

**Diaries of Elaine Zold, 1943, 1945**

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Transcribed by  
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[on The Bay View Hotel Tampa, Florida stationery]

Monday	Jan 11—Savanah Ga	Municipal Airport
Tuesday-	Jan 12	Jacksonville, Fla
Wednesday-	Jan 13	Tampa, Fla. Drew Field
Thursday-	Jan 14	Fort Myers Buckingham Gunnery School
Friday-	Jan 15	Tampa, Fla. MacDill Field
Saturday-	Jan 16	Sebring-Hendricks Field
Sunday-	Jan 17-	Sebring to W. Palm Beach
Monday-	Jan 18	W. Palm Beach Camp Morrison
Tuesday-	Jan 19	Miami Beach, Fla. Flamingo Park
Wednesday		Miami Beach Flamingo Park
Thursday		Key West Fort Taylor
Friday		Key West
Saturday		Key West
Mon.		Miami Naval Air Base Opa Locka
Tues.		Catholic Church C. A. Y.

[circled 1 at top on The Bay View Hotel Tampa, Florida stationery]

Sunday-Porter called at 7:30—got out of berth-dressed. Changed trains at Cinn O. at 8:00 am. From 8:00 to 2:00 caught up on reading & sleeping. Had dinner in the diner—arrived in Atlanta about 10:00 P.M. Changed trains. Only 3 upper berths could be had so slept in one head to toe with Virginia. Monday arrived in Savannah about 9:00 AM—went directly to Savannah Hotel—had breakfast with Fred—May and Margo had rehearsal from 11 to 2:00 PM. Wardrobe & personal luggage did not arrive so Hammersten found it necessary to cancel show. Took bath rested went to a Southern tea room for dinner with Margo & Ginny. Came back for rehearsal from 7:30 to 9:00. Went for a soda & walk. Had a lot of fun peeping thru peep hole in door of adjoining room.

Retired around 11:00.

Tuesday--Got up at 5:30 AM—dressed & was in lobby at 6:15—took cab to train station—7:05 train was an hour late—so watch a card game between Fred & Margo. Streamline arrived—had reserved seats in Observation car—entertained by three soldiers—one was

(next page with 2 circled on The Bay View Hotel stationery) Has “refreshingly stupid and fascinating creature” written at top right

full of card tricks. Arrived in Jacksonville Fla at 2:00 PM—took cab to Gregg hotel. Roomed with Ginny & Margo. Had dinner with the Gordons, Mac & Ginny. Went for a walk—saw real live alligators. Wardrobe still was not with us—drove to an old theatre to get what wardrobe we could. Managed to fit two sets. Eunice drove us around Jacksonville & we pick up a few pair of acrobatic shoes—went back to the hotel—put a very rush make up on—took sp. bus to air base—did our first show. 2 no. 2 shows—ate lunch in the canteen—bus picked us up drove us back to hotel—stayed at Gregg hotel—got ready for bed—ran up stairs to Fred’s room for a Coke—on way down I ran into the wrong room.

Wednesday. Had 6 o’clock call—was at station at 8:00 train late as usual—watch movie shorts machine—had private road.

(next page with 3 circled on The Bay View Hotel stationery) arrived in tampa early in afternoon in rain—checked in at Bay View—had short rehearsal—ate—pressed wardrobe—waited for 1 hour for army to pick us up—played “rockettes on rocking chairs in front of hotel. Army pick us up in trucks rain was coming down in torrents—did one show—broke in doll number—audition well—arrived home. Roomed with Fred May & Margo because of room shortage.

Thursday—had 7:30 call was at bus station at 9:00 left Union bus station for Fort Myers—arrived there at 2:00 PM Was met by army captain—army reserved two rooms 1 for girls & 1 for fellas—when bike riding for 2 hours with Wollou, Flo—Ches & Key

Rode to Campy Gunnery School in army cars—1 show nice auditorium

(next page with 4 circled on The Bay View Hotel stationery)

Rode back with Lt. Scott when to nite club to jazz time waiting for bus—had sandwiches—escorted to bus by Captain & Its. Arrived in Tampa at 4:00 AM

Friday—Had 1:00 clock call. Had made appointment at beauty parlor—had hair set—rode to camp in army station wagon—biggest field so far—performed in gym on temporary stage—got back to Hotel around 10:30 went for short walk & night lunch—came home packed & argued religion until 3:00 AM

Sat: had 8 o'clock call—finished packing had breakfast—was at bus station at 10:30. Left for Sebring Fla at 11:00

(next page with 5 circled on The Bay View Hotel stationery)

Saturday, Con't

Arrived at West Lake Train station. Wasn't sure of getting on train because of crowd—managed to make it—arrived in Sebring Fla about 2:00—took cabs to hotel—hotel was filled army staff cars took us out to the country—a hotel called Harden Hall. I don't believe I have ever seen a more gorgeous place. Spent afternoon exploring grounds and wading in lake. Army staff cars picked us up at 6:30—arrived at camp and had dinner in the officer mess. Ate till my side almost split. Later went to the officers club to relax. Show began at 8—was held in hangar next to air field on temporary stage. After the show we again went to the officers Club. Met the captain—was sitting with Virginia when two Lts walked up and asked us for a dance—we sat there looking from the lts. To each other to Flor—to [unclear] and backwards—finally we received their consent. Spent rest of evening dancing with the lts.

Sunday Jan 17,

At midnight we were the captain's guests at breakfast—lts. joined in later.

(next page with 6 circled on The Bay View Hotel stationery)

Sunday

After breakfast the Cap accompanied us back to the hotel—as we were getting ready for bed we heard whistling under our balcony—lo & behold—our lts—after going thru a lot of rigamarool we snuck out & went walking etc.----- Got to bed around 4:30 AM left a call for church—however no one called. Woke up around 11:00took a shower & met my lt in lobby—went to town for fried chicken dinner. Took cab back to air field because lt had to report back to duty at 1:00 then went to Hotel.

Left hotel in army cars for train station. Waited for train for 1 ½ hrs. when it did come we couldn't get on because there was no room—was forced to wait for 5:00 o'clock train—went to town for a drink—got back & final boarded train. Arrived in W. Palm Beach at Buena Vista Hotel around 7:00. Went to a show with Ginny & Margo saw Army Surgeon & Lt. People went for walk met soldier

(next page with 7 circled on The Bay View Hotel stationery)

Went for ferry ride across Lake Worth. Walked to ocean—waded in water did a few stunts took cab back to hotel—retired around 1:00 AM

Monday—

Went to Palm Beach with Ches, Kay, Flo & Pete. Dressed in Service Men's Station. Played around beach—gathered shells. Life guard came & told us to keep out of water because of Man of Wars. Show one of them to us. I as usual got stung. Went to Coast Guard Station & guard put ammonia on my foot—ended up in water with him jumping waves for about 3 hrs. Came out to rest started to tremble—did round off

backs & brady fly [unclear]. Went back into water—got date with life guard. Came home with Dolores—got ready for show—army staff cars picked us up—played Camp Morrison. Got back & life Guard came—no Dolores & Rosito to be had so I had them all. Went for walk. Rode on Ferry walked thru park—came back on Ferry sat in front of Hotel & talked

(next page circled page 8 Worth Hotel Ft. Worth, Texas heading is on reverse side)

Tuesday—Caught 8:00 train for Miami—went to wrong train station at first & had to hold train up. Slept most of the way—few sailors annoyed me by throwing things at me. Arrived at [unclear] in early afternoon—washed clothes, ironed wardrobe. Bus picked us up—drove to Flamingo Park—worked in Band Shell. Went out with Flo Pappy & Howard—had night lunch at the Boat. Got to bed around midnight.

Wednesday—Went to show with Flo. Saw White Cargo & stage show—worked same place—went to Childs with F.P & It (over)

(page 9 begins on Worth Hotel Ft. Worth, Texas stationery)

Thursday

Caught 6:00 AM bus for Key West—arrived—by 4 in afternoon—went to eat played Fort Taylor. Went out with F. P. & H to the La Concha room. Had few 7 ups. Pappy had Cuban Orch play M.E. [?] for me—also La Golondrina. Went up & talked to fellas. Went across the street & had night lunch—spent all evening fighting with Pappy

(new unnumbered page with Worth Hotel heading on reverse side)

Friday—

Had sun bath on roof went bike riding. Bus picked us up at 5:00—did two shows for Navy had dinner between shows got date with Ensign went to Casa Marina—walked Hotel Roof with Lt. Joe Justice till 3:30. Made date for Sunday in Miami

Saturday—Woke about 1:00 P.M. Flo decided to knit—monkey see monkey do—spent afternoon trying to knit. Fred & Max spent afternoon in room talking. Went to Section Camp for dinner had meat balls & spaghetti. Chief Jacobsen took us around base—went on battle ship saw sub chasers [unclear] patrols—saw flags lowered at sunset. Went to La Concha room with F. P & Chief. Had more trouble with Pappy—band played M.E. and gave me nice send off

Sunday

Left on 11:30 bus—arrived in Miami at 6:00. Caught last half of 6:00 Mass Went to 7:00 Mass—came home went to bed. Justice called had dinner date. Went for walk with sailor Lee

[Hotel Lanier Macon, Georgia stationery with handwritten (A) at top]

Monday, January 25, 1943 (labeled "A" on Hotel Lanier, Macon Ga. stationery)

Ford Hotel

Spent afternoon on Solarium built pyramid with kids Margo fell on a two high. Bought two pairs of shoes (sport). Did show at Opa Locka Miami Air base. Had new act. Nixon & Sands Freddie & Maxine left show. Had dinner at canteen and could hardly do show.

After the show Flo & I went to see "Star Spangled Rhythm." Went for walk with Hank & Hank—(met Hank last night while drinking milk at stand next to hotel—was from Elwood & knew Dolores Jones—brought a friend for me tonight)

Had a wonderfully long walk and talk. Got to bed around 3:00 AM.

Tuesday Jan. 26 (labeled "B" on Hotel Lanier stationery))

Woke around noon—whole line went to Miami Beach—practiced—back. Did one show at Catholic Church one block from Hotel. Knitted and listened to radio in lobby. Mel took me out for breakfast about 12:00 AM. Before break. listened to old man play accordion in front of Hotel. The Hanks came in we went walking again.

They came up to our room & watched us pack. Gave Hank two small pictures—also my route. X X

Wednesday Jan. 27 (labeled "C" on sheet but reverse side of Hotel Lanier stationery)

Left Miami by train for Fort Lauderdale. Tropical Hotel. Roomed with Flo, Margo & Virginia. Pressed wardrobe & it was time for show. Played at Navy Air Base.

Hotel had balconies like the Regis in Mexico. Spent evening in lobby talking to about 15 different soldiers—one was at G. C. Went to bed around 2:00 AM.

Thursday Jan. 28 (labeled "D" on Hotel Lanier stationery)

Boco Raton ~~Dixie Court Hotel~~

Arrived by bus around 3:30 PM. Went straight to camp. Had chicken dinner at Hospital Mess. Did show for sick boys. Rode in army cars to other side of camp and did another show. [arrow to lower paragraph] Had the biggest reception ever—largest auditorium ever—terrific.

After show army drove us to W. Palm Beach. Stayed at Dixie Court. Went across street to joint & had a snack—soldier drove me wild watching ants crawl—went up to solarium with Pappy.

Friday Jan. 29 (labeled "E" on Hotel Lanier stationery)

Woke at 8:00 AM. Left for camp at 8:30—did 10:30 show had good breakfast at canteen. All went to army beach—spent afternoon in ocean and hiking thru what use to be beautiful private resort homes—went swimming in pool—found two coconuts & went back to officers mess had fish dinner. Did another show had special bus pick us up ran out of gas 3 miles from camp & had to wait for more gas--went straight to bed.

Saturday Jan. 30 (labeled "F" on Hotel Lanier stationery)

Page has no entry front or back

Undated page on Hotel Lamar, Orlando, Florida stationery

One side of page has 4 short lists of numbers which have been added.

Other side has following:

W

Fort Lauderdale—Naval Air Barber Shop

T. Palm Beach—Camp Murphy 10:30-8:00

F. Boc Raton

Saturday January 30 (new page on Hotel Lanier stationery)

Left W. Palm Beach about 9:00 AM. Listened to a tin pan orchestra composed of 5 colored fellas at the train station. Arrived in Coco and was greeted by 2 big Navy buses. Waited around for other acts but train was late. While waiting Carl opened my coconut & we had milk & coconut. Then 2 sailors & myself discovered an orange grove & picked oranges. Finally drove to the Coco house. Roomed with Margo, Virginia & Flo. New acts joined us—Paul & Nino Guzzi, Catherine, Senator Murphy & Rosalind Gordon. Ted Ham is also with us. Margo's last nite. We did two shows. Had [unclear word] on navy after last show. Had date with ensigns. Walked around banana River—had breakfast—got to bed around 4:00 AM.

Margo left for W. Palm Beach.

Sunday Jan. 31

Did not receive call so missed Mass. [crossed out lines—not clear] Left Cocoa about 3:30 in afternoon for Orlando Fla. Roomed with Flo at Lamar Hotel. Had snack with Vir. Ham & Vir woke us up in the middle of the night—had short party.

Monday February 1, 1943 (new page on The Atlantan Hotel stationery)

Orlando Fla. Lamar Hotel

Spent afternoon shopping for a gift for Per Zee --ended up buying a pair of sea shell earrings for myself.

Took cab to auditorium—had dressing rooms 3 flights up. Did one show—stage was immense fell down 3 flights—sprained ankle. Army truck took us back to hotel. Had night light with D & Flo. Bus picked us up around 12: for station which was 1 ½ mile.

Tuesday

Got on train at 1:30. Slept in Pull.

Jacksonville at 8:00. Arrived Valdosta at 1:00. Checked in Hotel Ashley [?] had breakfast in coffee Shop & got date with a Sargent—had rehearsal in dining room. Bus took us to Army air base—did one show in airplane hanger cold as Alaska—saw planes.

Wednesday

Left V. at 8:00 arrived Moultrie 11: AM. [unclear word] Flor & I went to bed slept all afternoon—took bus to Spence Field had meatballs & spaghetti with Cadets did 2 shows

(new page on The Atlantan Hotel stationery. Some lines appear to cross out material. Some is in ink, some in pencil)

Valdosta Ga

Daniel Ashley Hotel

Arrived in Valdosta about noon.

THUR. (in pencil)

Left Moultrie 10:30.

Arrived Albady [Albany?] 12:00

2 shows Turner field (changes from ink to pencil) and spent afternoon writing letters spent evening rocking on veranda. Flo Ed & I had night lunch across from Hotel.

Ate in Hotel coffee shop had colored waiters.

Had eggs and sausages—PX.

(back of page all in pencil)

FRI.

Left at 8:30 stayed off in Americus for 3 hrs. Arrived Macon 3:30. Had trouble with rooms slept 5 in room met other show. Bus pick us up did two [unclear word] shows slippery floor, no curtain. Rained. Walked in rain.

Robbins field 20 miles away. Had party in Pap room with other show. Dol. friend spent half night in room.

Sunday Feb. 7, 1943 (on The Atlantan Hotel stationery)

Macon, Ga. Lanier Hotel

Woke up at 10: and made the 10:30 mass which lasted till 12:00. I still don't know how I did it.

Could not find a show that I hadn't seen so spent most of afternoon writing letters and talking to people from the other U.S.O. show.

Had Sunday dinner with Flo & Rosita at the Candlelight. Went to see show put on by Service men at Catholic Church U.S.O. Center. Wonderful show. Was called on stage as a celebrity—what a thrill. Went with Paul Guzzi, Sid Blake & Louise. Sid introduced us and did his act as a finale. Went for a coke with them and two of the fellas in the show.

Was suppose to sleep in Melcher's room but could not get in because he was out. Spent few hours in lobby talking to a few characters from other show and a few soldiers.



Finally got in Melchie's room and fell asleep to the arguing voices of Pappy & Flo.

Monday—February 8 (on The Atlantan Hotel stationery)

Athen, Ga.

Holman Hotel

Georgia University—Navy Air Corp Cadets

Had to get up at 6:30 AM. to make an 8:00 bus for Athens. How tired I was. Arrived at Athens around noon. Met at bus station by a Lt. Sutton of the Navy—drove us to Holman Hotel in station wagon. Did a little shopping. Walked around Georgia U. Campus with Dolores—watched cadets drill. Met a Sargent in the Marine Corp—came running after us with cokes with the compliments of the Marine Corp. Watch him drill another squadron. Had slacks on so I did a few aerals after fellas left.

Sarg took us back to Hotel what a specimen of physical fitness. W O W

Took a bath and was picked up at 7:00 by Navy bus.

Did two shows in gymnasium. Fellas had to sit on the deck. What a reception. Could not hear music in first number at all so I made a few mistakes.

After two terrific shows Navy bus took us directly to bus station and we took a bus for Atlanta GA.

Tuesday—February 9 (on The Atlantan Hotel stationery)

Atlanta GA

Atlanta Hotel

After riding bus for 3 ½ hrs arrived here about 1:00 AM. Florence met two orchestra's she had worked with previously so they all had a gay time in the lobby. Went out for night lunch with them. Met one of Kay Goetz's old flames—Harry Gosling—understand Kay has an acute appendix and looks tired out.

Got to bed around 3:00 AM and woke up at noon. Had breakfast in coffee shop with Flo & Senator Murphy. Flo is now at the Doctor. I hope everything comes out alright. Left for Fort MacPherson at 4:00 in 5 cabs. Did two shows on small stage. Soldiers brought us sandwiches & drinks backstage between shows. Got home early for change. Bought Mom Valentine Candy. Spent evening writing.

Made an appointment with house physician on very sudden impulse as a result of Flo's appointment.

Wednesday—February 10, 1943 (on Hotel Dixie Court, West Palm Beach, Fla. stationery)

Spent restless night woke up at 8:30—tossed around till 9:30 and got up to make the 10:30 doctos appointment which I did although I don't know how. What an ordeal it was.

Examination took 2 hrs. Took pains in examining in every detail. Gave me four prescriptions.

Got back to hotel in time to have lunch with Flo. Ate at the S & W Cafeteria.

Pressed wardrobe & was off to the camp in taxis at 4:00 PM.

Went to hospital camp & did two shows.

Stage was fairly large but had no curtain.

Carl got telegram telling him to leave for overseas show. Upset us all.

After show talked to boy that had seen action in Africa and came back wounded.

Could not stand anymore and had to break down & cry.

Cried all the way home.

Was very angry to learn laundry & shoes had not come back.

Went to Roxy Theatre with Paul & saw A. B. Marcus show. Went backstage with us the Libonati's.

Came back to Howard's room ate sandwiches & drank milk while listen to their tales of travel.

Wednesday. Feb. 10 (new page on Hotel Dixie Court stationery)

P.S. Hammy left around noon today & I forgot to miss him.

Thursday February 11, 1943 (new page on Hotel Dixie Court stationery)

Went to bed about 2:30 A.M. Up at 6:00. Had luggage in lobby at 6:45 & went to Ansley Hotel coffee shop for breakfast of hot tea as my throat is terribly sore.

Caught 8:50 train for Chattanooga. Talked to a fella from Beverly Hills, Cli. Tried to sleep on Paul's shoulder but was too sleepy to sleep.

After traveling 3 hrs arrived at depot where Flo went to the photomat & took 2 pictures of herself which are screams.

Had lunch in hotel coffee shop—quick rehearsal.

Rested about an hour & got ready for work.

Did two shows at Fort Oglethorpe. One in one small theatre for white soldiers & another for colored soldiers.

This was the first time we played for colored soldiers and their reaction was terrific—made me chuckle with delight.

Had farewell party for Nixon & Sands—Swedish Ham & Jewish Pickle. Had nice time.

In bed at 2:30 again.

Friday, February 12, 1943 (new page on Hotel Dixie Court stationery)

Abe Lincoln's Birthday.

Got up with the 12 o'clock whistle and was down in the lobby on time for change. A special bus picked us up & we arrived at Fort Oglethorpe at 1:30 P.M.

Fort Ogle. is an old camp and a very very large one. Also WAAC training center.

Did show as a benefit for the sick at the hospital. Small crowd—small stage.

Hiked about a half mile to the officers club. Noticed several new Waac recruits drilling. What an absurd sight.

When we arrived at the club I got a phone call telling me there was a letter at the post. I was so nervous & excited I could hardly talk.

Ten minutes later a Sarg. Delivered the letter personally. Received news about Bernard being wounded. Felt more ill. Could not help but cry.

Had a 5 o'clock fish dinner which was delicious.

Rode in Army truck to theatre we played in last night for colored soldiers. Did two shows for Army officers 1 show  $\frac{3}{4}$  full second  $\frac{1}{4}$  filled. Did not do last number because I was knocked out.

Had night lunch with Virginia. Retired 12:00 with mustard [?] on neck.

Saturday, Feb. 13, 1943 (on Hotel Reich, Gadsden, Alabama stationery)

Spent miserable night tossing around. Flo came home around 1:00 A.M. and gave me anacin. Woke at 8:30 and was in lobby at 8:45. Had breakfast with Pete Howard & Paul. Everybody told me I looked terrible so I had to put lipstick on.

Saw Carl & Gus for last time. Was surprising because we expected them to leave at 5:00 A.M. Took cabs to train station. Train was an hour late. Called up P.O. to see if there was a letter from Pop but they would not give any information.

Arrived in Gadsden, Ala. in afternoon & went to sleep.

Staff cars picked us up around 5:00. Had steak dinner in officers mess. Played with the cutest kitten.

