

THE LETTER THAT ENDED THE WAR

Dear Joe,

Nothing much doing around here. I sure envy you out there in the Pacific in the thick of things. Bet you never have a dull moment.

I was out to see your wife last night and read a lot of your letters. They're a little mushy, but I don't blame you. Cora is such a swell girl. Wonderful figure, looks and personality and guys still whistle at her when she walks down the street.

Your brother-in-law, Smedley, dropped in too. He was wearing that new brown suit you bought just before you were drafted. Cora gave it to him as she was afraid it would be out of style before you came back. Several other couples came in and we killed two cases of beer. We all wanted to chip in for it but Cora wouldn't let us, said you always send \$ 10 or \$ 20 extra for her to spend as she pleases. She also gave me two of those nifty five buck ties of yours; they're the classiest I ever wore. One of the guys is going to buy your new set of golf clubs, too. He offered \$ 25 for them and he is going to pick them up tomorrow.

Well, Cora sure was the life of the party. I thought she'd be a little shaken up after the car accident last week with the Chevy, but you'd never know she was in a head-on collision and smashed her machine to bits. The other driver is still in the hospital and is threatening to sue. Too bad Cora forgot to pay the insurance, but she says she is not worried. We all admire her courage and nonchalance, but especially her being willing to mortgage the house to pay the bill. Good thing you gave her that power of attorney before you left.

To get back to the party. You should have seen Cora do an imitation of Gypsy Rose Lee. She's really a card. Still full of pep and energy when we said goodnight to her and Claude. Guess you know Claude is rooming at your house. It's nearer his work and he says he saves on gas and lunch. He says Cora can cook the best bacon and eggs in the world and can do things to a steak. You don't have to worry about her ration points because Claude knows a butcher down the street, a cousin of the guy he gets all of his gasoline from.

Nothing new with me except my wife got a raise... \$ 85 a week... So we're okay now with the \$ 60 I get at the office. It's getting late so I better stop. I can see across the lawn onto your front porch.... Cora and Claude are having a nightcap on the swing. He's wearing that smoking jacket you always wore so much. Well, so long chum. I sure wish I could be over there with you....

Your pal,

Bill