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1945-03-21, Walter to Florence

Walter Keeler

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1945-03-21, Walter to Florence

Keywords

correspondence, Florence Mesner, 1945, Tonopah, Los Angeles, aviation, planes, accident, court martial, longing, romance, loneliness, Women's Army Corps

Identifier

2016.134.w.r_015

T/Sgt. Walter Keeler - 36632626
42nd. Base Unit - Sqdn. "F"
T.A.A.F. Tonopah, Nevada



Free

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| AIR BASE BR. | |
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Florence Mesner
118 South Virgil Avenue
Los Angeles 4, California

Monday Evening

Hello Dearest:

I can't put in words how happy I was to receive your unexpected phone call yesterday evening, but try and visualize me feeling like a kid going to his first Circus. Yesterday I received two of your letters, in blue stationary, and two today, in gray envelopes one of which was a teaser. Will answer your four letters later in this letter.

First about me. Tomorrow I'm taking over another flight which is, as we call it in the army, SNAFU - (situation normal, all fouled up). It will be quite a job straightening this flight out in two weeks. It's a boost for me although I don't relish the job. I'm sure I will straighten that flight out. This field now has the safety record for non-fatal accidents in the states which speaks well for our maintenance. It's still miserably cold here but not much snow except on the mountain peaks. Mess is as bad as usual, it's a good thing we have a PX to eat in.

Second, our friend Johnny Newhouse. He just got back from San Diego one day A.W.O.L. He bought a Ford in Diego and promptly wrecked it to the tune of \$325⁰⁰ plus \$100⁰⁰ damage on the other car. That's not all. He drove a fellow G. I.'s car back to Tonopah and threw a rod thru the block of the engine due to running it at high speed without oil. That's the story of, as you call him, that Newhouse brat.

Now about our excitement here yesterday. A test pilot and co-pilot took up a B-24 for an oil consumption test trip with the crew chief as engineer, and two WAC's for a ride. Trying to impress the WAC's the pilot put the ship through such violent maneuvers that he broke off one horizontal and one vertical stabilizer ~~off~~ throwing the ship into a spin and almost crashing the ship into a mountain. A B-24 has two horizontal and two vertical stabilizers so that it fortunately left them one of each. After righting the ship, it was very difficult to control so the order was given to bail out. The crew chief made a beautiful jump and one WAC jumped by herself but the other WAC had to be thrown out of the ship. All three landed on the field.

The pilot decided to try bringing it in and incidentally made a nice landing. The pilot is now awaiting court-martial for practising unsafe flying almost making us lose our safety record.

Honey please excuse my scratching as I just took a shower and am writing this letter in bed in a very uncomfortable position. Now for your first and then succeeding letters. It's nice to know you enjoy receiving my letters - thank you Sweet. So Rachel is going to take over - oh you didn't mean me, excuse please. You're getting my meanings in my letters mixed up. I meant you are outwardly reserved but you never were so whenever I was with you.

Being yourself you are very lovable, warm and affectionate and a typical woman whenever you discard your exterior personality - especially ^{when you are} in your beautiful home. Stay as sweet as you are always Dear. Yes Honey I've been sleeping pretty well this month although I haven't fallen asleep yet, without you as my last thought before falling asleep.

I'm sorry Dear, I had no intention of comparing Newhouse with "your brother Johnny". Of course there could be no comparison if "your Johnny" is half as nice as you are. Forgive me?

I know you deserve all the compliments people have been handing you on your work and ambition. Keep up the good work Dear. You should slow up a trifle though and enjoy life more especially while you're still a young lady. I hope I can make your life happier for three weeks in April - if you'll let me.

Thank you for all your letters - you don't know how much they mean to me. So I'm vulnerable am I. I think I'll change, O.K.

I miss you dreadfully and each day counts the days until I am with you again - they go ^{by} so slow. I only hope you miss me as much as I do you - would be?
Lots of love hugs and kisses Sweetheart!!

Love
Walter

[[Kristina Agopian 7/31/2017]]

[[Walter Keeler Correspondence

Letter #015]]

[[Page 1-Envelope]]

T/Sgt. Walter Keeler-36632626

Free

422nd Base Unit- Sqdn. "F"

[[text: AIR BASE BR.]]

T.A.A.F Tonopah, Nevada

[[image- black circular stamp:

TONOPAH NEV.

MAR 21

1 PM

1945]]

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118 South Virgil Avenue

Los Angeles 4, California

[[Page 2 – Letter]]

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[[Page 3 – Letter]]

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[[Page 4 – Letter]]

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

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[[Page 5 – Letter]]

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Love

Walter