Did two shows in gym. We nearly froze to death it was so cold. In between shows we had to go out front and practically sit on top of the furnace to keep us warm.

With Gail gone, Melcher had to act as M.C. He did a pretty good job of it even though he was nervous.

After show, Howard, Paul, Melcher, Flo & the Senator & I had night lunch together.

Sunday Feb. 14 (on New Albany Hotel, Albany, Georgia stationery)

Was unable to attend Mass this morning because we traveled. Arrived in Atlanta Ga. about 1:00 P.M. Registered in room 204. What a room—built in furniture, mirror and loads of room.

Had Sunday dinner with Flo at the Ship Ahoy. Ate Chicken Chow Mein for first time.

Went back to the hotel for Virginia then went to see "Three Hearts for Julia."

Had my other two prescriptions filled.

Spent rest of evening writing letters in bed.

Monday Feb. 15, 1943 (on New Albany Hotel stationery)

Had a very restful sleep a& decided to stay in bed all day & get rid of my cold. Called down & had breakfast served in room. Bell boy thought I was mighty hungry. Spent most of afternoon answering door knocks & telephone calls.

Finally decided to get out of bed and catch the doctor about 5:30. I had to wait for him so long I had to leave so I made a Tuesday morning appointment with him.

Did one show at hospital. Had to go to camp in taxi cabs. Virginia, Flo & I got dates with soldiers from basketball team. One Lt. was Tommy Harmon's brother. Went to Ainsley Roof & danced to Benny Strong's Orch. Saw Kay's ex.

Went for a long walk with Sam (Sargent) then went to eat. By the time we got back to Hotel the other kids were already in the room.

Melcher called up all of a sudden & pretended he was the house detective & demanded the fellas leave the room. Later he came down personally & apologized. Whatta life.

Got to sleep around 3:00 A.M.

Tuesday Feb. 16, 1943 (on New Albany Hotel stationery)

Stayed in bed until noon. Got dressed & went to Dr. [name unclear]. Examined me again & received a doctor's report.

Arrived at the Hotel just in time to leave for base.

We did two shows at airport. Came home in cabs.

Didn't have time to eat earlier & was starving. I complained to Melcher & lo & behold a soldier brought me food. Two sandwiches & a bottle of milk. Two other soldiers bought me a coke a piece.

Had night lunch at Ship Ahoy with Howard & Paul.

Both Flo & I had terrible cold & sore throats so we took Vicks va tro nol & rubbed Vicks all over our chest. Bell captain brought some Bourbon, lemon & 7 up to us. Drank the Bourbon & almost died on the spot—what horrible stuff.

Wednesday Feb. 17 (on New Albany Hotel stationery)

Columbus, Ga. Cardinal Hotel Fort Benning

Took buses early this morning for Columbus Ga. All rooms were taken at the Ralston so we had to resort to the Cardinal. Not enough rooms where to be had so Flo, Rosita & I slept 3 in a bed.

Command cars picked us up at 2:00 P.M. & took us out to the base. Fort Benning, the home of the paratroopers. This was about the largest camp we played. We had to cross a river on a G.I. bridge to the Alabama side. Got to the landing field & took the last of the jumping in. The fellas opened their parachutes & their reserves. Roz put a parachute on. We got acquainted with Bob Wilson, son of Wilson meats. He reminded me of Buddy Seaworth. He jumped out of a plane yesterday & forgot to attach his cord. As a result he was walking around on crutches.

Had a wonderful turkey dinner & was so full that I could hardly turn over. We did two shows.

Flo got a date with Cap. Daniels & I wound up with a Lt. something, I've forgotten. Went to the Bamba Club saw floor show & had luscious chicken. My companion bored me silly. His only good quality was his height.

Retired in a room not fit for a Jap—almost.

Thursday Feb. 18 (On New Albany Hotel stationery--at top has written Auburn Ala. Pitt Hotel Auburn U.)

Took bus to Auburn Ala. checked in Hotel & went out to see the town. College town. Every other store was a soda shop. Saw lots of college kids, sailors & marines.

Ate in Hotel coffee shop. Was waited on by fellas working their way through college. A couple of sailors walked in & one of them happened to be Flo's old school chum. Played trumpet with band.

Did only one show at college auditorium. Dressing room—if that's what you call it is something to remember.

Met sailor & had a Sundae with him.

Had to rush because he had to be in at 9:15. Every uniformed man had to be in. Auburn is a dry town & fellas have to go 55 miles to drink legally.

Went to room—got in bed & decided I was hungry so had bell boy go out for food.

Friday Feb. 17 (on New Albany Hotel stationery—at top has written Tuskegee Ala. Pitts Hotel)

Woke up around 10:30—early for change. Had breakfast in coffee shop. Had fun eating there. The college boys were so very attentive. Did a bit of window shopping. Finally ended up in a bakery buying cookies.

3 cabs picked us up at the back entrance of the hotel & we snuck ~~of~~ out of town via dirt roads. Ala. law does not allow cars to go from one county to another.

Arrived at all colored camp. Colored from Colonel down. Ate in their best mess. Boy I never tasted such awful food—liver—rice—beets—cocoa & lemon cream pie. Pie was only thing to brag about.

Did two shows. What an appreciative audience although I think most of it was filthy minded ness.

Had pictures taken in between shows signing autographs for colored boys.

Staff cars took us to Tuskegee where we waited for bus to take us to Montgomery.

When bus did come we had to stand because it was crowded. Who said this was an easy life.

Went straight to the Whitly Hotel & straight to bed.

Saturday Feb. 20 (on New Albany Hotel stationery—at top has written Mont. Ala. Whitly Selma Craig Field)

Stayed in bed until 1:00 A.M. Had to get up to catch a 2:00 o'clock bus for Selma where we played Craig field. It took us about 2 ½ hours to get there.

Had steak dinner in cafeteria—shopped around P.X. went to the edge of lake & watched planes come in.

Got back to hall & found everyone rehearsing so I started. Took Mini [?] up in a two high had Virginia & Catherine up too. My leg caught & I could hardly work that night. We would have to do two shows.

While waiting for bus had friendly chat with a couple M.P.'s. Arrived in Montgomery about 12:30. Had night lunch at Elite Cafeteria with Melcher, Flo & Vir.

Town was lively with uniforms & formals—a Graduation dance of some sort.

Got to bed around 3:00 AM.

Sunday Feb. 21 (on Hotel Reich, Gadsden, Alabama stationery—has written at top Mont. Ala. Whitley)

Flo received a 9:30 telephone call from her bro. She was [unclear word] to death. When he came up to room I was still in bed submerged under the covers. Had to get out of bed to get to Mass so introduction was made & got dressed quick. Took cab to Church & caught last half of 10:00 o'clock Mass. Took a leisure walk back to Hotel.

Went to see Star Spangled Rhythm again with Flo & Lou. Then had chicken dinner at Hotel. Took Lou to bus station. Found out bus was cancelled so we came back in the rain to Hotel & played gin rummy until 7:30. Dolores came over so we all took Lou to bus station where she [?] finally got bus. D & I were very much interested in a foreign sailor. Found out he was from Royal Netherlands Navy.

We had a taste for ice cream so we walked in & out of about 6 places before we finally found it. Met Paul & Howard on way back.

Went to sleep about 1:00 AM.

Monday, Feb. 22 (on New Albany Hotel stationery—has written at top Mont. Ala Whitley Gunner Field)

Washington's Birthday

Got up at 12:30. Did washing & cleaning suitcases. Didn't get out of hotel until 4:00 A.M. Took a walk by myself up Capital Hills & took in all the views.

Recon picked us up at 5 & we were headed for Gunner Field.

Had spare ribs & sourkraut in largest cafeteria I have yet seen.

Did two shows. Had orch. from Maxwell field because Gunner Field boys were playing for dance. After show we went to the cottage & were served steaks with all the trimmings buffet style. Our whole cast & all the fellas from Maxwell field were there. We had a wonderful time eating, dancing, eating, talking & eating. The Sarg fixed me up a cup of olives & a napkin full of cookies to take home. Signed our names in Guest book along with Bing Crosby, Jack Benny etc.

Had Recon take us back. Went to drug store to buy shampoo. Met Joey on way back & had short cakes.

Washed hair under the shower & had a fine time. Read movie magazine till about 4:00 A.M.

Tuesday Feb. 22 (on Hotel Gregg, Jacksonville, Fla. stationery—has written at top Dothan Ala. Wadlington Hotel Napier Field)

Could hardly get up this morning but had to be in lobby at 6:30.

Walked to train station in loads of fog. Wonder we found the place.

Train left at 7:15. Put my hair up & knitted & before I knew it we were in Dothan.

Registered at Wadlington Hotel. Had lunch at Cafeteria. Then went to see Casablanca.

Received letter from Madlyn giving Ernie's whereabouts—may see him yet.

Reconnes again! Did 6:30 show at Napier field & another at 8:00. What a wonderful P.X. Had delicious sundaes.

Got back in town around 10:00 & went to see Forest Rangers with Virginia.

Right now it must be 1:00 A.M. & I have to get up at 10:00 tomorrow.

Wednesday, Feb. 23 (on Cherokee Hotel, Tallahassee, Florida stationery)

Bainbridge, Ga.

Flo was up & dressed by the time I rolled out of bed at 10:30. Was in lobby at 10:45 and at train station at 11:00. Found out train was 1 hour late so had breakfast in a little dinky joint.

Spent most of my time on train knitting & talking to about 5 soldiers. Bainbridge came much sooner than expected.

Captain Carriger met us at station. As there wasn't any hotel rooms we had to stay at camp—not that it displeased us. We were all dying for the chance but had to keep our eagerness under cover for fear Melcher & the rest would get panicky.

Rode into camp in Cap's car. Went to the theatre & got settled. The Cap bought us sandwiches & milk. We finally arrived at our barracks. Brand new. We were the first to stay there.

Unfortunately it was my turn to iron wardrobe so I had to stay in all afternoon. Barely got finished taking my shower when the horns start tootin. "D" & I went with the Captain to the mess hall. What food! Steak, French Fried potatoes, peas, lettuce, pineapple, olives, pickles, tomatoes, fruit Jello, ice cream, milk & cocoa. I didn't eat so much since Thanksgiving.

After that feast we only had a ½ hr. to get ready. I really had a difficult time getting off the floor.

Between shows Flo & Virg. & I went shopping in the P.X. It was so crowded we could hardly budge.

The Captain asked me to go to town with him for dinner & I almost did. How glad I am now—his having octopus hands had most to do with my refusal.

Instead we all went over to the "Rec" hall where Flo, Vir & I met three tall handsome cadets. Mine was dark, the other two blond.

The fellas were dying for a drink & finally one of them got the bright idea of going to the barracks & stealing some Scotch from one of their buddies. So we all went. We waited around for the trolley. After awhile it became apparent it wasn't running so we decided to exercise our legs.

The first mile wasn't so bad. Later it began to get scary. We didn't succeed but [unclear word] fun we had trying. The "Rec" hall was still lit when we got back. We had the back room all to ourselves. Lights had to go out at 12:00 but the hall keeper let us stay. Hey Hey.

We must have gotten in around 3:00 or 3:30 A.M. We seem be getting into more fun again.

Thursday, Feb. 24 (on Cherokee Hotel stationery)

What a horrible morning I spent trying to sleep on the army beds. I know now how a soldier sleeps & I definitely do not like it.

Everyone was up & dressed before 9 rolled out. I didn't have to roll very far because the bed was a slim one.

After having scorched my slacks I ran over to the mess hall. What a fine foggy misty cool morning. I was definitely very ill & could not look at food although I did manage to gulp some terrible canned grapefruit juice down.

The "recons" picked us up & on our way we were to the train station. The train as usual was late. So they took us to the Decatur Hotel where I spent 2 miserable hours trying to sleep & die at the same time. Cap happened to walk in. He said we could stay out till four in the morning but couldn't go to town without him.

We took cabs to the train station & waited there for another half hour. The train finally came. In about 3 ½ hrs we arrived in Tallahassee. I saw real large swamp lands & dried out trees.

Checked in hotel & went to bed for an hour. Would like to have stayed in longer but we had to leave at 6:00.

The first show went on at 7:00 & the second at 9:00. Between shows we went to the P.X. Then I rode Lt. [name unclear] bike around camp. Nearly rode my legs off. Second show was for colored soldiers.

Tried to call Ernie but they would not put call through. Had night lunch with Paul.

Friday Feb. 26, 1943 (on Cherokee Hotel stationery Tallahassee, Florida)

I slept till noon today and woke up feeling swell. Took a quick one hour to get dressed & pressed wardrobe.

Ate lunch at Hotel coffee shop with Flo & Howard. Ran to the P.O.—for my health I guess—no mail. Was at bus station at 1:30. Took bus to Casabella. Arrived at Camp Gordon Johnston about 4:30 & immediately started to ask questions as to where & how I could get Ernie. A Sargent took me down to Inf. 110 Hdq. They tried to reach him but line was busy. I couldn't wait so I had to leave.

Did a show at 6:30 & practically knocked myself out doing acro. in hopes that he might be there. In between shows I went to the service center and had a hostess call. They said he was in the barracks & would have him call.



During the second show I searched for him but to no avail. While singing the Star Spangled Banner I spotted a familiar face. I could have sworn it was Chuck Wieder [?].

After the show I got dressed in such excitement I almost forgot my sailor hat.

I was on my way to the Service Center when I bumped into that familiar face.

What a wonderful surprise. Between talking to Chuck & trying to get a hold of Ernie I can't remember anything.

We spent about an hour reminiscing. Finally he went to his barracks & I went back to the auditorium & waited for 1 ½ hrs for the bus.

Had night lunch at bus terminal with gang. Its about 4:00 A.M. now.

February 27 Saturday (on Hotel Dixie-Sherman Panama City, Fla. Stationery)

Woke up around noon again today. Bought a pair of unrationed shoes for \$5.00. Cathy got the same shoes for \$2.00—sabotage—black marketing someplace.

Arrived in Panama City about 4 P.M. Had to leave for camp at 5 “ “ so dashed around looking for a restaurant. If they weren't closed, they were dirty. Ended up by taking a sp\_\_ on main street.

Recons picked us up at 5:00 & took us to camp. Did a show at 6:30—Regulation theatre had strawberry sundae in P.X. that was out of the world. Another show at 8:00. Flo made dates with 2 soldiers. Got back to hotel around 10:00 and got dressed. Intended to go to roof garden. By 11:00 we still didn't hear from our dates so we changed clothes & went downstairs & there they were.

We had some trouble getting started but we finally got transportation out to a place called Matties. When we got there they wouldn't serve us any food until we went through our whole history plus a bit of bribery. Wound up with four large steaks.

Lady luck was with us because we caught a cab the minute we stepped outside. Got to bed around 3:00 AM.

February 28 Sunday (on Hotel Dixie-Sherman stationery)

Johnny called at 8:30 A.M. Woke Flo who in turn woke me. I was so sleepy I couldn't get my eyes open so Flo had to put the telephone in my hands. Stayed in bed for 15 more minutes then got dressed & met Johnny in lobby.

We went to the 9:15 Mass in small church. Reminded me of those Indian Churches in Wis. Saw my ideal man—a captain, tall, dark, handsome, pious. Came back to hotel & had breakfast in hotel coffee shop. Our bus left at 11:30 for Marianna.

Arrived in Marianna about 2:00 P.M. & went to the show with Flo. Saw George Washington Slept Here. Went back to hotel & wrote to Per Zee & folks.

Went to U.S.O. Center & played ping pone & checkers & listened to Victorla.

Some Sarg took me to another movie—The Virginian.

Got home at 11:00 but that wasn't the end of my day. Two soldiers were annoying us. Finally got acquainted—a Bob Connley from Detroit & Vic from Wyoming. Had night lunch in our room with them.

Difficult time getting rid of them. Got to bed around 2:00 or 2:30.

March 1 Monday (on Hotel Dixie-Sherman stationery)

After being annoyed all morning I finally decided to get up. By 1:00 I was up & dressed & was being annoyed by Bob. He got up at 4:30 & went to the Hospital.

Went for a walk & then had lunch with Flo, Vir & Roz. Tried to get to see Caverns but it was rainy & difficult.

Did shopping at the 10 cent store & almost bought the place out. Was in lobby at 6:00 but Army wasn't there. It seemed as though they had forgotten us-- & they did. Melchie had to call up & remind them. Staff cars picked us up arrived at theatre at 6:45 & rushed around like mad trying to get wardrobe pressed & Melch kept yelping to hurry.

After 1<sup>st</sup> show went out & friend that took me to show yesterday was waiting for me. Introduced me to a Dave who is suppose to be a concert violinist. Had Sundae in P.X.

Did the second show with him right in front row. Staff cars took us home. I fell right in bed. Usual no one bothered us.

Tuesday March 2, 1943 (on San Carlos Hotel, Pensacola, Florida stationery)

Left from bus station at 8:30 & went straight to the camp. Arrived there around noon. Had lunch in Cafeteria. Bus took us to post theatre and we saw Keeper of the Flame. Went shopping in the largest P.X. I've seen so far. Bought face powder & cream etc.

Went back to cafeteria for dinner. Then watched soldiers doing calestenics & played basketball.

Did show in airplane hanger on crude platform. Cold as ice. Lt. took me to edge of hanger & showed me P.40's & B.37. There were about 6 planes in the hanger we danced only one show, then away bus took us right into Pensacola. Had night lunch with Paul. Got to bed around 2:00 A.M.

March 3 Wednesday (on San Carlos Hotel stationery)

A letter from Ernie got me out of bed this morning—I should say afternoon because it was about 1 o'clock when I got up. Wrote Ernie a long letter. Got dressed & went to see "The Meanest Man in Town" with all the kids.

Flo & I have nice dinner in Hotel Coffee Shop. By the time we were finished it was time to leave.

Also received a letter from Chuck Wirler with a picture. Played at Fort Bracken. Did one show in gym and it was about twice as cold as it was last night. We were all blue from shivering. Almost crashed doing a cartwheel aerial.

Bus picked us up and we arrived in town at 10:00.

Flo had a date with a Marine with Vir & husband (was introduced to him earlier in evening) & called Roz up & Howard, Melch, Paul Roz & I went to Hotel Bar & they had a few drinks. I guzzled up two cokes.

Paul & Howard left & we went to B & B's & had a chicken dinner on Melcher.

Flo & Marine friend walked in but left ahead of us.

Well, its getting late & I have yet to pack & get ready for bed. Its now about 1:30.

March 4, 1943 Thursday Mobile Ala. Brookley Field (on The Cawthon Mobile, Alabama stationery)

Was up at 9:15 & down in lobby at 9:31. One minute late. Had breakfast in hotel coffee shop. Greyhound bus picked us up at Hotel.

Arrived here in Mobile around noon. Corporal found us rooms here—four in a room—because the Admiral Semmes was filled.

Went to a show by myself & saw Geo. Brent & Brenda Marshall in "You Can't Escape forever." Fair.

Received a letter from John Neumann.

After show, picked up Pete and took him shopping with me. Left from the Ad. Semmes in recons at 6:00.

Did one show at 7:00 & another at nine. Cartwheel aerial still terrible. Almost fell on my face in first show. Second I didn't do it at all.

Between shows car took us to P.X. where I had my first meal of the day.

I'll never forget the ladies room episode—we walked into the ladies room in theatre & found a soldier in it. The ~~hell~~ whole theatre knew about it.

Got very angry at Melcher for pulling paper out of typewriter.

Had night lunch with Flo, Roz & Vir. Had loads of laughs.

Going to bed now & am going to try to sleep with Flo & Onions Inc.

It's about 1:30 A.M. & we have to get up at 5:45.

Friday, March 5 Key Field (on Lamar Hotel Meridian, Miss. Stationery)

Was the last of the four out of bed at 5:45 this morning. Was at the bus station at 6:30. Bus left at 7:00 & we arrived at Hotel (bus took us to door) about 11:00 A.M. Letter from Per Zee was waiting. What fun I had reading it. It rained all day and all night so I got in the mood to write letters. Got another letter from Per Zee this afternoon while I was writing to her.

Had dinner alone in coffee shop. Took a shower & had to be in lobby at 6:00.

Did two show in R.P.I. theatre 7 & 8:45. Acrobatics is getting terrible. Came home in staff cars & Vir, Flo & myself had pie & milk in room. Have been writing a few letters it must be around 2:00 AM now. Flo has been sleeping for about an hour and I'm listening to military music from Jefferson Field. We leave at noon tomorrow.

Saturday March 6, 1943 (on The Gilmer Hotel Columbus, Mississippi stationery)

Couldn't get to sleep. Had a sudden urge to call up home so about 1:30 A.M. I picked up the phone and called home. Didn't have any trouble at all getting connections. Mom answered the phone and I guess we talked about 10 or 15 minutes. After we finished talking the operator called back and told me of the price of the call—then I couldn't sleep. It was \$10.63.

Must have been up about 8:30 but didn't get out of bed until 10:30. Dressed & packed. Met Paul & Rosita in Coffee Shop & went to the 5 & 10.

Was at Bus station at 12:45. Bus didn't arrive until after 2:00. It was a 16 passenger broken down bus. We stopped for water along the road and a truck had to push us to get us started. We went a few more miles & the same thing happened. Happy Day.

We finally arrived at 4:30. Bus dropped us off in front of hotel. Had dinner in Coffee Shop with Flo. Left for Columbus air training school at 6:00 in staff cars. Did a 7:30 show in Rec. Hall. Another small stage.

