Very lonesome
Porter

XX C.P. ¿es Verdad?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Nov 19 [return address] from Private E.G. Thomas 11th Regt Band Ocotol Nicaragua via: Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

Nov 15 1928 Ocotol Nicaragua

Dearest:

Im going to put myself open to a lot of criticism. These guys around here always kid me about he number of letters I write. I write about four to every other mans one.

We are specting my old company, "The 61st Machine Gun Co," in here some time today, from "Somota," where they were stationed for the last couple of months. That heans that I get to see my old buddy, "Woodhouse." It might also mean more than that. I got a little probable information in a confidential way from one of the fellows at headquarters this morning and it is his beleif that once the 61st Co. gets here to take over Ocotol why we will soon be starting for "Leon," hwere the band will be stationed until the Marines get withdrawn from Nicaragua, except of course the short timers who will go back the first time they have any transportation available. That should be close around the first of the year, either a little sooner or a little later.

A band of entertainers who called themselves (Gloom Chasers) were here yesterday and the day before and put on a small show for our benefit. There were 5 of them, Two Gobs and three Marines. They also picked up some comedian up here. They sure were good. I haven't had such a good laugh since I saw, "Rookies," for the first time. I nearly laughed myself sick. The comedian related a story of the time he was doing a watch as Sgt. of the Guard. The O.D. bawled him out and told him hereafter to make the Guard report so a dumb man would understand it. He also named one of the officers present. so he says he asked "Just what part of the Guard Report is it the Lieutenant doesnt understand." He also cracked some other wise ones about some of the other officers who were present. He sure was some comedian, he didn't give the mess Sgt. 10 minutes rest all during the show. Thats one man who sure got the razberries.

The Marines are now making what they are pleased to call a big drive in a last effort to get "Sandino." Im afraid theyve waited to long now. Im inclined to believe that he has made good his excape and is by this time in hiding where he wont be found in a hurry. They started yesterday and are expecting to stay out 30 days in parts unknown. That means parts where no white man is known to have ever been.

I just wonder how Im going to take it when I finally do get back to you. After all this time down here Ill swear Im almost afraid to trust myself. That burden I think will fall to you. You will have to be Guardian Angel, Chaperon, and Sweetheart to me. Im afraid I might even be hard to manage at first. Still maybe it may not turn out like I think. Just getting back to you may be enough to make me buck up and be myself. Who knows? We will have to meet that (shall we call it emergency?) when it arrives, in the mean time Ill be practicing self control and other punishments, such as punching the wall just for spite etc.

Those passions that I am so afraid of may seem funny to you honey, but they're not. They are merely another of the necessary evils attached to real love. They are the things that mean the realizing of our fondest dreams. They are the things that make "with the marriage vows combined," the cup of happiness to overflow.

Gee after reading that over I'm afraid that you won't be able to make heads or tails out of it and may not understand, still what I meant to say is true. I love you now honey and I'm so afraid that I'm liable to spoil it that I can't even write sense. If you can understand what I mean, well and good. If not why don't worry yourself any trying to figure it out, but just throw that page away.

I only wish it was all over with and that I was a civilian again cause if I don't get out of here I'll go mad from waiting and from longing for you. I'm always so afraid you are only one of my nice dreams and won't be there when I come.

Well darling I guess I've raved enough to suit you for one day so I'll close with lots of love and bushels of kisses from

Your Lonesome
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas
11th Regiment U.S. Marine Band Ocotal Nicaragua via Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

November 17, 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

I haven't got much news to write about in this letter, but Ive nothing else to do right now so I can't hink of a better way to pass the time than by trying to write a letter.

There is a last drive on for the Marines last effort to get Sandino. I dont believe they will be very lucky. They have a list published here maneing tentative patrols, in case one is needed on a short order. Im on patrol no 2. The first one is out now so in case they need another in the next few days Ill be called on.

Yesterday I put in my written request to be discharged 3 months previous to the date of the expiration of my enlistment. How the request is going to be treated I can't say until it returns here. That may not be till close to the end of Dec. Oh well Im fairly sure now that I cant possibly get wawy from Nicaragua before Jan 15th so by that time my request should be back. Im certainly sorry I can't be with you for the Christmas holidays. That was one thing I expected, and so did everyone else. This darn Marine Corps is to changeable. I won't say that they will grant my request, but I think they will cause they are now afraid not to recommend approval cause they are afraid of having to much trouble. The fact is that Ive threatened to come down the pole, if its not approved of. That of course is only a threat. I have in reality no idea what ever of doing that thing, its only what I call using scientific measures.

We had a darn nice rehearsal this morning, a nd we played everything from, "Atlantis," on down to, "Give me a Night in June," fox trot. We showed exceptional form too.

Well sweetheart I dont know of any thing else to tell you unles you want me to tell you that "I love you," and couple more times. That seems to be all Im able to think of so Ill close now before I spoil this perfectly nice letter.

Thats all. Love & Kisses from

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 3: folder 33

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via: Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

Nov 21, 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

When the mail came in Monday and I only got one letter from you, I decided to wait a couple of days to answer cause I had a feeling that there must be at least one more roaming around. This morning I got the other one. 16 day mail service is pretty nice, dont you think so?

Don't you worry about the snakes bothering me. Im getting so I can't even sleep without a bed fellow. Ive tried to sleep alone several times but was always forced to go back for a scorpion or tarantula or a snake or something. Im getting so used to it that Im going to build a home for sand fleas, scirpions, skeeters, etc right at the head of my bunk so they wont have to come so far to keep me company.

You may be right about fate having exhausted her bag of tricks, but Im darn'd if it looks like it right now. Unless something out of the ordinary happens, (so that my request for early discharge should be approved) why Ill probably not leave here now till Feb. or March. I always seem to be the unlucky guy, except on one or two occasions ex. When you said, "yes."

You tell these doubting persons honey. Just because we are to far apart to quarrel, doesn't mean that we will make up for it when I get home, a nd the people who think so are just juts. I can't remember ever having quarreled with you or even having had a cross word. Do you?

So --- you don't like to listen to political speeches. Well, neither do I, in fact I used a very effective means of keeping out of hearing of them. We just put out an order that they had to get a permit from us to hold any kind of political gathering whatever and when we gave that permission it always designated the other end of town as the place of the said gathering.

If it seems strange to you to see flowers blooming and say November at the same time then how would you designate the feeling I get when I try to say November at the same time that Im trying to keep from sweating even when I run around the quarters almost in my, "birthday suit." The winter months are over here now.

Guess what!! I havent got my Christmas cards even bought nor the gifts I intended to send either and it looks like Im not going to get them for a while either. Ive thought of a pretty present for you but you will have to wait cause there is no place to get anything suitable around this neck of the woods and if there was I wouldn't know how to get it to you because a, "post office," is just two words down here. Two words without meaning at that.

No darling, Ill have to beg to differ with you. "Blue Heaven," isn't a back number. Why we played it for the first time the night before we left for electoral duty, a nd anything we play is the latest even if its 10 years old, or anyway thats what the people down here think. The Marines too. There are some here now that have been down here for 2 ½ years.

I don't know if I told you or not but there are 7 stand by patrols here in Ocotal and one patrol drills each day in the week, our day is Tuesday. We drilled yesterday and gave a display of marksmanship and I got assigned to another automatic rifle. I told you I was unlucky, they weigh twice as much as the other ones do and you have to carry so much ammunition for them that you feel like a pack mule. I should worry though. I carried one all the way up here from Leon so I don't think a two or three days patrol with one will kill me. They are much better in this kind of warfare cause they go into action so quick and they are also much better protection.

I don't really worry honey only I'm always afraid I'll lose you when I sit around and mope about all the hard luck I've had. I just can't believe that I'm so fortunate as to have you. I always think that it's only a nice dream.

Well honey I guess all I can do is to just do my best and keep hoping that I get sent back to the States soon, so write to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 34

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Eleventh ____ Second Brigade Nov 5 1928 [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nic. Via: Postmaster Blaboa Canal Zone

Dec. 1, 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

It does seem like all the fates were against me trying to make up for the one bit of good fortune that I managed to get. Ill explain my growls.

They put out a feast here Thanksgiving that was fit for a king and all you could eat. I couldn't eat any of it because my tonsils were swollen and wouldn't permit the passage of food. Then second Thanksgiving night was the first chance Ive had in nine months to sleep in a spring bunk with a mattress and sheets etc. (even a pillow and pillow case) and Im darned if I could get comfy in a bunk like that. Im so used to sleeping on a hard field cot or on the deck, - - well I just didn't feel at home. You see this all happened in the sick bay where they have things like that.

Ive got it pretty nice here. Ive got the sick officers room all to myself cause when I first came over here they suspected me of having dytheria but since then my disgnosis has been changed and its now tonsillitis. Im feeling fine now except that Im a bit shaky from the fever and I hope to return to duty in a couple more days. I should be in bed now but what the Doc dont know can't hurt him.

I tried to write a letter yesterday but I was so nervous that I couldn't read my own writing so I just had to start all over again.

This is Saturday and when the Colonel came in here for inspection he asked me a bunch of fool questions so I told him I was feeling pretty good and wanted to go to duty, he said, "Oh yes Ill stop the rest of the Marines in Nicaragua from functioning long enough to come and carry you to your quarters." Why he must think Im sick or that Im a baby so a sore throat could stop me.

Im afraid my request for early discharge is dropping through so all I can do now is to hope that I get back to Quantico before March 1st cause then Ive always got a darn good chance by just sending in another request. They very seldom refuse when a guy is in the States but down here it's a horse of a different color.

A week ago yesterday we were told that starting last Monday there would be a mail boat come into Corinto every second day and the mail would be distributed to us, in fact to all the stations in the hills daily by plane. The first distribution of mail hasn't arrived yet since then. Oh well I hear a plane coming in now. (Maybe!!?) this one has a sack or two of mail for us. Lets see now, I should have - - - oh about twenty letters anyway. Time out.

Id like to write a couple more letters today, one to Lill, to my dad, to Erv and to Min but I can hardly write at this table let alone in bed and Im out of bed against orders now. Thats why I took time out before cause I heard the chief coming and had to crawl back into bed.

Dont forget honey write soon and many of them so Ill at least come near to getting 20 letters even if I do fall short a few.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 34

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Eleventh Reg Second Brigade Dec 7 1928 [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via: Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

December 3, 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Darling Bea:

Today we got our first bunch of mail in two weeks. I had one letter from you and one from Lill. I think Ill make this letter on the, "catch as catch can," idea, and being as Ive only 1 pad of paper over here as Ill have to write on both sides if I dont want to use up the whole pad.

To start with Lill wanted to know how it feels to be in love, and how I feel when I get a letter from you and how I feel when I don't. I tried to explain how it effected me but Im afraid it isn't explained very clearly. I hope you don't mind being talked about in that respect. Im sure Lill keeps something like that confidential but, if you would ever care to know how much I love you honey, I think you might understand me more clearly if you were to read that letter.

You went on an eighteen mile hike did you? Now how would you have felt if you'd carried about 100 round of ammunition and about 8 ¾ lbs. of rifle then how would you have liked to have used mother earth for a mattress and no pillow except a hard knapsack or a rock, then get up the next morning and get started again by 6:30 A.M. or 7 oclock at the latest. When we came up from Leon we would get up and get ready to leave as early as 3:30 A.M. sometimes and I carried an automatic rifle too. That weighs just about twice as much as a Springfield rifle.

So one of you gang got married, did she? I believe I remember, "Irma Sass," you called, "Tags," in your letter but I thought you called her, "Tagalong," when I was home. I often have to laugh at some of the names that girls give one another for instance when you wrote that your dad would be accompanied by a, Miss Hoptoad, well it just naturally took (d - - -) twenty minutes to dope out just who you meant by that. I just couldn't connect Hoppy with a name like that. I thought maybe you were taking a hound puppy by that name. Tell Helen I said I wouldn't blame her for spanking you for a name like that. really sweetheart it isn't bad to give a person a nick name but that might make some people sore. Oh well here I go preaching again.

Im afraid when I get out Ill have to get married so my wife can pick my clothes for me or Im so old fashioned Im liable to get something that was stylish during the civil war.

Do you know honey I hear so much about, "Aunt Mame," that I can hardly wait to meet her. You sure like to go out there. My Aunts aren't good company like htat at all. I don't blame anyone for being religious but my aunts are over religious. They are religious fanatics. I have a certain amount of religion myself but too much is to much. I wish my aunts were more like your, "Aunt Mame." Im beginning to feel like I know her even though Ive never met her.

So you like, "Dumas'," style of writing, do you? Well I like it myself. Ive read quite a few of his books when I was in Quantico. I can't just remember the names of them but I do know that after reading them I admired the man as a writer.

If you want something good for your hiking shoes honey, go to some harness store and get a can of saddle soap, it will clean the leather, soften and preserve it and it helps to shed water. Ive stood a pair of hobnail shoes with saddle soap on them into 3 inches of water and took them out and they shed water like a duck's back and they weren't damp on the inside either saddle soap also cleans the leather so that it takes a very good polish.

Do you notice any change int eh writing? Ive fixed the point on my pen at least temporarily. I can express my thoughts more clearly with this pen.

Well darling Im getting so Im writing everything but what I want. I make (O's) for (d's) and I misspell every other word so that must mean Im sleepy.

Write soon darling and make me happy cause thats the only time I am real happy.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P. Next issue Mannana

Continued Dec 5th

Dearest:

Yesterday the doctor decided that I was well enough to remove me from isolation, but no ammount of coaxing could make him send me to duty, so now Im in the ward with the rest of the, "gold bricks". I spent most of yesterday getting myself set up in the ward and so far Ive spent most of this morning shaving. You might not think it but for a man to try to shave with a straight razor after he's been sick for a while is quite a job cause its easy to cut your throat if your hand isn't steady. I had to take a mouth full of water when I got through just to see if I could still hold water. I kind of expected my throat to leak a little but it didn't so I must have done quite well.

This place seems to be the favorite hangout of the non-coms as far as I can see. Im the only Private over here at present. There are a couple of corporals and Sgts and above but no more Privates. I fare quite well though as a whole. Im on regular diet again and showed it this morning by eating six eggs a cup of coffee (Our cups hold 2/3 of a quart) and a half a box of soda crackers. I expect to show them some more marvelous tricks this noon if the chow that they bring over is half way eatable.

The band is rehearsing right now and I can just hear them. They sure sound good from here, maybe due to the fact that Im not there. This continual playing and rehearsing is making quite good players out of some of theis band and we can now tackle some of the big stuff that till now aws just to hard for us. Theyve been playing almost nothing but big stuff here lately. We destructed Atlantis again the other day and a few more like. "Martha," "Faust," (Big Bill Tell) "Wm Tell," "Semiramadi" and, "Opera Mirror." Right now the assistant band master is directing and the band master himself is playing clarinet. He has been ever since I turned in for the simple reason that most of those large numbers have plenty of clarinet work and our clarinet section isnt any to strong anyway.

Well honey the time seems to be passing and five days of this month have passed already pretty soon now the time will get here whn I start back for the states and you. I wish that time were here now, as fast as the days are going by, still they seem to drag. It can't be long now though. They are bound to send me back soon cause even if the wanted to hold me here till the day I get discharged they would have less than 200 days to hold me. They won't keep me that long though. I just have an idea they won't. I don't have much hope right now of getting back to the U.S.A. before March 1st but its not impossible and stranger things have been known to happen. (?Quien Sabe?) in other words (Who Knows?) Ill tell you one thing if I should in any way manage to get back so I could put in my request on or before March first Id be sure to get it cause Ive never known a request like that to be disapproved of in the States. The only reason they do that down here is cause there would be so many short timers doing the same thing that they would be short of the ammount of Marines that they figure they will need here on Jan 1st for the inauguration. 90% of the men with less than a year to do would be asking for the same thing.

How did you make out on that hunting trip you wnet on? Tell me womething about it. Ill bet you had plenty of fun and I wish I could have gone along. I really like to hunt if its done as a sporting proposition, only I like to hunt with a rifle, where the game has as much chance of getting away as you have of getting it. The chances are you will come back empty handed most of the time but the sport is so much better and you dont have to killthe game right and left of course the shotgun is now the accepted method and most people go out to kill what they can, and it is used for food and therefore not wasted. Then to the rabbits get to be a pain tot eh farmers and it doesn't do any harm to kill off a few now and then. I know thats the way my Dad feels about it he says they are plentiful and in the way and he wants me to come out next fall when Im out of the service again and help him get rid of some of them.

I wrote Min a nice long letter the other day also one to Lill and one to Erv and I even wrote a short one to my father. Maybe it's agood thing after all to be able to turn in to the sick bay once in a while. Youve got to admit it is an excellent way of catching up in ones correspondence.

Well honey I guess Ill have to close this letter now, Im getting talkative. Just think, fourteen pages. Thats almost as much as that book I started at Hampton Roads.

Well write soon honey so I can realize my fond dream of twenty letters in one mail.

Love
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 34

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via: Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

Dec. 12, 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

It seems like Im getting behind with my letters again. I received one letter from you on Monday and two more today so Ive got to get busy and do some writing. I started to write on Monday but had to quit on the 4th page. There have been a lot of patrols going out here since a week ago. Our 52nd Co. had a contact with a large bandit force and walked right into a neat ambush. One man was killed and every one feels kind of hot about the gooks since then, everyone is acheing to get out onto the trail.

Yes I know West Tech has a good team this year. I read in the Sunday Plain Dealer where West Tech took east Tech over the line something like 33-6. I think thats what the score was. Oh yes. The Plain Dealer was sent to me by a fellow in Managua, whose folks always send it to him. He is a corpsman in the hospital down there.

Snow? Why it seems to me like Ive heard that word some where before. Here it is December on 13 days till Christmas and we are still taking our little swim and our open air baths.

Nope honey it isn't over ten months since I was home. Ill confess it does seem much longer but it isnt, in fact it still lacks 3 days of being 10 months.

Yes I know where Im going to be for the next 3 months. The dope now is that Ill stay right here till Ive got only 3 months to do. Just think sweetheart if my request for early discharge had been approved then Id only have 98 days to do, like this Ive got 188. Ive just about given up all hope of getting out in March and just about decided to just take it easy and do the rest of my time without growling. Good idea "¿Es Verdad?"

Ive now assumed the honorary title of, "Band Mechanic." (unofficial) Im repairing all the instruments in the band, one at a time as they break down since Monday Ive repadded and repaired and cleaned and oiled 3 clarinets and 1 flute. Theyve kept me busy too.

Weve also got a couple of artists in the band and one of them looks very promising so he's going to paint a picture for me. If it turns out good enough to warrant my carrying it around then Ill bring it home. Otherwise Im afraid it will have a nice time in the ash can.

I think just like your friend, "Mrs. Van Meter," about marriage I think if a couple are suited to one another, it is the most beautiful and helpful and inspiring institution that can possibly be had. I don't care what the gossips think about it, they will never change my idea of it. Im glad to know that your ideas along that line are permanent, honey. That makes me feel better all the way around.

