[Transcription begins]

{ps—It's near midnight, so please
Excuse all the mistakes.}

96 Paterson St.
Jersey City 7, N.J.
July 23, 1944

John A. Albanese
527287—F.M.F.
11th A.A. Bn—H + S Battery

My dearest Johnny: —

I received your grand letter and was very happy to hear from you—moreso than you may think!!

Insofar as my throwing any light on the subject of whether or not it is correct form to print letters, here goes! Today anything goes with most people so I guess everything such as writing, typing and printing is permissible in letter writing. The main thing is to write the letter regardless of form—whichever is most convenient. Your friend may disagree with me but anyway, that is my opinion being you asked. Some of my girlfriends also agree that anything goes! Printing is much better than typing! But, I wouldn't worry about that, honey, if I were you for you print lovely and I only care that you write me when you can!

It made me feel very close to you and the S.W. Pacific when I saw the candle-wax [on?] the paper. This may sound strange to you but it makes everything so natural! It's hard to explain. Once my brother sent us a letter that was either dirt or sand stained or something like that and it made me feel just as though Walt left a print there. I guess you think I'm whacky, I'm sorry.

Congratulations on your birthday! I guess you received my card after your birthday was over but I sent it as soon as I heard! Gosh, sweets, I'll have to owe you 20 kisses for your birthday and one for Good Luck, or would you prefer 21 spankings? When you're in the Pacific, I guess you boys long for the kisses but once back in the U.S., you fellows would rather anything but!! Please don't say, even in fun, that at '20 you're getting to be "old!" After all, I'll hit 20 in time and then I'll be blue, especially if the war is still on.

Gosh, thanks heaps for the stamp from the Fiji Islands for I really appreciate your sending me it. I'll surely treasure it, honey. I never before realized that those islands had regular postage stamps. To tell the truth, I never knew the existence of many islands until the war publicized them. I'm really a bright girl—around the feet I guess! Oh well, live and learn is my motto.

The radio is playing now—it's about 10:20 p.m. and Bing Crosby is singing "I'll Be Seeing You" which is a grand song. Very sentimental. I hate to say this but I didn't know of a fire in N.J. and Penn. Probably I missed up on it in the papers because at night I would get in from the office at 5:45 p.m. and leave the house at 6, p.m. for school. During that time I'd eat and dress quickly so I hardly had time to read all the articles in papers except perhaps to scan them while on a bus. But anyway, that Marine from Kearney has the right idea and spirit. I say "as long as J.C. is still there, N.J. hasn't burnt down" so I guess that leatherneck and yours truly are really on different teams. Seriously though, that friend of yours was in the Marine Corp a long time considering his age. I've heard of quite a few fellows covering their age to get into service. Heaven knows why! Were you in the Marine Corp. longer than my brother? He's been in a little over a year now.

Well, dearest, I'm sorry I have no exciting news for you but though I'm in the States, I have little to tell you for about all we do now is go to shows, eat at restaurants, bowl or something routine! So let's hope next time I'll have news.

S'long for now with carloads of hugs and kisses.

Love
Corrine
x x x x [Transcription ends]