Had more fun coming home. Our car went first. Upon arriving at near the gate we decided to turn around & go back & see if there was a good picture at the Post Theater. There wasn't so we went on. When we got to the gate, the others hadn't been thru. We thought they went to the officers club so we turned around & headed for it but met the rest on the way. The second time we got to the gate we met a motorcycle with soldiers. They raced us half way to town. No good show to go to so we ate. Will write a few more letters & go to bed. Must get up at 7:30 for Mass.

Sunday, March 7 (on The Gilmer Hotel stationery)

Woke up to a 7:30 call and met Paul in the lobby at 8:00 although I was so sleepy I don't know how I did it. Found 1 church with 1 mass. A Lt. passed the collection basket because there were so few people & no attended. The South evidently aren't Catholic. Paul took me to breakfast and then I went back up to bed.

I slept until phone woke me up until about 1:00. Flo talked to a couple of soldiers & made a dinner date. After Virginia came in & told us they called her we figured they called all the others too. So we decided to cancel the date ourselves by walking thru the lobby to the coffee shop ignoring everyone. We did.

When we finished eating we went to get our key they introduced themselves to us—Howard gave them our names.

Went for walk then came up to room & talked. Went out about 9:00 o'clock for night lunch. Saw my fella (Uncle George) off to bus at 10:00.

Flo's Bob is still here & I'm in bed writing this. At the moment Flo is trying to get a connection thru to Chicago.

We have a 5:30 call so must try to get some sleep. Its about 12:30 now.

Monday March 8, 1943 (on Hotel Greenville Greenville, Miss. Stationery)

Was up at 6:00—dressed at 6:10 and was in lobby at 6:15. Arrived in Greenville about 1:30. Had dinner then went to see "You were never lovelier." Came back, took a shower & by that time it was time to leave.

Did two shows at Greenville Flying School—P.R.I Theatre.

Had night lunch in drug store with Flo.

A few Lts. that sat in first row & carried romances on with us all came back stage to ask us out. No one went. Big joke on them.

Tuesday March 9, 1943 (on Robert E Lee Hotel Jackson, Miss. stationery) Was up at 5:45. Started the day off right by harping at Flo for leaving such an early call.

Slept most of the way here. Stopped in Greenwood until they made up their mind how to ship us to Jackson.

Fought with the Senator & Joe all the time I wasn't sleeping

Had dinner in hotel coffee shop with Flo, Howard & Paul.

Flo & I quarreled and I felt miserable all afternoon & evening.

Left at 5:00 for Jackson Air Base. Did a 6:30 show & 8:00. Found out the Brucettes were there & saw their pictures. Photographer took our pictures outside in doll costumes as well as during the performances.

When we got back to the Hotel, Flo's Bob was here from Col. Took wardrobe to cleaners & walked around town & saw the Governors House, the Old & New Capitol.

Had some ice cream. Wrote letter to Chuck. Flo is up in Bob's room so I am alone. Must get up at 8:00 for Mass tomorrow.

March 10, 1943 Ash Wednesday (on Robert E. Lee Hotel stationery)

Received a call at 8:00 A.M. Called Paul & met him in the lobby at 8:20. Went to Mass & received ashes. Had breakfast with Paul then wrote about 4 letters. Bob came up & took Flo to breakfast & I washed clothes—a whole tub full.

Took a walk then went to the show. Saw "Black Swan" with Ty Power.

Had to leave for camp at 4:30. Took bus to Flora Miss. First show went on at 6:00. The floor was large and I never did such terrific acrobatics—both shows.

After shows did about 6 high backs—hadn't done higher ones since school days.

Didn't go out for N.C. but washed hair in Roz's room. Flo & Bob brought me a sandwich & milk.

The three of us had a pleasant sleep (?)

The wardrobe was cleaned & we felt like a million dollars.

March 11, 1943 Thursday Harding Field (on Hotel Heidelberg Baton Rouge, LA. Stationery)

Phone rang at 5:45 but I didn't get out of bed till 6:10. Had to be at bus station at 6:30. Cleared out & left Bob upstairs. By the time our baggage was loaded it was 7:30. We made a million & one stops on the way picking up passengers galore. It was loaded till it almost bursted—got quite a kick out of the "jigs."

Had to change buses about 12:30. Had difficulty getting luggage on.

Arrived here in BR at 3:00—checked in & walked around town. Bought V mail so I could write to Bernice & [ditto marks] yarn so I could start knitting.

Left at 4:30 for Harding Field in bus 2 shows—deep stage. Was so tired could hardly keep my mind on dancing.

Wrote to Bernice & knitted with Gladys's aid between shows.

It was BR's first hot day. First time we went without our coats.

Came home & had K.B. sandwich with Flo. Flo & Rosita—the 3 of us in twin beds pushed together.

Must get up at 5:45 again tomorrow.

Friday March 12, 1943 (on Jung Hotel New Orleans stationery)

Well, today has certainly been quite a day.

I was the last one dressed the last one in the lobby & one of the last ones to arrive at I.C. station at 6:45 instead of 6:30.

Upon arriving there we saw a large troop movement—soldiers all lined up & counting off.

When they broke up a soldier walked up to me & asked me if I remembered him. He looked familiar but I could not place him. He told me he was with Denny Beckner then I remembered we played Louisville with him last year. He was on his way to some camp in La. Denny is now up in Minneapolis & Floyd is with him yet.

We didn't have time to say much else because Melch started to give the rush act so I boarded the train.

The ride wasn't very exciting. I knitted & ripped for about two hours. Paul & Rosita & I spent another half hour untangling my yarn & I spent the other half hour trying to sleep.

We arrived in New Orleans about 10:30 and was supposed to have been met by M's friend but he was nowhere to be seen. To pass the time away, I stepped on a nearby scale—150—I lost 1 lb since yesterday.

After waiting around for about 45 min. M finally decided to take us to the Jung Hotel where we found no rooms.

I was a positive wreck with my straight hair & spotted coat carrying my skirt, my purse,

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Pillow, coconut, make-up kit, shoes, knitting & magazines. I felt very miserable in the lobby when I saw society at its fullest—beautifully dressed women—men dressed in sports-racing hounds—a few jockeys were also to be seen.

Flo went over to the M.O. Hotel—no rooms. Got letters from Mrs. Pat, Mom & picture from Hank. We decided to go looking further for rooms so we took a cab into the French Quarter but nothing empty.

Walked back. The other 3 kids got a large room at the Annex Hotel—watta joint. We decided if we couldn't get rooms to go in with them.

In the meantime went up to Me'sl room to put my hair up & wash.

Then took a few things over to the Annex. I felt like a 5 & 10 queen walking up two flights of stairs to a room with three beds—broken down at that.

Went back to W. O . Hotel received letter from Ruth Smiley. Had dinner in small restaurant & went to see "Yankee Doodle Dandy." What a picture "terrific."

~~When we got back to the Hotel Joey received rooms for us so we decided to move back to Jung.~~

Went back to that horror hotel & laid down for about an hour. Dee also slept.

At 5:45 DL & R.I. came back & told me of their experience at Antoine's.

At six we had to be at the Jung H. ready to leave.

When we got there, Joey had reserved a room for Flo & I so we decided to move out of the hole we were in.

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We had to wait for about an hour for the navy. They finally came in station wagons. The driver of our wagon knew Flo from Jacksonville last season.

Finally we were on our way and to add something new we drove the wagons on to a ferry & crossed the Miss. River to Algiers—suburban of N.O. It was a very large barge & it made me sea sick.

I had about 20 min. to put all my make up on & iron all my costumes. I rushed all evening & couldn't get with it.

Only one show—I feel myself getting much better in acrobatics. Tried a few backs with both Joey and [unclear] helping me but I guess I was too tired. They were no good.

Then Navy served us coffee, sandwiches cake & cokes after the show. I wound up with a coke—lent.

On our way again. This time I stood out side on ferry & didn't get sick.

We had quite a dispute about the rooms we left. But Flo & I calmly went up & got our small luggage. The kids wanted us to pay our share & we weren't even registered so we boldly walked out.

Came back & started to unpack our trunks for the first time since we started when I discovered I had left my skirt at the other place.

Had to dress & went over to get it. D. G & R were sitting in lobby with the desk clerk [unclear word] them. After about an hour of arguing I left without my skirt. I can kick myself now.

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Came back very angry with only myself. [unclear word] was in lobby with 2 of Rosita's bags which she managed to slip by the drunken desk clerk. Talked with her, Vir, Roz, Gus, Nis Mur & Joey and by the time I got up stairs it was after midnight & Flo was down having a drink with Joe.

I must do a few more things before I go to sleep—I'm in bed already. Want to do a lot of shopping tomorrow & I want to see a bit of the town.

Saturday, March 13 (on Charlestown Hotel, Lake Charles, La. stationery)

"Jung" at top of page

Was up & dressed at 11:00 A.M. all set & raring to see the town & do some shopping. Spent entire afternoon shopping on Canal St. Had lunch by myself at the New Orleans Coffee Shop then bought shoes, bag, hose, two brassieres & a garter belt. Must have been in & out of every store. I couldn't find a pair of shoes that suited my fancy. Finally ended up with a pair of black leather pumps. Had to dash back to the hotel like a mad woman in order to be on time for leaving at 3:00. Found package from Steven. Rushed up to room & behold a slacks outfit.

Really gorgeous. Could hardly wait to get it on. Wore it to the hospital base. We did two shows there—5 & 7:00 and was back in town at 8:45. Took cabs.

Flo & I dressed in our best—new shoes all with the exception of the stockings I bought. I ran them all ready & had to borrow one of Flo's.

Walked to the French Quarter and looked for the Ct. of 2 sisters. Ran into two soldiers looking for the same place so they escorted us there.

What a place. After walking through the [word unclear] end of it out to the Patio, it was heavenly. A five piece string ensemble provide quaint melodies. Candle lights on every table. Trees & shrubs growing everywhere. Fountain & fish pond near center of place.

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After ordering Chicken en Papillotte we danced to help lessen the suspense of waiting for food.

After a few rounds (of dancing) the waiter brought us our chicken in the bag. Cut the bag open & out oozed chicken. What a delightfully different dish. The table next to us had something that struck our fancy so we ordered it. It was Baked Alaska—ice cream, cake & egg white burnt with brandy before our very eyes. Quite novel but much more delicious. We danced some more. Waltzes, tangos rumbas – what wonderful music.

My escort & I walked back to the hotel but Flo & her friend took a cab.

We met them there & said our adieus.

Went directly to bed after leaving a 10:00 o'clock call for Church.

Sunday, March 14, 1943 (on Charleston Hotel stationery)

Answered the 10:00 o'clock call but decided to stay in bed another hour and go to the 12:00 Mass. Called Paul as planned but he had another appointment—must have been Rosita.



Flo & I took a cab to church & were almost on time. After Mass we toured the church listening to a little darling French or Spanish boy of about 10 or 11 tell us about the tombs, pictures, statues etc. Flo & I were the only civilians with the group the others were service men. Bought a few souvenirs & met Miss Catherine.

Walked thru the park to the French Market—bought some French pastry then walked to Antoinnes.

The place wasn't what we expected. Instead of the scenery being (p) different & extravagant it was as plain and simple as an ordinary small town restaurant.

The service we received was wonderful. We had a special shrimp cocktail, chicken Rochambeau with potatoes au gratin, salade a la Antoine, tea, & orange sherbet over meringue. What a dinner. The shrimp & potato & chicken were luscious. The food was only surpassed by the hospitality we received.

After taking about 2 hours to order & eat, we had a bus boy show us the interiors.

They took us to the Mystery Room—7 presidents have

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eaten in it. Then to the 1840 room & through the 1940 rooms. The walls were covered with autographs, pictures and news items of special interest to or about antoine's.

While touring these rooms some one sent us 2 glasses of vinegar. The some one happened to be one of the chief waiters. We had the honor of deciding their rarest vintage—1811 & 1840. I had about 5 different drinks or should say sips because after the first one I could only sip.

We finally escaped our guide and went walking again thru the Vieux Carre. We spotted a gift shoppe & walked in. I wanted to purchase a little mammy doll. The proprietor took me out onto the patio into another room & showed me character dolls of famous New Orleans people. The were simply gorgeous. However. I wound up with Mammy. Flo bought a few pins, bracelet & small dolls then we went back to the Hotel.

My feet were killing me as I had been walking in my new shoes. When I came home, I discovered a blister on my heel. After resting & changing into pants, we saw "Journey for Margaret" at "Loew's Theatre."

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We came home and no sooner did we open our door than we were in bed. I don't know how we managed to find the bed as there was so much junk—wrapping boxes, etc.

Monday March 15 (on Charleston Hotel stationery but with "Jung Hotel" written at top of page)

Was up at 11:00 and decided to put on my new slacks to go tramping around in. After having lunch at the W. O. L went to the Vieux Carre to the Old Cabaldo and spent hours in the Museum taking note etc. (Pay) Paid a Visit to the Old Cathedral again. Walked up & down the old streets. Ended up in a fruit market & bought fruit. Then paid another visit to another church—Our Lady of Guadalupe lit a candle and visited the shrines on the outside. Looked into the cemetery—people are buried above the ground here. Just made it back to the hotel on time to leave for base. They wouldn't let the cabs thru the post

gate so we had to wait around for a truck to take us to the theatre. We went to the P.X. & guess what we saw. Nylons! It broke our hearts when we found out that we could not buy them.

Earlier in the day Joey & Murphy went with me to get my skirt from the other Hotel. When the kids found out about it we had a grand battle. Especially with Gilman. I felt so miserable I wanted to leave for home immediately.

How I lived thru the 2 shows I don't know but I did.

When we got back to the Hotel, Flo had a date with

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a fellow she went to school with so I went up to our room. After taking off my make up & combing my hair I went down with the intention of going over to the P. O. for mail. Flo & her school mate were sitting in the lobby. Before she had a chance to introduce us, he said, "I know you." Flo said "Wright"—that was the strike that lit the match. We had a fine time fight over Von Steuben & Wright as Flo was interested in V.S. and I in W. Found out he knows Al—and all the band boys. Harry Simon is engaged. I don't know whether I was surprised or not but I felt funny.

I still don't know how he knew me but he said he never misses a pretty face. He must have been kidding. He came up to our store room alias bed room & I showed him the pictures of the band. It was necessary for him to be back at camp at midnight so we took him to the Roosevelt Hotel & he got a cab.

After he left we both wanted food. We decided upon the St. Regis but when we got there we decided we'd try Arnauds.

I felt rather imbecilic walking in the place with slacks on but Flo had her make up on & we both looked freakish.

Again hospitality was unsurpassed. We had Shrimp a la Arnauds, Chicken Clemenceau & cherries flambeau.

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The flambeau end of it was wonderful. Cherries burnt—brandy put over ice cream before our very eyes. When the ceremony began, they put the lights out & thru fire all over the place. We certainly were filled to the hair roots.

Met Joey in front of Hotel & brought him back to the lobby where we sat & cutted people up. Then progress to our room.

Must have been about two before I went to sleep.

March 16, 1943 (on Charleston Hotel stationery with "Jung" written at the top of the page)

Left a 10:30 call so I could have my bag packed & downstairs by noon but was so tired I stayed in bed for another half hour. I certainly had quite a time packing. My big bag was down on time to be shipped to Houston. Finally sent coconut home along with coat lining & other junk. Believe it or not, I sent [name unclear] Birthday present too..

It was rather later in the afternoon to do much of anything so I took in a show by myself. Saw the "Immortal Sargeant."

We left at 6:00 for the Naval air base. Did only one show in large auditorium and left for the train station.

I'm still packing with the girls

Arrived at train station & had night lunch. Our waitress fell head over [word unclear] in love with some soldier sitting near by & she couldn't get our orders straight.

Our train was supposed to have left at 11:00 but did not depart till 11:35.

It was impossible for us to get sleepers so we slept on the seats.

Wednesday, March 17, 1943 (on Charleston Hotel stationery)

De Ridder Air Base

Arrived here at 1:00 A.M. a sorry looking tribe, as we waited in a one horse train station for the cabs.

Upon arrived at the hotel, we had a little difficulty getting rooms but finally ended up on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor.

Dawn was at its fullest when I turned in. I discovered we were right on the lake front.

We left a call for one because we had to take a bus ride to De Ridder. Bus left at 2:30 and we arrived at D.R. at about 5:--was met by Sarg Ross & air base bus. Went directly to Civilian Mess & had dinner.

Met a few Flatbush boys who promised to buy a truck for our wardrobe. When we got to the "rec" hall the Sarg had a letter from Per Zee for me. What fun it was written on ticker tape & I went to the P.X. unraveling it. It aroused all the fellas' curiosity.

The show didn't begin till 8:00 so I had time to be shown thru camp. The boys took me thru the Infirmary & to their barracks

How I laughed when a couple fellas who evidently weren't on speaking terms with my escorts came passed & nodded. The only time they get those nods are when they walk down the street with a show girl.

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The show was swell went over terrificly. Pete played his best. Kept out of the Red Head's sight & stuck to my knitting. Incidentally I started my turban all over again. I gave my old piece to a sarg who said he'd keep it next to his heart—a great kidder.

We were supposed to go on at 8:00 but waited for Random Harvest to let out. In the meanwhile Sarg Ross led the audience in community singing. The back stage crew got a shovel & one of them was elected to go out on the stage & shovel directly behind the Sarg. His face was as red as this ink is green. He reminded me so very much of "Al."

After the show we took the Base bus to town & caught our Lake Charles Bus at 11:30.

Arrived here after 1:00 & was in bed by 2:30.

P.S. The soldier I gave my knitting to and who showed me around camp made all the other fellas sit up & take notice of my eyes. He was crazy about them—He was crazy.

Thursday March 18 (on Charleston Hotel stationery)

Slept till noon. Had breakfast in Coffee shop with Flo then went to the dime store to do my shopping. Saw childrens stationery & bought it to send to Per Zee. After I picked up a few odds & ends I went back to the hotel washed out a few things & wrote some letters. Decided to take in "Spring time in the Rockies" and enjoyed it very much. Just made it back to the hotel to leave for camp at 5:30. Rode in recon's.

Howard & I went to cafeteria & had sandwich & donut. We did two shows. I stunk. I must have split a blood vessel in my left waist. I didn't make it over Virginia in the Sailor number and she had to do a summersault. That was rather embarrassing because one of the former amb[-----] was in the audience.

Kept out of the battle ships way although a few hot words were exchanged between Rosita & myself. Cathy is getting disgusted with her. Rumors seem to be more [word unclear] about show closing April 17. All the acts have been asked to go over seas---so---

Joey & myself took turns [word unclear] a lt. [word unclear] during intermission between numbers.

Arrived home around 10:00 & went out for fruit & milk. Flo & I stayed up talking about school days. She talked Bob & I talked Al till about 2:30. At 4:00 we were up when our call came. I stayed in bed till 4:30.

Friday March 19, 1943 (on Auditorium Hotel, Houston, Texas stationery. "Ellington Field" is written at top of the page)

Left hotel at 3:00 and caught train which happened to be on time at 5:40. Did not sleep but knitted away. The cutest little boy, must have been about 5 or 6, kept me in smiles by winking at me in station & on train.

Arrived in Houston about 10:30 & went directly to hotel after having to wait about 10 minutes for cabs.

Rooms weren't available just when we arrived so I had my hair washed & set then came back. Picked up Roz & Vir & had lunch. Then we went to see "Once Upon a Honeymoon" & met Flo in theatre.

Got out again just in time to leave.

Sp. Bus—took us to Ellington Field.

Practiced a while before show. Only one show in large gym. Stage terrific along with audience. Left wrist is still bothering me. Took a spill on a walkover aerial while practicing.

Received a letter from Lee. Found out T.P. is going to be a mom in July. Wrote to Lee between numbers.

Called John Neuman. Found out he was with his wife. Home not heard from him yet.

We arrived back at hotel about 7:00 & Flo & I got dressed in our Sunday best & had oysters & frog legs at Kelly's. Went for a walk, bought fruit, tried to get into a show but it was too late—came back & straightened out the room.

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The view from our room is terrific. Flo & I watched the people coming out of the auditorium. Reminded us of Orch. Hall in Chi. Then we picked out bldgs. that reminded us of Wrigly bld, Trib tower—picked out outer drive. The honking of horns, blowing of whistles, shouts of people was like candy to a sweet tooth.

Then we talked about our future armistice—wondered what it would be like underneath all the intoxicating excitement.

As I lie in bed writing this I can look into the dresser mirror & see the lights changing. I hear sirens singing. We also saw a fire. Flo was so disappointed because someone put it out before real damage could be done.

Must get some sleep now as I haven't had hardly any all week.

Saturday March 20 (on Auditorium Hotel stationery with "Ellington Field" written at top of the page)

John Neuman woke me up at 11:00 this morning 1 ½ hrs before I intended to get up. He asked me to dress & we'd drive around town.

It took me 45 minutes to get ready because our iron wouldn't heat, Virginia's iron wouldn't heat & Gladys's iron refused. Joe, Flo & myself spent a ½ trying to figure out why it wouldn't work. Finally Flo held the plug in the wall—Joey held the plug in the lamp & I knelt on the floor & ironed my red plaid job & Mexican blouse.

After the famous hello's & how are you's we drove to the Lamar & picked up the mail. Per Zee's latest is carbon paper.

Brought Flo's mail back then we spent 2 hours just driving around Houston. Stopped at a drive in for orange juice & stopped to take pictures in front of Sam Houston's monument & Memorial to San Jacinto. It was a misty rainy day. I love to drive in the rain so I had a swell time.

At 1:30 we stopped at the [name unclear] Hotel & went to the Mezzanine floor where they specialize in Smorgasbord. Imagine my surprise when I found out what it was. I had never eaten it before but it certainly was luscious—tomatoes, cole slaw, creamed shrimp, shrimp salad, beet salad, liver sausage, meat balls, beets, cottage cheese, Swedish rye bread

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And Swedish apple pie & milk. Almost rates as high as Antoine's with me.