Will I take a chance if dying from lemon pie? Darn hooting I will provided, you make it. Never mind the guarantee on your cooking. Im not giving you a cooks liscence of a cooks diploma. Im giving you amarrriage certificate and a ring and if the ungarrantee'd cooking should turn out to be nothing to

brag about, then we both suffer. I don't think we will though. I think if Im not mistaken Ive already sampled some of the cooking that youve had your foot in. Verdad?

All O-Key. Im given to understand without a doubt that youve decided to was the right thing to let me kiss you that night. Im so satisfied that Im almost happy in spite of the fact that Im in Nicaragua where I always thought happiness impossible.

I really don't know if Ill buy my civies in Cleveland or not honey. Im afraid my liberty uniform will be unfit to wear and what is in good shape will probably be Isot or stolen or strayed so I may buy them from the Post Tailor in Quantico or else in Washington D.C.

How jolly it must be to be newly wed and just forget parties dates and everything else but just one another. Oh well some day if the Good Lord so wishes we will be that way.

I just wonder how many girls would put up with what you are putting up with and still wait for a fellow at some times you didn't even get mail from me for a long time. Im beginning to realize that you sure are one A no1 sticker and Im happy to know it.

Well honey I dont know of anything more to write about so I think the best thing to do is to go to sleep, but its so close to chow time that I think Ill just read a paper for a few minutes.

Write soon honey to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 34

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via: Postmaster balboa Canal Zone

December 19 – 28 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

I was kind of expecting a letter from you Monday, but the mail got here and I got no letter at all then Ive waited two days over in the hopes that my mail might have strayed.

We had another funeral to play this morning, and its almost made me decide not to celebrate on Christmas as I had intended it seems this man died from an alcoholic heart or something like that. I don't know for sure yet but if I do celebrate it will be very moderately.

I was intending to tell you all about the West Tech Football team but some way or another my paper vanished into thin air. I get the, "Sunday Plain Dealer," quite regular now. My friend in Managua send it to me just as soon as he reads it himself all he does is address it and take it to the Post office marked via plane and the next day I get it. He also sends me magazines every once in a while.

Well honey it looks like Ill probably start for the States around the end of February so I should only have 70 some odd days to do in Nicaragua and only 183 in the Service. Hot puppy.

Ive been doing quite a bit of practicing here lately, considering the fact that Im a short timer. I doubt very much if I will play any when I get on the outside maybe Ill get a clarinet and fool around with it a little bit now and then, but no more than that.

I can hardly wait for the days to pass till the time when I start back to the States and till I get paid off. Its just as our Chaplain says, it's a wonderfull thing for a man, to have someone and something to go back to. Ill second that but, it also tends to make a man lonesome and blue. It's a pleasure to be lonesome and blue if one gets a prize for it in the end. That thought is always a big comfort. I wish I was in Cleveland now. Ill bet a (knickel) (5¢) I know where we'd go. We would go ice skating or Ill eat my hat. I havent been ice skating or even seen any ice or snow for so long that I don't know what it looks like. The same goes for roller rinks and roller skates, and any other form of amusement you can think of except, "right by squads, column left." Im getting so used to wearing a pistol every time I go out away from my bunk, that Im afraid Ill never get used to going out without a bunch of hardware strapped to my side. Ill feel lost without a rifle and a pistol and when I go out into the woods Ill have to go un-armed or Im liable to shoot some innocent by stander thinking him to be a bandit.

Well honey girl I dont know of anything else to write of so Ill have to close now with

Love & Kisses

From
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 35

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] 4 Jan [return address]
from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nic. Via: Postmaster Balboa Canal Zone

New Years Eve Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

Today for some reason or another, unknown to us, a few bags of mail got through to us. I got one letter from you and a package from Lill and Babe, and one from Max and Min. Mac & Min sent me a carton of cigarettes and Lill & Babe a lighter. They both come in handy and got here at just the right time. I still can't understand though how it got to its destination without getting lost. Maybe the mail clerks in Leon and Managua already have cigarettes and a lighter.

This is another one of those nights when we are permitted to celebrate all we want to, everyone else is drunk already and I'm just about 3 sheets to the wind myself. Oh well, - - I've still got 6 sheets to go to windward. This is one night when I'm forced to come down the pole. You don't care, do you honey?

There have been lots of rumors around here in the last couple of days in regards to this band. They were trying to make us go from post to post out in these hills and play for them. I'm glad that fell through, then we were supposed to be going back. That proved to be nothing but exercise for some idle tongue. Then there is a rumor out that we are going to Managua in February to relieve the 5th Regt. Band and be the Legation band. That wouldn't be such a bad job if I had about two years to do, but I haven't. I can't possibly be going back before February so I'd rather do my time here than in Managua it really looks like that rumor is true too, but it's still two months off and I'll only have a couple of months left to do by that time and only a couple of days in Nicaragua.

They are starting to celebrate already it sounds like a young war outside now and it's only six o'clock 6 more hours of 1928. I wonder what it's going to sound like by then.

We've got a concert to play in half an hour I'm just wondering how many guys will be sober by that time. I have a sort of a hunch that this is going to be a hot concert.

Jan 1st 1929

"Happy New Year"

Yes my hunch was right. I was called away to play concert, and it was a hot concert. We played the, "Shamrock Waltz," and it was funny to see a bunch of these hard boiled Marines, drunk, and crying like a baby. That waltz reminds one of much cause it uses about every Irish melody I ever heard of except, "Mother Machree."

Well honey, I was asleep last night at Midnight. They made us pipe down at taps just like any other night, and before I knew what it was all about I was asleep and I never woke up till 6:30 A.M. this morning.

Well I guess my pen is going to have a rest till I get back to the states now the rubber part under the pen point just broke so Ive laid the pen away and am now writing with a straight pen.

This is the day of all days for the guys down here it seems they are singing and hollering like its nobodys business.

Thats all for this time honey so Ill close now and wait for another letter.

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 35

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] 11 Jan [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nicaragua

Jan 5 1929 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

Im going to start this letter tonight but Im not going to mail it yet cause the out-going mail dont leave again till Tuesday while the planes coming up on Monday might bring some mail. I certainly hope they do. Ive been lonesome and blue for the last couple of days now and afraid to write for fear that it would be contagious. The work here has left up here the last couple of days with the exception of re-signing every fellow in the band with his instrument and doing a little work on the flute and making four violin pegs out of some wood that by rights should be called (tool steel) and the only tools I had was a knife. Well outside of that I havent done a thing in the last couple of day except a few rehearsals and one concert. There isn't a thing to do.

The other day I slipped on the platform under the shower and hurt my foot a little so I havent been able to go out to see what our painting looks like but tonight he brought it sown to the quarters and its pretty good. I give the kid credit alright, he sure deserves it cause to paint a color portrait from a picture that don't show any color at all is no easy thing to do. Some officer saw our painting and has asked him to do a couple for the recreation hall I don't know if hes going to do it though hes going back next month. Im due to sail on the third boat from now. The first of the three leaves Corinto on Jan 17th the second about the First of February the exact date is unknown and my boat leaves about the First of March so when I get to the States Ill probably have about two months to do. Ive ben having a heck of a time trying to set the landern so I could see what I was writing so if about every 5th word don't make sense don't blame me, balme the light.

My old company (61st) came in here yesterday on their way to Appale and they are laying over here till Monday to draw cloths etc. I was sure glad to see some of the old familiar faces Id like to collect some of those faces and put them in the cash register, but they wont fit, and none of those guys have been paid now in four months. Ive also seen my old friend Capt "Donald Spicer" from Quilali.

Well darling only 166 more days to do. I can hardly wait to get home so I can take you in my arms again its almost a year now since we were together last it seems like about 50 years but in reality we still have very nearly a month to go before 1 year. Ill bet you a dollar to a bent penny that nothing short of a miracle will ever take me away that long again, no not even 1/4th of that time. When I get home you may be prepared to see a lot of me till one of us leaves this earth.

Im getting a lot of comfort out of you letters honey, especially the one where you assured me that you would be waiting for me and that you loved me. Im just like a woman (Bam! XXX) I have to be told over and over or Im not satisfied. An I going to have to wait or are we going to get married soon after I get home? I think Ill resort to cave man methods before Ill wait. I think Ill be able to wait till I get a job, but no longer. Im about at the end of my tether now. Would you believe it sweetheart? Everything I do or think Im always thinking of you, day and night, and when I do manage to get to sleep why even then I dream about you. How does your uncle say it? Sick calves? is that right? Well call it what you want but Ill tell you this much, he calls it that we call it love but whatever it is it sure has a

powerfull influence on me its sure serving to keep me in the straight and narrow path. Some people say there is no such a thing as love but Im here to tell the world there is. These doubters call it passion, well Ill admit there is passion connected with it, but there is a much finer, "shall we say desire," connected with it. The desire to please the one in question. When a person is willing to forfeit or give anything for another life, honor, and all. Thats the definition of love that you asked for in the other letter. Thats why I knew that you loved me even before you did, just because even though I didn't want it you were willing to give your all even till it hurt to give more. Yes I do realize those things and I appreciate them, and my biggest desire is to do the same and if it were possible even more. Im sure going to come home when Im free again and Im going to try at least to please you and to make you happy if I can only have you and help to make life a pleasure for you then Ill be happy.

Tomorrow Im going to write a letter to my dad and Im going to try to write it in german if I can. This letter Im going to keep till Monday and maybe there will be some more to write about and I may get some mail on Monday so this may be a man sized letter after all.

I cant get used to this pen for some reason or another but I think after about three or four letters Ill get the hang of it. Im getting so I can make a capital (I) without sinking the pen into the paper so pretty soon I think Ill be used to it. I wonder if you can read all Ive written so far if you cant then just save it itll I get home and Ill try to translate it for you with, "Love, hugs, and kisses

"Porter"

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Jan 7 1929 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

This is Monday but for some reason or another the mail I expected didn't get here so Im going to get this letter off and into the mail.

Im using still another pen as you see. Ive borrowed an old broken down "Parker Jr." and with a little coaxing I can get more out of it than I can our of a straight pen. I guess Im darn lucky to have any thing to write with, or on, cause the post exchange here hasn't got a darn thing this month, and the funny pat of it is they aren't expecting any thing in either.

I just wonder if Ill be able to tell you just how much you mean to me it seems like the words just refuse to come to me when I try to tell you, still I always realize it.

Last night I was reading over some of your letter and I got jealous as the dickens from reading one of them. You had written about finding some flowers waiting for you at the shop one morning and that the giver hadn't made himself known. I got so jealous that I just couldn't sleep last night. Somebody better forget those tricks when I get back cause when I get in a mood like that, someones liable to get hurt. I didnt know I could get so darn jealous all at one time. I wonder what makes that.

Ive started to read over all your letters cause Ive got to start getting rid of some of the baggage Ive got so Ill be rid of it by the time I start back. They won't leave us carry to much baggage you know, only one pack and a blanket roll cause all the planes will carry is 1600 lbs. and it don't take many men to make a load that heavy.

I started a letter to Lill last night but kept it over to finish today, partly cause I expected to hear from her and partly cause I had to go out to play cnoncert.

Ill close now honey so I can finish her leter and get both of these into the mail.

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 35

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] 15 Jan

[return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. Band Ocotal Nic.

Jan 11 1929 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest Derby:

Lets give three rousing cheers. For some reason or antoehr some one made a mistake and left some mail get through to us. This is the first mail weve had since Christ was a corporal on Grants Army. I got my share of the letters to. I got three from you and one from Min and one from Babe. They seem to have had some rotten luck there. They were all sick at the same time.

Talking about music honey its sure got my goat, for your wrist to get stiff is natural cause you don't play much, but for a guy who has to play as often as I do to play as rotten as I do is a shame. Ive just about decided that Ill never be a real musician.

Yes honey it is ten months and over since I left but dont worry all Ive got now is 160 days to do and then Ill be with you always. I guess its quite possible that some day Ill be sitting in the same chair talking to the same girl. I wish that time would hurry and come along. I can hardly wait cause it seems like that is all weve been doing ever since I can remember.

You seem to worry to much when I tell you that Ive been sick so from now on Im not going to tell you if I get sick again, cause there really is no use to worry about me caause Im strong and always recover anyway I wasn't born to die that kind of a death. I was born to die in my books so quit worrying Im all well now and most probably wont get sick again for ten ot twenty years. Consider yourself bawled out for worrying.

Im sorry to say they will keep me here after Jan honey it seems like I won't get out of here now till the first part of March but that isnt so very far away so lets be patient just a little longer honey.

Don't worry honey I will write on both sides of the paper from now on cause all Ive got is this scratch pad and it looks like there won't be any other kind available for 14 more days so Ill have to write on both sides and use what Ive got very sparingly.

Yes I remember distinctly the argument about using nothing smaller than an elbow cause its liable to injure the ear drum, and my mother used to use a hair pin all the time so I told her one time what the teacher had told me.

Why do I write and tell Lill of my feelings! Why honey Im surprised didn't you know that regardless of how much we argue when we are together still Lill and I are always the best of brothers and sisters, no matter how sorei am at her still Id give my right arm if it would help her any. I always tell her everything just like I do to you, and anyway I always do tell you how happy it makes me when I hear from you, and I always tell you how much I love you. Im always afraid that my letters will bore you cause they are always the same old story. But I come to think of it honey, - I believe youre making sport of me.

Ive been blue since Christmas day and this morning it was getting so I didn't know hat to do, when all of a sudden along came the mail and presto my vlues haveleft me now all I ask is that they send me back so I can come to you real soon, so I can hold you close and kiss you. Id like to look intot he 40 C.P. again. I love you so much honey that Im sure that Ill never some back if I ever make a furlough to see you, unless you come back with me. I just couldn't bar to be separated again once I got home and got my arms around you.

Well honey your painting is finally done but how Im going to get it to you now is another question. I may have to take it back when I go myself.

Don't forget to write now honey both soon and much to

Your Lonesome
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P. How do you like that?

Box 4: folder 35

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] 25 Jan 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Reft. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nicaragua via: P.M. Balboa C.Z.

Jan 13 1928 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

This is Sunday and even though there is no news still I have a funny feling that there is something to write about.

The last letter I wrote I swore Id never write about how I feel again cause you worry to much but Ill take that back at the time I wrote that letter I wasn't so good as I told you since then Ive found a good remedy for malaria and colds while in the tropics. The doc told me to make friends on a moderate scale with (John Barleycorn) and Id be less liable to come down with such trifling sicknesses whilein the tropics. Ive been taking on the average of 4 drinks of (Media Medis) every day for the last three days and its surprising how much better I feel now. There isn't a bit of fever or cold left. Im kind of glad cause Im more liable to get back to the States alive. There is an epidemic down here now and they are advising all of us down here who desire to stay clear of the flu to drink a little each day and I sure want to stay clear of it now that Im this short if the flu is still bad at home Id advise you to take a glass of wine about twice a day till its over and you will be less apt to get sick. I always thought that booze of any description or in any quantity was harmfull but our old doc down here has convinced me that as long as it isn't over done its helpful rather than harmfull. I know that since Ive been taking a couple of drinks a day Im feeling better, sleeping better and even eating better and before that I had a continual fever (malaria) never real bad but just enough to make me feel bad.

I havent had very much work for the last couple of days and Ive done a lot of thinking. Do you know sweetheart that I love you so much that the mere thought of being away from you for another day is torture. I even worry cause I know that all the time Im far away other men are looking at you every day, men that you don't even know are enjoying a privelidge that Id give my right arm to have right now they can see you while poor E.G. can only remember that you are waiting for him and only for him. I wonder what Id do if anything should ever happen to keep us apart. I belive Id get crazy as a loon, in fact Id probably get so sour at the world in general that Id try to bring it to an end. Oh well sweetheart, it really cant't be very long now so we'll just have to be patient and the first thing we know we'll be together again for good, then Ill be able to tell you what I can't seem to write I can tell you and show you how much I love you. Im getting so that I even love the street you live on, the house you live in, just cause you go there and call it home. I wonder what we will do for our house when I get out. - - - ? Shall we get us an apt. or part of a two family home or will we be able to get a bungalow and shall it be furnished or will we get our own furniture. Im just wondering on top of all that what kind of work Ill take up on the outside. Im real anxious to get started in some kind of work but I don't suppose I can be very particular and will have to be satisfied with most anything as long as it is sufficient to pay for our wants and gives us a chance to lay away a little money toward our own house. Im afraid it will be several years before we will get to realize that but if hard work will give it to us, we will surely have it, cause what more could a man ask in return for his work than to have you and know that it is you he is working for. Well I guess Ill have to do as you say just quit my worrying over such matters cause its just as you say (if two young things love each other as we do, then it will be no time at all till things come right side up) There is one thing I am sure of though. We will be a happy couple. Its just not possible

that it should turn out any other way. I love you too much to have it any other way honey and I always will. Many people think that love only last while you remain single but Ive watched too many other married people who are making a success of their married life and who, after many years of married life still are as much in love with one another as the were the day they got married. I know that love can last if it is real love and I know that our love is the real kind cause Ive laid awake more than one night and figured it all out from every angle. Thats one good thing about the service, no matter how busy you are during the day, still after Taps goes and lights are out and all is quiet, you can always lay in the bunk and think.

Well honey girl, your picture is completed now and the first chance I get to send it Im going to. Im afraid Ill have to send it without a frame though. The fellow that painted it is on his way back to Frisco to be discharged and these gook carpenters can't make a frame to suit me. Im not even satisfied with the painting. I might even just hang on to it till I come home myself and I may decide to destroy it. I don't know though, Ill probably bring it home and let you decide cause it may be that the artist sees you in a different way from what I see you. Yes. I think thats what Ill do. Ill just let you decide, still I kind of wish Id punched the artist in the nose just for seeing you in a different way; then Id at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I nearly got even with him still in spite of everything it will be a nice souvenir to take back from Nicaragua. Dont you think so?

I wonder what you are going to think of this letter. You wil probably think Im drunk cause I started out with a lecture on strong drink. Im not drunk though, please don't think I am sweetheart. I simply told you of a very good preventative for malaria and flu and then I simply told you what you asked for in your last letter (how much I love you) and if it seems like Im crazy in the part about the picture, Im not. Im simply uncertain about it and don't think that the artist done you justice. If I didn't think that you would understand this letter Id tear if up even if ten pages is a lot of work.

Well honey now youve certainly got a lot to write about after reading this letter so lets have a nice long letter telling me all over how you are very real and that you are not only a good dream and lets hear you tell me that you do love me.

Always Yours
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 35

Jan 20 1929 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest Derby:

I wrote a letter several days ago but it hasn't got into the mail yet. Ive been waiting for a letter but although mail got here twice in the last week, I didn't get even one letter. Oh well, maybe there will be one tomorrow.

There has been a big glu epidemic around here but its just about over now. I had a touch of it two or three times but I would promptly go out and get about half tanked up and then to bed and sweat it out, about 2/3 of this band has been half lit for the last nine days, its just about over now. Im glad too, it wasn't near so bad here as it was in some towns, for instance, "El Sauce," has been condemned and the marines ordered out of it. The whole thing has just about worked itself out though. The gooks call it (colontura) (The fever) When the thing first started around here I hesitated to go down the pole but when I felt like a broken down something or another and my head got hot then I decided Id rather be half full for a little while than real sick for a long while. Thank God its just about over now.

