

Monday
May 13, 1943

Dear Mom:

Many thanks for your nice letter received Saturday morning; also for sending Fred's, which I am returning. Am wondering how long he will be at that camp. It certainly sounds to me like a jumping off place for overseas. Time will tell. If he should go over, all we can do is hope for the best and realize that he wanted to go.

How nice that you are making some money once again! And have the Rands back, to boot! They were so nice. I hope you like the second couple as well. I only hope Mrs. Rand keeps healthy this time, though. I guess you're glad to have some people in the house once again. Hope they stay for a while, at least.

I also got an invitation to Sylvia's wedding. Would like to come home for it and would come home that weekend instead of over the holiday if I had somewhere to go for the long weekend. Don't think I want to stay here for the three days when I could come home. So, at this writing, I guess I will forego the Knowlton wedding. However, if it looks as though they might restrict train travel over Memorial Day, will come home for the 15th instead. Will hold off answering the invitation a little while. What are your thoughts on the subject? I haven't bought either her's or Alice's present yet but am going to do so this week.

After my nice rest at home last weekend, I was full of pep and feeling fine all last week; was very efficient here at the office, etc. Friday night I went to a stupid USO party with Harriet & Helen. Saturday was a gorgeous day, although cool and quite windy. I spent most of the day uptown shopping for Dot but had lots of fun doing it. All the little dresses I looked at for Ann were so darling it was terribly hard to know which ones to pick. But I picked three for her, two dresses for Dot, and a little blue wash suit for Jon. Sent them all to her in two packages this noon. If she doesn't want any one of them, she can return them. I also bought a tablecloth with four napkins for our apartment when we have company and the darlinest little hurricane lamp ~~and~~ a candle for a centerpiece. It's just about time we got dolled up a little. I also bought (out of house money) a gay chintz bedspread for my bed. Have had nothing on it all winter but the old green blanket. The white spread you sent was much too big and got too dirty easily. I have had it laundered and will send it up to you one of these days.

Saturday evening, my roommates all went to the movies. I wasn't in the mood, so I worked all evening. Cleaned my bedroom, washed some winter nighties, and packed winter dresses in the laundry case to send home shortly. When you get it (I plan to send it sometime this week) it might be a good idea to put the things out on the line in the sun. I guess they need an airing. Then I will put them away when I am home.

Sunday Jean and I were alone. We went up to the Cathedral of St. John's. And in the midst of the sermon, we had a test air raid, only I think most people there thought it was the real thing. I even got scared myself at first. Anyway, it was announced that we were to take our hymnals and sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and all file out and downstairs to the crypt, which we did without a hitch, the choir and priests leading the way, with the cross & candles. The whole thing was very solemn and too impressive. They continued with the sermon and the communion service down under. Quite an experience.

We had dinner at home. I made a nice prune whip with nuts in it and put it in the oven and baked it. Yum, Yum! Rested & puttered around in the afternoon and went to a USO party at the Barnard Club in the evening. Not too exciting this time.

I guess I didn't tell you about having dinner with Eleanor Caswell and her husband, and doctor and lieutenant in the Navy. They have a very attractive apartment on E. 68 St. between 2nd & 1st avenues. They have quite a large living room with fireplace, nice bedroom and tiny kitchen, all very attractively furnished - oriental rugs, green painted walls, gay yellow slip covers in the livingroom and nice mahogany furniture in the bedroom. Her husband is very nice. Had a very easy supper - tomato soup, lamb chops, baked potatoes, string beans & grapefruit. All served very nicely, however. Afterwards, while it was still light we took a walk over around the hospital grounds where he is stationed.

Nothing special planned for this week. This is the week Alice said she was coming down so I will probably see her some day for lunch if she doesn't spend the night with us. Must write to Dot now and give her a detailed account of the purchases, so will close until the next time.

Heaps of love,

Julia

Wednesday, May 5, 1943

Dear Mom:

Tomorrow morning I'm going to mail the laundry case, with a little package in it for you for Sunday. Please do not open it until then. I am going to try to find some ribbon to do it up prettily with but if I can't, please excuse it. And don't think I've gone completely nutty when you see what the present is, although perhaps I have. But I bought two wedding presents yesterday, so was in the mood. I even went so far as to buy what I bought for you, only different, for the apartment. I started looking for these for the wedding presents, but didn't get them. For Alice I got a pair of heavy, clear crystal combination flower bowl and candle holder. For Sylvia I got a pair of small crystal vases that can be used for flowers or cigarette holders. They are very pretty little things. I got both presents at Black, Starr & Gorham. They have such pretty things in there and not too expensive either.

Uncle Jack called me up the other night but I wasn't home. Called up last night but he had gone on a trip to Pennsylvania.

Am enclosing enclosing clippings about the practise air raid last Sunday. I guess I was in a pretty dramatic spot at the time. Would you send the one about St. John's back because Jean would like to send it to her people.

If you don't want to go to Sylvia's wedding and I don't come home for it, why don't you come down here for that weekend and as long as you like? Now that you have someone in the house, you wouldn't have to shut it up and they can take care of Sandy. Also, you ought to come before it would be too hot and I want you to see the apartment. At last my little back room is beginning to look like something, with the new spread and Monday night we made a pretty green cover for the trunk. We are only about six months late in getting it in order. Please think about this coming down and I think it would be nice for you if you did. And you ought to take a few days off before the hot weather comes.

This is a beautiful spring day. Will be busy at the office the rest of the week as there is a meeting here on Friday. Will close now and send

Best love, as ever,

Julia
am doing something with Hildegard tomorrow night.

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