After luncheon we met his girlfriend Jean. Drove back to the hotel & left them.

Had a few minutes to get ready to leave for camp. Left at 4:15 & arrived at camp 1 ½ hrs before show so I spent time writing letters & listening to everybody debate about doing the benefit.

Did one good show and found out we were doing the benefit. Capt. Yates of the movies was our host & kept running in & out of the dressing room.

While waiting for the bus after the show I was kept busy signing autographs & talking to the boys.

Arrived in town about 7:00 & Flo & I went to see "Stand By for Action." It was a much better picture than I had anticipated.

I came home & Flo went to a midnight show.

Finished a few letters & went to sleep about 1:30.

Sunday March 21, 1943 (on Auditorium Hotel stationery with "Ellington Field" written at the top)

Must have awoke at 5:00 or 6:00. The dawn was up & an orange moon was shining in our room. Now I know what they mean about Texas moons. I have never seen a "beautifuller" moonset. Went back to sleep and was up at 10:00. Took a bath, dressed & went to Church of Annunciation with Gladys. Came in late & had to stand all thru Mass. It was such a quickie I hardly knew about it.

By the time we got back it was time to leave for Camp. Arrived at camp early so I took the hem of my black & white job down & sewed it up again.

Before the show got underway we were presented with a check for doing the benefit. It made us feel so wonderful we did a terrific show.

At the finale of the show two cadets from the Bombadier squadron presented us with bombers wings with the compliments of the cadets. It was such a surprize to us all. Made me feel all weak & nervous inside. I wanted to walk off stage but at the moment that thought was in my mind he called my name out so I had to go to get my wings.

Then afterwards we went to the officers club which is one of the nicest we've been to and had a wonderful supper.

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Flo stayed at Camp with Bob & we got to Houston about 7:00.

Didn't know what to do—I already saw all the pictures in town so I decided to pick up the mail—a letter from Merihay.

We both are writing now then we intend to go to Kelly's then to bed.

Leaving at 9:00 for San Antonio tomorrow.

March 22, 1943 (on Blue Bonnet Hotel, San Antonio, Texas stationery)

Monday

Left Houston at 9:45 and arrived in San Antonio at 3:30 P.M. While on the train two soldiers invited Flo and myself to a dinner in the diner.

Our room wasn't available when we arrived so we went to the Gunter Hotel for mail. Received a letter from Mom & she told me two packages where at the post office. I dashed over there but no (pag) package.

When I got back to the Hotel, I debated whether I should call Dr. Kopecky or Le Roy.

Was very nervous and it was necessary to work up a sudden impulse which directed me to call LeRoy.

I got the number and after about 5 hello's I found out I was speaking to his Mother. She told me he was inducted into the army 4 days ago. All I could get out of me was a big Oh. Then Harold came in & she called him to the phone. He told me LeRoy was stationed at Dodd Field only 1 ½ miles from home. He also said Joe married two months ago. He said LeRoy would probably be coming home tomorrow afternoon and he'd have him call me.

As time went on, I decided to call up the field. That I did. They said he was at chow & would give him a message to call me. He called at 6:30. I hardly recognized his voice. It has been almost

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two years. One of the first things he told me about was his G. I. haircut. I asked him how he looked without his pretty waves—his reply—“like hell I suppose.” He said he'd call tomorrow & that he'd do everything possible to see me even if he'd have to do it without getting leave.

We left for Brooks field in recons at 7:00. We did one show on a small slippery stage. The hall was so filled it would have been impossible to put a safety pin in. Fellas were sitting all over the aisles and hanging in rafters.

Had a little embarrassing trouble with my zipper in the doll number. Got acquainted with the 2 lts. in charge. The short one was Lt. Abbott from Kalamazoo & I can't remember the tall one's name. I told them about LeRoy & they said they'd do what they could.

After the show they called the whole company back on stage to take pictures. The tall lt. asked for volunteer soldiers to pose with us & there was the maddest dash you ever saw. I was in back so two soldiers grabbed me by the legs and hoisted me way up. How they did it remains a mystery.

When we arrived back at the hotel, the 2 lts., Roz & I went to the drug store & had cokes.

They had more fun ribbing me about LeRoy and all of us laugh to the stage of tears.

After they left we took our make up off & Roz & I went to the Plaza drug store where we met Flo—later Joey came in with Jack Leonard—one of the fattest men I have ever seen—from the cast of Hellsapoppin.

When we got back Flo called one of her boyfriends stationed out here & talked for two hours. It must have been 2:00 A.M. before we got to sleep.

March 23, 1943 (on Blue Bonnet Hotel stationery)

Tuesday

Woke up about 11:00 A.M. Had to wait for LeRoy's call so I stayed in & washed clothes. Every ten minutes the maids were pounding on the door trying to clean the place up. A bell boy brought up a package and when I opened it I found two gorgeous blouses.

About 1:30 I decided to go and see Random Harvest. I met Flo in the show and she sat thru it a second time with me.

Received a very amusing letter from Per Zee thanking me for a 48 day late birthday present.

Had dinner with Flo in the Coffee Shop & (who) waited in our room till 5:30 for LeRoy's call which never came.

At 5:30 we left in an Army bus for Stinson Field. Met new supervisor of the section.

Did two shows. The first show I did a brandy and the second a round-off back—merely act on sudden impulses because if I thought about it I know I wouldn't have done it.

The soldiers brought sandwiches, cokes & coffee backstage during intermission between shows.

We got back to the hotel about 10 and I called LeRoy. They said he was in the barracks & couldn't

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wake him without waking a hundred other fellas.

Joey, Gladys, Murphy, Flo & myself went to a Kosher Restaurant & had corn beef sandwiches.

I felt quite miserable all evening It must have been because I received no word from LeRoy.

Went to sleep about 1:00 A.M.

P.S. It was Kathy's birthday today.

March 24, 1943 (on Blue Bonnet Hotel stationery)

Wednesday

Had quite a restless sleep. It rained all morning. Got up about noon and decided to go shopping for a skirt to match one of my blouses. After having gone to about seven stores I gave up hope and came back to the hotel. Still raining out and made me feel quite blue. Decided to call LeRoy again. The officer told me he was at Brooks General Hospital. I called there and in about a half hour he called back.

After talking to him I felt much better and went down & had lunch in coffee shop.

Am waiting for him to call back. Harold was suppose to go to the hospital with money for him. He used his last nickle calling me.

12:00 A.M.

Le Roy didn't call back. Wrote letters all afternoon. It was raining & I couldn't go sight seeing anyway.

We were suppose to leave at 7:00 but it rained so furiously that we couldn't get to the recons.

Did one show on large stage. I did a back aerial again tonight . A Connecticut Yankee & I got acquainted. He may call Sunday as we are coming back to San Antonio.

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Reached the hotel about 10:00 still no word from LeRoy or Harold.

Had a few sandwiches in hotel drug store with Flo, Vir, Roz and Pete all at different intervals.

Washed a few things and packed ½ way.



Planning a heavy day tomorrow so I must turn in.

Thursday, March 25, 1943 (on Blue Bonnet Hotel stationery)

The bells rang at ten and up we were. After dressing, Flo & I went to the Alamo and took in the views. At 12:00 we went to the Gunter Hotel and had the most delicious Smorgasbord. Then it was time for me to get dressed for my big afternoon. Naturally I was excited and my three day nervous spell was about to be broken.

I made myself look the best I could with the aid of Flo.

Took a cab to the hospital and was directed to LeRoy's bed by a soldier.

At last there he was in red jabs and Harold by his bedside. He looked the same to me and I did to him too.

After about an hour of very few words, Harold & I left. He drove me back to the hotel in LeRoy's blue convert. On our way we stopped at the golf course to pick up [word unclear] clubs.

When I got into our room Joey & Gladys were there and the topic of discussion was the letter we received earlier in the day about our line and Gladys's pin which was stolen.

We left for camp at 5:00 in recons.

Had to do two shows. We had a dressing room which was 3 x 3 and no kidding.

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Immediately after the shows (which both stank on my part) our recons drove us to the train station.

All evening was spent discussing the letter.

Drove back to the Gunter after getting our sleepers because train didn't leave till 2:30 A.M.

Had Chile Con Carne with Melch & Flo.

Arrived back on Pullman and was sleeping before train even started.

Friday March 26, 1943 (on Blue Bonnet Hotel stationery)

Our train arrived in Del Rio at 6:30. Our Pullman was disconnected & we were allowed to sleep until 9:00.

After checking in I had my hair washed & set.

Del Rio, being right on the border made it only natural to take a trip across. Flo, D. Laur & her dad & I went across. We got thru the border & rode across the bridge on a running board.

Spent an enjoyable afternoon window shopping as we had not received our salary.

We were scheduled to do two shows but the Coca Cola show was booked the same date so we "sacrificed" our time. Had a delicious dinner in the officers mess and the staff cars, driven by women took us home.

Got back just in time to catch "Blue's in the Night.

Saturday, March 27, 1943 (on Blue Bonnet Hotel stationery)

We were all up bright & early. Practically the whole show was to go across the border but by the time we left, Roz, Flo & I were the only ones.

We took a station wagon over. The custom officers welcomed us as the U.S.O. girls & we had loads of fun with them.

With our pockets full of salary--\$2 bills & silver we shopped.

I bought bobby pins, elastic bull horns, birds, a tray, a vase, and yes even a table.

Had more fun bargaining with the Mex. Was crazy about the boy where I bought the table. I'm slipping in Spanish but oh how wonderfully well I got along.

We finally got Pablo and all our junk in to his car & drove across the border. The officer laughed at my table.

I shall never forget the trouble I had sending that table off.

I barely had time to get cleaned up as we were supposed to leave at 4:30. It was after 5:00 by the time we got started because one of the trucks broke down.

I almost died of the heat. The camp was 30 miles from town & it was mostly colored.

Dressed in tents & worked outside. Reminded me very much of fair shows.

Floor was difficult to work on & the air was heavy.

For something different a colored boy was called upon to dance.

Rosita & Flo had quite a battle after the 3 shows.

Arrived home about 11:00. Roz, Vir Mel & myself went to eat in the only café open. Met Pete, Howard & Paul & some soldiers connected with entertainment.

Spent about an hour packing all the junk I bought then went to bed.

Sunday March 28, 1943 (on Blue Bonnet Hotel stationery)

Got up at 9:00 and by the time I found a Church it was 9:45. Fifteen minutes late for Mass.

Was all set for a big breakfast but the cook quit so the coffee shop closed down.

I lost the hotel key & had to pay a dollar for it.

Melchie gave me heat for the extra box.

When we arrived at the train station a troop train pulled in. Soldiers & sailors galore. Our train was suppose to be 40 min late so Paul, Roz & I went to have breakfast across the street. Just after we finished ordering Howard came & told us we were going to take the troop train. I almost choked to death trying to eat then ran like the devil to make the train.

Arrived in San Antonio at 4:30.

Had a little lunch in drug store and Flo went to the show while I sit here & wait for LeRoy to call. Ha ha. I will probably go to a show later. I doubt whether I will hear from him.

12:00 P.M.

Received no word from LeRoy or Harold so decided to go out for a walk. Met Paul & Pete & asked Flo & myself to go canoeing. Had loads of fun in canal then had sundae in drugstore. Came up to room showed pictures & listened to radio.

Monday, March 29 (on stationery for Leading Hotels of the Rio Grande Valley--The Cortez, The Madison, The Donna Hotels)

Written at Laredo, Texas

We had to get up at 7 this morning to catch an 8 o'clock train. We were at the train 2 ½ hours before it moved an inch. We arrived in Laredo about 2:00 P.M. Checked in at the Hamilton (the same hotel I stopped in almost two years ago to telegraph LeRoy) and had dinner with Flo in the coffee shop. While there I bumped into George Leon's partner. They had been waited on the border for six weeks for Geo's papers.

We all went across to Laredo. It still looks much the same with the exception of the new customs house they are now building. I didn't buy anything at all.

We left for theatre by (~~recons~~) trucks and only did one show on small stage.

When we got back to town we went to Maevio Laredo & took in some of the night life. I listened to a band of mariachis for awhile before crossing the bridge. Soldiers are now patrolling the shore & sleeping under the bridge.

Must have gotten in after midnight.

March 30, Tuesday (on Leading Hotels of the Rio Grande Valley stationery)

Written at Rio Grande City

Caught an 8:30 bus & was dumped off in front of the Ringgold Hotel. What a town. I never knew the U.S. had them. It was the type of town shown in old Western movies—hot & dusty & not a decent restaurant in town.

However, I had one consolation. Our room was a mansion in itself. Two large beds, a fire place and enough room to hold a prom.

Flo & I argued about every trivial thing. Looks like our partnership will soon be a has been.

The Fort was only about a mile from town—a cavalry center. We had a terrible dressing room. Did two shows. A lady came back with hamburgers because we were all starving. Most of us went to the grocery store in the afternoon & bought milk & crackers—about all we could get without our ration book. When we got back to town we decide to sit thru an ancient movie so Vir & myself went to see "Kennel Murder Mystery" with Will Powell & Mary Astor. We didn't have to pay to get in because box

office was closed. We got in just before the picture began and had anticipated a full show. After the murders had been completed, evidence gathered, the film stopped. What torture.

On our way back we bumped into Joey & Howard & had milk while they drank beer. Joey left & Howard spoke mostly of the letter.

March 31, 1943 (on Leading Hotels of the Rio Grande Valley stationery)

Wednesday March 31

Written at Mission Texas

Was up all night vomiting. When the time came to leave at 9:00 I didn't think I would be able to make it. But by 9:10 we were in Moore Field Recons riding or shall I say jerking along. The ride was only 1 ½ hrs but to me it seemed 1 ½ days. We arrived in town about 10:30.

Before checking in Flo decided to change roommates & took Vir. as a refuge. So I signed in single. What a torturous room. A dungeon would have been better. I was much too ill to fret about the room and threw myself at the bed immediately and rested till noon.

We had to leave for camp early because a matinee performance was scheduled. Upon arriving at the mess hall we were greeted by a band—my mistake they were only practicing in front of the mess hall.

All the luscious food I couldn't eat was there. I had just a few swallows & had to go out for air.

When we arrived at the theatre I vomited again in the presence of Flo which was very important. She told Melcher & Melcher called a Dr and insisted it was my imagination. Every thing is imagination to him. The Doc came & asked a few questions in front of everyone and I was embarrassed to the limit. He was a major cado. Told me to come to the hospital after the show. I did two numbers & couldn't make the third. I sprawled out on the blanket & lie on the floor while they did the finale. The hospital is an episode of its own.

Wednesday Ward 4. Room D

Written at Moore Field Hospital

A staff car picked Flo & myself up —(Flo wanted to see about her eyes) and drove us to the hospital where we found Major [name unclear]. He took us to a room that must be one of the operating rooms. He took Flo first and put something in her eyes and then put me on the table. He felt around my stomach & abdomen for awhile then into my mouth. After asking a few questions which he didn't give me time to answer left the room. He came back with a pres. for Flo. Then we all went to the Pharmacy & picked my pres. up—a bottle of green liquid which was to be taken on the hour.

He got ahold of Miss Barnett—Lt. nurse and asked her to give me a room. She had one of the boys move to another room & I waited in the office till the room was made up. Miss Barnett took me to the room brought me a pair of G.I. pajamas & towels. The pajamas were a surprise to me as I had expected to rest in my slip.

They were a few inches too large but I got into them & into bed.

Along came the nurse again & gave me that horrible green stuff. This time she left the door open so it would be cooler.

In about 15 min. one of the patients took a gander at my sad puss and said, "Don't look so sad. I'll come in & cheer you up—and he did. About 5 minutes later his buddy walked in and both of them made me gleam.

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A third & fourth one came in. One was from Det & Los Angeles and was a writer. The second blond fella was from W Texas and had his tonsils removed. The third whose room I occupied broke his wrist playing football and the fourth also had his tonsils out. They made me feel very gay. Then "Shorty" my attendant came in & gave me some medicine & shooed the boys away because the Major told him that I was suppose to rest in quiet.

Flo called about 6:00 & Shorty (a Mexican) came in with a G.I. robe & took me to the officer. I told her I couldn't do the show & made arrangements to meet them at the theatre at nine.

When I got back into bed, the writer and his buddy came in all dressed to go to the show. They said if it wasn't as good as I built it up to be they where coming back to beat the H out of me.

The blond couldn't get out because he at [unclear] of a temp. So he kept me company along with the fourth & now fifth fella.

Miss Barnett came in and I gave her a note to give to Flo because a Dr. Graham came in and told me I had better stay for the night because of my temp 101 to (4 written above "to"). He really was quite a handsome man. He called Melch up & told him I was going to be confined for the night. The boys were delighted but not half as much as I was. I made a 2 bit bet that I'd left at 4 with the blond and naturally lost.

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Shorty left and a tall substitute for a cross between Peter Lorre & Gary Cooper became my aid. Then the nurses left. The place practically deserted. I was getting rather hungry but could eat nothing but liquids. Blondie put a towel around his G.I. robe for a substitute for an apron & ran out to the kitchen & cooked me up some mushroom soup.

He brought the bed tray, another fella jacked the bed to a sitting position and the two boys that went to see the show came back & into my room. I had six of them in there—all talking at once. I didn't know who to pay attention to.

All of a sudden another character brightened my door way—a R. A. F. pilot dressed in blues. My he was darling and amazed to see me. I loved to listen to him talk and couldn't make him talk long enough. He got a chair & sat next to my bed. By this time my tea & cookies & cake which I wasn't suppose to eat came and so the Englishman joined me in a spot of tea.

It was drawing close to 9:00 & I expected Melch to pop in. I told the boys if he did to scam fast.

The R. A. F. character with his accent said "But I say, why should we scam" & I laughed & laughed. He told me the V. R. on his collar meant very romantic.

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I wouldn't doubt that. I was still receiving marriage proposals from the writer. He was anxious to get the extra 102 dollars a month and insisted he had to get married inside of 7 weeks. He really sounded like a novel. Finally slim, bald & gruesome walked in and gave me another dose of the green fluid & told the boys they had better let me rest and that it was time for them to get ready for bed.

There was only a wall between the R. A. F. & myself—we slept only 2 ft. away from each other. He played his radio extra loud & put it next to the wall.

A few boys brought me some [unclear word] mysteries and all of them came in to say Good Night.

Twenty minutes after every hour came my aid with the bottles. He really was nice to me. After midnight I finished reading "The postman always rings twice"—what a book. R. A. F. told me not to read page 108 & if I did wait until he got out of the room.

I decided I'd wait till I got there to read it but after reading 5 pages my curiosity escaped and I had to seek it on page 108. After I read it I knew what he meant.

I finished the book then wrote a 11 page letter to Per Zee telling her of my day at the hospital.

April 1, 1943 Thur. (On Leading Hotels of the Rio Grande Valley stationery)

Note at top: Debut in a Hospital

Written at Harlingen Texas

I was up at 7:00 not however under my own power. The tall man in a grayish white (after working all night) came in with my breakfast tray which consisted of a glass of milk, a cup of coffee and an orange. I took the milk & orange & put the java away.

Later he came & took my temp & pulse beat. The nurse came & then the Dr.

The Dr. said he didn't want to let me go but if he didn't I'd have a difficult time catching up to the company. Had I been a w— I'm sure I would have stayed for a week. I got dressed & went to the office. While there all the fellas except R. A. F. came in and said good bye & how sorry they were I had to leave. I wonder what happened to Britain. I would have like to have seen him. Three lts. a capt. & driver picked me up in a staff car & escorted me to town. Quite the thing.

The whole show was in the bus waiting for me.

I told Flo all about my debut in a hospital and time flew quickly.

The bus took us straight to the hotel. I again checked in single.

As soon as I got into the room I phoned Mission long distance to see about the coat Flo left and made arrangements to send it by bus express. That is a new one on me.

I washed out a few things. It really is quite peaceful living alone. I wrote to Madelyn asking for a raise & wrote to my folks telling them I shall be home—3 wks if I didn't get it and then I finished my letter to Per Zee.

Flo called & asked if I wanted to see "I Wanted Wings." I did so I met her & Vir in the lobby. The show didn't begin till 3 so we shopped around & I picked up my coat. Was I glad to get it oh boy.

After the show we had some ice cream.

Recons picked us up at 6:45 and went out to Harg Field. When we got there we found we had to work out doors on a platform.

It wasn't too bad—I went for a back aerial and missed it. One show only.

We all were invited to the O.C. but Melch declined the invitation.

Had a snack with Flo & Vir. Then went back to hotel D had a soldier friend & he wanted to take us out. After a few minutes of persuasive talk I went. He had a convert & we drove to a roadhouse & had another snack.

Went home & to bed. It really is peaceful living by ones self.

April 2, 1943 Friday (on The White-Plaza Hotels Corpus Christi, Texas stationery)

Had to be at the train station at 9:30 so I got up at nine. When I got downstairs, I was told the train would be two hrs. late. I decide to have breakfast & in the middle of it someone decide the train was on time. After having gulped my breakfast down they decided it would be late. I took a trip to the train station to see what goes and then came back & wrote letters in my room.

The train finally came around noon & we arrived in Brownsville shortly afterward.

Checked in at the different hotel because there were no rooms (Travelers Hotel) I had a single room connecting with Flo & Vir.

After getting settled I had a light lunch & grabbed a bus & went to Mex—Matamoros—with D.

