Friday, November 24

Dear Folks,

It certainly was good to hear all your voices yesterday, and although I had to wait almost an hour for the call to go through, it was certainly worth it. Of course when I called it was the busy part of the day so they told me the circuits were busy, but that made no difference to me. That was my Thanksgiving Day splurge. Were you surprised to hear from me?

You asked about the parade down Fifth Ave. Yes, it was quite an experience to an introduction to New York City. On top of that it was the first time we saw outside the gate since we arrived.

About 3,000 Wacs took part in it along with a lot of Wacs, soldiers, & I don’t know what all. Actually we only saw a small part of the parade, that part being those who marched ahead of us. We took the subway down to 38th St.
I assembled some of ourchairs there. Then when our turn came we marched onto 5th Ave. & all the way down it to 53rd St. The reviewing stand was at the library & we did an "eyes left" when we came to it, but I don't know who did the reviewing. At 53rd St. we turned onto Park Ave, marched for two blocks 'til we came to Lexington where we boarded the subway for the theatre. We would try all that marching & drilling is a major part of our lives. In fact, I discovered today that I have a big hole in the sole of my left shoe. Imagine that in less than three weeks! I haven't worn a hole in my shoe for years & years - now here I am.

So we go back to the parade. We didn't see much of the city, because it was "head & eye straight ahead" all of the time so that about all I saw was the end of the girl ahead of me. While we were assembling, though, we did get a good look at the Empire State Building, it was just around the corner. Other than that I can't say that I've seen much of New York. At one time a movie camera car pulled in ahead of us & was taking pictures of our group marching, so if you should see it, it might be our bunch. The parade, by the way, was for the Sixth War Bond Drive, which just opened.
After I talked to your folks, I went down to see Mrs. Wisnicki. It was the first time I'd talked to her, although we had spotted each other twice before while we were marching in ranks. She had quite a "get feel" for about two hours and exchanged all the latest news about Madison. She was kind of home sick or lonesome and she said that seeing me made her feel as if she were home. We will get together again this weekend.

I'm enclosing the menus they gave us for Thanksgiving, of course that was very unusual as was the fact that they also presented us with meadkins. They were the first meadkins I had since we came. The baskets that usually hold bread on the table were decorated with cupids pegged filled with fruit. Everything was very good, in fact the menu pie tasted almost like prune, but that's something. However, we still used our regular wooden trays and walked along the same captain's line, and naturally I wanted like home.

We won the Navy "E" a second time if we can just sing it next time that will be something. I've awarded every week to the company with the highest average in everything, so next week will be the senior regiment, and I'd like to get it.
Wednesday we were paid $20 out of our monthly $50. We will receive another $20 just before we leave here & the balance later on. The Navy doesn't want us to think we're rich. I still haven't cashed one of my travel checks & have my pay check of $20 plus 57 cents, so I figure that in my three weeks here I've spent $16. In case you're wondering, I'm not keeping my expense account, haven't since Oct. 28. I just don't have the time & besides, since I'm not spending much money, it really isn't worth the time.

Must close for awhile & start scrubbing as tomorrow is Captain's inspection & we must pass with flying colors.

Saturday - 4/10

We passed inspection all right, in fact the officer said our apartment was very good, & we learned later, that the building as a whole was also very good. After inspection we had our regimental review, but don't really know how we did. We do have hopes of winning that "E" again.

Monday morning we have stood inspection of our clothing. Maybe I told you how our initials must appear on everything we own even down to our lipstick, hair pin box, stationary, etc. This is all marked with fingernail polish so when it comes to Navy year you can hit they really
here we plotted our names all over. Stitches are made for us and we're given directions as to where to put them on every piece of gear. On all the many blue articles, the name is in white, and nice name. You can see where the sense of that comes in because with four girls living together, all wearing the identical things, it would be quite a problem getting into the right clothes, especially in the morning when we grab just anything. Now, too, there's the problem of stealing, the stealing takes care of that pretty well. In the army that's a very serious offense & if you're ever caught wearing something belonging to anyone else, even if they don't know it, you're liable to a trial.

Saumie told me about Mrs. Freedman. She said she'd been ill for over a year & had worried herself sick about it, in fact they were to take her to a mental institution in Milwaukee the next day after she committed suicide.

Honestly, the way we kids eat! We clean up everything at mess & as soon as we get back to barracks we dig in on candy bars, salted nuts, taffy & life savers. We can buy these at the ship's store in addition to the sundries we always get whenever we go in. Also, many kids out of the rest of us here received packages & here are some of the things we've consumed within the past week, 3 peanut butter cups, 3 bottles of olives, bag of hard candy, a large lot of popcorn,
bag of potato chips, cheese crackers, apples, I don't know what all. I do think I'm putting on weight & the next time I get near a scale I'm going to investigate.

I asked Jean Kane if she knew another she said she couldn't recall the name. She got a big kick out of your letter where you told about getting out the chips & finding her name on it.

By the way, you can put that service flag up now because I'm in here for good now. We have a song that goes "Oh, we're all here, yes, we're all here, it's a cinder we can't get out, so you can bet that we're all here." Whenever we march we always sing it. They certainly have a lot of cute songs.

I just received a notice that I'm to report to Public Relations Monday morning with regulation uniform & white skirt, white glove, & white hat. Do that mean that I have my picture taken for the Rockford paper? I'm trying to know what will appear.

Right now the uniforms we're wearing consist of our navy blue jacket & skirt with many blouse for regular occasions & white skirt for dad & mom. We wear the white hat tops all the time, but will change to many when we graduate. We also wear the white gloves just for review & black for every-day.

[SISTER]

Take care of yourselves & Jeffery too. Lots of love,
June