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WASHINGTON, D.C.
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18th Fighter Squadron
A.P.O. 986
c/o Postmaster
Seattle, Wash.

Air Mail

April 19, 1943

Greenbelt, Md.

Hi Love -

Got two letters from you all at once - and I didn't have the will power to wait to read one either. In a way its rather silly because if a person does write two letters close together it might sometime mean that there was something you wanted me to know right away. Of course as far as I'm concerned I don't guess I'll ever have anything that pressing to tell you.

I'm or rather Mary Clare is going to try and mail the box off tomorrow. I'm much afraid its too big and weighs too much - damn these regulations anyway - it's so hard to try and conform

You can tell I haven't been writing to anyone but you because I still don't have any stationary. I did have Friday off however as I worked last Sunday. So I went down on all but annihilated the first pay check I could spend on myself. I got some shoes, a hat (!) and two dresses but one I couldn't resist on account of it fit me so well and the other I had to get because it went with the hat + shoes. I really do need summer clothes because last year I knew I wasn't going anywhere so I only bought one dress. However it had its consolations because I saved $250 in four months. Mom thinks I might just as well move into the poor house right now because of I can save and still end up that much

in debt - I haven't got a chance so why not give up the struggle. I'll admit she makes a point there.

Elaine and Helen came over last night and we made the final plans to dash up to New York for Easter its going to be a quick trip Sat. night to Sun. night, but I figure there'd be no other reason for me to ever go up there (by myself) and this summer it'll be too hot. It's sort of silly to be in D.C. 3 years + never go to New York. Sally, I wish you were going too. Think of all the fun we could have on a weekend to New York. Oh well we're young yet I guess. I don't feel so young anymore Mary Clare and I were just talking tonight - she's been out of high school 4 years + me 3. It certainly doesn't seem that long. I think I met you about 3 weeks after I got out of high school. Didn't I seem sort of young!

I remember that you certainly astounded me in some ways. - That Monday night you met me, after I so very formally tried to kiss you goodnight the Sat. before, you sat there on the grass & kissed me all evening - I remember that I was honestly so amazed that anyone would have the nerve that I thought maybe people in the East did things that way and that I'd better humor you along rather than take any more chances on you getting violent.

I should have been forewarned I guess, but it certainly didn't occur to me that I would ever marry you.

I still don't feel so exceptionally much like we really are married - do you? It's hard to realize that there's been any change in our relationship while I'm sitting here

writing to you like I've done for so many years. I'm getting more used to being called Mrs Aiken however and you can thank the War Department for that because of course none of the officers know me by any other name. They had quite a time making me understand whom they were talking to at first. What really kills me is when some Joe about 35 yrs old calls me "Mrs. A." or "M'am". I feel positively ancient.

I love you awfully and I not only want it to be July - I want the war to be over too. It seems to me what with the year of worrying about it before it happened and then the actual thing that it's been going on forever. We ought to be building up our life and for the future instead of engaged

in something that tears lives apart. There's just no common sense to it one way or the other.

We talk of peace easily enough but I'm afraid it's going to take more readjustment than we realize to get back to a peaceful way of thinking. Probably in our own relationship, as well as on a world wide basis, we'll have to learn a lot of things over again. You especially will find it hard, and I'll find it hard to remember that you do and to be patient when you get bored. But there's one thing if we can take a War we can take practically anything, cause I never thought I could do it. But I do love you so very much and I do want it so much to be always this way.

Please love me.

Pat.