

[Transcription begins]

96 Paterson St.
Jersey City 7, N.J.
August 16/44

John A. Albanese
527287
11th A.A.A. Bn – F Battery.
Light A.A. Group.

Darling Johnny: —

I received your lovely letter in the midst of a terrific heat spell and was very happy to hear from you. As I said before, the weather is very sultry and tends to make one very lazy.

I've gone swimming a few times recently with some friends. Did I tell you about the ride that ends up in the water? Well here goes! It's higher than treetops, comprised of two rails and we sat on a small plank and gosh did that travel! When we hit the bottom—quite breathless—what a thrill! It's one of those “travel at your own risk” rides. My partner is [illegible] daring so thus he [illegible] less politely forced me on it.

Enclosed herewith is a picture of me in shorts in my backyard. As usual I am squinting up at the sun! I meant to send this last week but forgot. Around my neck is the Marine Corp locket although it is hardly visible in the picture! My suit is blue but in the picture it looks white! Anyway I hope you like it!

You asked about the man situation so I can only say “they just ain't!” Bad English but it ably describes the situation! However, they (men) that are around are married! I was glad to hear you got a new tent! At least now you'll be able to sleep comfortable!

Marines from Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester etc. have at last returned home after 27 months overseas! However, they looked swell! Quite a few of the heroes come from this neighborhood although I don't know them personally. Believe it or not, the majority of them are getting married! I cannot understand that for it's like going from the frying pan and the fire.

However, I'm not a good judge on that for I have distorted viewpoint on marriage! I think my brother knows one of the marines—his name is Sweeney! He got married one week and the following, he was best man for his buddy who married Sweeney's sister! Quite a mixed-up affair, eh!

It was too bad about the fire in Conn. However a few days ago Hoboken pier burnt down and caused lots of damage. Hoboken is our neighbor. A ship loaded with dynamite had to be sank before it caught fire. Then Saturday Luna Park (Coney Is.) had a terrible fire and Sunday past, Palisades Amusement Park burnt to the ground! The majority of the people got out okay except a few girls who were trapped in the Virginia Reel! Yes, a lot has been happening! They say P.A.P. burnt due to the terrible heat and dry boards! I wonder!

Yes, sometimes I think you boys are safer overseas! Really though, I'm only kidding! Walter had one dance with a Red Cross girl at that affair. Were you there? He said the dances were rationed!

Tonight I'm going to Times Square, N.Y. to see a play "Kiss and Tell!" It better be good!

I'm on my vacation now but have no place to go as my friends are all working! Oh well! Were you in the 29th Platoon picture with Walt taken in North Carolina? I have it in my album! Well so long honey until later.

Love + Kisses
(carload of hugs too)
Corinne [Transcription ends]