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12-30-1944

Letter Written by Victor A. Speert to Edith Speert Dated December 30, 1944

Victor A. Speert

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Recommended Citation

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30 December 1944
Somewhere in Belgium

My Sweetheart,

Today the mailman was good to me. Received air mails from you dated the 16 and 21st. A letter from Lolly Black and coincidentally a letter from Jerry - and a V-mail letter (in 2 parts) from brother, Mort. I can't complain when I get mail like that!

This morning we heard that they had established a shower point in a nearby town so I conveyed about 60 men to the shower point. When we arrived there we found that there was no hot water and it accommodate but a few men. Some of the brave souls took cold showers, but they were not for me. When I returned to the house I heated some water and took a "whore" bath. You know, the kind that uses a bowl of water and a wash rag. After using 3 bowls of water I felt refreshed.

Nothing much doing around here otherwise except waiting for things to happen. I think warfare wouldn't be half bad if they could eliminate the periods of "sitting and waiting".

We received some gigantic turkeys today so to-morrow we will have another feast with all the trimmings. The turkeys are frozen so stiff it takes about a $\frac{1}{2}$ day to thaw out.

Yes, darling. being a boss has its drawbacks. One way to eliminate petty quarrels between your help is to have a definite assignment for a specific task. In other words, the task of putting coal on the fire should have been assigned either to the arist teacher or the housekeeper. That's as far as your job goes. After the assignment was made the parties concerned could get together & work out the problem between themselves and thereby promote cooperation.

among themselves. However, clear cut assignment
duties must be anticipated and made accordingly.
I know sweetheart, that managing people is
a big job but you have the understanding and
forting to do an excellent job. Don't give up too
quickly - it takes time.

So the "pater" is having his "fusses" again with
the help? I don't know who is right or who is
wrong but I do say that persons who work together
for a long period of time are bound to get upon each
others nerves. When a breaking point is about to be
reached the persons involved should be isolated
for a week or more until both parties are sufficiently
"Cooled." Discussion of the sore point involved can
then follow.

I'm so happy to hear that you are having
fun exchanging gifts. Next year I expect to hang
up my stockings and I want a completely filled
one when I awake on Christmas day, understand?

Mort's got the right idea when he advises
you not to worry about the postwar period as
you'll be busy "making babies". Do you think
we should reserve his right to spoil them? I'm
enclosing Mort's letters along with this one.

I too, have thought of isolating ourselves, just
you and I, at a place like Grand Lake, Colo. when I return
home. Let's go to that ^{corner} Kitcher Cupford place and plan
our future. As far as living our own lives, I assume
you we will!! Don't be afraid that we will be hampered
or influenced by family or friends. As I've said before -
~~that~~ War gives people changed attitudes. I too want
happiness for us but I shan't dodge responsibilities either.
Have no fear, beloved, we shall always be happy
as long as we are together!!!!

Lolly writes that she didn't hear from you for a couple of weeks. I'm sure that you answered her letter. She wrote me the news which, no doubt, you already know. (re) Jerry is traveling around, Danny is sailing, + Morris Berger is gone from Alex. Also she adds "Bernie Krasik turned out to be a better man than you or Jerry", then says "we'll make up for it one day, won't we?"

I like those kids Lolly and Jerry and put them along with Alma + Harold. I think we've got some life-long friends who are really grand people!

Darling, have you done anything about making a commercial photograph of yourself. I want one most dearly and hope you send me one.

It seems like December is a good month to have babies. Capt. Means got word that a baby boy was born to his wife. Gee, that's 2 births ^{in Jan} + 7 boys. I was under the impression that girls were more prevalent than boys (births) during a war - maybe I'm wrong?

You know sweets, I've still to receive a copy of our Xmas Card that you had made up. Somehow the cards have been delayed en route - probably turn up shortly.

The weather continues cold and clear. For a while today I thought we would have a good old fashioned snow flurry but it failed to materialize.

Sweetheart, take good care of that voice within you that keeps reassuring you that I'm O.K. It's a good little voice and knows what it's talking about.

Goodnight darling, your devoted worshipping,
Vic