Have you heard from Lill lately honey? I havent had a letter from her for some time now. She must be sick, cause Im sure Id have heard at least a little from her by now if she wasn't sick.

Gee honey its hard to stay away from you for so long. I almost have to cry when I try to write just think of it honey about twenty-five more days and it will be a year since I left, but gee it just can't be very much longer till I get back and then - - ? for good.

I can't write no more right now honey cause Im to blue, but Ill try again later in the day.

Next day.

Dearest:

Here I am on the air again. I quit yesterday with the best intentions of starting again last night but we played our regular Sunday concert and after that why we had a tough argument about how it was played and the first I knew it was taps, so Im starting early this morning in order to get this into today's mail

I hope there is a letter for me today honey so I won't feel so doggone blue.

Always Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 35

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotal Nic. Via: P.P. Balboa C.Z.

Jan 22 1929 Ocotal Nic.

Dearest:

Yesterday I received one letter and it was mailed on Dec 17, 1928 and got into Leon on Dec 31, so it took 21 days from Leon to here not so good it had gone through the gook mail. Theyve got a new mail contract with the United Fruit company now and one of their steamers will come in to Couinto every Thursday from now on so that means mail once every week.

What makes you think that each letter sets the starting date later honey? I feel pretty sure now that Ill leave here at least by march 1st. Today our band master went to Managua by plane to get a new set of glasses and while hes down there he's going to try to talk them into using the long timers from this band to fill up with in Managua and to let him take the short timers and return with them to the U.S.A. I hope they let him do that and I hope its right away. I doubt if he'll succeed though but no matter if he does or not Ill go back soon anyway.

Well honey the flu epidemic seems to be just about past so Im on the water wagon again in other words Im up the pole once again and darn glad of it.

Dont worry about my wanting any other bed partners when I get back. Id be to darn jealous. Im even afraid that Ill be jealous even of the bed clothes cause they are so near to you while Im so far away that I can't even see you let alone touch you no I don't think Ill want any other bed partners.

Yes honey I know of the new addition that is on the auditorium. You wee I was getting, "The Sunday Plain Dealer," for a while and I kind of kept posted on what is new at home.

Ive got your picture here now its all done except for the finish of the frame. I just found out that to judge the painting one is supposed to look at it from a distance and it does look pretty good like that. I think Ill have to keep it here and take it home with me when I go home. There don't seem to be much hope of getting it home any other way.

I suppose this letter will get to you about the same time as the other one and as there isnt anything new Ill have to close this honey so write soon to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 35

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th Regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotol Nic. Via: Postmaster Balboa C.Z.

Jan 27 1929 Ocotol Nicaragua

Dearest:

I was out on another combat patrol since I last wrote to you, and had fairly nice results now theyve got something new again. The new president here has resolved to clear the country of bandits so he's giving us a gang of guke generals etc to act as guides for us and they are going to send out a small Marine patrol with a bunch of those guys and all Marines on that will be volunteers my name is in for it too. This is going to be a bigger thing even than that (Cocoa Navy) was. That was a big thing but this will make it look sick. I don't know yet if Ill be one of the chosen few or not they will be pretty strict in their selections. I think the whole outfit will be dressed like gooks. I think Id make a darn good gook. I think they are going to give special pay to the men that fo on that patrol but Im not sure cause they haven't said anything definite yet. I think its going to be a darn good patrol though cause there will be only 4 regular Springfield rifles, and the rest will be automatic rifles and sub Thompsons. The four Springfields will be carried along just for shooting rifle grenades, cause thats the only kind of rifle that can be used for that purpose. I think that outfit is going to get rid of bandits alright what bandits don't get shot will be scared so bad that they leave the country. By the way I got myself a couple more of them the other day on that patrol.

Ive quit counting my days to do. I know that its less than 150 but I don't know wxactly all I know is 4 months and a butt. Im just marking time now and trying to make the time pass quicker. Ill mark time 130 more days and then Ill start suitcase drill.

I wonder whats the matter with the mail service down here now. The mail came into Corinto last Thursday and we haven't seen hide nor hair of it yet, maybe "Mannana." I hope so. Id sure appreciate a letter or two or three or more. The more the merrier mostly (marry er) merrier. That is my pet line anyway. Do you know honey if you were with me I believe Id be satisfied even down here. Thats my biggest worry, being kept so far away from you for such a long time. Oh well sweetheart it can't be so very long now, can it? I think once we get settled down we'll probably just forget all about this banana war down here and probably forget that there ever was a Gen. Sandino at least I hope I can forget it cause Im getting all I what of it right now.

Well darling Im going to close now and just hope that there is a letter for me tomorrow if they should make a mistake and bring some up here. Write soon and let me know all about it and Love

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 35

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [cancelled] Managua Nicaragua
30 Jan 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas 11th regt. U.S.M.C. Band Ocotol Nic. Via: P.M.
balboa C.Z.

Jan 29 1929 Ocotol Nicaragua

Dearest:

Today I was accepted as one of a very few Marines who will go with the "Moncada Volunteer National troops." They are all ex bandits and know where and how to fight them and find them and they know the country the Marines are going along to do the fighting. The Lieutenant in charge is my one time skipper from the 61st Co. and when he saw my name on the list he asked to see me just to make sure I was the right man and he accepted me right off the bat. It sure makes a man proud to know that your exskippers think enough of you to fight to get you on such an important patrol. The Colonel and the band master are trying to keep me here cause Ive only got a month to do in Nicaragua and God knows how long this patrol may last but the Lieut. Has promised to send me in when its time to leave for the States cause the patrol will most probably stay our for maybe six months. Ill go for a month though it won't hurt me any. Ill just be out long enough to make a couple of good gooks and to get enough real hardship so I won't forget it to easy. - - ?

Your letter and one from Lill got here today. I was sure tickled to get it cause I havent over one letter at a time from you now for about a month or more, and it seems like they are always getting shorter. Im glad I got this one today cause it may be a month before I get another. I wouldn't swear to it but I might be able to write once or twice while Im on patrol if we ever lay over in any town where there is a Marine garrison but if you don't hear from me for a while don't get excited cause it will only mean we are avoiding towns so far we don't know any details yet, dont know when we leave, where we go, or even the exact number of men that are going and if we did I wouldn't dare to write it cause a military secret is a bad thing to talk about.

Well honey Ive got a guard to do from 2 A.M. to 6 A.M. and between then Ive got to sleep, eat, and stand guard mount so for today

Adios
Porter

Jan 30 1929

My Own Derby:

Last night was a rotten night for me its impossible to sleep in the guard house cause if the insects crawling over a guy dont keep him awake, then the ringing of the bells every half hour and the sentries reporting does. I tried my best to sleep right up till 2:00 A.M. but no success, and that makes the four hours sem slmost endless I was so darn tired that I slept right through rehearsal this morning with my clarinet in my mouth.

There is no new dope on when we are leaving so I cant tell you anything about that except that we may have all Thompson Sub machine guns and no automatics. Oh well they are just as effective at a short range so why worry. Im going to try to get an automatic though no matter what happens.

Has Lill or Babe or anyone told you anything about my dad lately? I havent heard from him in a long time now. Im starting to worry about it let me know if Lill tells you anything about him.

Gee but I wish I could be home for good now honey. I sure do miss you an awfull lot honey its 50 weeks now since I was home it won't be that many more though, and this time I think it will be for always. Have you decided on what we are going to do yet? That is what is worrying me more than anything right now all I know so far is that I want you and need you and that Im always

Yours with much Love
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 36

Envelope: Batrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas ?

Feb. 13, 1929 Ocotal Nicaragua

Dearest:

I got off patrol last night and found three letters waiting for me. I sure was dying for a letter, so they very probably saved my life.

I hardly know how to write this letter. Ive got ao much news for you and yet my time is limited. I guess Id better start out with the extra special news first. Im on the next sailing list supposed to sail on Feb. 19th. Hows that honey? I expect to leave here before the end of the week or not later than the first part of next week. Thats what I call lucky, to come in off a patrol and be told that youve only got 3 or 4 more days to do in this dump. I guess by the time this letter gets to you Ill be in the States again, probably in the Post Band at Quantico.

The gook patrol was a big success so far but I think the next four or five months will be even better cause these gooks we had with us are all ex-bandits and they know where and how to get to these birds. I believe Sandino's backbone is just about broken now. We have his best General here in irons. The brains of his outfit, "General Jison." The man who planned all the battles and ambushes. We spotted 5 bandits on the side of a hill inside of the dead line before we were 20 miles out of Sonoto my automatic rifle and I get credit for a couple of those, the other 3 went over the top of the hill into the bushes and got away. Had one contact with "Salgado" and took a bunch of prisoners. We caught one spy He died a soldiers death, before a firing squad. I don't know just how many days we were gone but they were enough to drive a man crazy after a contact a man has to get drunk or hes bound to lose his good sense by thinking of it, cause you see some awfull sights during that kind of action. Im glad its over for me. The details of the patrol can wait till I get home cause they are better when not written on paper. I also violated an international law while we were camped on the Honduras border. Armed forces crossing into a neutral country. We did plenty of hiking both day and night and covered about 250 miles of tail all over Northern Nicaragua. Oh well Id rather come home and settle down anyway. These next four months will surely pass sooner or later and Ill tell you all of my experiences once then after that I want to forget all about the ugly part of this country and think only of the nice things Ive experienced down here.

Well honey it can't be long now so we'll just have to take it wasy. Ill have to close now cause Ive got to clear out at the Quartermaster cause no one know when I might leave for Managua and Im going to be ready when the time comes.

Mucho Love
From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4: folder 37

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio U.S.A. [return address] from E.G. Thomas enroute to U.S.A.

Letterhead: San Diego Branch Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association on Broadway Between Columbia and India Streets San Diego, California Branches at Principal Army and Navy Centers

enroute to U.S.A. March 3 1929 Managua

Dearest One:

It seems now like my days down here might be numbered. I expect to sail within 1 week from today. I suppose you will be wondering what causes all the silence for the last couple of weeks, well one glance at this paper and you should know. That will all be changed in short order though. We've got paid so when ever the post exchange opens up I'll get my supplies. Then to I've been kept pretty busy for the big part of the day. I'm doing duty here in the Bakery and the hours are pretty long and irregular so therefore I generally try to get some sleep when I can get off.

The other day several of your letters caught up with me also one from Lill and one from my dad. I'm going to try to write them a few lines tonight if I can. I've been on the go since two A.M. this morning and it's now 7:00 P.M. so I'm getting tired but I think I can last through at least two of those three letters.

Know what I'm doing all the time now honey? I'm trying to figure what would be the best kind of work for me to follow up when I get out of the service. You've got to admit that it's high time I was doing some thinking about it let's see now – about 109 more days to do. It can't be long now honey. I'm ready to leave whenever they say the word too. I've got my sea bag now and it's all packed ready to leave. I hate to think of March weather in the States though after a year of tropical weather. My blood is pretty thin now and the cold won't go so good at first.

Well honey don't write till I know where I'm going to be or when I know where I'll be

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 4: folder 37

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Philadelphia Pa Mar __ 1929
from E Thomas U.S.M.C.

March 21 Phila. Pa

Dearest:

Here I am back in the good old U.S.A. again. I came in here last night aboard the U.S.S. Langley, the plane carrier. The trip took us nearly two weeks, cause we makde so many stop overs. I suppose by this time youve got the letter I mailed in Managua, haven't you?

Im not at all sure where Im going from here honey but Im hoping it will be Quantico. Ill probably know by the time this letter gets to you and Ill let you know, till then Im afraid I will have to do without a letter. I probably won't be able to get a leave now cause Ive only got about 92 days to do, but even if I do get a leave it wont be for a while yet. Im really anxious to come home again honey. Id sure like to hold you in my arms again and kiss you so Id know Im not dreaming. This last year has surely been one long one sweetheart and I know its been hard waiting. Ill try to make up for it though when I do get out again.

Today will probably be a mad house around here we ill probably make about 300 formations while they are breaking us up into details for the various posts. Im going to make this letter short and Im going to try to write a few lines to my folks and then get some stamps and mail the whole bunch before I get roped for some formation or another.

Well honey this is all for this time but Ill write a nice long letter the first chance I get maybe tomorrow.

Love & many Kisses from

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 37

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Mar25 1929 [return address] E.G. Thomas U.S.M.C.

March 22 1929 Phila. Pa.

Sweetheart:

I guess this is going to be my address for a while it seems like Nicaragua just about hasd me licked so yesterday they saw fit to let me recuperate so they put me into the hospital again. Now dont get scared honey girl cause its nothing serious, only a strain Id got in Nicaragua and I neglected it to long. When I got into Nicaragua I got a job in the bakery there and that made it worse, then on board ship I worked int eh bake shop again until it got so bad that I had to have relief. I went to see the doctor here yesterday and he sent me right over. Theyve even got me in a restricted ward, wont even let me have visitors. They are so afraid of any sick man from Nicaragua cause they are so apt to carry other diseases with them. I guess theres nothing wrong with me though beside that strain. They are taking no chances though. There were nine men turned in with me and every one of us has to get blood tests. I took my first one today, it came back satisfactory. Knock wood and hope the rest do likewise. Oh well honey let them keep me here if they like. The only reason Im not satisfied is cause it knocks me out of my chances for a leave before I get paid off but Ive got them there. Ive got 89 days and a flop to do. Then - -?

Next day.

Dearest:

I just had to quit last night. I was to darn tired even to stay awake let aloud to write, so I was just forced to put the letter away.

I think that Im fairly safe in saying that the rest of my service will be put in here so write to me here my address is Pvt. E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa. This is really part of the Navy Yard at Philadelphia but the hospital is on a small neck of land that they call League Island.

There seems to be only one thing wrong with this place, its perfect in every respect but one. That is it keeps me from coming to see you if I could see you for a while Id be perfectly happy but don't worry honey girl it cant be long till you'll see your Porter again so much Love & Kisses

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 37

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island Mar 26 1929 [return address] E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

March 25 League Island Pa.

Dearest One:

I can't seem to lay here and do nothing and still I can't seem to write either. The trouble is I feel like writing but I can't get into a comfortable position when I write. I can only lay on my back and think nice thoughts of you and dream sweet dreams of you it seems that I love you more every day if that is possible. I think of no one or nothing but you and Im afraid Ill go nuts if I don't get out of here soon so I can get to see you.

Ive written to Erv, Lill, and my Dad and although its hard to write in this position Ill simply have to write to Min and Max.

Well honey there's one thing certain anyway, after what Ive gone through in this last year there won't be much danger of me wanting to ship over. Im done when I get out of here. I may have a few days to make up ~~a few days~~ now cause this illness is due to my own misconduct. My trouble is a swollen gland caused from a monkey bite and the swollen gland is causing a strain. Im forced to heal the sores caused by the poison in my system first and after that Ill have to take treatment for my blood its my own fault though. We were warned that a monkey bite is serious down there we were told that they all carry poison and disease but I wouldn't listen I wanted one for a pet. I threw him overboard with a hundred rounds of ammunition tied around his neck. They seem to think in here that Ill be in the hospital here for a long time but I think Ill be out in a month. Heres hoping Im right for once in my life anyway.

My one big ambition is to get out of this outfit once more, get a good job and settle down with the most wonderfull little pal and wife that a man could want. With that idea in mind Im sure that I can do what I want and succeed. Ill just show this old world sweetheart. Its impossible to keep a good man down when hes got a nice partner to work for.

Dont forget to write real soon honey cause Im lonesome.

Always Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Mama Love Papa?Mmmmm

Box 4, folder 37

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Mar 28 1929 [return address] E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

March 27 League Island Pa.

Dearest One:

Im going to try to write you a few more lines today but Im not at all sure how well Im going to succeed its pretty hard trying to write in bed when you are laying like I am (on your left side.

Today has been fearfully cold here. We even felt the cold in here and this place is steam heated its been the kind of day that almost makes me glad that Im in the hospital instead of out walking post somewhere. The nice warm bed sure feels good.

This morning I got a letter from Erv and Ive already answered it and Ive also written a few lines to Lill, Min, and Joe May. Ive been putting this letter off till this afternoon hoping to get a little letter from you but none came. Oh Ive figured it out though. Both your letter and Ervs left here at the same time but his went to his office so he got his yesterday furing the day and got an answer in the mail sometime during the day while you didn't even get your letter till last night or possibly this morning so I couldn't possibly expect an answer from you before tomorrow morning.

I wonder sweetheart just what ots going to be like to be a free man once more and I wonder what its going to be like to have you for my own for the rest of my life. That I believe would be much happiness for me to stand at any one time but give it to me and Ill at least die happy. No fooling now honey I sure do love you. I can't do anything without thinking of you, even in my dreams I think of you and oh what dreams if our married life to be is anywhere near like what my dreams call for then I know you'll be happy with me.

Can you figure heads or tails out of the last paragraph? Im afraid it's the wanderings of - - well say (sick calf) or still better just a love sick Gyreen still if you can figure it out for yourself it should tell an awful lot cause it means that much.

I suppose you will be wondering where I got this trick writing paper from it hails from Leon yet. This is considered darn good taste in Nicaragua but I don't care Ill use it in this good old U.S.A. as well.

Honey Im going to bring this letter to an end now so I can scribble a few lines to my Dad.

Oh bu the way honey, Erv wanted to know if we had broken up and he gave his reason for asking. What do you think his reason was? He said he don't see you any more so he thought maybe we'd broken up. Can you beat that.

Love & Many Kisses
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 37

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Philadelphia PA Mar 29 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

March 29 League Island Pa

Dearest:

The letter I was expecting yesterday got here today and after dopping it out for myself I see that I couldn't very well expect it before today. This morning I also got a magazine from Erv it's a ind of funny magazine for a service man to be reading but it helps to pass the time away. The name is "The Nations Business." it will get me acquainted with the conditions that Ill bump into on the outside.

Your letter this morning sure helps a lot honey it's the first one Ive had in a long time too. I got so excited when you letter got here that I could hardly open it, my hands shook like a leaf.

My condition has improved a good deal since I got here. That bite is healed and Ive found out that it isn't even the results of it that caused my strain its just an ordinary strain cause even my blood tests came back good everything else about my condition or what you want to call it has improved and Im looking forward to the sdday when I can get out of here and out of the service too. Theres one good thing about this thing Im not on any diet and Im allowed to eat anything and everything I can manage to grab. The other day the fellow in the same room with me got a box and he don't like apples so he gave me about a half dozen and Im darned if I didn't eat them without taking a breath. They were the first for quate a time you know then to Im eating everything I can in order to gain that weight I lost in Nicaragua.

Don't you worry any honey, from now on you'll get plenty of letters some of them might not have much news in them in fact some of them may only say, "I love you" and no more but the letters will be there just the same. And sweetheart, if Im ever moving from one place to another it will be very little use asking Lill when Im at or anyone else cause if you dont know, no one else will cause the first letter always goes to 4805 Wetzel Ave.