Shopped around and bought a purse in a curio shop that had the most handsomest proprietor. We spent about 2 hrs. in there. For buying the purse I insisted upon a souvenir so he gave me my choice. I picked out a door stop. He asked us to come back that night & we said we would.

We took a cab back to the bridge & walked from there. I went up to see D's room & then went back to my hotel & got ready.

We rode in a truck about 7 blocks to the Camp. Only one show on a small stage.

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We had to iron our wardrobe on the porch outside the dressing room because there wasn't any electrical appliance in the dressing rooms.

I was very weak & found it difficult to work—missed a front aerial.

After we got back, other 2 D's & myself went across. Wandered around & ended up at Marios. We had a gay time kidding around. I had my eyes on a bracelet but the price was too high. I tried to Jew him down. In the meantime he gave the D's tequila and me some coffee liquer which was pretty good. We

sampled all his perfumeratas. Then he had one of his aids clean my silver filigree pin. Does it look swell now.

Finally he got angry because I tried to Jew him down so we left.

Got to bed around 1:00. Flo—Vir—[unclear name] & Paul made a lot of noise next door.

Saturday April 3 (on Auditorium Hotel Houston, Texas stationery)

Got up about 15 minutes before train time and managed to get to the station just on time. Lucky the station was directly across the street from the Travelers Hotel. The whole company just about made it. I wish we could make all our trains that way and not have to wait around for hours.

We arrived in Kingsville shortly after noon and the Casa Ricardo was only a block away so we walked thru the park.

The hotel was much like the Regis in Mexico D.F. with rooms leading in from outside verandas. Flo—Vir & myself had a corner room on the third floor with 15 large windows & a screen door.

I spend the afternoon on my fascinator.

In the evening we did one show in a large auditorium for the navy.

After the show, I went directly to our room and stayed there. Vir. & Flo went out. It was rather warm so I crocheted out on the veranda until the mosquitos discovered my luscious blood.

I left an early call and then to bed about 1:00 A.M.

Sunday, April 4 (on Auditorium Hotel stationery)

Went to Church but only heard the last half of a Mass—due to the fault of the desk clerk not giving me the correct hours of the Mass. Had a nice breakfast in coffee shop and took a few pictures.

Our train was supposed to have left at noon but we had to sit on the curb stone & wait about an hour.

Our destination, Corpus Christi was only about an hour's run.

We went directly to the Plaza Hotel and I got a room single.

My room is very nice and I'm sure it will be a pleasure to live alone for five days.

After being in the room for about an hour unpacking, etc. Flo called & asked if I'd like to go to an afternoon tea dance with some "darling" cadets.

So----I got dressed for a tea dance.

The cadets happen to be the [unclear word] we met in Chi at the Penthouse with Madlyn's bro. He happened in the hotel with two of his friends & spotted Flo. He knew she looked familiar but couldn't place her. He tried to get some info at the desk but they wouldn't give out.

He rode up & down the elevator with her to find out what floor they got off at.



And finally one of his buddy's said they looked like show girls. Then came the dawn—but he still didn't remember her name.

Finally he stopped her & then became acquainted all over again. Thurs—the date.

We all get together finally I got the tallest—a 6'0" by the name of Paul. We decided it would take too much time to go to the tea dance which was to be held at the base so we went motor boat riding in the bay. It was a great novelty for me as it was the first time I actually rode beyond breakers in rough water.

After the ride, Paul bought ice cream bars for the whole crew. We took a taxi & decided to go to the amusement park which was on the edge of the bay.

We walked around then rode the ferris wheel. Afterwards the fellas wanted to go on the rocket. I said I wouldn't go for a million dollars. First Virg & her fella went & then convince Flo to go. Then I was forced to go. I still don't know how I did it. It wasn't as bad as I had anticipated—but I did hang on for dear life.

Afterwards we went on the Tilt a Whirl—before I went on I remembered what [unclear name] I had made just last year when I went on with Mrs. Pat---- & Billy. I got so dizzy that I said I never again go on—and yet I did. I guess I'll never learn. I went on and when I got off I could hardly stand.

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up, and Paul had to take me to a bench at the edge of the bay. We sat there and I recuperated. In the meanwhile the others make plans for the rest of the evening.

After awhile we took a cab to town and went to a coffee shop to eat.

The fellas had to jam their disappointed steaks down in a hurry in order to get back to the base before lights out. We stayed & finished our coffee.

Still suffering from hunger, we went to the Plaza Coffee Shop & had some more to eat then went to our rooms to bed.

It's a wonderful feeling not to think about having to get up in the morning to catch a train.

Monday April 5, 1943 (on The White-Plaza Hotels stationery) [Begin proofreading here](#)

Notes: Navy Rodd Field

I woke up around ten and decided to go shopping for some blue wool for a fascinator. I ended up after a long search with four balls of blue yarn. Then I kept my appointment at the Plaza Beauty Shop and had my hair set. While sitting under the dryer, I stared my long dreamed of fascinator.

Afterwards, I came up to the room and became very much interested in the fascinator & worked on it all afternoon. A chartered bus picked us up at 3:30 & took us out to the navy base where we did one show. We were impressed by the silence the boys attained when the Capt. Or some one of importance walked in. We didn't know what had happened at first. After the show the same silence presided until the Capt. & his party walked out.

When we got back to the hotel, the kids didn't feel like going out for night lunch so I went alone then came home & [word unclear] with my fascinator till all hours.

Tuesday April 6, 1943 (on The White-Plaza Hotels stationery)

Note: Cabaniss Field Navy

Lauer called and made a date to go to the show. After lunch we saw Hello Frisco Hello.

After the show I got back to my room and got ready for the field. We went out to Cabaniss Field and did one show.

Flo Vir & I went to the Ship Service & was in the middle of our sundaes when Melcher came & dragged us out.

After the show, Flo Vir & I had a snack in the coffee shop. Flo went to her room & Vir & I went out for a walk to the bay. On our way we picked up two Marines & spent about an hour talking to them.

As we walked into the hotel on our way back some cadet stopped us and said "Hey Wait a minute, I know you, you're working for the U.S. O. you're Madelyn Wallace dancer, I'm Joe Wallace. This was all said in one breath. I didn't believe him so he showed us his identification card. He was with two other fellas so we went to Flo's room & the 5 of them had a drinking party & I crocheted. Vir & Joe teamed up & Flo, by means of her own, copped the cream of the other two & went for a walk. Disgusted, I went to bed and worked on my fascinators. Then the Flo sent me episode began.

Wednesday April 7 (on The White-Plaza Hotels stationery)

Clyde called around 11:00 and made breakfast dates for the four of us—Geo, Clyde, Flo & myself.

DeLaur came & wanted me to go out for a fish dinner at Pud's Cottage but after debating a while, I decided not to go because I would get my hair aall full of sand. Instead, I went to see "Crystal Ball."

We did one show at Cuddihy Field. Vir & Flo & I were going to go out when Jo & Mel came. I left & had a quiet eve by myself.

April 8 Thursday (on The White-Plaza Hotels stationery)

Woke up around noon and had lunch in coffee shop. Met the Delores in cafeteria & they showed me where the luggage shop was. Met Pete and he came along to carry my trunk back. Played the Naval Training Station only one show again.

Had night lunch and Joe came again. We had four guys & three girls. I ended up with two.

After spending all evening packing & listening to the fellas argue as to who was going to take me out I ended up by going to the Club Madrid with both of them.

After a while, one made his exit & I got along jolly well with Bob. Danced with a fella from Sharon Pa.

I stayed up all night because we had to leave at 5:0 A.M. for Victoria

Continued on same page

(Friday Ap. 8) Foster Field

When we arrived around 1:00 at the De----- Hotel, they didn't want the U.S.O. people so the army picked us up & took us out to Brown's Motel. I had a cottage with F.

After a while the army took us to town for lunch. Then I came back & slept until we left.

We did two shows so we wouldn't have to do another on Sat. Our first day off. Foster Field.

The cars took us to town for night lunch & then back to the cottages.

Girls getting along well together & acts keep their distance.

Saturday April 10 (on Hotel Pines Pine Bluff, Ark. Stationery)

The army picked us up & drove us to town. Had breakfast & shopped around. Our train for Houston was late. We arrived in Houston about four and went back to the auditorium Hotel.

I had to room with Roz because there were no singles.

After getting settled I went to see the Amazing Mrs. Holiday with Flo & Virg.

We went to Kelly's for dinner. Rosita couldn't find a room so Roz invited her to stay with us.

Feels good not to have to work tonight.

Flo & Virg have handed in their notice with me.

Sunday April 11 (on Hotel Pines stationery)

I had breakfast at Pines Hotel.

I went to the 12:10 Mass at the same church I went to last March in Houston. Roz & I had a confidential chat.

I went to the show in the afternoon with Vir. Saw [3 words unclear]. Then met Lauer for dinner at the Rice.

Looked around for Happy go lucky all night couldn't find it so went home to ~~and~~ had a chat with Lauer all night. Have horseback riding date tomorrow with Paul, Vir & Lauer.

Got a single room. Had trouble having it made up.

Monday April 12 (on Hotel Pines stationery)

Paul called at 9:00 and I got dressed for riding. Vir & Lauer decided not to go. I was ready in -----1/2 hour & Paul & I took a cab out to the stable.

I don't know whether I was afraid or not.

Had a gorgeous ride and galloped most of the time. Think I'll go riding more often.

Bought yarn for {word unclear} fascinator.

Our bus left at 2:00 for Gavelsten. Arrived in Galvesten around 4:00.

It's a shame we couldn't stay at the Bucaneer Hotel right on the gulf. Got letters from Lu Hank & Johnny.

Paul, Vir, Roz Gilman & myself went bike riding then took a cab to bus station.

After eating we left for Fort Crockett & did one show.

Arrived in Houston about 11:00 & went to Rice Hotel for some Pecan Pie with Gilman & Vir.

Pette left today

April 13, Tuesday (on Hotel Evangeline Alexandria, La. Stationery)

Left at 9:00 & arrived by train in Alex. At 4:00.

Had difficulties in getting rooms but ended up with 2 doubles & 2 single with Flo & Vir.

We played Camp Beauregard & did one out door show. It was pretty cold.

Gladys left the [2 words unclear]. Flo argued with Melcher about finale.

After show Flo met Julie & went out with her & Vir & I went out to eat.

Julie spent all night in our room.

Wednesday April 14, 1943 (on Hotel Evangeline stationery)

Got up about noon & went to breakfast then to see Air Force with Vir & Flo.

We looked for another show but it was too late.

It was much too cold to do an outside show so we did a show on 10 tables in rec room. Gladys & Flo had a bit of trouble in dressing room.

Julie couldn't come tonight so Flo was rather disappointed. Had night lunch together.

NOTE: 1943 entries end here

Tuesday, May 1, 1945 Miramere Hotel

Bari, Italy

The alarm rang at 9:30 this morning. What a great satisfaction it was to shut the alarm off, turn over and continue sleeping. I decided to get up at about 10:30 and wash my own hair as Duke did not appear. Got my hair washed and was in the middle of setting it and a knock on the door. Who should it be but Bert Mathesin. Had lunch together, went for a walk along the seashore, went to the Red Cross and then back to the hotel – hmmm. Our pick-up was at four. Bert decided to go back to the field after seeing us off. Did a show for a quarter master outfit, packed up and drove about 10 miles to do a show for the chocolate chaps. Got back to the hotel around 10:00. Chuck was waiting for Ziggy and I thanked my lucky stars Schwartz didn't show up. Duke has been acting indifferent all day and joined Ziggy & Chuck. Felt miserable by myself so hiked up four flights for Larry to go get ice cream with me. Met the gang in the lobby, slide thru a black market invitation. Went to bed around 11:30 Z. C & D. came in just before going for their snack. Feeling unbearable. Read and then a not too peaceful sleep.

Wed. May 2

Was up at four, up at six and finally decided to really get up at 9:30. Wrote a few letters and Captain Peters called for a luncheon date. Went out to the airport, then picked up parasol. Begged Duke to go to the movies and saw "I Take This Woman". Tension broke slowly. Went to the P.X. and coffee shoppe. Spent the rest of the afternoon and evening home with Duke. Relationship improved. Got dressed about 9:00 and went over to the **Acciente** Hotel to a dance. Met an officer from **Caeserta**. Discovered war in Italy was ended and met General **McLeson** as he came staggering in with Zig & Chuck. Sat at their table until it became embarrassing then decided to take off for the ice cream plant. Met Pat and Larry there. Told Pat about the dice game and he was off like a flash. Came home and was peacefully eating our ice cream when our hero **Billy Berry** enters. Shortly after he left things went BOOM. Happened to mention Bert. It's wrong and an impossibility to get along with Duke. Guess I'll read myself to sleep. I have yet to spend a pleasant Wednesday off. It's 1:30 now. Must get up early to set my hair and fix my parasols for early show.

Thursday, May 3

Up at 10:30 again. Was surprised to see Duke at 11:00. Came to pick up wardrobe. Spent all morning getting the Eye tie laundry girls to fix my parasol. Had lunch with D. Our pick up came at 1:00. Thank goodness because they just sprayed my room with D.D.T. We did a show at the Bari hospital. First time I felt like working in about 2 wks. We were picked up after the show and taken about 26 miles to Joya where we did a show in a theater. Wonderful audience and enjoyed working. After we arrived at the

hotel we went to a dance. Danced with three other G.I.'s. Boom! Played a few games of Ping Pong – Of course I was “skunked”, then off to the ice cream plant. We would have to bump into the O.& Zig. D. & I had ice cream – the patch up and then – pleasant dreams.

Friday May 4

Up about 10. Expected Bert but he couldn't get in. Had lunch with D. Played some ping pong and then went to see “Night of Jan16th”. Was called onto the stage as jury member. Thought the show excellent. When we got back to the hotel Bill Snyder, the crazy one from the country club was there. Had a few laughs. Then had to go out to the next camp. After chow we took off to the kitchen to thank the fellas. Show miserable. Nearly brained Larry. Fight! Crazy one asked for me. He was stupefied. Played ping pong until D. insulted me and then went to room. Talked with Bill awhile. He's awfully sweet. Started to pack and knock! knock! One can of ice cream brought up by bell boy. Zig didn't have anything else to do. Ate ice cream, had a few laughs, finished packing and then off to sleep without the usual night cap.

Saturday May 5

I had to get up at 8:00 a.m. to make the 8:30 pick up. Got downstairs at 8:20 – not another soul around. The rest sauntered down and by 9:30 everyone was in the lobby. Crazy one came down, got a field jacket from him and then out in search of donuts & coffee. Got some pansys from D. Finally left base at Bari at 10:30 in a recon with (unintelligible) Arrived in Manduria shortly after noon. Met Swing time revue. Impossible to get a single rooms. Impossible even to get a decent room. Feel like I'm locked up in a dungeon. One window 12 by 12 is the only light& air we have. Zig decided she wanted to get drunk, Duke was a willing accomplice so out for a bottle. After dinner we all went to Revue “Swingtime”. Terrible show. Later went to the officers club & played ping pong & jitterbugged. D. lost a drinking partner and left the scene early. Walked home with Larry & Cap shortly after midnight.

Had a chat with Chump. Rough! Zig came in after 4 and complained about clock ticking too loudly. Was as mad as a wet herring!

Was up at 10 tried to get a single room – no soap. Duke walked to church and I nearly passed out when he stayed with me. Did absolutely nothing all afternoon except lay around watching Zig and a G.I. from the 460 guzzle a bottle. Pick-up at 4:30. Zig up at 4:25. Don't know how she made it. Had mess at the officers club. Did our show at an open air theater. Wind too strong for parasol. Terribly hard working. Am getting too darn fat. Just before the finale Tim Wright came up to me. We renewed acquaintanceship and later went to his hut for about an hour. Met the others at the O. club with a rumor that the war would be over tomorrow at 9:00. Everyone pounced on me when it was later learned it wouldn't be until a few more days.

Had clam chowder and lots of fun. D. drunk. Got home about 1:00. Zig and Kirt were at it until 4:00 A.M. Oh I wish I had a single room. Spent a miserable night. Showed her the way at 5:00 A.M. Finally dozed off!

Monday – May 7 Manduria Centrale Hotel

Didn't feel too well after Ziggie's rough night. Spent the morning moving into another room. Our Pick-up came at 1 and we did an outdoor show at the 450 B.G. The conference meeting regarding the end of

the war was announced during our finale. How happy we all were to be on stage when the news arrived.

Tim called and picked me up shortly after dinner. Everyone was restricted in Manduria and by the time we arrived at the base for the proposed dance all the base was restricted and dance cancelled. After seeing the Colonel and M.P.'s, etc. we finally got Tim a pass. Spent the evening of victory in Tim's tent with his roommates and listened to G.I. talk. Pass was only good till 20:15 but we stuck it out until 23:30. The kids weren't in when I got in, besides I was so tired I fell asleep immediately.

Monday May 8 Palace Hotel Santa **Caserea**

Packed my musette bag before going down to lunch. Had quite a silent morning and it lasted throughout the trip to Santa Caserea. What a trip that was. Our driver got lost and we were two hours behind Pat, Duke and Zig. Finally arrived at the Palace Hotel pretty well the worse for wear. Duke was helpful in unpacking and seeing me to my room. Hence friends again. The rest camp is quite a beautiful space. Joined Zig and a few officers for tea in the hut – later climbed rocks with Duke. After the question, "Are you a man or a mouse arose Boom! Had a terrific meal with the E.M.'s and off to the theater. Quite a few of the fellows had already seen the show but it was a fair audience. Met Barney Charkins, the captain I shaved in Torremaggiore. Went to the E.M. party and danced with the G.I.'s. At 11:00 we joined the officers on the patio and had a wonderful time. They drank and I made the noise. Seven of them showed me to the door. Thought I'd never get rid of them. Zig picked up with a little 2 lt. and brought a bottle into Duke's room. Zig asked me in for a while so I went until I got kicked out because we were talking religion. Later the party moved into our room and stayed until 3:30 a.m.

Wednesday May 9, Santa Caserea

What a night! Ziggy was drunker than I have ever seen her. Talked and yelled to herself all morning. Had to get up four times to put her to bed. Finally gave up and got out of bed willingly when Barney knocked. Wasn't dressed in time to take the fishing trip with them. So I went boating with Bill Ellis whom I had taken up with last night, Berry and a few G.I.'s Later we investigated the Casino which was off limits. After a wonderful dinner we sat on the veranda to recover from the mornings activities. Then we decided to go bicycling. Spent more time walking the bike as it was a road with a terrific incline. Parked the bike and climbed the rocks to investigate a 12<sup>th</sup> century lookout. When things became a bit too romantic, I decided we better hit the road. Pleasant ride down, no pumping. Met Duke and Zig just ready to go swimming. I thought it a bit chilly myself.

We played some ping pong then had to dress for dinner. Davis from the 15<sup>th</sup> F.C. dropped in to see me for a while then we took off. Had dinner with Ellis and about 7 others. Took in a sad "Gook" show then saw the movie "China". Played more ping pong, sat at the bar with the kids then a walk was proposed. Much to my objections the kiss came. Finally got upstairs, packed and in bed.

Thursday May 10 (unintelligible)

Zig didn't spend the night in the room at all. After last night it was a pleasure to be alone. Our call was for 9 but transportation didn't arrive until 10:00. Missed (unintelligible) too. Arrived in Manduria around noon, had lunch, talked to Tim and left for the hospital show at 1:00. The ride from the next

camp threw us together again. Spent the remainder of the afternoon answering phone calls and ahem! Tim arrived about six and we went to the theater in town. Good show, wonderful audience. Went to the red Cross and was so proud of Tim when he skunked a major and a captain in the game. Went for a drive and back to join Pat and Duke. Finally Tim got kicked out. Walked him downstairs and outside and then "it" came. Had to beat it upstairs to pack & spent a little time talking. Pleasant dreams.

Friday, May 11. Naples, Terminus

We were packed up at 9:15 and driven out to the airfield (Tim called again). Piled into the Maxwell house, a B25 and a Colonel flew us to Casere. Sat in the nose of the ship all the way over. T'was an exciting, pleasant ride. Got to USO hdq in time for lunch. Everyone was there to greet us except Zig. Zig took quote a razzing about her weight. As there was no room at hdq we reloaded and came into Naples. Got a single room again. After I unpacked I went downstairs and met Rita Roper. Never would have recognized her if it weren't for her birth mark. Went to see U.S.O. show "Pardon Me". Duke met a distant relative. All the U.S.O. personnel around here & there's plenty kept bringing Cath to mind. Something has to be done and soon too. Had a wash then Froame, Milt & Duke came into my room to chat a while. They left one by one. Then Roper came in half blind. We talked a while then she left. Duke left a little after 1:00.

Saturday May 12, Naples, Italy

Don't know the reason but I was up and around at 8:30 this morning. Monkeyed around till 10:30 then D. & I went downstairs to meet Milt Froam for our swimming date. G. I.'s were late so we had time for ping pong and lunch. After a while we finally got the whole crew together and I was the only female. We drove down to a [word unclear] Italian beach, rented a beach house and then a sail boat. After we got away from the masses we had a wonderful time. After we were out far enough, some of us jumped overboard and swam. Truly I had a wonderful time. Will have to go in for sailing more often.

Had an appointment at the hotel beauty parlor for a shampoo & manicure. First BP I have been to in a long time. Didn't do anything too important all evening. D. and I took a walk, had some drinks and listened to a combination band, look at some jewelry, & later went up to pack. Duke went out with Milt & the G.I.'s. Zig came in to tell me she was going to marry Chuck. Duke bought me the cross I was admiring for part of my birthday present after borrowing the money from me to do it. I had fallen asleep while waiting for Duke to return. He woke me up and we talked for a while & gave him back the cross Z [I?] had for the 28.

