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L.C.I. (G) 449
c/o Fleet Post office
San Francisco, Cal.

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NAVY



Miss Betty Jones
P. O. Box 334
Cordale, Georgia, U. S. A.

11 February, 1945

Dear Betty,

In accordance with censorship regulations, I can now tell you a little of my past experiences. We were in on the invasion of the Marianas Islands and their subsequent capture. We took part in all three of the operations, Saipan, Guam, and Tinian. We were at Saipan Christmas and New Year's. Of course, I can't go into all of the details of our operations, but perhaps you read about the use of LCI's in the "mop-up" work, transporting of interpreters, and cleaning Japs out of caves etc. We had a part in those type of operations. Just so you will know some of the places I have been, and some of the action I took part in. I promise you this, I will have a lot to tell you, when I see you in person.

Betty, if you stick to conventions, you might think this request silly or unusual, but I assure you, that it is being done by the nicest of people. You spoke of having your hair cut short, I would like to have a lock of hair (your hair) with some of your favorite perfume attached. There, do you think that ridiculous? If so, disregard.

Betty, I am happy now, I have been waiting for you to make that very decision, and somehow I knew you would. You are that sort of girl. I am speaking of your decision to write me daily. I wish you could know how good that makes me feel. If I don't get anything but Hello and Love, that's all I want. My intentions are to meet you half-way or a little more than that.

Betty, why don't you and I have an understanding? I have never had an understanding with any girl before, but I have heard and read about it, and I like the sound of it. Let's have it understood that you are my girl and I am your boy. Guy, Beau, 'Main', or whatever it is. They really don't have a nice sounding possessive for a man, do they? But when a guy speaks of "my girl", that is something really nice. I am your guy, if you want me, I must be, because I don't belong to any other girl, and I want to be yours. As far as you concerned, that's the way I would like to have it, unless you have a better suggestion, which would probably be more sensible or nicer. So, you can tell your bridge club whatever you like now, and it will be so.

Betty, nothing would make me happier than to have you meet me at the train, when I come home. Your interpretation of my statement was just what I would have you know. Of course, if you have any scruples about being there, then that is your affair, but nothing would suit me better than having you there all acquainted with my folks etc.

I wish you would go over and visit Sister, and meet the folks, and then write me what you think of them.

I just had a letter from the Folks, and Clarke is going away to military school. He is entering the Spring quarter at Sewanee. Mother says (Mary) the high school at home is so easy, that Clarke makes "B" and "C" without even opening a book. At the military school, study is supervised, and he will have to study. Mary says he is real excited over going. Clarke has grown 4 inches since I saw him last, he is 5 feet 10 inches tall now. With Clarke gone, there will be only Mary + Daddy in that big old house.

Betty, guess what! I just received a letter from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and it seems that they have formed a "Committee on Placement of Discharged Service Men." ASAE (American Society of Agricultural Engineers) is a National organization, give a member, and it has representatives in nearly every walk of U.S. business. This particular letter came from the Firestone Tire + Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio. They sent me a questionnaire to be filled out + returned, for a reference, on my discharge. There are no obligations involved, so it certainly can't do me any harm to fill it out. It may be a reference for a job one of these days. They know opportunities for and know how to place Ag. men. This may not sound so big to you, but remember, I was just a college boy before coming

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into the service, and so it is actually my first business connection. Here is a quote from the letter. We are all thankful for the great job you men are doing which permits us to enjoy the security of the U.S.A., and we want to try to help you obtain the best possible position on your return." I am going to write the Dean of Ag Engineering at home and ask his advice on the matter, before I do anything.

Well, my girl, I have done right well at this writing, I think, four pages, and I hate to write, but not to you. You know, as badly as I write, I have learned something from you. You write such a pretty hand, and so I try making letters like you make them. It probably isn't evident to you, but I find that my writing has improved. I learned how to make a Capital B from you, I used to make it like this "B". I think your way is best like this "B." I like your "r's" too, but I can't make them that way, yet.

Love,

Byron

P.S. Look at some of my earlier letters + you will see about the writing, look at the B in Betty.

P.S.2. I like to read your letters over + over too, I have every one of them, and wouldn't take the world for them.