Yes you may send me a book or magazine any time you like. They have a postal delivery right in the shopital here packages and all so its quite sure to get here. I believe it wouldn't be such a bad idea to have something to read for a change all Ive been able to get so far is one magazine and a few three day old papers so you see a good story would be quite a change for me.

Well honey this is all for this time. Im getting kind of tired laying in this position so Ill close now and write more Manana

Love & Kisses from
Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 1 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa

Easter Sunday League Island Pa

Sweetheart:

This is another Easter Sunday for some people but I just figure its another day closer to the time when I can get out and come to see you. Id really enjoy this day if I was at home but here its just the same as any other day in the year.

I haven't been to church for a long time now but still its funny not to hear an Easter sermon preached. This makes two years in a row now that Ive missed it. Well heres hoping this is the last time I miss anything.

Im going to buy my civilian clothes here in Philadelphia, honey. Ive got a chance to get wholesale prices on a complete outfit. There is one corpsman here who works after working hours in a big mens clothing store and hes going to get it for me.

I wonder if Im going to get a letter tomorrow, or do I have to wait till Tuesday for one. I guess I should have one from Lill one of these days too. She's had time to write now since I sent her my address yes I believe Ill have a letter from her tomorrow "Quiene Sabe"

Im coming along fine here int eh hospital Im getting so I can lay in most any position and be comfortable. My side isn't hurting me near as much as it was a couple of days ago so I take it for granted that Im improving as far as Im concerned they can turn me loose now and send me to duty it would make their head swim how fast Id put in a request for a leave no use of thinking along those lines though cause I know they wont send me to duty yet.

Well honey girl, I guess that's all for today Ill write more manana

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 3 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 2, 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

Yesterday I got a nice April fool heres what it was (Three letters that I didn't expect till today) I had one from my dad one from Lill and last but by no means least I had one from my sweetheart. What could be sweeter?

Who knows sweetheart maybe I am just about done getting rotten bearks and will get at least an even break from now on. I can't hink of more than one real good break Ive had in the last four years, a nd very few that were even anywhere near even but you just can't keep a good man down.

I thought I had told you what I done with that picture. The fellow who painted it extended his enlistment two years for Ocotal and when he came back he decided he wasnt satisfied with the painting so he took it and he's either going to improve it, or paint a new one, or get a punch in the (Ojo) eye when I see him again if I ever do. He is going to mail the painting to me some way or another when he gets it done, probably by some Marine who is returning to the U.S.A.

Now listen honey I said that its my own fault this time that Im in the hospital, and so it is if I hadn't been damn fool enough to keep right on working instead of turning in Id be all right now. I was just to scared that Id miss the darn boat and Id rather do 3 months in the hospital here than to miss a boat and wait about a week or two for another one. I thought the same as the doctors did that my blood was bad due to a monkey bite but blood tests show that my blood is fine except of course its thin from being in the tropics a year but otherwise its O.K. and this strain I must have got from lifting crates of flour in the bakery in Managua and again aboard ship. The trouble is I never know when Im licked or if I know I wont let on that I do.

I wish you could read German so you could understand some of the letters my dad writes its just to funny still if I was to translate them into English they would lose the humorous side and would be very commonplace but in German I just read them and roar. I just can't help it.

Did I tell you I was getting my civilian clothes here in Phila.? Well I am. A Gob friend of mine has arranged for me to get wholesale prices so Ill be getting a suit for \$45 that would cost \$65 for any one else. Ive written to Min to send me a draw slip so I can draw the necessary cash from the bank cause while Im in the hospital here there will be no payday. Im expecting to ehar from Min about tomorrow or maybe the day after tomorrow.

Well honey Ive still got to write to Lill and maybe to my dad so Ill close now with

Love & Kisses

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 4 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 3, 1929 League Island Pa

Dearest:

Your tongue lashing arrived here today and even though there is no news Im going to try to answer it tonight.

You did just right by beating around the bush. Minnie is a darn good sister to me and I think a lot of her but if Id wanted her to know more about me Id have told her, not that there is anything to hide but if my first letter is vague then shes more apt to write sooner in order to find out more about my ailments. Get the idea?

Now about my tongue lashing. Certainly I belong to you and I sure am belonging willingly and sure you should know whats the matter with me. I told you dodn't I? Well heres some more dope. I havent got any more nor less temperature in fact I havent had any now for over a week. I dont have to lay on my left side now in fact right now Im laying on the slight beer belly Ive acquired while in Nic. The trouble with my beer belly is its growing out the wrong way (inwards) No I havent got a headache either.

Now I think Ill start some bawling out. Don't you belong to me? and arent you willing? Wellthen why am I never informed of the fact that you love me as much as I love you but no, instead of that you tell me of the new good looking pastor and all about his charms and once I was told all about some Marine who had all kinds of medals pinned to his blouse who will it be next? Whose sweetheart are you anyway? Mine of the new ministers? Or do I only get second choice. Have you been bawled out enough now? If you have then we will proceed .

Well honey Im real anxious to see you and to be with you again but it cant possibly be so very long now and then we can realize all the happiness that we have dreamed of for so long. Im afraid we won't have much to get married on but it won't take me long to get a good and steady job and I guess its easier for a married couple to save than it is for a single person so maybe we won't have such an asfull long time to wait till we get married.

Im expecting to hear from Min tomorrow but I may get fooled like I did today but I dont think so. I have a hunch Ill hear from her tomorrow.

This is all for tonight honey but dont forget Im still alive and lay off the good looking pastor.

Love your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 8 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 6 1929 League Island Pa

Dearest:

Today I received your package of books and magazines. Thank very much honey Im sure enjoying them Ive read several short stories in the Red Book Magazine already and now Im started on The Further Adventures of Jimmy Dale. The only thing you forgot was a primer. Ive got to learn to read the English language all over. I could hardly read English at first. I kept trying to read it in Spanish allt eh time. Im learning though.

Honey whats the matter with you? I havent heard a word about Hellen (Hoppy) since I got back to the States and even in the last couple of letters that Id received in Nicaragua. You havent fallen out with each other have you? I used to hear a little about her in every letter before and I just couldnt help but notice that you haven't mentioned her lately.

Did I tell you sweetheart that I am buying my civies here in Phila.? Well I am Im getting a good price on son high grade clothing through the efforts of a friend of mine and hes going to help me to select because he knows more about what is being worn. He dresses very well himself so he should be a good judge.

I got a letter from Min the other day and she wanted more information about myself so I explained everything to her she told me that you didn't seem to know exactly what was the matter but you said something about a monkey bite so I knew that she was referring to the time you told me where you beat around the bush and gave no information so I cleared up the whole thing for her I told her all about myself

I got another letter from Erv today. Good old Erv he'll stand by me through thick and thin hes a good Buddy. Hes in love now too. Can you blame a guy though? If any guy can find himself a swell little pal like I did and not fall in love with her Id like to know who he is and whats wrong with him.

Well honey girl write to me soon often and much so Ill know that my Derby still loves

Her
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 10 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Navel Hospital League Island Pa

April 9, 1929 League Island Pa

Dearest:

I havent written you for a couple of days now, not cause I didn't think of you though, but because there was nothing new to write about. This place is about as lively as a morgue or at least it was till this morning. I started the ball rolling this morning by asking the doctor if I could get up and move around. Ive been out without permission so this A.M. I asked and he gave me a nice regulation growl and told ne I couldn't get up yet but soon. I got out last night and strolled over intot he other ward where they were having movies. I saw "The King of Kings," a religious picture and it was good it was the Old Testament shown in colored pictures and I want to say I considered it a good translation of the Old Testament. Im anxious to get so I can go on liberty so I can go to town and see a Talkie Movie. I havent seen any yet you know.

Those books and magazines you sent me were fine honey. I think Ive read just about all of the Jimmie Dale books now, havent I? Boy I sure did enjoy them. Those magazines too, I passed them around to some of the other patients when I got done with them.

I kind of looked for a letter this morning but none came and I was kind of disappointed but Im sure Ill get one tomorrow. Im bound to dont you think so? Im sure Ill hear from Min tomorrow I should get about three letters.

I guess the tailor is coming up tomorrow afternoon to measure me up for my suit he'll come up here after all the doctors leave so no one will stop us and by the end of the week Ill probably have my civies.

They are putting on a Vaudevill show here tonight for the benefit of all the patients but Im not going over tonight cause I got direct orders not to get out of bed now so Id have no excuse at all if I got caught.

Gee honey I cant see how im going to make out for the next couple of months knowing that Im so close to you and yet I cant even see you. I believe Id give everything I own just to be able to hold you in my arms and kiss you right now it seems like thats all Ive ever got to do, just wait for everything thats all Ive been doing for the last couple of years just wait. Well honey some day they are bound to turn me loose and then we'll make up for lost time. Ill be out to see you as many night a week as your folks will let me come around and maybe a few extra nights.

Well honey I guess this is all for this time cause there isn't anything more to write about so

Love Your
Porter
XXXXXXXXXXXX
XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Navel Hospital League Island PA Apr 11 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 11 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

Yesterday I received a letter from you and one from Min. I just knew Id have one or two letters yesterday today though I dont get any mail. I wasn't going to write this until this afternoon when my new stationary gets here but seeing as you always expect a letter on Saturday Ill write this now and get someone to mail it so it will get to you by Saturday.

Well honey now that weve both had our bawling out we'll have very little to write about again. Wait a few minutes maybe I can find something to bawl you out for. Ues Ive got it. Youve gone to a bunch of trouble and mailed me another package you shouldnt do that honey I appreciate your sending me things and everything and I love you even more if that is possible but its not necessary to go to all that trouble honey if you go to taking all these silly things I do and say to heart like that Ill not tell you about any of my goofy stunts any more. I dont want you to go to all that trouble of making up a package and mailing it all the time. I love you any way and even when you forget to tell me how you feel about it still I know just how you feel. I know you love me so please don't go to all that trouble after this honey.

Your letters are getting back some of the old time pep again. I notice you told me all about Hoppy again and about where you went and so forth.

Well you don't need to feel bad cause Hoppy has other friends honey it seems that your main idea was to get some one who loves you and only you. Well youve got some one like that now so you can let your friends and chums have other friends now cause you'll have some one who loves only you for the rest of your life soon now. It cant be very long now darling here are 11 days of April gone already and this is a short month too then May and after that June, the month Im supposed to get out of this Ole Marine Corps.

Im coming along fine now and if I had my way about it Id be discharged from the hospital to duty but the old Doc won't even listen to me we had another argument this morning

If Ive said anything in this letter that has hurt your feelings in any way honey Im sorry and please over look it. Im kind of riled up this morning on account of my argument with eh Doc this morning and there is no telling what Im liable to say but you know that I love you and what else matters

Write soon honey to
Your Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 11 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 11, 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest One:

I wrote one letter today but Im afraid it wasn't much of a letter. I was kind of peeved cause the Doc refused to let me get up out of bed. Why I was so mad that I shaved without so much as stopping my razor the pull of the dull razor and the sore face halped to cool me off a little then on top of that your box arrived here this afternoon so Im in fairly good spirits again.

This afternoon one of the corpsmen going on liberty took my pen to a hospital to be repaired the same guy is going to bring it back when its fixed. I hope he takes it to a good place and gets it fixed good.

This afternoon I got the first fitting of my suit it's a nice brown with a sort of a pin stripe and a hard finish and a nice classy cout to it I know you'll like it.

Those cookies sure are good honey they arrived in the middle of the afternoon just when I was getting hungry. Ive got them stuck away in my box now and they will come in right handy tonight at about 9:00 P.M.

I sure hope I get out of this hospital soon. Ill swear Ill go nuts if I stay in here much longer. They don't only have Gobs and Amarines in here they also have veterans in here and Ive got one right beside me and hes nothing but a bum he told me himself hes got no home and before he came in he frequently stole stuff he could hock for booze and he never ate unless he could bum or steal something yet he comes in here and gets three square meals a day and he growls about the chow and everything else and he makes himself a pain in the neck in general. He wakes up in the middle of the night and makes all kind of noise don't even try to be quiet. He'll drive me crazy if I stay here much longer.

Well honey if I don't have any time to make up (and I don't think I will) Ive only got 71 days to do, then to H!!!! with this Marine Corp.

Love from
Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island Apr 15 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 12, 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

This morning your letter arrived here along with one from Lill. Ive already answered Lills, and even though this is the third day in a row Im going to write you a few lines anyway.

Isn't it funny when you write to me everything else goes blooie and it's the same way here in fact its so much so that I even forget what I wanted to write about here I have a nice letter all thought out in advance and when I start to write I forget about everything but you. I wonder what makdes that.

Dog gone it honey it seems like every time you get started good on a nice letter that darn bell calls you back to work. I think some day Ill just come around to Van Gantels and tear that bell down just to get even with it.

I wonder if Ill ever learn to forget some of the things I saw and done down in Nicaragua. Do you think I will? some days I can lay here all day and never give it a thought and other days I just can't drive it out of my mind and it makes me so darn mad and bitter that I can't even bare being in the same bed with myself.

Have you seen Lills new boy friend yet honey? Lill writes and tells me quite a bit about him and she seems to like him quite a bit. I wonder just how much she likes him. From what Lill says he is very considerate and I judge also very bashful. Oh well he'll most probably get over that sooner or later like another guy I could name if I wanted to brag. Well I just can't be bashful when Im around you, who the heck could it seems like when I get near to you its just imperative that I whould hold you in my arms and kiss you a little. Oh well who wants to be bashful when they are around their sweety. I don't. How about you.

Write soon to
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 15 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 15 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

I just received your letter and thats the second good thing thats happened to me this morning. The letter is one and the Doctors permission to get up out of bed and move around half a day is the other maybe it wont be so long now till I get out of the hospital.

Im sorry to hear that you are working so hard but I guess it can't be helped. I think Id sooner work overtime than be out of a job any day in the week.

I haven't been to any talkies but I don't think Im going to like them. I'd rather leave something to my imagination when I go to see a movie.

Im surprised that Hoppy should link a wedding with a funeral. Tell her we'll get even with he some day anyway I don't think she'll stay single forever, and when she does get married we get even.

I really couldn't say why it is that we dont enjoy gruesome and ugly things in real life when we do in stories but Im here to guarantee that its so, and I think I should be a good judge just last night a couple of other Marines that came up from Nicaragua with me, came over to my bunk and we compared notes. There was one man down there 3 days less than two years and I was in two more contacts than he was and in all hes only got 3 notches in his rifle stock so you see 9 contacts and over a dozen gooks in less than a year is quite a lot for my part its entirely too much and Im willing to call it quits.

Do you know what Im doing to pass away the time? Im working crossword puzzles and when I run out of them I make up some and send them to the New York Mirror to be published its a nice pastime.

Well honey I guess this is all for today so write soon, often, and much to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island Apr 17 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 16, 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

I guess you will be wondering whats got into me to make me write so often well Ill give you my excuse for writing today. I just got my pen back from town this morning and Im forced to try it out on someone and seeing as you get the most of my other letters I thought one more wouldn't hurt it don't does it? you can send it back if you don't want it. Im not expecting it though.

Im expecting to go to duty shortly now, maybe Friday, who knows? This morning the doctor told me I could get up for good so I must be very nearly well and I feel like I am.

Im going to send to Quantico for the green blouse Ive got stored there and to Hampton roads for the box of clothes Ive got there so Ill be all ready to duty when I get out of here. I dont suppose there will be much left in the box at Hampton Roads its probably been ransacked but Ill take whats left of it.

This is an awfully rotten day here I winder what its like in Cleveland today. Id sure like to come up myself and find out but Im afraid thats out of the question any way for the time being it is.

Ive gone cross word crazy here the last couple of day. Im always sitting with a paper in my lap either making one to be published or figuring one of the daily ones. Ive only managed to complete one out of three today. I can mostly get two out of three done and sometimes all three. Oh well Ive still got all night to work on them and the ones to be checked by the evening paper are done so why worry Ill dope it out seeon enough.

It looks to me like I haven't got the new pen point broken in yet the ink seems to flow kind of irregular yet but it wont be long now till its O.K.

Well honey do I get a letter tomorrow? Maybe I will I'' probably get one that was written on the Sabath (if thats spelled right) and mailed the next morning

Love
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

These wont rub off.

XX 40 C.P.

They will last forever.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 18 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 18, 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

Another letter arrived here yesterday but I didn't answer it yesterday cause I figured I was writing to often and might spoil you. You don't want to be spoiled, do you?

Yes I guess it is another day nearer and since you wrote that letter its five more days nearer. Ive got a nice toast or motto for us but Ill have to tell you the story to appreciate it. You remember during the war, every time a German took a drink his toast was, "to the day." That meant to the day when the Kaiser would rule supreme so our toast or motto could be "To the day."

I realized why you went those packages honey, but I also told you why I growled, cause I don't want you to put yourself to that trouble but suit yourself we'll just drop the matter. Shall we?

I hope you get into the mood to impart those funny ideas that pop into your head. Id like to know about them, really I would.

A three hour program of Irish jigs. That program must have been from the Sears Roebuck Co. station in Chicago, wasn't it? I haven't heard any radio for a long time but they were the only station broadcasting that particular kind of programs at the time when I left for Nicaragua. Yes that kind of music makes me want to get up, go places, and do things.

Talk about getting up. Ive done that and am about ready to go to duty as far as I know Im completely cured, or anyway I feel like I am.

I can't imagine how a hike could possibly be complete without someone falling in the mud. Did you take along a few pack mules to drag along? No hike is complete without them also about any where from 40 to 90 pounds of an Armory, you know rifle, ammunition, bayonet, pack etc. Thats what the well dressed hikers will wear you know, especially in Nicaragua. I hope you have lots of fun hiking honey. Ive had mine and maybe part of some one else's and Id like to meet the person or persons who will ever get me to hike again, not me. Im going to ride until theres nothing left to ride on and then Ill get some roller skates.

I guess you forgot what I told you about moods a person can't always steer clear of them but theres no use of letting a mere movie change your mood unless its from bad to good.

Yes Ive been measured for my suit and Ive got it here already its a pipin, good material and a nice cut only I feel so darn unnatural in it due to the fact that Ive worn a uniform so long now.

Im losing some of the Sun Burn if thats what you mean but dont worry about the tan you'd have to skin me to get rid of that.

With the help of one of the other patients Ive made up two original cross word puzzles and submitted them to a couple of New York papers. I don't know if they will be accepted or not cause were really not experienced you know its only the first and second try.

I think Ill pipe down now honey and get this into the mail and heres hoping Ive got a letter tomorrow.

Love and Kisses
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P..

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 22 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

April 20 1929 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

I just knew Id been writing to many letters, -- just think of your having to answer three at once. Ill be that hurt.

Isn't it the truth honey? I do put some funny endings on the letters I write but its just what my thoughts are I try to write just whatever Im thinking about if I think black I write black and I was thinking some explosive thoughts when I closed that letter. Things are different now though. Im out of bed and I expect to get out of here about the middle of this coming week.

I don't know how a bum feels when hes around a real fellow honey. I can't seem to figure them out.

I guess you are right at that honey, when you say that Ill never forget some of the things that have happened in the past, but when I get home and get settled down they might become a very dim memory. Some things that have happened down there that I saw and done Im sorry for but just the same there is the memory of them. There are some things that Ill never speak about and the rest Im going to try to speak about as little as possible then of course there are the nice things too and a person never regrets them.