Sunday May 13. En Route.

Had to get up at 7:30 to make 8:00 o'clock mass. However mass wasn't until 8:30 so missed it. Our pick up came at 9 and we were driven to the airport. After waiting around for about an hour & ½ our ship came in. We loaded up and the LT Pilot asked me to sit in the co-pilot seat. We had a very wonderful trip except D. got angry because I was in the co-pilot's seat. We buzzed St. Pete's in Rome and the pilot brought us down to see the Excelsior. While waiting for transportation to the hotel Duke & I continued arguing and I also had a tiff with Zig. I was able to get a single room again. Oh, how beautiful it is. I feel like a queen. Drapes, curtains, arm chairs, telephone, all kinds of buttons to push for services and a huge beautiful bath all my very own. Unpacked and got settled. Refused to eat lunch and dinner



because I was very upset. Billy and Larry picked me up at 9:00 to hear a symphony concert. What beautiful music. Completely relaxing. Made those 173 steps, five floors of them and I read to sleep.

Monday, May 14 Florence, Italy

Was up about 10:00 rang for the maid. What a delight it is to push a button to get your room made up. Went down to lunch with Pat. Feud gloriously continuing. Up the five flights and wrote a few letters. Took a short nap. Refused to let D. carry my wardrobe down so I took it down myself. Our pick up due at 4:30 was late. I had tea with Billy and Larry. Only one show at the 5<sup>th</sup> photo section. Small group, fair audience, weather hot. Went for a short walk along the river with B. and Larry. Talked with Zig for a while till D. intervened as drunk as could be then off to Billy's room where we had a few snacks. Duke phoned twice about midnight – still I gave no encouragement. Off to sleep with a book again.

Wednesday May 15 - Florence, Italy

Duke stopped in this morning. After rebuking him enough, he finally left. Had lunch with Berry and Larry. Up those five flights again and started writing letters. Enters McHale, departs McHale, Zold on bed in tears, enters McHale, Zold stands firm. An apology [word unclear] my own way. I finally succumbed. It had been a long time. Zig decided to take off for Foggia all of a sudden so I had to get dressed run down the darn stairs & up again. Billy bought me a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Everywhere you look around here you see flowers. We just received a driver & a station wagon till the end of the trip. Had tea with Berry, Pat & a war correspondent. Didn't bother with dinner. Our pick-up wasn't till 7:30 so I fooled the afternoon away. Only one show, five flights up for the Engineers. Fair show. Acting role of Prima Donna again. After we unloaded Jack, our driver drove us up in the hills to view Florence from the top. An enticing (site) sight. Spent the evening in the fellows' room. Took Chucks call and found Zig hadn't ever been to the hospital. Pat in a dither. D. walked me home & after a few minutes left. Read awhile then off to sleep.

Wednesday May 16, Excelsior

Spent the morning writing letters and awaiting news of Zig. After dinner Jack pick Duke & Billy, Larry and myself up and toured Florence. After driving around for a while we found a swimming pool. As usual I was the only femme around. The water was frigid so we didn't stay too long. We drop the men off at the hotel and Jack & I went for a ride to the P.O. Duke nearly blew his top because I was gone for 45 minutes. No news of Zig yet. Duke and I battling so I spent a quiet evening by myself except for Billy and Larry.

Thursday May 17 – Florence

With the dawn came reconciliation. Didn't get down until time for dinner. Zig called & we played ping pong until she arrived. "Hank" the M. Sarg. from the Photo Barn called on me and brought me flowers and pictures. Zig saved the afternoon because I had to spend my time with her because she was ordered back to the States. Dismissed the Sarg. & helped Zig pack. Acquired some of her clothes & shoes. We all saw her off. She expects to get married to Chuck of a necessity before leaving Tuesday. Our pick-up was for 5:45. Drove around the block to a Red Cross theater and found show to be at 8:00. Spent time talking to Jack in station wagon. He has already tried to take possession of me and Duke is

blazing. Pat refuses to let me sit in front because he fears another romance or distraction or something. Fair show, fair audience. I stayed on to see the movie-- Sonya Henie is something and Jack came back to pick me up. We drove around for a while and upstairs I went to pack. Duke decided to get blind. T'wasn't until 1:30 A.M. that I was off to sleep.

Monday May 18 Cesenatico

Our call was for 9:30 but by the time we finally got under way it was 10:30. Sat in back and bickered back and forth with Pat about front seat. Funny thing, he was unable to upset me – for change. Had a nice trip. Countryside beautiful except for evidence of war. Bombed buildings, Bailey Bridges and P.O.W. Camps. Arrived in Cesenatico about four & had a little lunch. Our billets were quite a disappointment after the luxury of Florence. We have a casa all to ourselves. No latrine facilities – water runs in a tub in the back yard. After getting as comfortably situated as possible, we went in for a swim. The Adriatic is only a block from our billet. Had a late dinner after a wonderful swim. Saw the movie that was playing so we went back to the billet. Played Gin with Berry. ~~After a while he left and~~

Eve. Sat. May 19

Duke and I were alone. Situation getting very serious. Larry came in later and saved the day. About midnight Duke went out to get water. I knew he'd come back slightly inebriated. Larry talked me to sleep about 1:30. Along about 3:00 Billy came to see if I was alright. Seems as though Jack was on the rampage – had a quarrel with Pat and was on his way back to Caeserata. Was not able to get to sleep so Larry & I talked and wondered what could have happened. About 5:30 A.M. I decided to see if I could find Pat and Duke. Larry dressed and we both went searching. We got to the hotel and heard Pat's voice so we knew he was alright. I heard a weak "Oh [word unclear]. Went around to the kitchen and McHale was sitting on the stairs trying to act very sober. After I knew they were alright, we went back to the billet. Stayed awake till 7:00 and when they were safely tucked in bed I fell asleep for an hour before I had to get up for church.

Friday Eve May 19. After finishing Gin Rummy Duke tucked me in & I had a wonderful sleep considering I had to sleep on the cot. [inserted out of chronological order]

Sat. Morn.

Got up around 10:30 and after straightening out my room with the aid of the men, took off for late breakfast & the beach. Spent all afternoon on the beach. Did a few back aerial and walkovers. Showers were not working so we went over to the dispensary and found a kid by the name of "Bootleg". He heated water for me and McHale washed my hair. Spent the rest of afternoon at the billet doing nothing. Did an outdoor show right on the edge of the sea. The guys looked so comfortable lying in the sand it made working difficult. Arranged to have a late supper. We walked along the beach. It was beautiful in the moonlight. Wish I could find some sort of solution – Went back to billet.

(Cont. previous page)

Sunday May 20 Cesenatico

After sleeping an hour got up & dressed for church. On my way over I acquired a piece of German silk – some loot the G.I.'s got off the P.W.s. All the men are crazy for German loot. Berry especially. He comes

in with the darndest junk. Pat sold Larry a flash light that he acquired for 17 cig. for \$15.00. What a dope Larry is.

After mass Larry, D. & I had lunch & off to the beach. Made a vow at church and tried to keep my distance. D. left and the field was open. Spent afternoon swimming, boating and doing acrobatics for the kids. They took a movie of me talking and working for the G.I.'s Was I surprised to have it handed to me. The corporal & Sarg are making pests of themselves. I acquired a cameo ring from the Sarg and have a luncheon date with him tomorrow.

After really knocking myself out, went back to the billet to take a snooze. Hardly could dress for the show I ached all over. Show slow – most of the audience repeats. Had a late dinner – fresh strawberries for dessert. Acquired a parachute and some Cashmere Bouquet Soap. Went back to billet early. The storm of last night calm. Jack decided he had better come back and was frightfully quiet all day. Pat & Duke suffering from after effects. The two pests never around so I decided to go to bed was unable to sleep till Duke gave me a rub down. It's difficult to keep promise. Duke suspicious about Larry's excuse of wanting water at 5:00 A.M. so I told him the story – think he was quite pleased that I worried about him.

Monday May 21. Travel

The darn British in the casa next door woke me with that horn they have been blowing at 5 minute intervals since we've been here. The Sarg also appeared at 10:30 for a 12:00 o'clock luncheon date. Finished packing and took off for the squadron. Had to eat out of a mess kit but had loads of fun with the guys. The Corporal still on my trail. Brought me a barrack bag for which I am very grateful. The Sarg had to go on line duty so I was rid of him. The fella that took the movie of me yesterday was around for more pictures and more movie. Am quite anxious to see how they turn out. Probably louse. Our truck came and wouldn't you know the Corporal decided to come along for the ride. We were darn glad to get out of that place because of the lousy billet. The Capt. tried all in his power to keep us the extra day. There had been some talk of going to Venice but that cooled down after the argument. The trip was pretty short. Larry crawled in the back seat with me and that set Duke off again. We thought nothing could be as bad as the billet we had just come from. We were fooled when we were ~~had~~ handed an empty casa. We put up quite a fuss so they made arrangements to take us to Riccione for a week. Met another U.S.O unit there and had some violin music played for me. One of the guys was Hungarian so we had a nice chat. The fellows peevied because I went into the Officer's mess with a mid-riff. Sat with Larry and Jack. Don't know why all the men are so darn jealous. Something cooking about my birthday. In spite of our many quarrels, D. is so anxious to please. Our truck came at 7:30 and we arrived at the hotel about 9:00. Have a fairly nice room. The only thing wrong is the Limey atmosphere. Didn't bother to unpack because I have no electricity and beside there is dancing downstairs. Went down to dance and some Limey officers snagged us into doing a show tomorrow – supposedly an off day. A few cut in's but passed off very nicely. Knew it was too good to last. Smiled at some officers, received a pinch – screamed, was called a name and off to bed I went. Things were patched again after an apology of the party of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part. Driven almost crazy trying to guess the surprise in store for me.

Tuesday May 22 Venice Hotel

Some "bloke" brought tea in at 7:30 A.M. Was unable to go back to sleep so I got up and unpacked. Fitted excess into barracks bag so I think I'll be able to close my trunks. Sewed on the dress Zig willed to

me. Had lunch with the fellas and set the fire because I mentioned Jack telling me he was off liquor. Was afraid to go in swimming because time is close. Went to Pattoliea to pick up rations then back to sewing. Duke still fuming. The men went over for 5:30 chow but tea was sufficient for me. Did a show at the Garrison Theater in town. The audience was overwhelmingly British. We hurried to dress after the show to make 9:00 o'clock chow. Had dinner with Duke and Pat. Lost 10 lire to Pat on a Boston Bet. Discussed events of previous evening and that brought about another argument which made me excuse myself and go to my room. In a few minutes the S. S. officers and a Lt. invited me downstairs to dance. I was grateful for the opportunity. Had loads of fun. Some talk about sailing and swimming but was indefinite in hopes of reconciliation. I was being watched constantly from the veranda. After the dance was over we talked awhile and made tentative plans for staying till Tuesday. I don't think Pat will like the idea. Read a few chapters by candlelight and then off to sleep.

Wednesday May 23 Riccione

Early awakening is getting to be a habit. Was up at 8:30 but decided to stay in bed and read till noon. Dressed for dinner and met the fellows downstairs. An icy reception from one. Ate with Larry and Billy. The Lts. Came around but were unable to get boat. Besides they now have to stand drill. After chatting awhile we drove to Cattolica again for rations. Jack brought me some raisins and I don't think the gift was accepted by all. The line waiting at the PX was too long so homeward bound. Spent afternoon writing letters and mending. Met Billy & Larry for dinner at 6:30 but found that dinner at hotel didn't begin until 7:30. We were hungry but wanted to make the Eve. show. On our way to the theater we stopped at the 340 mess but they were closed. I went to see the Sarg and he fixed us up an impromptu meal. We had a box of reserved seats and just slid in in time for the performance. It consisted of Italian cast and altho it lasted for 2 hrs, was rather enjoyable. The Lt. walked me home & we stopped in to dance. Dismissed myself early because I was pretty tired. Made a sailing date tomorrow at 2:00. Stopped into see Billy – he informed me the Gestapo kept a drunk vigil. Must confess missed being with him. Two days seems terribly long in a way. Pat furious because he thinks I have influence over S.S. of and am telling him what to do. Well, he's right. Expected to see a note under my door but I was wrong. Read a few minutes by candlelight before falling asleep.

Thursday May 24 Riccione

Up again at 8:30. Finally finished "Captain from Castille" altho it took me the greater part of the morning. Found it difficult to concentrate as my thoughts roamed elsewhere. After lunch I waited for the 2 Lts. To go sailing. It was awhile before they came and then we couldn't go sailing because the wind velocity was too high. Decided to go swimming. The water was too cold so I didn't go in. Played volley ball for a while then had to get ready for the show. We worked at the British Garrison Theater again and the crowd was fair. Rushed home for a 9:00 o'clock supper and danced the rest of the evening with Jerko, Van and Chappy. Put myself to sleep a bit earlier than usual.

Friday May 25 Riccione

Up for tea bright and early. I still don't know why I get up at that ridiculous hour. Got ambitious and decided to do a bit of mending. I no sooner started than those two characters from Cesanatico walked in as dirty & greasy as ever. Spent the morning with them. Thank God I had that sailing date. Before they left they bought me a bottle of fine perfume as a birthday gift. They are sweet kids but oh what a

nuisance. Finally got sailing underway after a little trouble with the main mast. Wouldn't you know it had to start drizzling and we had to head for shore.

After tea Duke and I spent quite a time together. Did another show at the Garrison. Audience reaction better than the previous nights. Had dinner with Duke and Pat. Later Jerko, Van and Chappy joined us. Duke agreeable and we got along fine. Decided to go to the group dance and after a few dances with that English character we were able to get away. It was wonderful dancing outside under a full moon. The four men got along amiably and that made for a better time for all concerned. Drove home in a jeep to the tune of Ziga Zoom Ba and naturally that aggressive Englishman was up waiting for me. Thank goodness the doors were locked. I took leave of Jerko and spent the evening – or what was left of it together. My curiosity is so aroused with all the surprises that are being cooked up my head is spinning. So were my eyes before the party time. Wish I knew how to end it all.

Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>

Got up rather early again with unusual ambition. Went to borrow a fountain pen and it took me 2 hours to acquire it. The English man came in with some shorts for us and my Character was topic of conversation. After lunch I waited for the Lts. for that sailing date. Gibson didn't appear so that was cancelled. Drove out to the P.O. and to hospital for Duke. He developed something in his jaw. Later we found out that Gibson had gone out earlier in the morning and couldn't get back because of the wind. Stopped in to the Red Cross to play Ping Pong and after (unintelligible) out-- table didn't have a ball so it was homeward bound. Lost Jerko. Spent the aft. With D. Our pick up was at 6:30 and we drove out to a bomb group. Did a show on a trailer outside. Audience fair. Came back to the hotel for dinner and later Jerko appeared alone. What uncomfortable moments. What conversationalist. After the dance the same course as last night was followed with promises of ceasing.

Sunday May 27, Riccione

Had to get up at 9:30 to get my hair washed. T'was hard because I was tossing around since 7:30. Hot water was brought in and Duke washed my hair. After a tussle was on my way to 11:00 mass. Met Jerko and Van waited for me outside church. It is so difficult for me to pray. Wonder if it will be easier after I go to confession & communion. Van walked me home and guess what was waiting. The two characters from Cesenatico. Got rid of them after a short while. Don't know why they are so persistent. After lunch Jerko picked me up and delivered two letters that I had been asking for. One from Chappie and one from his truly. Awfully sweet memories. Drove out to find artist to paint my field jacket. He wasn't around so we drove around the country. As soon as I got back the usually fighting proceeded as a result of two more letters. Arguments now concern the birthday party. Had tea with (unintelligible) as the trail blazed. Picked up and taken to a small theater. Duke surprised me by singing Always Together & Maria Elena instead of T for 2 and Honeysuckle Rose. Fair audience—cement stage--dressed in trailer. For change instead of the usual procedure of dancing after dinner we went to the enlisted men's dance. Did not see Jerko. Had fun outdoor dancing. Comes 5 to 12 I get that dirty look and off I went followed a few paces behind by McHale. Silence reigned most of the way home and Boom! For hours. Finally came the peace terms and off to sleep greatly looking forward to tomorrow.

Monday May 25 Riccione Italy

Happy birthday Zold. 21—see how fast time flies. Was up fairly early as usual. Had lunch with the gang and later Jerko picked me up to get my jacket stenciled and parasol fixed. Duke wasn't around busier than a bee. Jerk and I drove around till about 3:00. Then came home to do my nails, take a bath and get dressed. I wore the brown dress Zig willed me and must admit I looked rather good. Duke came in made me close my eyes and put a coral necklace around me. It clashed with the dress so I was unable to wear it. Everybody congratulated me downstairs before we left for work. Drove down to Coltoica – did a 7:00 show, parasol collapsed – everyone sang Happy Birthday at the finale after Pat announced it. Got dressed and had to wait 20 minutes for Moran. Duke mad cause I sat up in front with Jack. He promised he wouldn't get angry but there isn't a day that goes by without a quarrel. Finally made the hotel. Fixed my make up & Billy & Tony called me for dinner. When we reached the bottom of the stairs the orchestra played Happy B. The dining room looked beautiful with flowers on every table. Our table was filled with gifts. Doll from Berry, cross from Duke lipstick from Larry, perfume from the characters, dressing gown made out of parachute silk from Moran and Duke. Golly I was so happy I ached. Jack came in with Doc [?] and brought a cake the enlisted men made and gave me a 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force scarf. We danced in between courses and then the Italians presented me with a beautiful cake. Pat insisted I pass it around to everyone in the room so I did. 3 colored fellows sent over a bottle of wine and soon the British got up to sing For She's a Jolly Good Fellow. Danced with everybody. When the colored officers asked me to dance I nearly died but had to. Could think of no way out. Duke furious. Danced with Larry and made a mad dash upstairs to fix makeup. Met Jerk on the way down. Disappointed Van wasn't with him. The English man wasn't around either. Forgot to mention that we got word that we were to go back to Caserta tomorrow. Shock terrific. Jack pretty sad. Mode of transportation was discussed. Pat did a bit of (unintelligible) and finally everyone except Jack and Duke excused themselves and later Duke left. Jerk gave me a box of chocolates and we talked till 12:30. I knew he was going to miss me extremely. Saw Duke at 12:45. Petrified with Scotch. Can hardly blame him. Couldn't sleep without first writing him a note of thanks. Went to sleep about 2:30.

May 29, Tuesday.

Up at 7:00 for tea & to pack before 10:00. Had breakfast with (unintelligible) & Duke and found out we were going to fly instead of drive & had till 1:00. Spent morning with Jerk waiting around for parasols etc. Took some pictures. Had lunch with gang at hotel and parted afterwards. Did not want to leave Riccione. It has so many pleasant memories. Van came with Jerk and the three of us rode down in a jeep while the others followed with Jack. Took more pictures at the airfield. Flew a B25 with full crew & parachutes. Men in the tail and I was up front. What a trip. I really was sick when we landed in Caeserta. So was everyone else excluding the pilots. Was greeted by Byrne and told we were called in because Pat failed to send in reports. After dinner went to bed early because I was sick and tired. D. was in for a while and then off to sleep. (Surprised to learn Zig in Naples - phoned her.

Wednesday, May 30 Caserta

Had to get up at 7:00 to go into town with Joe. I had egg for breakfast and after some difficulties with transportation drove into Naples with station wagon. Stopped in the Terminus – saw (unintelligible) of Jan 16 then down to 300. Talked with Zig for a while and was back at Caeserta for lunch. Took a nap after lunch and finally found time before dinner to write home. Took in a movie "The Royal Scandal" and then off to bed after D. rubbed my legs.

Thursday May 31 Caeserta

Managed to get dressed for lunch. Don't know why I have been so sleepy lately can't seem to get enough of it. Did absolutely nothing except go to the P.X. Try to take a ballet lesson from MacHale until he heard the roll of dice then took a nap. Had a late dinner and got a load of the new singer. Can't make up my mind. Monkeyed around all evening. Met Joe at the officer's club for a drink. Duke got peeved at something when we got back to the billet so I went right to sleep.

Friday June 1 Caeserta

Planned to go to Naples to see Zig but couldn't get any transportation. Got a load of mail this afternoon. Curran, Paltison, Sister Theresia and from Home. Learned that Hugh Rasmussen had been killed. Reread mail all afternoon while character played dice. He started in to teach me ballet & ended up shooting dice. After dinner we had a slight argument. Went to Benediction and then to the theater to see a U.S.O. show called "Take It Easy". I thought it was terrible. We half way made up. Went to bed early because of a poker game.

Saturday June 2 Caeserta

Today has been just about as eventful as yesterday. Slept the day away practically. Wrote a few letters while the men played poker. Part of the Light Fantastic show came in to room with me. Saw another U.S.O. show called "Arabella's Show Shop". Was much better than last night. Went over to the EM dance – later went to Windy's shack. I was accused of flirting again and this time I really wasn't. After we ate ravioli I got bored and left. After a friendly argument everything was fairly well patched. Had to stay awake while the three roommates of mine packed and unpacked.

Sunday June 3, Caserta

Went to the 11:00 o'clock Mass at the Sister's Chapel. After lunch we took off for the airport. Back to Faro in a C-47. Forgot to mention in previous days about the singer. Didn't spend too much time with her and hardly saw her till today. Wonder how I'll get along with her. Trip was fair and we were taken back to the same billet. We had cots this time. Finally got a table & some chairs. Found out Helen was as neat as a pin. She's too darn neat—Fact. We all had dinner together after unpacking. Pat and Helen seem to be striking it out. Wonder what the results will be. We went to a squadron to see a movie. Afterward Helen went down to Pat's room and Duke and I stayed up here. They outlasted us and I turned over about 1:30.

