

21st September, 1945

Dear Sue,

It was good to hear from you again and to know that you are still in the USA. Now that the fighting end of the War is over I hope that you will be able to go home soon.

I've been leading my usual drab existence and despite over four and one-half years in this Army I have yet to go to any school. The life you have been leading along with your co-classmates left you very little time to yourself and I question the wisdom of the powers that be in having so rigid a schedule. There should be more time for recreation even if it meant cutting down classes and giving some of the school day to supervised study other than doing all the studying at night.

Retreat is still held every Wednesday evening here at Devens but the Post as a whole does not stand it. Generally of late there have been awards of medals to soldiers and to the kin of those who have made the supreme sacrifice and at this ceremony one of the MP Battalions have been present.

Your old company is pretty well shot and this month they were literally kicked out of their old company area and moved up nearer the old Service Club. The Company is down to about ninety girls and Capt Heidi Howell is still in charge. Lt Riale is still at the old area. The old area is now a War Department Personnel Center WAC Co and there must be over 200 new girls in that outfit. There were too many for all to stay so our old girls had to move. The qrs they moved into were and are a far cry from what they left. I haven't seen Heidi Howell to speak to since the latest move. I had heard that she was in the hospital but she didn't stay long. I'd have gone up to see her if I knew in time.

Quite a number of the old WAC Company have left or will soon leave for home. Helen Jamieson Pretty is getting out this month and will head for Tennessee where her husband, Lawrence, is stationed. He is back from overseas. Also leaving this month will be Lillian Harte and Estella Oswalt. All of these are on age. Some of the girls' husbands have come back with sufficient points to get out and when they leave the girls put in for discharge. Among them have been Charlotte Gardner and Ruth Harris.

Evelyn

Eveyn "Fliss" Bell one of your old basketball players is back in the Co serving as company clerk. Mrs Cheney is still on hand.

Mary Lewis is soon to go on a 30 day furlough which she'll spend in a joyful reunion with her husband Robert who has been in England during the past years with the Air Forces. Mary is a splendid young woman.

Early this month Vernice Jaques trfd to the Letterman General Hospital in California which brings her not too far from her home in San Francisco.

Have just reread your letter and I would not have bothered telling you about the move of your old outfit if I had remembered that Heidi told you all about it.

Anent the WACS getting commissioned Warrant Officers. They just take the exams and if they pass and appointments are available they are commissioned. So far as the Post is concerned I don't know of any WAC Warrant Officers.

Guess that Billie Block is still at Devens in the Personnel Ctr WAC Co but I seldom see her. May Levasseur is still with the old outfit and I see her occasion-

You must have
back some?

enuf points to get out under the new set-up. Are you itching to get

It must be almost a year since you and Bette and Iris were whisked away with so little notice. It was only last week that I came across a copy of the Digest with three smiling faces on the first page. That was a dandy picture. Iris writes to PRO occasionally. Dick Murphy of Public Relations will soon be leaving the Army on age-over 35. Dick has served over three years. As for myself I, too, can leave any day on age. Right now I am at home in Cambridge on a ten day furlough and the first one I've had since I had a ten day delay enroute to the RC for reassignment and overseas service back in May 1944.

How proficient have you become in learning Japanese? How many characters have you mastered?

Lois Yothers Frost is at home in Montana with her husband Jack. Generally the wife lives in the husband's home territory but in this case it is the reverse. Ella Yothers also got married but her husband is still in the Service here at Devens. Ange Farone got married in August and she is now out of the Service along with her husband Mary Portwood is the new supply sgt tho like Ange she is only a Tec 5. Ange did have a Tec 4 for three or four months.

Arlene Robinson spent about six weeks taking a course at Personal Services School in Maryland and when she came back was not assigned to Personal Services but to Special Service. Now she is working in the library at Service Club No 1.

I'm going to try to remember to send you copies of some of the latest Digests.

Best wishes as ever to you and your old Devens companion.

Sincerely,

Bernie