Yes I guess thats true. I have got something good to look forward to. I often sit and wonder of Im going to be worthy of such a great blessing and all I can do is to resolve to be worthy no matter what happens. The mere thought of you has kept me from doing many things that Im sure I'd be sorry for. I only wish I could have used that method at all times but unfortunately a mans duty comes first for the four years immediately following his oath of allegiance and some times he has no choice of his actions.

The other night the guy that is in the same room with me cracked he lost his mind entirely and he wouldn't let anyone in the room except myself and one of the corpsmen whom he likes pretty well. They had to put a special watch over him so the corpsman stayed up half the night and I stayed up half the other half. The patient almost died once and his pulse was sluggish but afterwards he fell asleep and yesterday morning he was O.K. again in every way.

Well honey I guess you didn't get your regular Saturday letter this week but you got one on Friday and those other three sould kind of make up for the loss of one. Ill try to do better this coming week.

Im working in the Diet kitchen here and Im going to use that as my argument for going to duty if Im well enough to work here Im quite well enough to do duty.

Write soon honey cause Im always anxious to hear from you.

Love and Kisses
From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 24 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

"To the day"

April 23 League Island Pa.

Dearest One

I was reminded of the fact that this is my birthday. How? You told me so in your letter. I received three from you today. I'll explain how that happened. Two of those went to Ocotla and just got here today. Thanks for the nice (sticky on the edge) birthday kiss, I could almost taste that one.

I was surprised to read in the one letter you sent to Nicaragua that you were doubtful as to how our married life would turn out, but it was during one of your blue spells that you wrote that letter. Darn hootin were going to make a go of it honey just let your mind rest easy on that point. Those marriages that you hear about are an entirely different thing honey those people don't marry for love, they marry for any one of countless other reasons including, Hate, spite, necessity, and passion, and money, luxury and ease. You just take notice of some of the divorce cases (I even hate to write the word divorce) and you'll see that one or the other mostly always sue's for a fairly large amount of money denoting fairly wealth conditions and some get divorced just for spite or because theyve had their spite out on someone and want to be free seeing as its all over. You couldn't very well cassify us as any of those so ours is bound to last and I don't have the least doubt of it. Who could have. Why even our folks approve of the match and who knows us better than our own folks.

You are right again when you say that as we get older we learn to think of the present and the future. I can remember when I didn't think of a darn thing, as long as I knew where my next meal was coming from I didn't care. How different it all is now.

Now for your most recent letter. You said, "to the day" and may it be a prelude to our most happy life! I could add to that shall I. May there be several little Thomas's to help us along to a ripe old age. ?Beive Nina?

Lord I wish I could spoil you so there would always be a reason for you to love me if I thought that writing letters would insure your love for me Id devote the rest of my life to writing you letters.

Sure what is a little clean mud between friends why Ive never slept sounder in my life than when I laid down in some nice soft squashy mud (the kind you use to make pies with) its even so much softer than a nice feather bed and it keeps one warmer from the bottom as long as you kep the cold air off the top and a nice poncho or raincoat just does the work. What could be nicer than a nice mud puddle (except of course when you have to clean your weapons next morning) Thats the exception that proves the rule.

Audios Nina Mio
Suya
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

P.S. I wrote to Lill during the day. Id started the letter last night and ran out of ink and time so I finished today. P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 24 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

"To the day"

April 24 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

I just received my birthday gift this morning and I sure am surprised and pleased. I never could have guessed what it was. Thanks a lot honey, those brushes sure are nice and also usefull.

This morning I got up bright and early and went down and drew chow then when I was ready to put it out I found only one helper on hand and its quite a bit of work for two men now I sit down to write a letter but its going to be mighty short cause in about forty minutes Ive got to be over at the store room to draw supplies and Im not even ready to go yet and Ive got to stand by when the doctor comes around so I can give him an argument about going to duty.

I whould have a letter from Lill this morning when ever the 1st class mail gets here, which should be in about an hour or a little over. I wonder if my hunch is right. Maybe Ill hear from Erv today too. Tomorrow Ill hear from you again. I know that.

Im writing this letter so early honey cause Im happy now and after my (debate?) with the doc Im liable not to feel so good.

Heres hoping I have a letter from you tomorrow honey.

Mill Besos
Suyo
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 25 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

"To the day"

April 25 League Island Pa.

Dear One:

This is Thursday and if I expect to get a letter to you by Saturday Ill simply have to get it into the mail this afternoon.

I tried to see the doc yesterday morning about going on duty, but my work took me away just as he came around but I asked him this morning and he sent me down for another blood test and said if it comes back O.K. Ill go to duty Monday. I hope its O.K. and Im going to keep my fingers crossed until Monday.

I didn't get the letter I was expecting yesterday nor the one I expected today. Oh well theres still one more mail to come in this afternoon and it may be in it.

I was outside yesterday too getting some fresh air and sunshine. Today there is no sun only April showers.

Im not sure yet if Im going to stay here or if I get rrnsfered but just keep writing here until you hear differently from me. I was just reading over some of my old letters and one from my dad made me think. He seems to know you almost as well as I do. He told me that you used to come over to the old home quite often come to think of it he even said that he liked you a lot and it made me jealous cause I didn't think he knew you so well. Hes sure set on seeing us get married and I believe that's all he thinks about and hopes for.

I found our for sure today that Ive got to make up my hospital time or at least part of it so it will be late in July before I get discharged but keep this under your hat I may have 90 days to do when I get out but Im going to do some of that in Cleveland probably a 30 day leave and get paid off at the recruiting sta. don't tell anyone though cause Im not sure if I can do that yet but believe me Ill try and if they don't let me do that Ill find another way. Im just sitting tight now waiting to see which way the ball rolls.

Well honey I should hear from you tomorrow at the latest so Ill close and hope for a letter soon thick and newsy.

Love & many Kisses

From Your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 27 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hosp. League Island Pa.

“to the day”

April 26 League Island Pa.

Sweetheart:

Today I received the juiciest letter I ever did see. Do you know anything about it? Right the first time it's the one that had a picture in it and also several old letters that had traveled some.

I guess Ill just have to keep on writing then if you insist even through there is no harm in walking down the street with a well behaved shadow still – well I guess Id better keep writing any way.

Did I neglect to tell you how much I love you honey? Well I do love you and very much at that, but what I cant quite understand is how I wrote six pages without telling you so. Ill do better in the future, and pretty soon Ill try to do more than just write it Im bound to get out of the service some time.

Ive been reading between the lines honey and I know just how you feel cause I feel the same way, but Im kind of depending on you to help me cause you remember what I said when I was home. Thats the whole trouble honey I love you till it hurts and Ill always love you the same.

Don't worry honey if you ever get as sick as this guy in this room was a week ago it'll take a regiment to get me away from you and then I wouldn't guarantee all of their safety. As for your losing your head thats nothing I probably will too but that will have to be as it is for a while and no more. ?Savey?

Those letters werent stalehoney, the only thing stale was the date on them, but Im peeved anyway. Why you were sick and the letters got here to late for me to worry, so I feel cheated.

Don't you like Sabatini's books honey? Why I would have thought you'd like them I read several before I went to Nicaragua but Ive forgotten the names now but I remember I enjoyed them I believe I would much sooner read some of Frank Packard's or maybe Sax Rohmer's books though.

Why not leave the nurses be who ever heard of having an affection for a nurse when – Oh well lets forget it.

Yes I hate mail men too, but only sometimes but often they are a handy thing did you ever think of it in that way? What would we do without them?

If you ever see that nosey doctor again tell him to pay a small visit to Hades and forget to come back and tell him I said so.

Talking about cars, yes I guess we'll ride a car alright when I get out, but it'll be a street car for a while at least. I guess Ill just have to put my nose to the grind stone for a while so we won't have to wait too long to get ~~tie~~ married. I didn't like that word. You know it will be quite necessary to have at least a little cash laid by when we get married and if we wanted a honeymoon it would take even more. You are the judge.

Sure we can have the ceremonies performed by a minister. Id like it better and Id just as soon be married at the house as any where and the ministers house would suit me just as well of course Ill let my partents know but I don't think they'll be able to come in cause they ve really got to be there to care for their stock, but I would like to arrange to pay them a visit a day or two after were married just to say hello but as for their coming in I doubt if they can manage but Im sure my sisters would like to be present (to get rid of me). They'd probably pay you a nice sum for taking me (how Ill chucle) What Im worried about is Joe and Erv. One thing Im sure of is that Erv will stand up for me and Joe May might get sore cause I ask Erv instead of him, but even though I lose every other friend on Earth Im determined that Erv be best man or rather next to it. I intend to be best. Yes I could just imagine the joy mom would get out of getting a supper for the guests if anything like that happens Ill see to it that she gets help, if I have to do it myself don't forget Im a cook and baker myself.

To come back to weddings. I really don't care how many people see me get married as long as I dont have a couple of million running along behind me cause someones liable to throw womething from behind and Id get riled up cause since I went to Nicaragua I always shy when some one fools around in back of me and Im liable to cause more trouble than a cyclone in an egg factory. Thats all I want to avoid so Ill leave you to judge whats best int eh way of a wedding.

Thanks for that picture honey its just what I was widhing for. I seem to have mislayed or packed my other ones during the trip up from Nic. I hope they are in my seabag and not lost then too this is the first picture showing the much talked of boots and coat. ?Verdad? and anyway I was kind of lonesome for a picture from you and of you.

I wonder whats got into me today here Ive come to the last page of this tablet and this page is the first of another tablet, but now Im getting out of the mood perhaps I'd better quit now before I spoil it.

Don't forget to write soon and much honey try to match this letter with

Love
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 29 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

"To the day"

April 27 League Island Pa.

Wonderful One:

Why is it that Im always writing to you (spoiling you) Ill tell you my excuse for this letter. You see I wrote to my dad today and instead of addressing the envelope to him I went and addressed it to you so Im now forced to write a letter to go with it. What do you think of the idea? I wonder what caused me to make such an error on the envelope. I believe I must be in love. Think so?

Ive just been thinking honey that if I hadn't been such a fool with money during the last four years, Id now have enough for us to get married on just as soon as I can get home. Now Ill have to get a good job first, and work at it a while before we can drop a visit to the minister. Oh well Ive learned a lesson any way and Ill know better the next time. I can't help but wish it were different though cause by the time I get paid off Ill be so fed up on waiting that Ill never want to wait for another thing as long as I live. I don't know how on earth Ill manage to wait until I get in a position to get married. Im sure my first impulse will be to take you off to a minister right away. Thank God we are both young yet and waiting just a wee bit longer won't hurt us any but -- ? when this wait is over there's two things Ill never do again one is wait for anything and the other is carry a rifle over a mountain or in other words climb a hill. Ill even hike with you honey as long as theres no hills to climb but there I draw the line. (No hills and no waits)

When someone loves another person like I love you honey its misery to wait. Take that from me and take my word for it, it's the truth.

Well Ive taken one oath and stayed with it and Ill take one more, and that one wont be for four yers but for life. Im through with these four year oaths.

Well honey its getting late in the day so if the letter I mailed last night gets to you Monday, this one should get to you on Tuesday.

Don't forget to write soon much and often honey and

Love your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 28 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

"To the day"

April 28 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

Isn't it funny honey I haven't been able to do much as sit still for the last three days? I start out with an eleven page letter one night and the next day I'm not satisfied till I write six more pages and then today there isn't a bit of news to write about but yet I've got to write. What causes that, I wonder. Maybe it's your uncle's old old story (sick calf) Well my story is that I don't want you to pine away to a mere shadow, and I'm going to stick to that story.

All fooling aside though honey my real reason is this. All day long I keep thinking that maybe you are blue and a letter might cheer you up and make you a trifle happier so I sit down and write even if there is nothing to tell.

What I can't seem to understand sweetheart is how I wrote a letter without telling you that I love you, of course you know very well that I do love you, more than anything else honey, but yet I should have told you so.

I just today thought of a good job for me when I get out its civil service and steady and pays fairly good wages even to start. The job is mail carrier. Do you think you would like to be a mail carriers wife? Its better than police force cause you have about the same hours every day and Sundays off and 15 days vacation every year with pay. I'm going to see if there is any way of finding out when the next applications may be made, who to, and when the examinations and the appointments take place and if it should happen to take place before my service is complete I'd take a leave in order to make out my application and take my examination or rather I'd put in my application by mail and come home for the examination and if the appointments take place before my service expires I'd have reason for a special order discharge or I'd get a leave and have my discharge forwarded to me. I'll see if there is any way of getting information on how to go about it all.

I've read your last letter and those that were enclosed about fifty times in the last couple of days and I always find still more in between the lines.

I wish I could explain to you how I feel honey but words don't seem to do the work in other words I'm happy in the thoughts that I have you and that you will some day be my wife God only knows how happy that makes me but on the other hand again I'm blue because we are so near and yet so far apart if I could only hear your voice just once, I'd be happy for the next three months until I get paid off.

I can hardly wait for the time to go by honey so I'll be able to hold you in my arms again and kiss you, and maybe look in your eyes for a couple of hours at a time. I love you more than I've ever loved anything and I love you with all my might so let's both be patient for just a little longer honey girl and

then the time will come along when I won't have to look at the clock and remember its time to go home
cause we'll be there.

Love & Kisses
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] US Naval Hospital League Island PA Apr 30 1929 [return address] Pvt. E.G. Thomas Ward 6 Naval Hospital League Island Pa.

"To the day"

April 29 League Island Pa.

Dearest:

Today Ive got the best news fo you that Ive had for a long time. Tomorrow morning I get out of the hospital and incidentaly it brings the day we are both waiting for just one more day closer. Im so darn happy that Im getting out that I can hardly sit still. I really shouldn't be writing tonight. I should be getting my stuff ready to go now but Im letting it wait till later and any way Id hate to have you pine away to a shadow so Im taking no chances either. Im going to write even if it is only a wee short letter.

I wonder if you still think of little Joseph the way we used to. I do, and it just makes all my dreams seem perfect, (Both day dreams and others) and I don't skip sixteen or seventeen perfectly good years. I started dreaming of a nice small wedding and I end up with a lovely old couple. (Not to old to love each other though) and a home and fireside, and children, grown up by that time. I don't even forget a nice Sheppard Dog. Do you still have dreams like that honey?

Ive been working int eh diet kitchen for the last week and a half but I don't really help though. Im to much in love to work and Im in love with no one else but you.

You can keep writing to me here until you hear otherwise honey but even so I believe it would be a good idea not to write at all till you hear from me about where Ill be . Ill probably be stationed here in the navy yard until I get paid off and again I may not ?Quien Sabe? Then to I may pull a fast one on this old Marine Corps who can tell. Ill write as soon as I find out anything.

Well honey girl Ill just sign off for this time with

Love from Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 38

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Philadelphia PA May 1 1929
[return address] from Pvt. E.G. Thomas U.S.M.C.

April 30 Navy Yard Phila.

Dearest Bea:

More news for you today. Im at duty now but day after tomorrow I go to Quantico again. I dont know how Im going to like it now. Theyve got new barracks and a new Commanding General (Smedley Buttler) His name alone stands for regulation.

Tonight Ive got to repack and tomorrow Ive got to draw clothes and get all ready to transfer so I won't have much time to write now or tomorrow but Ill write as soon as I get to Quantico and get settled.

Im writing this on my knee so I dont know if you'll be able to read it but do your best any way and (Ill not forget this time) I love you

Love & Kisses
Porter

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Briach
May 3 1929 [return address] from Pvt. E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

~~April~~ May 3, 1929 Post Band Quantico Va.

Dearest:

Her I am back in my old home again. I arrived here last night and Ive spent today so far in getting organized here. Im not through yet. Ive still got to draw an instrument but Ill postpone that for a few minutes. Ive got to write to Lill, my dad, Erv, and Min to let them know my new address.

I read a nice poem the other day and Ill copy it for you to read its entitled

"The Bride"

White lilies glimmer through the gloom
Where many starry candles flare.

Fair fragrance fills the lofty room
Where two hearts' joy is like a prayer.

The organ tones are soft and sweet
As (Beatrice) beauty paces down the Isle,

P.S. (The part in () is my idea)

And all lifes lesser dreams retreat
Before the rapture of her smile.

Before her wait the unknown years
But she will greet them, unafraid
Find again in loss and hope through tears:
For such as she the world was made.

Through perfumed twilight candle-starred,
The measures of the organ roll:
While lilies gleam, may heaven guard
The greater whiteness of her soul.

How do you like that little verse honey? I think its kind of nice, don't you?

I should have a letter here from you tomorrow or possibly on Sunday. (We get on mail here on Sunday and two daily during the week.)

I wish I could come home for a couple of months now honey but just for the present Im afraid its quite impossible, but Im going to try something else that will be a fast one on the Marine Corps.

Well honey girl I love you yet and always will so heres hoping I get an envelope full of about eight pages of happiness.

Love & Kisses

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
May 5 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Virginia

"To the day"

May 5 1929 Post Band Quantico

Dearest:

Im going to make this nearly a perfect day. I started it off by going to church this morning and Ive written to my Dad and to Lill and now Im going to top it off by writing to my sweetheart. I wonder how she would like a nice letter right now.

How are you anyway honey? You never tell me. I wish you were here real close to me where I could see you every day - - - ? well lets not worry honey it can't be very long now. I know thats what weve been saying right along but they really can't keep me much longer. They are making me make up 40 days of my misconduct time as it is and I guess Im lucky I don't have to make up more. I really should have only 46 days to do but now Ive got 86 days instead but thats bound to pass soon honey girl. These last days may drag by as slow as a snail for us but in reality it's a very short time so lets just buck up and take it like a couple of good soldiers. I know its hard and I hardly believe myself when I say it but you know that you love me so with that in mind I believe we can both wait for (The day - - ?

I started my band duty again yesterday by drawing my clarinet and falling out an hour later to render honors to the secretary of the Navy. That took up all the afternoon and tired me out worse than Ive evern been before (no exceptions, not even Nicaragua) They are sending out a detail to China tomorrow but no it don't interest me a darn bit cause they can't send me on it cause Im to short. Im laughing at them.

I wonder why I haven't heard from you today honey. I should absolutely have had a letter today. Ill bet the reason is that you didnt get my letter till Friday, you probably was out on Thursday and probably stayed at Hoppy's Thursday night. Am I right?

This coming Saturday part of the Band goes to Richmond and part to Calio and Im on te Richmond schedule. Im not sure yet if Ill be able to go cause my blues were stored in Hampton Roads and if they don't get here before Saturday Ill either have to borrow a suit of blues or in case I can't Ill just have to get taken off the detail. I hope it's the later. I hate those trips.

Well honey there is no more news except that I love you more each day, if you care to call that news. Ive still got to write to Nicaragua in order to let a guy down there know where to send a certain picture when he gets it done, if he does.

Love and Kisses

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
May 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

May 9, 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

Your letter arrived yesterday but I didn't find it till about midnight cause I was out when it arrived and it was put under my pillow and I went on liberty out into the country to see an ex Marine who is my old buddy and when I got back and went to bed I found the letter so Ive got to answer today and I haven't got much time cause weve got to play for the show this evening.