Monday June 4, Faro

Whiled the morning away. After lunch drove to the convent to have work done on my wardrobe. Parting of ways near. Picked up at 5. Had chow with the E.M.'s and did an outdoor show. Felt good to be working after a week's lay off. Talked to the G.I.'s after the show and got home around 10. Duke, Helen & myself went to the Officer's club. Things very dead. Played Gin Rummy for a while then back to the casa. Played Gin in Pat's room until 1:00 A.M. Had load of laughs over Pat's adopted dog. A very argumentative evening. Called Jerk—reason enough.

Tuesday, June 5

Monkeyed around all morning. Jerk came in the afternoon and we went out for a drive. Our pick up was at 5:00 so we had to hurry back. It was good to get away from all the bickering. Ate chow at the E.M. mess. What a bunch of uninteresting characters. Quarrel, quarrel, quarrel. I'm getting so sick of it

all. We had a wonderful audience for change. Was invited to EM dance but was not in condition to be thrown around. H. D & B went and Pat & Larry & I came home. Started to write letters and got thirsty. Larry & I walked to the club for water. The water not quenching our thirst we accepted Capt. West's invitation to go back to the club for pineapple juice. After awhile came home & continued writing. Helen and the 2 fellas came in around 12:00. Duke left again. Expected him to stay all night but he didn't. Spent evening on him anyway. What a character he is! Got to bed after Pat left Helen—2:00 AM

Wednesday June 6

Had to get up at 8:00 to get ready to go to Riccione. B. decided to come along too. Glad he did. It's good to be at Riccione again. We checked into the Venice and prepared for sailing. Expected to go out in the morning but a meeting came up at 1:00. After lunch Van & I got down to the Docks and rigged up the boat. Spent about an hour together. We probably would have hit off Jerk wouldn't have been so aggressive. Jerk & Bill joined us and we sailed all afternoon. Decided to come in at four and made it by 7:00 Got cleaned up for dinner & Jerk came in at 8:00. Chappie joined the four of us at dinner. Half way thru the meal I nearly dropped dead. MacHale entered with the Red Cross girl & it was a while before I recognized Smitty's Captain from Tasese M. He was promoted to major. After awhile some more of the T. M. gang came in. Similar old home week. Had a terrific time at the dance--That is each time I danced with Van. D is such a child. Guess he was surprised when I told ~~him~~ him I decided to stay on. Everyone took leave at the finish of the dance and Jerk and I walked around a bit. He really is a good fellow but a bit old for me. Was home safely at 11:45. Could hear Berry singing his brains out for hours. Thought after strayed!

Thursday June 7, Fasio

Was up with tea. Felt good to be in a civilized place. Jerk came with shampoo & vinegar. Berry was 45 min late of promise so Jerk decided to take over. Berry came—and finished the shampoo job. Had fun with those characters insulting me right & left. Had chow at the Of. Mess with Jerk & Chappie ,B & Beale. Van finally arrived with some U.S.'s a service ribbon for my collection. It'll probably be my most cherished. Took off after lunch for Faro. Half way back & decided to drive the jeep. It was loads of fun & I did alright until we came two blocks within our casa. Nearly killed a kid on a bike. Thank god for Jerk. Spent afternoon straightening past things and anticipating Duke's arrival. Guess he & Helen are out beaching. Found a piece of cheese on my pillow. Pat said he put it there but I have my doubts—Pat did. Duke is furious and we are not speaking. Did the show at the same theater we worked in Tuesday. Recognized Abie during my first number. During the second I spotted Healy, knocked the footlights down & a can fell thru the floor. After the show we spoke to the whole Torre gang. They invited me to their quarters but I had already promised to go to an EM dance which turned out to be a (unintelligible). Our escorts were darn possessive and more interested in trying to neck than get transportation home. Situation was pretty bad so Helen and I came home with the musicians in a truck. One of them was quite inebriated and was too enthusiastic about helping me into the truck. Against my will he helped me out & it was necessary to swing. Duke wasn't home so I guess he must have been at the Officers club getting drunk.

Friday June 8 Faro

Healy and Curly came to pick Helen and I up for dinner. Before the fireworks Last nite I returned the Mosaic to Duke. This morning he brought it back. I told him I wanted to feel obligated to no one and I



didn't like the remark he passed about only being nice before my birthday. He wouldn't take it. I missed him so and was so furious because he made no move to come back I threw it out the window. Wonder what the new girl thinks. I hate to give her any satisfaction and I was sorry for it. Earlier I threw my toothpaste at McHale because he laughed about me having to take a swing at a musician. Pat is calling me "Slugger" and spreading the whole story around. What a morning. Decided it would be best to look for the Cross. Helen, Curly, Healy and I went out to the back yard—after a while Healy found it—broken. Why does that man haunt me so. After a little crying we proceeded to the mess. Met "Always." After chow made some arrangements for Larry's birthday Sunday. Curly drove me over to the R.C. to order a cake then he, Abe & I went swimming. Surprised to find [unclear] married. Talked a long time about love and life. Abe insisted Duke was in love with me. Curly said no it was just male ego that caused the trouble. I don't know what to believe. Everyone tells me he is crazy about me. Wish he would show it so much. Had to be back at 4 for an early pick up. Curly took the cross over to see if it couldn't be fixed. Drove out about 40 miles near Ansona. Did another outdoor show. Capt. In Sp. Se. has been like a puppy dog following me all over even to the extent of riding home with us 40 mi. Feud still on. Duke( unintelligible) took the first step by getting me [unclear] at mess. I felt like throwing the box at him. Tried getting ahold of Jerk but connections were bad. Billy told a few officers about our feuding and said "it wasn't nothing." "In 10 min. he'll be tying her shoe." I'll be darned if he didn't try to. After we got home Curly & Healy came over to pick Helen & I up. Helen wasn't feeling too well so I went alone. We had a smash with about 7 guys and Curly walked me home. McHale—the drunk again. I do like him very much & he must like me otherwise he wouldn't be drinking so much

Saturday June 9, Fasio

Got up early and went to the officers club with Pat to phone Jerk. Just as soon as I got him on the phone McHale entered & laughed. Made a sailing date for tomorrow. Our pick up was to be at 1:00 but we changed it. D. furious because he thought I was the instigator because I had a swimming date. Curly & Healy picked me up for chow. Afterwards he got out of work and he and two other 15 cb Lt of took off for the beach. T was nice to spend a quiet afternoon. Duke kept popping into the conversation. Went in swimming for a while but had an early pick up. Just about made the 4:30 call too. Went out 40 miles again. Duke & I are slowly coming together. This is the longest we've ever quarreled. Rode in the back of a truck and inuendo's were flying. Did a show on a cement sidewalk. Pat got smart and worked on two tables & only did one number. Afterwards the Capt. from the other place came over and brought some pictures. He wanted to take me home but I knew if I'd end up with him I wouldn't be able to keep the date with Curly. Finally after loads of persuading we took off. Curly came over and we went up to Healy's room. Got razzed about Duke & Smitty. Everyone was up there and we had quite a time gabbing. Took off for home shortly because I had an early date with Jerk. Duke drunk again. Curly left early.

Sunday June 10 Faro & Riccione

Jerk came while I was under the spigot in P.J.'s brushing my teeth. After a while we were on our way. Had a nice ride back to Riccione. Picked up Van at headquarters & we went to 10 o'clock mass together. I enjoy being with Van a lot. Praying was much easier today. Jerk got the basket lunch ready and I checked into the Venice and changed. We were on our way in no time flat. Chappy, Van, Jerk & I The water was rough & we had quite a time getting the boat out. Van is so much of an athlete. I have to watch him. He towed the boat out passed the breakers and it was a while before we had it under

control. The water was so rough we decided to go beaching. Got [unclear] into shore and we spread our picnic lunch. Since Torrenvaggio I wanted to go picnicking. Finally after we rested we took a short dip and then sailed the craft back to harbor. The water was a bit more calm. Jerk got a package of Chesterfields for Larry's Birthday. Dressed at the hotel. Jerk is very nice but that's about all. He tried to kiss me but "no bono." Left the hotel about four thirty and buzzed back to Faro—got mixed up in a Limey convoy and had to stop once. Made the R.C. too late to pick up cake. Got rid of Jerk in a hurry and went over to Hdq and found Curly sleeping. Sent him chasing after the cake while I worked—dressed. Everyone went to eat but I wasn't very ~~hurry~~ hungry. Curly called for me and drove me to the theatre. Wore my brown dress. Getting to be a birthday dress. At the theatre Duke and I were a little closer. I asked him to stop acting like a child and I'd do likewise. Talking was ruined again mostly because of planning L. party. Curly drove me home first then to the mess hall to see if everything was alright. The food and cake was in order but I had to arrange the setting of table etc. Finally the gang came and we did have a nice time. We never argue on birthdays was the theme of evening and that helped loads. The party got a bit stuffy with colonel and broke up around 11:00. Curly invited D & I over to the Villa. I had to go home to get a picture for Wendy and some [unclear]. D got lost in the shuffle. Curly brought me home and stayed with me while I packed until the battle axe came home and kicked him out. Coming up from the shed, McHale stopped to ask what had happened. First time he showed concern all week. Everyone is a bit annoyed because we are getting together. Especially Moran. I think McClure is a bit jealous too. Went to bed feeling a bit better than usual.

Monday, June 11 Faro to Grosseto

Had to get up at 7:30 to catch plane this A.M. D invited me along to breakfast. As usual I was at advantage and already had a date with Curly & Healy. After breakfast we waited for transports for an hour. Finally made the airport and after much stalling around got up there. Went in a B-25 again. I curled up in the radio man's place and sounded off. Not feeling well again. The trip was short—about 45 min. Helen all agog because she is going to see the Lt. she had been raving about. When we landed he was there to take over along with the Sp.S of. Drove to the hotel and got 6 single rooms. Den [?] is in charge of the [unintelligible] and we practically had a floor to ourselves. They start giving Pat the snow job right away and Pat was returning. Ordered parachute silk blouse and P.J.'s and ended up with nothing thanks to Helen. Before I got a chance to do much unpacking the [unclear] entered and everything was patched up again. After dinner I felt very sick. I went right to bed. McHale kept vigil and saw I got so sick he got a Doc for me against my own wishes. Had a bad case of the G.I.'s. Asked the Doc about appendix but he said I had ovarian trouble. Wonder what I'm in for. Along about midnight we had the connecting door open. Sorry that had to happen now (June 21). Was up all night heaving. Poor Duke fell asleep on his watch so I woke him and told him to go to his room.

T. June 12

They had breakfast served to me in bed and I stayed there all day. It's good to have McHale back again. Got up in time to dress for the theater. When I got there there was no facilities & I had to run hard to the hotel. I don't know how I made that show but I did. Fell back into bed as soon as I got home. Couldn't attend that M.P. dance if I wanted to I was so sick. Again vigil was kept. B & P came in to see me. So did the Doc and D & Helen. I've come to the conclusion that D & H are living together. After a few mad scrams fell sound asleep.

Wednesday June 13 Grosseto

We had planned to go horseback riding and swimming but I felt too weak so stayed and had breakfast in bed. That connecting door is too darn handy. Monkeyed around all day managed to get up for dinner. First meal I was able to eat in a long time. We all went to the movie. That is all but McHale, he found himself an M.P. raid to go on. I was accompanied by the S.S.O. Saw "B'dway Rhythms" for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Was in bed before Duke came loaded with soap and a barrette we got from the raid. He was all excited about it. It's good to have him go out with the fellas. [unclear] the day those doors were opened. It's too darn convenient. Sleep wasn't hard to get after awhile.

Thursday June 14, 1945 Grosseto

Another day in this town. Guess the boats and parachute things [unclear] Pat. Helen is too boastful and jealous. Spent the day very close together. Billy and Larry at Rome. Managed to make meals. Had another show at the same theater. Crowd smaller and fresher than Tues. Duke went out raiding again. Wish he would have stayed out all night.

Friday June 15 Grosseto

Another day with breakfast in bed. It's getting to be monotonous. I wished we'd get out of this place. I hate to ask for a darn thing because I'd be obligated to her royal highness. She had better stop mothering me. Duke returned the dog he spent 2 days acquiring for me. It was a bit too big to be trained. He was so sweet and tried so hard to get it. I hated to see it go. Went out to the hospital after having lunch with the EMs. Met some kids from Faro. Did a short afternoon show at 2:00. Later went to the ward to talk to the kids and got myself lift there. Had to get my own transportation. Found D in bed in a bit of a dither. I soon straightened him out. Went to the movie and saw "This is the Life." My second for that too. Damn the door.

Saturday June 16

This day brings to mind a June 16 three years ago. I must be thriving on memories. Nothing can be like the present unless it be the real thing. I know now what people mean when they speak of life—but religion seems so far away. The two can't connect in my mind. Life gets more complicated and puzzling each minute of every day now. There wasn't any work for us today. Pat got bound up with 12<sup>th</sup> AF Hdq. Blamed the schedule mixup on Riccioni. It was different then because it was I who wanted to stay. Not a Helen or a Lizzie. Duke went on another raid after the movie and I got mixed up with a handsome M.P. from Philly. Found a fiddle and annoyed every poker player with "pop goes the weasel." I would have to be dancing with the M.P. when D returned from the raid. Helen butted in as usual and Duke wound up on the floor above getting stinko with his friend. Felt so alone all evening. Thank goodness for the racket coming from across the street.

Sunday June 17 Faro to Pontedera

Was up early to finish packing for the special show arranged for a squadron of night fighters. Went to an 11 o'clock High Mass but had to walk out. It was a bit stuffy and praying was too difficult. Jack drove us to the airfield and we met our B25—Lilli Marlene. Helen drove on with Don earlier in the morn. So glad to get out of Grosseto. Had a nice trip over. D & Z up front with me. As soon as we landed we got

word that Pisa was only 20 miles so made arrangements to get to see the tower. An athletic meet was going on

[First notebook ends here]

Monday June 18 P. to Rome

The S. S. Lt. woke me at 7:30 to get dressed. Had a wonderful sleep on air mattress and it was hard to get up. Acquired a tapestry so it doesn't require beauty at that hour. McHale a bit peeved. After a breakfast of one piece of Fr. Toast dashed out to air port. Disappointed we couldn't fly in P61's. Flew in Lilli Marlene again. The Major C.O. flew us. Spent most of my time in the [unintelligible] Trip only took 40 min. but have to circle R. for 30 for crash trucks to make their appearance. Jack was waiting and drove us to the D'Italia. Small place but fair. Have my own room. McClure saw to that. She had her driver drive her down from G. this A.M. We were scheduled to do two shows an aft & eve. Pat cancelled the ft. show (knew I wouldn't have made it. What I've seen of R from the air port to hotel I like very much. Spent afternoon unpacking. We are to be here for quite a few days so I unpacked everything. Did a show at 7:00 at a big R.C. Theater and terribly cold but it was good to work in a theater for change. Lost the belt to my blue costume some place between here & Pontedera. Lost a shoe on stage. I'm really doing quite well. Forgot to mention on previous day getting birthday package from home & getting black stockings from Capezio's. Wonder what the hold up is in shoes & wardrobe. It's probably lost.

Every one here is excited about Sinatra coming in. Wonder if I'll get a chance to see him. Bill Cavanaugh & Dan—our athletes from Naples came back stage to see us. We said we'd meet in Rome. Most of them are home now and the rest are going. Bill C. is going on to E.T.O. McHale tucked me in again.

Tuesday, June 19 Rome

Slept late into the morning. Waited for transportation to take us to dinner. Jack smashed the station wagon so it's in being repaired. We waited for over a half hour & finally Pat, Duke, Larry & I decided to get a buggy home. Helen went to Cesenatico for the two days we have off. After lunch we got another cabby and rode to the P.X. Couldn't get any clothes. It almost broke their heart to give us satins. Duke made me get a portrait (~~sketch~~) sketch. It ~~ture~~ turned out fair. Met two officers Duke knew at Cesenatico and went to the R.C. with them for ice cream. They invited us to dinner with them. Got back to the hotel and rested a bit. Everyone is all agog about Sinatra coming in. Heard we are to get a new driver. Everything but mail & ration cards.

Met the 2 Lts. at the Savoy & had a wonderful dinner. Later went into the Hawaiian room to dance. The place got pretty crowded so we went to an allied officer [nintelligible] garden club. Saw a terrible floor show. Practically everything belonged to Najinsky. Had some Italian/Champagne called Spimoni or something like that. Took a cabby and we all parted at the R.C. Duke stayed down for awhile. We did have a nice time today.

Wednesday, June 20 Rome

We made plans for an afternoon Red Cross tour. Whiled the morning away. Had tea at 11:00 so there was no need to go to lunch. Wrote a few letters and dressed for the afternoon's trek. We had a very enjoyable tour. Every thing was more impressive than I believed possible. I can now realize what a

great man Christ must have been. We visited the catacombs, St. John Lateran, St. Paul's the Pantheon. Rome really is beautiful. One wonders about the rest of Italy.

We were certainly very hungry at dinner time and practically had double portions. The Sp. Ser. Lt. ate with us and I did some thing out of turn, so McHale said. We finished the evening scrapping and I decided to lock my door for the night. Almost made it too. He tried to get in twice then he went his way. About 11:30 he came knocking at the door. I was already in bed. Exhausted from writing a volume to Curran. He brought me a sketch he had made at Broadway Bill's and he was a bit high. But everything got straightened out as usual. He left me with the "all or nothing at all alternative. What a thing to go to sleep on.

Thursday, June 21 Aquila

It wasn't in me to give a definite promise and after realizing I'd never accept McHale let up a bit. Had tea but no lunch. Sinatra coming in at three this P.M. but we will be on our way to Aquila. Left Rome about one and had a fairly nice ride thru the mountains 3 hrs. Aquila turned out to be [unintelligible] Ft. Lauderdale. It really is one of the cutest towns we've been in. In fact it is the cutest. The Albergo Grande is the finest hotel we've been too. Too bad we couldn't spend a few days there. We walked about the town. Bought a tea set and doll and strolled back in time to rest a few minutes before dinner. After the show (I only did one number because of oiled stage) and what a cold show we begged away and drove home to Rome. Got here about 1:00 AM. Had four letters waiting. Too tired to stay up any longer so we all passed out.

Friday! June 22, 1945 Rome

Disappointed because Sinatra didn't move into the D'Italia. Never really expected him to. Saw Ziggy and Dan Byrnes. Talked about the four month E.T.O. deal over tea. Still don't know what I want. We didn't do any [unintelligible] all day because of the S. show.

Didn't bother going to lunch. Dressed about 1:30 and went over to the R.C. Officers' Club for ice cream. Went back stage way and got choice seats. Had to wait an hour before the show started but the anticipation was fun. The show was marvelous out side of that Fay McKenzie woman. After the show—every G.I. had a different opinion of Sinatra and now I too am one of his fans. We had an argument about F. McKenzie. Pat seemed to like her. Helen naturally sided with Pat—snow job McClure. Duke got enraged because he thought I carried it too far.

Sally, the R.C. girl came to pick us up & took us to the Corso Theatre here in town. The audience was very small due to the Sinatra competition. Could hardly work in those old shoes of mine. My package is rumored to be around someplace. Duke's friend M[unintelligible] from ~~Cairo~~ ~~Cairo~~ Cairo came to see us and later we went to the Excelsior Hotel. What a snappy place. Got there just in time for the floor show which wasn't bad at all. Danced awhile & McHale & I made up again. Talked about a 6 wk. tour of the middle East. I hope it works out. M[Unintelligible] is suppose to be a good friend of Parker & we may swing the deal. Duke came in to say goodnight. I went to sleep after awhile thinking over the mail

situation. Trudy married to Paul—Jerk in love with me. [unintelligible] talks of a dull life—Paul hints for me to stay on.

Saturday, June 23 Rome

Wrote home this morning & told the family I had decided to come home. Also wrote to Paul again & changed my mind. Hank picked us up at 10:00 & D. B.H & myself went to the Vatican just to see St. Peter's—with no less than a military escort.

St Pete's—how shall I describe it. I shall always have it imprinted on my mind so there is no need to make note of it. Walking thru the church did a lot to help me psychologically. The treasure room sparkled with beauty. Duke met a priest from Philly and we talked to him for a while. He does some art work and I am thinking about sending a parchment to the sister at Res with the Pope's blessing. Berry put up a fuss about wanting to see the Pope but we had to get the station wagon back by 12 for lunch. Wrote a few letters and finally tracked down my package. Was picked up about four & have 20 miles out. Was met by the man from Boston that I cost 10 lire over at Riccione. Had a delicious steak dinner. Dan came down from [unintelligible] to see Helen. What a dame she is—singer, author, flyer, blah blah blah. My clothes don't fit because I've put on so much weight, my shoes were high heeled instead of flats but had them fixed before the show.

We worked in a garage to a mostly Limey audience but the show went well. Afterward we had to go to the officers' club for some drinks & that moron started talking and we didn't get home til 11:45. Miss [unintelligible] so can't say anything about the lire deal. My nerves are so on edge, I have so little patience and it got so that I had to push McHale out. Sometimes I wish these last six weeks were 6 days.

Sunday, June 24 Rome

St. John's Day

Was up at 8:30, set my hair & took a bath and dressed for church. Hank picked me up and we drove around for a while looking for Santa Susanna. What a peaceful quiet church—the reason being that it is an American church.

After Mass we drove to the P.X. I bought a cigarette case for Duke's birthday.

