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### 1945-02-19, Walter to Florence

Walter Keeler

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## 1945-02-19, Walter to Florence

### Keywords

correspondence, Florence Messner, 1945, Tonopah, Los Angeles, longing, romance, health, telephone, aircraft, aviation weather, loneliness, snow storm, danger, Spokane, Galena Field, Davenport Hotel, navigation, alcohol, fedelity, telephone, labour

### Identifier

2016.134.w.r\_003

1st Lt. Walter Keeler - 3663226  
42nd. Base Unit  
T.A.A.F. Tonopah, Nevada



Free

Florence Messner  
118 So. Virgil Avenue  
Los Angeles 4, California



Feb. 19

Dear Florence:

I'm so dog-gone tired but decided to answer your letter even though I'm not in the mood for writing. Please forgive my mistakes. Yesterday it snowed and got kind of cold. Had quite a work out over the week end due to a shift change - working swing shift this week from 4:30 P.M. until midnight.

It was so nice talking to you on your birthday and here's another wish for many Happy Birthdays to come. I would have liked to have spend the 16<sup>th</sup> with you. I'm sure I could have persuaded you to take an evening off for a good time. Don't forget the hug and kiss I have coming for calling you on the phone - you promised.

So you work 98% of the time - what do you do the other 2%?



your letter, which you want me to make my Valentine from you, pleased me more than if you had bought one - it was more personal, thank you Dear! I only wish I could have known you sooner than I could have sent you something much nicer than a small box of candy - my heart was in it though sweet.

It was Spokane not Seattle where I was at the first part of last week. You want me to tell you about my trip so hold on to your hat, here goes. Left Tongah at 10:00 A.M. Monday on a C-47. Half an hour away we ran into rough weather and pea soup fog. We had to fly at 17,000 feet to avoid icing conditions - flying blind for five more hours. Galena Field at Spokane was closed in so we decided to land at the Northwest Airline field - Fels



Field. We were almost out of gas so you can see we just had to land or else bail out. On the approach to the landing strip at Fels Field there is a mountain. We were making our approach through the fog on instruments when we suddenly broke through into visibility and lo and behold right in front of us this mountain appeared. If it hadn't been for a sharp bank and a steep climb it would have been curtains - we missed it by about a hundred feet.

Spent the night in Spokane at the Davenport Hotel drinking beer as we had no license to buy whiskey. I was a very good boy too - no women at all. Next morning we took off in a B-24 from Galena Field in a snow storm and arrived at Tonopah four hours and ten minutes later.



That's enough of that except  
 Mrs. Keens is out, it felt though.  
 Say 'Hello to Lois and Mary Margaret  
 and I might add I think they're a  
 couple of swell kids, and I really  
 mean that too. Their big sister  
 wouldn't tell me what she thought  
 of me so I think it is fitting to  
 be just as mean and not tell  
 her either.

Seriously though Dear I've  
 missed you more than I care to  
 admit. You can realize it by my  
 two telephone calls. I want to  
 see you so very much and it seems  
 so long to wait until March.

Please write whenever you have  
 time and a small thought of me.

affectionately  
 Walter

P.S. I'm writing this letter lying in  
 my sack (bed). Love and kisses  
 Dear. Good-night Honey.

[[Kristina Agopian 7/24/2017]]

[[Walter Keeler Correspondence

Letter #003]]

[[Page 1-Envelope]]

T/Sgt. Walter Keeler-36632626

Free

422<sup>nd</sup> Base Unit- Sqdn. "F"

[[text: AIR BASE BR.]]

T.A.A.F Tonopah, Nevada

[[image- black circular stamp:

TONOPAH NEV.

FEB

1 PM

1945]]

Florence Messner

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Los Angeles 4, California



[[Page 2 – Letter]]

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[[underline]] 2 [[/underline]]

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[[Page 4 – Letter]]

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[[Page 5 – Letter]]

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