Those changes that have been made make the place look different but so far they dont effect us in any way yet. We now have General Smedley Butler in command of the post and he's made it a pleasure. No leggings except on duty and better liberty conditions and easier soldiering.

Well honey if this girl or woman (or what have you) that is called El can drag you around like a bag of flour she must be some husky cause its all I can do to make you do as I want especially such things as wearing your boots and several other things I could mention.

My pen went dry and when I filled it, it wrote heavier so your letter will be shaded.

Who would every believe that a machine could possibly turn turtle. Was the guy in it a magician?

Sweetheart you may be to other people only a common every day girl but to me you are every thing. I worship you honey and my every thought and every thing. I can't do without you. I love you to much and Im only afraid that sooner or later you will leave me for someone else or else I will wake up to find that it has all been a very pleasant dream.

Now I guess its my chance to say that if getting an eight page letter is spoiling me, I want to be spoiled a whole lot.

I hope the next four pages get here pretty soon sweetheart cause Im really lonesome and even a little home sick and very much love sick and those letters sure help a good cause along. Just like bread to the starving Armenians. I hope in fact that Ill have a letter tomorrow cause Saturday I go to Richmond and I dont think we'll get back here till late Sunday night cause they'll probably make arrangements for us to broadcast and maybe play half a dozen concerts again, of if I dont get a letter tomorrow I probably won't get one till Monday so heres hoping.

I guess you also notice that I haven't been writing quite as often since Im back here but between trying to build a lip again and one thing and another Im kept quite busy. Ill do my best though sweetheart. But please lets have a letter here tomorrow.

Love & 30 thousand Kisses

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
May 12 1929 [return address] from Emil G. Thomas Post Band Marine Barracks Quantico Va.

"To the day"

May 12 1929 quantico Virginia

Sweetheart:

This morning I received two of your letters that had been forwarded from Phila. But as it always is I was out in the country helping my ex Marine Buddy to fix up the place he moved into. I also got acquainted with his 3 month old son today and he's a jolly good specimen although he did quite a bit of squaking to let me know that he knew I was around. I was even allowed to dandle him around for a while, and Ill learn.

Its now just a little after the regular Sunday evening concert (about 8:00 P.M. so Im going to devote the next two hours to trying to write a nice letter. I may be forced to give up before then but Ill try not to.

I wish I could think of things faster than I can write, like this I have to sit for a half an hour to think of one or two little lines.

Im sorry you thought I was bawling you out honey when I said Id read between the lines, (you see Ive don't it again) but no I merely told you that I had read between the lines. Lordy honey I hope you aren't expecting me to be continually finding something to bawl you out for. Don't you see honey I love you to much for that. I just can't help it. Oh Ill admit I sometimes find fault, but you will also admit that it is very seldom. Am I right sweetheart?

Well honey the best way to ~~feel~~ find out how Anne feels deep down in her heart, is to invite her and if she shows up for the wedding you'll know and if not you'll know. "Tampoco." Spanish

I believe myself that a mail carriers job is pretty nice just think of all the happiness I would be bringing daily for some sweethearts just as someone is bringing ours now.

I can't blame you for wanting to wait awhile honey cause your reason is sound enough and there are more reasons too, but we are only human you know. Both of us. How will we ever stand the strain and anyway you will always have a big friend and a sweetheard honey in the person of your husband but we'll wait a while any way honey or at least try to.

I guess maybe you are right sweetheart when you say that the only mar on our happiness is that we are both lonesome and Im sure that I also have much to be thankful for. I have you, and that in its self is enough to declare a national holiday then too we both have our good health and we must be thankful for that all in all maybe we are pretty lucky.

Im sending you a couple of little verses that Ive scrawled onto a piece of apaer I hope you like them.

My time is no where near up honey but Im still tired from that trip to Richmond yesterday and the work today so as there is nothing more to write about Ill just close with

Love From
Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

X X
X
X X

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
May 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band M.B. Quantico Va.

"To the day"

May 14 1929 Quantico Va.

Dearest One:

Im writing this letter in pencil not because Im to lazy to use my pen but because I got my pencil back, and ive got to try it out to see if it still works.

Lat night there was one ship load of Marines got back from Nicaragua, today a few more got here. They seem to be withdrawing them pretty fast now. I hope it continues not for my benefit but for the guys that still have time to do.

Speaking of time, mine os getting short again. Ive got about 76 or 77 days now it just can't be long now honey.

Tell me sweetheart, who addressed the envelope on the second last letter I received? Was it your new friend "El"? Im quite sure it wasn't Hoppy's writing so that happens to mean that only one other person could have addressed it, am I right?

Tonight we have a smoker on at the Gym and about 8 bouts of good fighting we (the band) have been ordered to furnish the necessary music well to tell you how I feel about it Ill have to explain what happened at rehearsal this morning. Tuesday mornings we always have a visitor to come down from the Washington Marine Band to play a little for us and to give us pointers. The guy that came this morning also played clarinet and after listening to him Im disgusted with my own playing and Ive tried every way I know of to get rid of my clarinet today. (No success) so you see why I don't even want to hear music tonight. Im glad Ive only got a little more time to do cause as a musician Im disgusted with myself and I quit or at least I quit clarinet. Ive got a real nice grouch on today, no fooling, but maybe that helped me get my pencil back. Who knows?

Im afraid these next 70 some odd days are going to pass kind of slow for us sweetheart. If I could only see you for one day Im sure it would help a lot, but we'll just have to take it like good soldiers. I do so want to take it like a soldier honey but how can I when I love you so much and am forced to stay away from you for so long. Oh well sweets we'll just day, "To the day," and grin. Shall we?

Love & many Kisses

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band M.B. Quantico Va.

"To the day"

May 16 1929 Quantico Nicaragua

Dearest One:

I received your letter today along with a nice big one from Lill, her first one for a long time. I sat down right after dinner and answered hers and had intended to answer yours at the same time, but they pulled a surprise parade and review on us so we had to drop everything and get ready for the parade. We got back in just in time for second chow and when we got through eating we had to get ready for our Thursday night concert. Thats over now though and most of the gang are at the movies so now I think and hope I can write unmolested, if I can only think of things to write about quick enough and think of enough things.

Last night I went out in the country again to visit my old pal out there and build a cloths closet for him. Ha may move up to Cleveland with his wife and baby next spring. Ive only seen his wife three times but I think he's got a good and nice wife. She's sure steered him into the straight and narrow path. She's very young though not 18 yet. They all marry young though in the South.

You and me both wish I could come home once more before I get discharged honey but Im afraid it would take quite a magician for to talk them into giving a clarinet player a furlough right now cause thats one thing were short on right now. I doubt though even if I could get a furlough if it would be wise fo me to come home right now. Im afraid Id never come back and desertion is fool hardy in itself but when a short timer deserts its crazy and thats exactly what it would be if I were to come home now cause they'd never get me to leave you again unless they sent a guard up to do it. I love you to much to desert honey and spoil our chances for a happy life and yet I love you to much to leave you again when I once get home again. Do you follow my reasoning?

Why keep me in suspense when you have something to ask me honey? Why isnt one mood just as good as another to ask a question? Im sure its also just as well to write it as to say it, and if you wait till I come home you'll surely forget to ask me and all this wondering and this worrying will have been in vain.

To me it seems like time has just ~~stoppe~~ stopped or started to go backwards or something. I don't know exactly how many days Ive got to do now. Ive quit counting them and maybe they will pass quicker now. I hope so.

Do you realize honey that today is exactly 15 months since we last saw each other? Do you remember the last thing you told me? That was pure braveryhoney and I want you to know that it helped me that day and often since then. I wonder what Id do without you any way. I don't think I could have stood this last year if it hadn't been for you and those letters of yours. I can truly sing that somy, "County your many blessing," and it would always be referring to you.

I think theres going to be another trip to one of these towns back in the sticks this Saturday. I hope I don't have to make it. Those trips give m a pain and not in the neck either.

Well honey girl this letter isn't quite four pages long but its closely written so there should be plenty in it. Id like to write a couple more pages but there really isn't any more to write about tonight so Ill close with Love and many Kisses

From
Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

P.S. The artist fellow in Nicaragua sent word up that the portrait is nearly completed so I expect it in another couple of weeks.

Porter

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
May 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Marine Barracks Quantico Virginia

"To the day"

May 21 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

Your letter arrived just before dinner so now I'm going to answer it unless we catch a parade and review. I don't think we will though. I guess I haven't been writing quite as regular as I should honey, but I haven't even got an excuse. I guess I'm just like you in the writing line, I've got to be in the mood or I can't write.

By the way honey is it as cold up around home as it is here? We've still got March weather down here, cold and plenty of rain. There's been only three real nice days since I've been here it seems like summer never will arrive at Quantico. We are still wearing our winter uniforms (Greens) where it's high time that we should be in summer clothes (Khaki). I hope the old weatherman has seen fit to give you a nicer spring than he's seen fit to give us. I'm really frozen now.

How did I get the pencil back? I'll give you three guesses, (the first two don't count), any way I've got it back and there aren't enough men in the Marine Corps to take it away from me again.

Your friend, "El", looks nice in the picture and if she is half as nice as her picture I'm most sure that we'll be good friends. Tell me though honey, Who else was in the picture with "El," and why did you cut off the rest of the picture?

Yes I read in the Washington papers of the Cleveland disaster but all it said is that it was a clinic but didn't tell where it was at nor the name of it.

I heard from Lill the other day and she told me about the house across from Mins being bombed. That same house was also set on fire a couple of years ago. Those people must have some rotten enemies somewhere.

There's no maybe about me honey if I was at home right now I know I'd be perfectly happy, in fact if I was at home now they'd play H!! – ever getting me back here again. I don't believe I'd ever come back to be discharged. I've just figured up that I've got 71 days to do so let's cheer up honey that's only a little more than two months.

Last night I started to build a sort of kitchen cabinet for my friend out in the country he's kind of unhandy with tools and he hasn't got much time anyway so I'm building it for him I'll probably finish it tonight and paint it tomorrow or the next day.

We had another soloist here from Washington this morning to give us some pointers and play the English horn for us. He played "William Tell" overture with us, and also gave us a little solo, "The Largo." He plays beautifully and has a very wonderful tone and nice style. I wish I could play as good.

Ive been kind of at peace with the world here lately honey, since I got the letter of yours where you said you'd wait, (forever in necessary), it won't be that long though honey I love you and because of that I don't intend to be kept away from you for any length of time anymore. Im going to be a civilian 71 days from now and Im going to stay that way, and the next time when they go to sending on expedition to Nicaragua, China or any hwere else Im going to be on the side lines waving a little flag and saying, "go to it boys Im right back of you," just like the ones higher up said to us. Im enclosing a clipping for you to read, its most realistic. Take my word for it.

Love and kisses honey and

"Hasta la dia."

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Marine Barracks Quantico Virginia

"Hasts La Dio"

69 days

May 23 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest One:

The papers got here just before dinner and your letter right after dinner. Thanks for both. The clinic incident was pretty bad, wasn't it? I recognized among the dead the name of one of my old friends' mother. Do you by any chance happen to remember the "Henry Epstein," who went to Tech with me? Well it was his mother anyway. [The Cleveland Clinic fire of May 15, 1929 resulted in 123 deaths, mostly from bromide gas.]

It would be kind of nice for both of us if my old buddy was to come to Cleveland to live. Im sure you would like both him and his wife to say nothing of his son.

Well honey its this way I don't exactly approve of girls smoking but on the other had I don't condemn a girl just because she does smoke in the first place it isn't for us to judge any one. Thats left to the good Lord, and I don't think he will condemn anyone for that. The only thing is I don't like to see a girl smoke but as long as it isn't my girl I don't care and Im sure, "El," and I can be good friends even though she does smoke so don't worry about it honey. I guess she's old enough to decide what is or isn't good for her. She looks like a very nice girl to me and Im sure we will be good friends.

Certainly you were brave the day I left honey a person is only human (and you and I are no exception) and a human being can stand just so much and no more. You were as brave as could be expected and a little more on top of that. and Im proud of you for it honey and its for just such things that I love you more than ever.

Last night I went out to my friends place again just to pass the time away, and if I didn't tell you before hes a crack third baseman, and last night was the night for the town team to practice so I went out to see him practice and he still handles a ball, bat, and glove, like a master.

Well honey I guess thats all for this time so Ill have to quit writing and sign off with love & kisses

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
1929 [return address] from R.G. Thomas Post Band Marine Barracks Quantico Virginia

"To the day"

May 26 1929 Quantico Virginia

Sweetheart of mine:

Her it is Sunday night, but unlike other Sunday I do not have to play a concert tonight. The reason is that they are putting on some other sort of entertainment tonight so Ive decided to stay in and write a be-lated letter.

Last night some fellow over the hospital died so today we had his funeral, took him down to the depot and the day was done. They dont often have a funeral on Sunday nor do we often fall out for one in dress uinform, but we did today, and let me say it was plenty warm. I havent quit sweating yet and its two hours since we got back here. The funny thing about this fellow was that he spent (I think it was two years) in Nic. and came back to the States and died, or at least so I hear.

The other day I got a letter from the band in Ocotal they all wrote a few lines in it and believe me honey it was a joke. Im going to be equally funny. The artist fellow says he has your painting done and he's sent it to me but addressed it to Philadelphia cause he thought I was still there. I suppose it will get here sometime or another in the near future just like their letter did. He says that hes changed everything, background and all even the dress (Ill be getting peeved here directly if you let strangers give you a new dress like that.) I only hope its good cause I sure want that one thing to be good, as a remembrance of Nicaragua.

Ive got 65 days to do now honey I only wish I could drop 64 of them The time seems to go so darn slow now that Im getting short. I wish there was some way to accelerate the days a little it seems like all I do is sit around and think of you sweetheart. You and my day dreams ae the most precious things I have. I believe going out to see my old pal out in the country and seeing how happy he is since hes married and has a baby, has made me long for you even more than before, if thats possible. I do want some place that I can call home, so bad honey, and you there to meet me when I come home, and a son I can't imagine how a man could help but be happy if he has all that, can you?

I saw a good picture last night. Wm Haines & Joan Crawford in, "The Dike steps out." It sure was a good picture. I also saw, "The object of testimony," [actually "Object - Alimony"] the other night. Ive forgotten who played in it but Ill look at the list in a minute. Its Hugh Allen and Ethel Terry. It also was very good.

I haven't heard from my father now for quite some time and Im beginning to worry. I really shouldn't cause I know hes got to much work this time of year to write but just the same it does worry me a little.

Im afraid my writing is getting worse allt he time honey. I can't even read it my self any more I wonder how you manage to decipher it.

Well honey these last couple of months are going to be hard sledding for both of us but I guess it's the way you say, if two persons love each other as we do they are bound to reach their ultimate goal sooner or later we'll just have to take things as they come for a while and strive for, "The Day." Those two word mean a lot to me honey some way or another they seem to draw you closer to me.

Well honey Ill close now till I hear from you.

Love Your
Porter

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 39

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
Jun 1 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

May 31 1929 ~~Oct 1~~ Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

Ive got two letters here to be answered but I didn't get a chance so far. I intended to write today but we had a parade and review and retired some guy on 30 years. We didn't get back till 4:45 so we went to chow and I just got back.

Do you notice the goofy way I started this letter? That just goes to prove that I should have been sent back long ago. The tropical sun is the cause of things like that. Then this paper isn't exactly good stuff but its all Ive got till tomorrow then too Im writing this in my lap put all those things together and this should be a pretty good letter.

Well honey this day should bring me down to sixty days and a flop. Tomorrow Ill have less than two months to do. I say it that way cause it sounds so much shorter that way. Do you think we can wait that long? I came near going over the rise long enough to pay you a visit yesterday but I decided I had no right to spoil both our chances for happiness that way, and any way I digure thats the cowards way out of a close place. I do feel sometimes like I would sacrifice any thing though just to see you for a little while before I get paid off. I guess I can stick it out though honey.

I don't remember what happened now when I wrote the last letter honey but anyway I forgot the kisses and didn't remember till Id got the letter in the mail. The reason I forgot was cause something or another called me away. Oh yes I remember I had to help some guy get his car in it was broke down out on th road away. Don't worry about things being different honey. I love you moe than anything else and I always will.

Gee you should be a Marine in Haiti or Cuba honey you like to sleep so much and thats all they do down there. They have a four hour siesta every afternoon and taps goes at 9:00 P.M. and reveille at 6:30 A.M. Hows that? Oh well honey pretty soon you won't need to get up to go to work you'll be able to sleep half of the day if you like.

Theres some guy here was supposed to get paid off Tuesday (past) and hes still here it seems like they forgot to close his accounts out. They do that twenty days before and they forgot his so naturally his discharge didn't get here. Im not going to give them a chance to forget mine. Im going to keep reminding them.

Well honey write soon to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

For the last letter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

-- interest 50 % XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Marine Barracks Quantico

"To the day" (59)

June 1 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

This is the first of another month and now I can say one month and a butt. This makes 59 days to do and believe me honey this is once in my life Im going to run from anything the minute they give me my discharge Im going to leave and this time its going to be final. Today was poppy day here and I got mine, in memory of the boys who gave their all on Flanders fields. Thats something I never got before but my last fifteen months have taught me many things I never knew. Ive come to the conclusion that it took a lot of spunk for those men to cross those poppy fields in the face of machine guns and almost vertain death and my hat is most certainly off to them.

I bought a nice poem for Mothers day too, but forgot to get it in the mail. I had intended sending it to your mother but completely forgot it till it was to late so I kept it and Ill bring it out when I get home. Im really ashamed of myself for forgetting to mail it cause I really am gratefull to your mother because after all it was she that gave me you, and you are my all Im afraid life would be very dreary and hardly worth living for me if I didn't have you to look forward to. I often wonder if its possible for you to realize how much I love you sweetheart its really beyond my powers of speech to explain it to you but take my word for it honey I do love you, more than anything else in this world and Ive seen quite a few things and lots of this world but nothing to compare with you.

I had a letter here a short time ago from Erv but as yet I haven't answered it. I think Ill do that as soon as I finish this one and then Ill write to my dad and perhaps to Min if I get the shnce.

By the way honey when I get paid off it will be necessary to give a forwarding address so they can forward my mail or anything that may come here to me. Would it be alright to give your address?

I think Ill go out on a short liberty tomorrow. One of the fellows here has a car and has asked me to take a ride down to Fredrecksburg ana dback with him just for the sake of the ride and to pass the afternoon so I think Ill accept his invitation.

I kind of expected a letter from you today honey but for some unknown reason or another none came. Ill have one tomorrow or Monday though. I don't know what makes me think so but Ive just got a hunch that way. I think a letter is just about due from Lill too but it will get here about Tuesday if there is one, cause I most always hear from her on Tuesday, cause she mostly always writes on Sunday night.

How are you any way honey? And what are you doing to amuse yourself? Id like to ehar all about it, so write soon and every much to

Your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

“Hasta La Dia”

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
Jun 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Marine Barracks Quantico Va.

