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Sat. evening the 13th

Dearest Son:

Your letter rec'd this morn. I guess it all has been pretty bad. I've always heard that, but then I've also " " that it eased up at the last. Well, anyhow, it soon will be a memory, the internship, and another milestone. We realize war conditions have changed it for the worst as well as everything else. (Our generation just will have to expect and put up with one hardship after another till you die, you know, harsh as it sounds!)

Why don't you promptly get engaged if you've found the gal you love? Going to war as you are, marrying doesn't sound like a bad idea to me. Some oldsters are strong agin it; their arguments all ~~sound~~ ^{are} sane and logical. But me, - in the very few cases I've been at all close to, I've felt "go ahead", why not? invariably.

The cheap romance, the rough stuff type, the newspaper corner square kind, you and I, we have no connection with. If Muriel is a girl to live with and love a long while you'll probably be much happier married to her before you go. Who knows, you might stay right in U.S. and have her with you.

Knowing nothing about it all I'm probably talking too much. She sounds good, if you've picked her betcha she is. Should I ask how she feels about it? This much I will say. What ever you do, we will make it work until you can. If money is a stop, we'll supply it. I've seen dozens of ^{parents} people I do know do the same. You know while you were in school I couldn't see it. This is very different.

We find it next to impossible of course these days even on an increased salary to save a cent, but we have some saved which is, quite naturally, yours as well as ours.

Just figure a little and name how much an engagement or a marriage might entail.

Remember Dad's father did exactly that for him. We were helped and how, until Chris got to making, - even then. She might not wait the duration. (Don't say I blame a girl for that) and if you love her a lot you might lose her. - On none of this can I write, really, because I know so little.

Her people furnish the wedding you know, or mostly. As to the engagement - of course it takes money, and a ring. I had always kinda thought I'd give you mine, but I find now I'm not old enough to part with that.

over

So you & she together can shop and pick a nice little stone and ring of her choice. You'll have the money and more if you want her and the ring on her finger.

(I mustn't get to sounding like Aunt Bert, here. The old time phrases are very prevalent, tho.)

Is this the girl Elliott went with some? What's she like? We'll be pleased, Don, you can lean on that, and we ^{Wade's} have each other, Thank God, to carry on along. Marrying Muriel your career, after ^{the war}, will most likely be in New England somewhere. Not hard to take, would it be? I can think of so many worse places.

You kinda sound to me as if you had it pretty bad. And Washington so far away as of today, too.

Your leave, - is it thirty days?
We finance a honeymoon, - you come
here at the end? On your way to
some training place or hospital? Not
bad.

By the by I hear Webb plans on staying
put right there." He is a Resident -
and he expects to remain right in
Van Brigger". So? Could be?

Why not take the arranged
week with Muriel? Or does her
job stop that?

You'll have to get me up to
date, and more frequently or there
will be more I don't understand
to write about or guess at than
there should be.

Finally, we're for it if it is
what you and she want and
will back you up to the limit
to have it done nicely and mean

a pleasant, right future life for you both!
Why not?

Chery Car: — Dad says he has repeatedly told you to do about that exactly what you think best. How do we know how much gas you get, — etc. As for my views I would suggest if possible you use it till you have to leave the country. However, if a right price is obtainable ~~but~~ just as you leave for the Navy, you might be saved a lot of worry & needless expense. Officers are hit right & left with surprising clips out of the paycheck I've heard.

Can't you express the belongings if I am to keep them? I'd keep ^{all the} things somewhere, believe me, cause, (why mention it? $\frac{1}{2}$ we can't get 'em anymore, nor no telling when.

The car money is yours, of course, — and I agree, you can probably get more there. Work at it a little, — to get all you can.

Don-ald, — Frustration; — harassment? They sound quite a little like love, — to an old lady! The uniforms are the same as done, me laddie, ol' salt, Sir. It will fit them well, Uncle Sam. Only (wail, wail) don't be so damn anxious to see the world & be crazy enough to ask for Africa or the Solomons. Too dangerous and oh so far, fur away. You'll have more travel when older. Get into the big new Navy hospital there in — ^{Bethesda?} Maryland, isn't it?

Collect the belonging — your near future plans should tell you where to store 'em, there or here.

I had just a line Fri. Maryellen & Lucile McPardee are coming here Sun nite for a visit. I have cooked & prepared all day. Can they take the snoring the visit should be a success. Costive. Lucy practically invited her little self; or at least M^c said us and stuck to it.

Bruce Lemon is expecting a baby in June or July. Hal Johnson's little wife seems mighty sweet. I saw her at Tishas at a party. Willis's wife & 5 year old baby were there, too. He's a Post instructor in Smyrna, Tenn.

Tell me more about Muriel, if you want to. Are you now a pretty good Doc? Personality nice and bedside manners heavenly? Nurses hate or adore yub?

Don't be so serious, Dad. Grin, — and like it. And for Goshake, even a card a little oftener. Roughly
Mom.

Dad says he doesn't
care for my letter.
Said too much
about your business,
and the part about
your living in New
England is ~~+~~ displeasing
him 'cause you're to
live where you damn
please; + probably, he says,
NE is a poor place for
a Doctor. I gather I should
have written one line: —
We're for you, — suit yourself.
(Always did talk too much!)