"To the day"

June 2, 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

Im going to try to write now but Im not sure if Ill finish so far Ive spoiled half a tablet of paper by putting the wrong date or place or something in it. I can't seem to get my mind to working properly and Ive lost all patience already. Im peeved today anyway Ive lost my khaki cap and everything seems wrong. The reason is that its another one of those cold, dreary, wet days. A day like this seems to take all the life right out of a person.

Yesterday afternoon we took a ride with one of the fellows to Fredricksburgh and visited the Confederate cemetery. That sure is one nice place and I enjoyed every minute of the time I spent there. I wish you could have been along. We came back in time to play the regular Sunday night concert and then I stayed for the services and for the show immediately afterwards. The catholic chaplain made the speech on the subject that, "Most of us were not made to do big things and become famous but most of us were created to do little things with a big heart." A great lesson for all of us. The picture last night was, "Mother Macree." I though it was wonderful.

Well honey it looks like our patience will soon be rewarded. Im down to 57 days and a flop. Those days are getting fewer and fewer all the time and even though they seem to drag still it's a fact that they are moving along with the precision and regularity of a clock, and soon they will be all gone. Then - - - ?

I only wish I knew what I should do when I get home again it will take a little time before I can manage to get an appointment on a civil service job you know and I can't stay idel all that tiem no way in fact Id like to save enough money to get married first so we could take a few days leave, which I don't believe I could get on a civil service job until I'd been at it a year or so. One thing I know though I must do some kind of work or Id go crazy cause Im not built to lay around doing nothing.

There's some guy around here thats pretty nosey and seems anxious to know what Im writing when he looks over shoulder again Im going to show him the letter and tehn Im going to spoil his looks.

I wrote to my dad, to Min, and to Erv the other night when I wrote your last letter and Im going to write to Lill as soon as I hear from her that should be tomorrow (maybe) I was expecting to hear from you today at the latest, but the second mail is in now and there was no letter. Oh well honey, I know Ill have one tomorrow in the first mail.

You haven't been out to Milton Davis for quite a time now, have you honey? You havent been out to your Uncles farm lately either, or at least you haven't mentioned it if you was. Tell me about yourself and the gang and what you are doing with yourself.

I read a good book the other day, "The Old Blood," by Palmer it is very good I think, at least I enjoyed it. The first time I get a chance to go over to the library Im going to see what they have over there by, "Dante." I like to read his stuff cause it seems like his imagination is very vivid, at least it seemed to be when he wrote the, "inferno."

Well honey I know Ill have a letter to answer tomorrow so Ill close this one now with much love and many kisses

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
[return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band M.B. Quantico Va.

"To the Day"

June 9 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

Ive received another of my traveling letters. This one seems to have gone every where but to Patagonia. I also received one of the recent ones. I think Ill go to work at the range for the rest of my time now it seems like I get more mail that way. Just think honey, four letters in two days, isn't that nice? Two from you one from my Dad (also a traveling one) and one from Lill.

Im afraid you'll have to excuse this ink but I came to the library to write only to find that my pen was dry and Im much to lazy to go back to the quarters for some so Im going to use what they have here. Am I excused?

Well honey it can't be so very long now fifty one days and a sleep. Then Ill be a free man again. Id like to some home before then but its impossible and any way Im afraid Id never come back again, or at least not without you.

Theyve offered me a good job and a rate if Id extend or ship over. I told em to go to Hades and I told them in such a manner that there is no doubt left in their minds but what I mean it.

Go to it honey. Ill give you permission to hug me as tight as you like, and if I drop dead Ill at least be dying happy;

Last night I was out with my old pal in the country and his wife and we had a little argument. I know now how you felt when you fell out with Hoppy he came over and made his appologies a few minutes later and every thing is O.K. again, but it does hurt a little to know that he wanted me to go back on my word, even though it was very little. The whole argument started over drinking and all because Im up the pole. Now Im convinved more than ever to stay up the pole it hurt though. I cried like a baby for a while and even now I feel a little bad about it.

We are playing a pretty nice concert tonight. The two large numbers are, "Wm Tell," and "Pale Moon," both of which are work outs for the flute and piccolo, and very pretty at that.

Headquarters in Washington seems to be bringing the Marines back in droves now. There was another bunch came in here Thursday and theres many more on their way back. Nearly all the original 11th Regt. Band came back on the last boat. The artist fellow however is staying down there yet. He sent word to me that he is going to make a few more changes in that portrait before he sends it.

Well honey I guess this is all for this time so consider yourself hugged & kissed.

By Your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
Jun 12 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band M.B. Quantico Va.

"To the day"

June 11, 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

I owe you a letter now and although there really is no news to write about, still I'm going to write, even if I break my arm doing so.

That letter that you called blue was quite cheerful compared to the one following you probably have it by now. I couldn't help it though I just felt that way and just like you say, it helps to tell it or write it to someone.

I believe I told you I'd got a letter from Dad it was a nice longish one too. He tells me that he hopes, and is quite sure he can manage to come to Cleveland for our big day. I only wish I was free now so we could set the day it's so much easier to wait when a definite time has been set, don't you think so honey?

I've gotten a hold of a couple more Leathernecks and a few more clippings that might be interesting to look at in later times, especially to show to children or grand children when I get to be an old and maybe a feeble man. They are also talking of giving us some kind of victory medal for the Nicaraguan campaign, but it will be several years but if they ever decide definitely on one they will mail one to me (more remembrances)

That seems to be a nice thing alright to talk about but I just wonder if I'd ever be able to bring myself to tell any child of mine about those experiences. The thought of them doesn't bother me as much as it used to though. Then too I'd better get the home and also the children first, or I won't be able to tell them, even if I want to.

I'm afraid sweetheart that the last paragraph is going to make very little sense when you read it it's just my mind wandering from one subject to another. I can't seem to think about anything but our love and when I try to write about anything else I just get everything mixed up.

Well honey I guess I'll have to close now with Love

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
Jun 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band quantico Va.

"To the day"

June 14 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

I received your letter this morning just before inspection Im going to try to answer it now. Ive got a little news to tell you. Im going to buy a clariney. Ive got a chance to get it at a good price and its almost new. I hope I like this one when I get used to it, cause it's a nice clarinet.

I got another letter from Lill. I answered it yesterday. Lill seems as anxious to see me home as I am to get home and she expresses the wish that we should go out with her and Ben sometime. Id like to cause she seems anxious for me to pass judgement and for my part I would like to know him to see what he looks like to me.

Yes I do remember, Rae Miller, honey and I am sorry to hear that she is so sick she seemed to be pretty nice people.

Ill say it makes one feel tather down in the mouth when a pal goes back on you we are still good friends though and Ive most forgotten the whole incident cause he really didn't mean it he was drunk and didn't know better. I wish I could get him to give up drink.

You say you don't like the overture, "Wm Tell," for more than one good reason. Yes Ill admit its hard and I can't really play it either, but it is nice when played right. Last night we played a very nice half hour concert we opened with a nice concert march I forget the name right now then we played "Glad girl" Idyl "Southern Suite," "Blue Hawaii" waltz"Phedra" overture another march and the usual, "Star Spangled Banner." We have at least one stiff number for Sunday called, "Natoma" did you ever hear it? I think Ill go up to Washington some time next week and hear the big Marine Band play I haven't heard them since Im back.

Well honey its 46 days now, can we stand it that long?

Write soon sweetheart and help me to keep from going nuts thinking about eh 46 days.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
Jun 19 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band M.B. Quantico Va.

"Zee Dem Tag"

June 18 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

I received your letter this noon. Im sorry to hear that youve lost your friend "Rae Mille," it didn't take long to get her, did it? Well we must all go sometime or another, and all we can do is try to live the kind of life that makes dying easier, so death has no terrors for us.

I spent the week end at my buddies home, overhauling his tin can roadster we worked Saturday till we couldn't see then we played set back and then to bed Sunday morning their son and heir decided to howl just as breakfast was being prepared and we, (the men folks) not Lindbergh, couldn't quiet the poor fellow so I made breakfast while its mother put it to sleep again. I made a good meal too, if I do say so myself. I fried a couple of shops, some potatoes, some eggs, and also some hot cakes and coffee after breakfast we went out and done the rest of the overhauling and by noon we were done. Theres about a dozen guys want help around here and they keep me busy. Last night I fized a radio for some non Com who lives on the hill and today I got two little repair jobs to do but I can't get away cause wever got a formation this afternoon weve got to play the rifle team off. They leave for Wakefield, Mass today.

Did I tell you sweetheart, Im buying myself a clarinet what for I don't know unless its to keep me from shipping over. I don't know though it may come in handy to me sometime. Im getting a good bargain too. Im saving \$50.00 on it wait till you see it its sure a beauty and its as easy blowing. Im nuts over the darn thing.

Just think honey if I hadn't been a d—n? fool Id have two and a fraction days to do now as it is Ive got forty two and a fraction. Oh well pretty soon now Ill be starting on my bitter medicine (misconduct time) I went up to look at my record book this morning and its real surprising what good marks I got in spite of the trouble Ive been in. Theyve done me a couple good turns too by leaving off some of th bad marks I got.

I believe Ive read, "All the Brave Rifles," at any rate it sounds very familiar and Im sure Ive read the, "Crippled Lady of Peribouka." Im not sure but I believe it was in the magazine section of The Washington Sunday Post no it wasn't either I read it in the New York papers while I was in Phila, in the hospital.

Honey I don't know how we are going to wait very much longer when I do get home. Im in favor of getting married as soon as I get a position or that pays enough to really support a wife and any saving that well be necessary we can do together. Ive waited so long now I don't know if Im coming or going half the time. Ill never be really happy honey till you are all mine thats all I seem to live for now. Say that we can make it as soon as I get a good job honey we wont have to wait very long anyway, will we?

Im maybe not very convincing when I write letters sweetheart but Ill be home soon now and then Im sure I can convince you that Im right only 42 days and a ½ more honey.

This is the first of a new tablet honey. I had to call time out to make the change and no I seem to have forgotten every thing I meant to say. Oh well maybe Ive already said it so Ill quit now.

Always Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band M.B. Quantico Va.

"To the day"

June 24, 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

One of my buddies who swore into the service side by side with me was just discharged this morning and he left here not 5 minutes ago now I feel just like Id lost something. He sure has been a good friend.

Yes Ive bought not only one clarinet but two one is a Bb Boehm system and the other is a Bb Alto, Albert system what Im buying them for is more than I can tell unless its because it's a bargain and Im not Jewish either.

No honey, "hatoma," is not Indian. It sounds like it I know, that is, the name does but not the music. Its very pretty though and everyone who heard it liked it.

Im sorry to hear that youve had the blues again but they really are easy to get and hard to get rid of, aren't they honey? Well see if this won't help scatter them. Thirty seven days and a sleep. It can't be long now sweetheart and Ill be home for good where I can see you all the time then maybe Ill be able to explain how much I love you I wish I could put it down on paper but I can't seem to find the words when I try. Then to when I get home why some of those trips to Akron and so forth wont be made by Hoppy, El, and you alond but the great private will be along to help you enjoy some of it.

I wonder what is the matter with Erv. I havent heard from him lately even though I wrote to him some time ago. Oh well I guess it'll be pretty hard to get me to write letters too when Im that close to my sweetheart hes also very much in love, you know. Isn't it funny though how sooner or later through the fates everone or rather nearly everyone finds their true love and mate? The fates may be rather rough one a person sometimes but them they always make up for it by the happiness one gets in finding their love. WE have had some rough breaks but all in all we are still lucky. We have one another to live for and we are young and healthy and have a good chance for a nice shiny future and all that goes with it.

Since weve got General Smedley D. Buttler commanding here things have changed again. He likes his band and has ordered that the band make all the trips this fall with the football team. He get here about three or four years to late, don't you think so? Id like to make those trips but Id rather get paid off, and the sooner the better.

I guess this is all for this time honey so heres Love and Kisses from

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 40

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
Jun 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

(To the day)
34 & a flop

June 26 Quantico Va.

Dearest One:

Your letter arrived today and it made me happy and sad. Happy because the letter got here, and sad to hear that you weren't well or at least not up to snuff. Don't let it get you now honey, we've stood it this long without reaking so lets try to stand it a few more days its only very little more than a month now and Ill be home with you and we'll see how we can fix things so we won't have to do much waiting when I do get there. Im kind of worried about how were going to do it but Im going to take some advise from a previous letter and leave my worries till later cause I believe that as you said, if two young things, (we are young), love each other as we do and are both striving for the same goal it will be no time at all till things come right side up. Please don't let your disposition worry you honey its just as you say with a little help and understanding it can be remedied.

I don't believe I have read the book, "Drachla," honey although the name does sound very familiar. Do you know that the air races are going to be held in Cleveland this year. I believe its going to be around August 24th and last for several days they are also going to have an aviation exhibit at the public auditorium. I believe its going to last five days. I read about it in the Aviation Journal this morning.

I broke loose the other day and made a liberty to Washington. I saw a good show, "Gamblers," and had a couple of good chows.

Ive been having some wonderful feelings here for the last couple of days. They talk of tropical details and I feel like a clown and laugh just cause I know they'll never get me on another detail like that. Whoopee!!!!

You cant imagine how good you make me feel when you tell me we won't have to do any extra waiting. Thats what Im living for honey, to make you all mine and waiting to me is just more misery. I only wish I could take you and run off with you tonight honey. I will though one of these days just as soon as I get a decent job and get established it might mean a little hard sledding at first sweetheart and we may have to live close at first but Im sure we'll win out in the long run are you willing to try it that way honey?

Ill close now with love and kisses

Your
Porter
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
1929 [return address] E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"Zee Dem Tag"

July 1 1929 Quantico Va.

Dearest One:

This is the start of the last month of our separation (30 days and a flop) and I don't give a rap how I do it I just got another insult last night. I was asked to ship over and they even promised me a 90 day leave and told me they would make an attempt to get me separate quarters in the event that I got married. I think Ill ship over for the U.S.S. outside or the U.S.S. never sails, and this Marine Corp and I will stay quits once we get that way. Do you think thats a good idea honey? Think those little blue devils will go when these next 30 days are over?

Why shouldn't you tell me when you are blue honey? I think I should know all about your woes as well as your joys honey any way if it helps to tell me when you are blue whey tell me by all means thats what we are sweethearts for, to try to help one another.

You closed your last letter with (Love Your Beatrice) and added (She needs it) I do love you honey, more than I can ever tell you. I always do. I can't even sleep without dreaming of you. I only hope those castles in the dreams are built of sturdy stock so they will stay forever.

I went to Washington day before yesterday to try to get some parts for a friends motorcycle. I got back at 1 A.M. yesterday and saw a civilian friend of mine as I was coming through and he was just going fishing and asked me along. There were four of us and we caught 144 perch and one rock bass. Some catch isn't it? Thats the first time I ever had any luck like that thats about three dozen a piece for us. My trip to Washington by the way was a failure. I got back yesterday to find a letter here from Lill though. Ill have to answer it right away.

I guess Ill have a letter from you this noon so Ill quit now with

Love
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

July 3 1929 Quantico Va.

Dearest One:

I received your letter yesterday but again I was on the burn. Yesterday I went to Alexandria but had to be back to play a parade and review for some guy who was to be retired on thirty years. Yesterday like on Saturday my mission was fruitless now the kid has decided to give up the idea of fixing his motorcycle.

When I wrote your last letter I meant to tell you something but forgot honey. That painting got here from Nicaragua but it got spoiled in the mail it stuck and pulled the paint off in places. Im sorry its spoiled sweetheart cause I had my heart set on its being good. Im not going to tell the kid who painted it wither, cause he worked so hard on it that it would be a shame to tell him. He sure tried his best.

Im sore today cause I sent for writing material to the Post exchange and this is what they sent me for while now Im just boiling over Ive got it now though so you'll have to put up with it for a while at least.

Well honey it can't be very long now, only 28 more days and a short sleep. Im sure counting those days now and I can hardly wait for them to pass. They are starting to realize now that they are about to lose a clarinet player for good. Theyve been trying all the tricks of the trade here for the last few days, but now Im having my day.

I haven't heard from my dad for some time now but I guess thats because hes pretty busy right now hes probably working day and night now. I haven't had a line from Erv for a long time either. I think Ill write to my dad and to Erv today just to be mean.

Tomorrow is the glorious fourth again. Know where I was a year ago today? I was about half way between, "Limay," and, "Pueblo Nuevo," Nicaragua, and in the first real contact I was in with bandit forces about this time (10:30 A.M.) we were sweating like niggers trying to get out of a triangular ambush and in getting out of it we chased them off the beaten path and got lost. Well I guess we can thank God that thats over with and that Im back in a civilized country. Just the sam I never will forget how good, "Pueblo Nuevo" looked to us when we finally did get there ont eh afternoon of July 4th just as a patrol was starting out to assist us, and the hard tack and slop they fed us tasted like a kings feast.

Well honey I guess this is all for this time so Ill close now with Love and Kisses from

Your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch
Jul 1929 [return address] from E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

July 8 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

I haven't heard from you for a few days now. Whats the matter? Is your write hand on the blink? Ive missed those letters honey and I hope I have one tomorrow morning. Don't lets give up now honey with only 23 days to do weve stuck so long so lets see if we can't stick it out for the next 23 days.

We had liberty from last Wednesday noon till today on account of the 4th of July. I never even left the barracks and those of us who stayed behind had to fall out to meet the reserves when they came in yesterday. We made four formations and it sure was hot. I sweated everything from blood to Limeade.

Do you remember ~~may~~ my saying something here some time ago of trying to send for a box I had stored with come clothes and stuff in it? I guess its lost cause I can't seem to get a line on it. Ive tried every way I know of too.

Today I worked all day trying to get a cabinet bult into our new quarters to put our misucal library into. They always call on the Great private when they want any thing like that done. I guess by the time I get those quarters fixed up the way they want them Ill be just about ready to get paid off.

This coming Thursday the band goes to Baltimore with the Baseball team. I guess Ill have to go again we'll have liberty till Monday A.M. if we choose. I do not choose to run. Im coming back right after the game on the special train.

Tomorrow we move to our new home, lock, stock, and saddle. I ate dinner there this noon and theyve sure got every thing modern in there but Im not going to like it. Id rather get discharged.

I was asked to extend two years for China today. Shall I? I guess you know what my answer was.

This is all for today honey just in case that letter gets here tomorrow so I can answer it with much love for Bea. From

Her
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope:

To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch 1929
[return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

July 12 1929 Quantico Va.

Dearest:

I received your letter today while I was working. Oh yes I do that little thing every once in a while. I think I told you about that job the other day so I won't go all over that again.

Yesterday we went to Baltimore to play their Firemen a game of baseball. The sheering section went up in a small bunch of two thousand. We had a great old time and beat them an easy game with a score of 6 – 2 using a second string team. General Buttler himself helped the sheer leaders and we sure made whoopee after the game the band started a crazy snake dance and two thousand equally crazy Marine Regulars and Reserves joined us. I took the first train to leave after the game and got back here about 11:00 P.M. I arose this morning in time for breakfast and started right in to towk and stayed at it till 5:00 P.M. when I quit for chow and now Im writing this. Some day, isn't it?

Yes its true that the majority rules honey and it holds good in this case only in this case the Marine Corps is not the majority, the majority lives in Cleveland this time on Wetzel Ave. I was urged to ship over again today and promised some married mens quarters, subsistence, a good job and a good rating. I told them to try to induce you to aggree cause I know you'll never say yes. Ive only got 18 days and a nap now honey so it can't be long.

The Glorious fourth wasn't so hot for me. I stayed in and saved my money. I wish Id had some place to go but my buddy from out in the country was visiting at his mother in laws and I didn't have any place else to go so I stayed in.

Sure Ill teach you to swim if you'll risk getting a mouthfull of water every once in a while cause I simply can't resist ducking my students every once in so often. I haven't been in swimming in a long, long time now and Im not going in here cause this river is so filthy and it's the only place around here to swim.

You are always telling me about El having to work just what kind of work does she do that keeps here busy day and night. Give me the low down.

Gee honey I can hardly realize that Ive only got 18 more days to do and I can hardly wait till I get home to you again. Im glad Ive got some work to occupy my thoughts or the days would drag even slower than they are and I love you so much honey that Id go crazy if I had to lay around here doing band duty or just laying around doing nothing. I want to get home so I can take you into my arms and kiss you again and squeeze you so Ill know that its not only a pleasant dream, cause Im always afraid Ill wake up and find out that it is only a dream.

Tonight we have another smoker here and although Im excused from all musical duties still Im going over and play with the rest of the band for the smoker cause then Ill get a better seat.

I guess Id better close now honey and get this into the mails so write soon honey to Your

Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Virginia

"To the day"

July 13, 1929 Quantico Va.

Dearest One:

Im going to try to relieve my feeliungs tonight by writing you a few lines it does help to tell someone you know.

Today I got restless and dropped all my work to go out to my old Pal Stankus' place and found out that they had lost their baby. I believe it hit me most as hard as it did them cause I was getting to like the baby real well. My pal runs around in a stupor and is trying to drown his sorrows. His wife is hysterical and is staying at her mothers. I sure feel sorry for them and I only hope that nothing like that may ever happen if I should be lucky enough to become a father, especially of a boy.

Im down to 17 days and an extra breakfast now honey and when I get this letter done Im going to go to bed and not wake up till Im down to 16 days. I hope tomorrow will go faster than today did. I don't suppose it will go faster though most probably slower if any thing.

I wish you were here right now sweetheart even for only an hour it would help these last few days to pass quicker. I love you so much that its misery for me here but weve stood it this long and I guess we'll be able to stand it these few days more, dont you?

Tonight a detail left (10 minutes ago) for Haiti and its sure nice to be able to sit still and not worry about getting caught for it. They seem to be making a lot of tropical replacements right now. That detail left today and a nice big one goes to (Shanghai China) on the twenty third, and another one is standing be for Nicaragua on the first available transport. I certainly saw a lot in the last year and a half, a nice part of this old universe but Im glad its all over now and Im willing to settle down in Cleveland now and see if I can't build a home for myself. I sure need one, or at least I will when I get paid off. I wonder what kind of a sensation it is to have a home, a real one I mean, not like Quantico. I really don't know what its like anymore cause it's a long time now since Ive had a home.

I went to the smoker last night and saw a couple of pretty good fights in the preliminaries and a welterweight fight for the champiounship of the post and a lightweight fight for the lightweight title of Quantico both were good fights and showed plenty of action, speed, science, and ring knowledge.

I havent heard from my dad yet and don't expect to for a couple of days yet but what I can't figure out for myself is why Erv don't write. I must have said something to peeve him, although I can't figure what it could have been. Ill find out sooner or later if he don't write soon why Ill get to see him personally and find out.

Well sweetheart I love you more than ever and a letter every now and then helps when it comes from the one you love so lets have a letter or two in the next mail for

Your same old
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P. and lots of hugs and squeezes

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

July 14 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

I have before me another one of your letters, one that arrived here just a few minutes ago so Im going to try to answer it. I wrote one letter last night but haven't mailed it yet because there is no mail box handy and I havent had a chance to walk a half a mile to the post office so when I do go Ill be mailing more than one letter.

No honey I didn't think you had given up the ship with 23 days to go. I don't know why I ever wrote that or what I meant by it. Im sorry honey. I guess my mind must have been wandering again. Today its down to 16 days and a discharge it seems as though those days are extra long just because we are counting them.

I could probably interpret El's remark about the Giraffs throat if I tried but Im darned if Im going to do any explaining on paper to easy to put down just the opposite of what you mean on paper.

The new quarters here are quite nice even though everything is very regulation in them but I have seen better built and more comfortable barracks in my time. The ones at San Diego, Cal. are like night and day compared to these beside those these barracks would look, well like a chicken coop.

Well honey it can't be so very long now till Ill be with you for ever and there will be no more squads right. I guess all we can do for the present is to stand fast and wait for these next few days to pass so we can start planning and plotting.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Barracks 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"to the day"

July 17 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

Here it is ~~Tuesday~~ Wednesday night and only 13 days and a cup of coffee and a slice of bread to do. The coffee and bread is my Wednesday breakfast cause I don't like the way they scramble eggs here anyway it won't be long now till Im out of here for good and all. I was asked to ship over again to take over the Post Band property the inducements were Pfc. 3rd class, quarters and subsistence which would give me about \$78 per month. My answer was

No!!!

Oh yes, I was also reminded that I could have a 90 day furlough and that Id get \$100 for shipping over. The bait however didn't look tempting enough. They should have showed their appreciation by giving me those rates while I still had time to do. They just missed their chance. I was supposed to go fishing tonight but Ive decided to let that pass and go to sleep instead and when I wake up again Ill only have 12 and a fraction days to do. My record book got cleared out and all my accounts closed yesterday and I was asked to ship onto the Reserves that is class three, all ex marines no drill or training to do but only in case of war they would most probably call me with the first, unless I got married in which case I wouldn't be called till those who were exempt for that reason are called its nothing more than a right to still call myself a Marine even though Im a civilian. I was in the office when the Company Commander closed out my record book and saw what averages he gave me. Ive got one 4.8, one 4.9 and two 5 which makes for Excellents cause 5 is the best mark there is and nearly all of my marks are 5s. Im getting an excellent discharge but my summary court that I got in 1926 bars me from getting a good conduct medal but I don't give a rap cause the medal don't mean any thing anyway and you don't wear something like that with civilian clothes anyway. So much for that Ill soon get that discharge and then I can tell you about it instead of writing it.

Have you heard from Lill in the last few weeks? Even she seems to have turned silent now. I can't understand all their silence for some reason or another even Erv my old faithfull pal has quit writing.

Well honey Ill see you on the night of August the first but lets not plan ahead again.

Im not going to the show tonight they are showing one of those wild west pictures again so Ill stay in and sort some of my junk and pack what I won't need in my trunk so I can get it out of the way for the two inspections Ive got to stand yet.

Listen honey Im due for discharge on a Wednesday morning at 10:00 A.M. and Ill get to Cleveland on Thursday and Ill get me a place to stay that is roon and board and then Ill come right out to the house so Ill have Thursday and Friday night with you honey but Saturday afternoon Ill have to give my dad a visit and Ill come back some time Sunday night so Ill be able to see you again on Monday. I

hate to think of being forced to leave you for two days when Ive just hardly got back but Ive simply got to do it honey cause I owe that much to my father and it would look bad if I didn't go to see him when I get out. I thought at first that we could both go down Saturday afternoon but they would want me to stay over night and spend Sunday with them and it wouldn't be just the conversational thing for us to do anyway, would it? any way Id have to go on the train so you wouldn't want to go along I know. I wish I could take you along though sweetheart cause the folks are most as anxious to see you again as they are to see me and Im figuring on making my first trip to church as a civilian out there and I sure would like to have you along on my first trip cause Ill sure have plenty to be thankfull for. Id like to make my return to religion with you and my dad. Oh well Im planning ahead again and this is just what we decided not to do still planning and dreaming makes the time pass so much quicker.

Well honey I guess Ive bothered you enough and said exactly nothing ao Ill quit for tonight with love & kisses

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

July 18 quantico Va.

Dearest:

I received three letters this morning. One from you one from Lill and one from my dad. The only prodigal now is Erv and I expect Ill hear from him too in good time.

My dad wrote me a nice long letter and he's included another invite for your folks and you to visit him some time for a weekend. Thre's horses cows and calves for you to hug and Ill be along in case you run out of hugging material then too theres some nice hills orchards and a bit of woods for you to stroll through. Dad says hes had as many as 18 guests to stay over night so I guess he can find room for all of us to stay.

Ive only got 12 days and a flop to serve honey but Ive got to have time to get to Cleveland you know so it will be two weeks from today before you will see me but when you do Stand by!

No I don't mind the girls going along to Milton Dam in the least bit, in fact Ill be as glad to have them as you will. Lill and her Ben want us to go along with tehmsome time too. They want to go to Cedar Point by boat.

I try not to plan ahead too but it is such jolly good fun planning for us after being away for so long that I just cant resist the temptation and I continually catch myself planning way ahead.

I guess you are right. This Marine Corps has had me long enough at that.

We will have to celebrate some way though when I get out. I guess we'll have to celebrate by coming down the pole a few foot about a quart or two.

Tomorrow I stand one of the two inspections Ive got coming yet and after that Ive got only one more.

Well honey Ill see you soon and in the mean time write often to

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day"

10 and

July 20 Quantico Va.

Dearest:

Ive just returned from an afternoon spent in trying to lure about a four pound bass out of his retreat and induce him to tackle a pork rind. No success, maybe we'll do better next time.

Yesterday I got the long awaited letter from Mr. Erv. Laykum, this A.M. I received your letter, or at least I guess it was this morning. I was working in another part of the building and went fishing right from there.

Gee honey youve sure got a lot of ambition, getting up at two oclock in the morning has to mean more than just getting a look at an airplance for me or I wouldn't get up it would have to be something important like a bottle of beer or wine or a fight or some thing on that order even something to eat wouldn't get me out at that time.

I can't seem to get the idea through my ivory that after 10 days I can come to you and stay for good. I always feel like sooner or later the furlough will be over I can't realize that its not only a leave but a discharge Ill get.

Erv wants to know what train Im coming in on so he can come and meet the train but I don't want to put him to all that trouble cause Ill be so busy finding a home and then getting my trunk and stuff there that Im going to be on the move all day long in fact Ill have to move like a cyclone to get all that done before midnight so I can get out to see you. Ill probably get out there early enough though if I have to leave my trunk set in the middle of the public square. I don't know yet but what Ill drive up with one of the fellows here who is thinking of coming up there to work. He gets out Tuesday but is going to visit some friends in Washington for a week and in the meantime he'll decide where he's going to.

Im darn glad now that I didn't ship over when they made me that nice offer because things are starting to get quite regulation now just like I thought they would an inspection of quarters every morning at ten oclock by the officer of the day and that includes every Sunday and holiday. Thats not going to affect those who live in private quarters, that is married mens quarters but it will be a pain in the ear even to those men.

Well honey Ive got to close now to go get my supper but it won't be long now till you can see

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine
Branch Jul 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Virginia

"To the day" (one figure) 8 &

July 22 Post Band quantico

Dearest:

I kind of expected a letter today but someway or another (no soap) I think Ill have one tomorrow though. I feel it in my bones, just like I felt sure that we would catch some bass today and we did. We got a couple, neither over two pounds but both put up a nice fight till I got the landing net under them in fact one of them gave me a bad two minutes and nearly spilled the boat on me. I like to fish and I believe Ill have to get myself some tackle when I get out so we can go out once in a while and try our luck. Just think honey another eight days and a sleep and Ill be able to come home and we'll be able to plan all kinds of things like that.

Im not doing much of anything in the line of duty right now. This morning I worked about one hour and a half as chief electrician and when I finished I put on my hat and went fishing. Im not doing any band duty right now and probably wont do any for the rest of the time Im here. I think Ill just spend my last week in pursuing the little fishes next to horse races, catching fish is the best sport.

Tonight when I get this letter done Im going to work on a stencil Im making to paint a Marine emblem onto my hand bag with also a Cuban and Haiti flag and a small map fothe Panama Canal. The Marine emblem is going to be the hardest though cause its going to be two colored.

Well honey I guess that will be all except for some love and kisses from

Your Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Marine Branch Jul 1929 [return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day" 6 and

July 24, 1929 Quantico Virginia

Dearest:

I was exceptionally lucky today in so much that I received two letters, one from you and another from Erv. He still wants me to let him know on what train Ill be in so he can meet me and help me not to get lost in my home town. I don't know yet just what arrangements Ill make but I suppose Ill let him know and Ill tell him before hand though that Ive got a date for as soon as I get straightened out in my nw home so he won't be expecting me to spend the evening at his house.

Judging from your letter you must have gotten over that long spell of the blues that you had. Thats the stuff sweetheart just, "smile and the world smiles with you." Youve heard that old saying before, havent you?

Yes according to rules and regulations I should go to see my folks first, but to h - -? with rules and also the regulations for good measure. Ive a more important mission to attend to first.

Now Im most certain sweetheart that you are the most remarkable woman Ive ever known or heard of. Most certainly you are the only one that ever told anyone that she gets tired of taking after just so much of it. Ho! Ho! Thats one good one on you. Ill have to call you – well, un, feminine, after this. Shall I?

Well honey I think my working days here are just about over with. I think Ill just fish, loaf, and eat and sleep for the next six days.

I have a letter in my box that I wrote the other day but Ive forgotten to mail it. Ill try to get it off tonight. I guess its to late to catch tonights train but it will at least go out first thing in the morning.

Well honey one week from now Ill be in Pittsburgh on my way home. Ill close now and try to get these letters off so love and Kisses from

Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Jul 27 1929
[return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band Quantico Va.

"To the day" 4 and 1 turn over

July 26, 1929 quantico Virginia

Dearest One:

My box at Hampton Road was finally located and I received it yesterday. All the old letters I had stored in it were safe also the books, but everything else was stolen. Oh well I hope who ever got the rest of the clothes has a good time with them and Im happy to know your letters are intact.

I read some of the older ones and those Id received from the time I came back from furlough till the time a left and now Im more convinced than ever that you are the best little sweetheart a man could want it won't be long though honey until Ill be home and in a position to show you that I appreciate your sticking by me through all this. I stood my last commanding officers inspection this morning and next Wednesday morning about 10:00 A.M. I get the little old discharge and Ill hop on the old train that leaves here after dinner and Ill be on my long furlough.

The band office are trying their best in a silent way now to induce me to ship over by showing me how easy the police sgts job is they are putting me in charge of three working details from tomorrow till Monday. Well Ill do my work and leave it go at that. I wouldn't ship over now if they fed me with golden dishes.

I went fishing again this afternoon but the luck wasn't as good as yesterday cause I got two 3 pounders, two, two pounders and one 1 pounder yesterday while today I only got one and it was a bare 1 ½ pounds. They just wouldn't hit today.

We had an extra smoker here last night. We generally only have one a month but this month we had two. Last nights was not intra post, but the Navy Reserve cahmps. We took all but one fight. I didn't go to see these fights however. I was to occupied reading some of your old letters. When I get his letter done Im going to read some more of the old ones seeing as everyone is at the show and Ill have plenty of time and everything is very tranquill around here.

My Bunkie says to tell you that I bawled him out for not having ink to match mine. But beggers cant be choosers and my ink well ran dry at the same time my pen did so you'll have to excuse it. Red says hes sorry but he'll try to do better next time.

You should see the nice coat of tan Ive acquired again since I took to fishing the back channels of this Potomac River. This will almost match the one I had in (dear) old Nicaragua. One of the fellows who were on the gook patrol with me (my assistant auto rifle man in fact) is back here now and we were talking about the big patrol and the gooks I shot off a hill on the "Maculisa" trail and I find its much easier to talk about it now that there is no chance of going back there. Those gooks don't even bother my conscience any more.

Well honey Ill try to write again Sunday or Monday but Ill have to work all day tomorrow, Sunday, and Monday and I may be pretty tired but Ill try, and Tuesday I clear out and get my final medical examination and Wednesday is the big day so if I don't get a chance to write dont worry cause Ill see you next Thursday.

Love Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 41

Envelope: To Beatrice Keeran 4805 Wetzel Ave Cleveland Ohio [cancelled] Quantico Va Jul 30 1929
[return address] From E.G. Thomas Post Band quantico Virginia

"To the day" 1 &

July 29 9:00 P.M. Eastern Standard

Dearest:

One more day and an extra flop. I guess it can't be very long now. Ive been busier than a one legged clog dancer here today. Ive spent all night so far re packing my clothes and effects. Oh this is only the fifth time. Ill have to repack them again tomorrow so Ill be all set for Wednesday.

Tomorrow morning I start clearing out and taking ten or twenty physical examinations for discharge then when Im all cleared out Im going on liberty to pay my buddy out in the country a last visit and help him drink some of the beer hes made for the occasion. He's quit heavy booze not too. Oh he'll take a drink when its offered him just to be sociable just like I would, but weve both quit hitting it hard. We want light wine and beer only.

I got a final letter from Lill today. She seems to be almost as anxious to have me home as you and I are that I should get there. I don't know if Ill get a chance to write her another letter tomorrow. I doubt it. This will probably be my final one to you honey but Ill see you on Thursday night so why worry. I may get to you the same time as this letter does at that. (?Quien Sabe?) or in words to the same effect, (Who knows?)

Well honey Ive finally managed to catch the crook who had my pencil (Red-handed) He stole a pistol and I was instrumental in bringing it to light and in having him locked up. He wouldn't fight me even though he is twice as big as I am so I took what chance I had of getting even with him. Ive tried three hundred times at least to get him to swing at me just once but he wouldn't fight. Now he will get a straight kick out of the service.

Well honey, dont expect me out till about 6:00 or 7:00 P.M. on Thursday but don't lock the doors cause I may be out by 5:30 if I can get straight by then, so until Thursday night Lover & Kisses

From Your
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX 40 C.P.

Box 4, folder 43

Friday [October 7, 1927]

Dearest:

Ive just had three finders lanced today because they were infected so I don't know how much of this you will be able to read. Im writing this while the boys are eating their dinner cause weve to police work today and Ive got to work even with sore hands.

Now for the bad news honey. My furlough has been revoked and sent back so I can't come but I will come at Xmas if its possible. Im sending you ring in this box sorry I couldn't get a regular ring box but they dont keep them here I got it cut down in Fredricksburgh so it should fit now. I hope you like it. It's the closest I could get to the other one that you wanted. All I can do now is to hope you like it.

Well honey I dont know how much of this you will be able to read so Ill close with love

Your lonesome
Porter

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

O

Box 4, folder 43

Oct. 14, 1923

Dear Bee:

Please explain the cold reception

Porter

[no date]

Beatrice Keeran

Beatrice:

I am leaving at the end of the eighth today so long see you tomorrow

Porter

[no date]

Beatrice Keeran

Dear Bee:

Dont wait for me tonight but do wait for me tomorrow find out tonight if you can go with me to the public speaking contest excuse my scribble

I remain

Porter