We got back just in time to pick the gang (except D.M.) for lunch. After lunch our pick up came at 1:00 & we drove out to the beach. What a show. Everybody lazing around in the sand in their swimming trunks with their It. gal friends. We had to do a show. I only did one number it was so darn hot. Had ice cream and drove back to town. McHale is still angry. I was a bit peeved because he promised he'd go to church with me this A.M. The Pardon me show got in just before we got back so we spent the afternoon renewing acquaintances and resting.

We were picked up at 6 and taken to the Hassler (Sinatra's Hotel) for dinner. Golly what a meal. I swear I'm going to go on a rigid diet tomorrow—it's always tomorrow. During the middle of the show the news editor we met in Greece came back to see me. He's the second person today from Greece. We met the colonel that [unintelligible] with us at the Hassler. Just as Duke was coming out of the shell I broke the news that Ed was going to call me. That started the old familiar routine of arguing back & forth and bringing every little thing up for discussion. Promises etc. Guess who won out after a long struggle. Yes—again. I'm really nuts for trying to win every battle.

Monday June 25, 1945

McHale got me up at 8:30 to wash my head but there was no hot water. Had tea at 10:00 & left with Helen after to run a few errands. Duke took his shoes in, the P.X. was closed. We tried to put our calls in back to the states but the office doesn't open till 2:00.

After dinner I stayed in and Duke went to place the calls. Another fight about what I'll never remember. Hank picked us up about five and drove out to a O.M. place. Had a wonderful meal—chicken & steak. We all got supplied with clothes etc.

Show for colored guys fair. Couldn't get that darn parasol open & forgot what I was doing out there.

After some beer we drove home. Duke took me to Broadway Bill's. I heard of the reputation but had to see it with my own eyes. That is another incident I won't have to record for & know I shall always remember B'way Bills.

We came home after about 20 minutes & Duke washed my hair. Made arrangements to get up early to go to the hospital.

Tuesday June 26, 1945

Drove out to the 6<sup>th</sup> [unintelligible] & found out that it had moved. Finally found a hospital & had my foot x-rayed. No improvement.

Went to the P.X. & got our rations. Duke's case wasn't back so had to send there for it. Went back to the P.X. with Billy after lunch & met Azaline. The three of us went to see Little Nelly Kelly. Just got back in time for our pick up. Had mess with the officers & did a show for a small audience in some sort of garage. McHale had been dishing with me all day. The cigarette case is so beautiful I couldn't wait until tomorrow when we are celebrating—3 months early so had to give it to him when we returned from work. He was sorry he argued with me. Went over to the Excelsior to meet Azaline. Later found a hotel to have dinner in. Walked right into a midnight mash. Saw some of the guys from Pontedera. Made arrangements to get a Turkish bath so was interested in getting a little sleep for change.

Wednesday June 27, 1945

Duke called for me early this morning and took me to the Excelsior for my steam bath. It certainly was terrific but I felt darn weak afterwards. Duke picked me up later & we window shopped back to the hotel. We all went to the San George for lunch. While waiting for our station wagon we got into a scrabble. It wouldn't have been too bad but Benny was there. We were to go to the Vatican & D. decided to walk back home. Got into a quarrel with Benny later & ended up in my room crying all afternoon. The thing that aggravated me most was Duke leaving me at St. George's. He told me not to bother about this evening. Came up three times to ask me if I changed my mind. I was a bit too stubborn & his tone wasn't catering enough. My heart was nearly broken I suffered so. Wrote to Curran telling her all my T.S.'s It should have been such a happy birthday but we are both so very very stubborn. I can't remember ever being so miserable. Even the day I cried so much in New York wasn't as bad. Anyway, I dozed off to a tired sleep.

Thursday June 28, 1945

Spent most of the day by myself. Duke has made a few advances but to no avail. He hurt me too much last night. We did a show at the Rep'l Depot and that's about that's interesting to record.

Over to next page following June 29.

How could I say that was all that was interesting. I am about a week behind with this record and I have a difficult time remembering.

The long awaited day was June 28. We took off in the morning, visited St. Pete's. Bought some medals & rosaries to be blessed. Then took off to see the Pope. After climbing flights of stairs we finally made it. I had a front row view being one of the few women present. It was quite an impressive sight. The swiss guard wasn't as rigid & formal as I had expected. At last the moment arrived and the Pope walked in. He was in the room before I knew it. He is very thin & frail looking but his tones when he spoke English were so well modulated. He impressed me greatly. Duke & I ceased firing his holiness was so great. He came down to talk to a few of us present. Duke & I were lucky enough to be able to kiss his ring and have a special blessing on our holy articles. Duke held my mother of pearly rosary—had it especially blessed. Duke & I spent the remainder of the afternoon together. Did a show at a repl depot & Duke met a Col. friend of his who is suppose to get him a luger when we get to Naples. Incidentally, I am still troubled about accepting another 4 months if we don't go to A M.E.T.

Friday June 29, 1945 Rome

Pop's birthday. Started off with Duke, Benny & Hank. Visited St. John's to see the celebration of Peter & Paul's day. Then we went to the Vatican, tried to hear High Mass at St. Pete's but the crowds were too thick, smelly & distracting. We then took a walk to the museum only to find it closed because of the holiday. Had an early pick-up for a hospital show so had to get back early. Made it in a R. Cross bus. Duke & I getting along fairly well. Only did one number at the hospital because of cement stage. Had show then the drive to the Repl Depot to do a show for a bunch of half high G.I.'s. Duke & I exchanged smart remarks. Lost his cigarette case but after awhile found it. After the show we drove home and spent the evening packing a few things for the flight to Corsica.

June 30, 1945 Saturday

For some reason our pick up was cancelled from 10:00 to 1:00. Waited the morning away. Didn't do a darn thing. Had lunch & we took off for the A. T. C. After weighing in & signing papers I guess we took off about 2:30. For the first time we had a 47 in plush. The trip over was pleasant. Even fell asleep. We arrived in Cassisi after about an hour's flight. Helen & I were given the Capt. Quarters and the men were in another barracks.

Had chow with the E.M.s then went to the ice hall where the fellas just finished constructing an impromptu stage. I worked terribly. We quarreled again during the performance. Benny was talking about E. T. O. & when McHale entered he shut up. That was no reason for Duke to get huffy with me but he did. He pulled out his contract to sign. I asked him to wait until I signed mine but he went ahead with it anyway. I decided right then that this had to be the end. It was a hard decision not like all my good ambitions I knew it would go "gaflooyey." Drove to Bastia in a truck with other officers &



completely ignored McHale. He was attentive all evening and I was under his spell again. I had asked for a souvenir from Corsica & he did have to make arrangements to get something for me. We found a few kids that had to go on duty so they drove us home. The party was getting too drunk anyway. The kids we went home with were weather kids so we dropped in & had coffee while they prepared to send the weather balloon up. I finally sent it up myself then we took off & McHale tucked me in.

Sunday July 1 Corsica

We were to have taken off at 10:00 but when we awoke it was raining and there were weather in summer. I couldn't go to town until they made certain the ship wouldn't get in until 1:00. Missed Mass as a result. After breakfast they decided our ship wouldn't be in so we all took off for town to see if we could pick up a souvenir. Duke had already given me a trick jewel case. It's really darn cute. Duke can be so sweet at times & at other times I'd like to ring his darn neck.

After show we watched the guys load in mutton carcasses & peanut butter oil and soon the weather had cleared up enough to allow us to take off. There were 10 of us in all. What a flight that turned out to be. It was so peaceful until we got 1 min outside of Rome. In part I even went to sleep on McHales lap. Soon we started to bounce around. I need not mention all the particular details because they are cemented in my brain. We dropped from 2500 ft to 1500 in one blow and our R motor was on fire. We were all pretty scared but I think I was least scared of all. I wasn't quick enough to comprehend the consequences. To see everyone sprawled all over the floor struck me so funny I laughed till the tears flowed. Duke thought I was getting hysterical & was ready to konk me in the noggin. God was merciful that day. I'm sure there were other souls more deserving of spare than mine.

I had it all made up to go to the opera but that flight took all ambition out of me. Instead we had dinner at the Hassler with the Special Service officers. The Doc that flew down with us was also there. We had a few more good laughs over the flight.

It was raining in Rome too. Hank picked us up & we went to see a movie at the Barberini. After the show we drove around for awhile & then to bed.

Monday July 2, 1945

Spent most of the morning packing. Wrote a few letters. Missed lunch, took in a movie in the afternoon. Just made our 5:15 pick up for the Rest Center. Chow was at 6:00 the show at 7:00 so I didn't bother eating. The audience was a bit warmer than I had expected for a rest center. Wouldn't you know I'd get the curse when least expected—right before my second number. The thing that annoyed me most was that it made Duke's promise convenient. Had Hank drive me home directly after the show. The rest stayed on for awhile. I finished packing and was in bed when Duke came home. We planned our last day in Rome & then good night.

Tuesday July 3, Rome

Took off for the Cattacombs after ten. McHale was mad because Benny decided to come along. We found the Cattacombs & bought a few medals. When D. gets mad at Benny it's so easy for him to get away with me too but I decided to ignore it. We drove to St. Peters & I finally got Benny to leave us at the trading post. Then Duke decided to come along to the museum with me. Boy, that museum was the most beautiful thing I've seen. I've said the same thing about St. John's, St. Pete's, St. Paul but really

we saw incomparable beauty. Gave me goose pimples to walk through those corridors. I'm sorry we didn't come earlier during our stay. About 12:30 we took off to see the Pope again. This time he still was as impressive as ever. Was able to kiss his ring & receive his special blessing again. Missed lunch again. Hank picked us up and took us to make our long distance calls. We sweated time out until 6:15 then we had to leave for our show. Duke's number was called & my heart jumped. He wasn't able to get Catherine until 10:30. We put an hour delay on our calls just in case they should come in. Dashed over to do our show and dashed back. There really wasn't any need for that show. The house was less than half full. Duke was acting up in the wings. I laughed so hard I could hardly dance. Pat started doing my act & we loused up the whole finale. We made it back to the phone place and it was more crowded than before with eager anticipants. I prayed that my call would go thru but then how could God answer those prayers. Duke got his call at about 11:00. How terribly strange I felt while he was in there.

Most of the kids finally gave up. Helen went to Grosseto. Larry went back to the hotel. I waited around till 12:00 but felt faint and disgusted so I took off for home too. Not having eaten in 2 days I was pretty weak. I'm terribly sorry now that I didn't stay longer. How miserable and worn out I felt. Had tea and then passed out after McHale left.

#### July 4 En Route to Venice

It certainly didn't seem like Independence day. We took off about 8:00. Picked up Helen in Grosseto after having breakfasted there. She drove to Leg horn with Den. We drove to Bologna & decided to come straight thru to Venice. It rained part of the time. McHale & I [unintelligible] part of the time. McClure & I had it out a few times but on the whole it was a fairly pleasant drive. We got lost once about midnight looking for gas but finally decided to take a chance. We got on the outskirts of Venice and enquired for Hotels and found out that we had to go to the Lido & the Ferry wouldn't start running till 6:00 A.M. It was already 1:00 A.M. Just as if an answer to a prayer a limey duck drove by. We started chasing it and caught it out in the water. It turned around, backed out & picked us up. It was about a 45 minute duck ride. We drove all over the Lido looking for our Hotel and when we found it we nearly died. We were really disillusioned. We had to ring the bell the joint was so deserted. They showed us to our rooms. McClure & myself had to double & the four men had to room together. Our sleep wasn't too restful after what we had been thru. The disillusionment was greater than the all day trip.

#### Thursday July 5, 1945

We tried our darndest to get out of the Panorama into another hotel but all in Sp. Ser. said it was no use. We met Mj. Healy & later Capt. Summer from Bari who was transferred down here. All the kids from the Santa Cesera rest camp got transferred down here so it was like old home week. Healy, Helen, Duke & myself took a gondola ride to San Marco Square in Venice. Went to view the city from the tower. It really is amazing. Walked around a bit & got into another gondola & drove thru the little canals. Got the biggest kick out of our gondolier. He couldn't sing but he tap danced. Another thing to

strike our funny bone was a guy fixing a window sill from a ladder in a gondola. It was strange to see speed limit signs, route & information signs sticking up in the water.

Stopped at the Sun for tea then window shopped back to the docks. Took a boat back to the Lido.

Dressed for dinner & went over to the Grande Hotel as Healy's guest's. We had a wonderful meal served in the most delicate manner. Then we went to the ballroom & danced. Saw a miserable floor show & got into a fight over the so called dancer's hair ribbon. We left after seeing a few of Healy's souvenirs. Healy & Helen went to another dance, Duke & I found a gondola. It was a very unromantic ride. We came home after about an hour & went to bed.

Friday, July 6, 1945 Venice

We were supposed to have worked tonight but our show was put aside for Jinx Falkenburg. Duke met a couple of the fellas he got drunk with in Santa Cesarea so we kidded around with them all afternoon. We are still upset about the living conditions but there isn't anything that can be done about it I guess. Duke & Sarg. Smith went out in the afternoon. I stayed here to write home and sort a few things out. Made up my mind to go to E. T. O. if we don't go to AMEO. Duke witnessed the signing although he didn't like it. Had chow with Smitty & the E.M.'s. Duke a little peeved because I was getting too much attention again. We walked part way to the theatre then got a ride on a street car. Got fairly good seats. Duke saw the first letter I got from Jerk & nearly split a gut. I had made him promise not to argue with me so he didn't but remained (X) very cool throughout the show. The show was terrible. Jinx did absolutely nothing. Went back stage to see Lyon & Duffy. Spoke to the [unintelligible] & Ed Sanders. Got a lift to the Lido[unintelligible] Island. Danced until it got rough then came to the hotel to wait for Sarg Smitty. He didn't show up for that cruiser ride so we surmised he was pretty intoxicated. Decided to go for a ride ourselves. Had a big long discussion. I declared myself and we decided our feelings hadn't been the same since that Roman Wednesday. Walked around, sat on a bench, sat on the hotel stairs but could make no head way. It's so difficult to forget the whole thing now that time is so limited. Duke came in to rub my back, kissed me goodnight & then left.

Saturday July 7, 1945

Got up early & moved over to the Elvira. Duke & I are a bit indifferent at this point. We had a little trouble with the room situation because of Moran. Argued with Helen and just about everything went wrong. Turned to Duke for comfort again. It's impossible to keep away from him. Have decided not to unpack because have hope of getting a single. McClure is living at two places since Glen came in. Barry is complaining about his robe. Wasted the whole day with this monkey business. Talked to the Desk Sarg & think I'll be able to get a single room.

Picked up for our show at 8:00. The audience reaction was better than for Jinx's show. Berry took a beating from the audience too. I was the [unintelligible] by darn near doing a strip at the finale. Had sandwich & danced at the Hungarian Hotel & later tonight when the moon is bright etc.-----

Sunday July 8, 1945

Imagine me getting McHale to church with me this A.M. We had planned on going to the church in Venice but later decided on going to the 9:00 A.M. mass in a little church in the docks of the Lido. Our vacation should have started today but due to Jinx we worked. The audience was better than Sat.'s.

Guess there were more G.I.'s than Limey's there. The whole "Pardon Me" gang saw the show too. I could have done better but with them there I had more of an incentive than usual.

All the kids came back stage & said they enjoyed the show. Collins was in Milan getting married to Sullivan so she didn't see it. We took our luggage back to the hotel then went over to the Hungarian for a snack. Marty—the supervisor of E. T. O. & his son ate with us. We discussed conditions in E. T. O. and I'm still in favor of going. Marty seemed to like the show too.

We danced on the porch for awhile then ~~and~~ went home.

Monday July 9

Came down just in time for lunch. I gave up my single for Milt [unintelligible] and tied McHale down to a few promises. 1) No more swearing 2) no more losing temper. Spent the afternoon unpacking and moving ~~it~~ actually into the room I had for 2 days. I hated to give McClure or Moran the satisfaction but I had a pretty good excuse. [skips a page and indicates this with "next page"]

Mon. July 9

After supper we walked practically all the way to the theater to see [unintelligible]. Thought the movie started at 9:00 but missed the first part because it started at 8:00. The picture was very good. We walked home along the Adriatic.

Tuesday July 10 Venice

Rented bicycles after waiting hours for them. Rode down to Coney Island to see Sarg. Smitty. Wanted to know if he could sell a pair of shoes for me. We rode all over the island stopping in to see the first part of the movie. Tried to find Smith to see if he did anything about selling the shoes. After the ride we were a bit tired and took an afternoon siesta. We had an early dinner and walked over to the theater early to see the movie before the "Pardon Me" show. Enjoyed the show more this time than in Naples. Broke Collins up because it was her first show as Mrs. Sullivan.

Went back stage after the show—extended congrats to the newly weds & talked to D's cousin while he monkeyed around with the Air girls.

We drove to the Hungarian with them & had a snack. I discovered I lost the gold bracelet McHale gave me after eating. We made a frantic search of the lobby & out on the street in the rain but couldn't find it. McHale took the wrong attitude so I got huffy too and walked ahead of him up to my room.

Wednesday July 11 Venice

Spent most of the day in a huff. Started to do a bit of packing. We were supposed to have gone swimming but I was so mad at the attitude that was taken I called the whole thing off. By dinner time everything straightened itself out and we were in a gondola by night.

Thursday July 12

Whiled the morning away & after lunch went over to Venice. Shopped around the stores & had buying a piano seat in mind but when we got to the place Benny got his we saw some beautiful evening wraps.

Both McHale & I eyed the same one. I tried several—but couldn't find another like it. Duke wanted one in a smaller size but they had only one in pink. Rather hurt me when he thought of Catherine. I knew as soon as I put it on he had visions of her in it.

We told them to put three of them away & in the meantime we would decide & Benny would come in to transact the business.

Just made a movie at the Ensa theater. I don't know those Limey's insist on changing the title of films. That was the second time I've seen the picture—Roz Russel—"What a Woman" changed to "The Beautiful Cheat." We stopped in the sun for a drink. Duke told me a little about his marriage & how it was almost annulled. I would really like to meet Catherine to know what kind of a person she is. He said his story was the most he's told anyone.

We walked to San Marco's Square and got a gondola & paddled to the Lido. Our theme song—"Later tonight at #1" Duke knew I was pretty sick about his wanting that wrap for Catherine. So the night was a bit on the sad side.

Friday, July 13

I made up my mind that I wanted the black & white robe. If he hadn't wanted it so much I probably would have given in. We had quite a discussion about it at lunch time. We rented bicycles for the afternoon. Sent Bill Berry in with trading supplies & \$40. When I saw it I knew I wanted it. We got into a terrific squabble [unclear] about the robe. I made up my mind I was going to be finished with him. Made him take the bike back to the lot by himself. Thru tears I laughed because we had such a difficult time. I stayed in behind locked doors to pack permanently until we got to Caeserta. Duke came up a few times but I paid no attention. It was an awfully hard thing to do. Finally he slipped a note telling me I should keep the date with the Providence boys. I really didn't know what I'd end up doing but as usual I conceded, got dressed and was on my way. I wasn't very sociable until McHale stopped in to buy me the glass flower vase I wanted. Then I had to give in—slowly & slowly. We met another fellow, a Lt. from the [unintelligible] & had a special dinner in the back room. Afterwards the Lt. took over. We (~~disz~~) discuss the possibilities of a blimp ride & went out to the Navy place & went thru the blimp. Met an Ensign from Chicago. Later we came back, picked the Lt. up & went to the [unclear] and danced. Tried to promote a blimp ride from Navy officers but only operational flights were scheduled & we were scheduled to leave Sunday. Prompted a special boat ride with a sister in law stay. After a few rumbas we went to the Elvira & I changed clothes & we went motor boating across to Venice and down the Grand Canal. We got home pretty late but that didn't make any dif. to McHale. He came up and stayed later than usual.

Saturday July 14 Venice

We had planned to go to Venice in the morning but wasted the morning looking for Smith & shoes. Even after lunch he didn't appear & we didn't get started for Venice until after two. We took the Military Ferry over. Some Indian tried his darndest to buy McHales watch. He probably would have succeeded if there weren't so many G.I.'s around. We finally saw the clock's iron men strike on the tower. Went into

the trading shop & after a lot of bickering Duke finally bought the pink and black wrap for Catherine. He really is thinking of her desperately now. Wonder if it could be his conscience or just [unintelligible] formality. Methinks it's conscience. We just made the movie & wouldn't you know it was a film I had already seen but the darn Limey's had to change the title.

We took a gondola to the Lido. Had to hurry & dress because we had a dinner date for the [unintelligible] Had a fairly good dinner. Met Smith on the way out. He walked us to the Regina where we were to meet the Lt.—my bro-in law. It was nice of him to walk with us because McHale & I had been disputing just because I received a dinner invitation from the Chi Ensign.

After we found the Lt. he took us for a Jeep ride all around the outskirts of the Lido. It was fair & cooling. Then he dropped us off at the Docks & we rode over to Venice for our last Gondola ride. It was a holiday and the Venetians were really celebrating. We got along marvelously well for change too. Proved to be a very enjoyable evening. Got to bed about 2:00 a.m.

Sunday July 15

Had to get up at 6:30—finished packing and made the 7:00 o'clock Mass. We all had breakfast together on the porch outside. The two football players Dan Cuff & Ward kept us waiting in the dark. In fact we left without them until Leon discovered they were missing & then we had to go back. It took us about an hour 7 a half to reach the car park by Dusk. Don took off with John, Leon, Ward & Don took off in another jeep and we rolled along on our way. We stopped at Verona at the R.C. hotel for lunch. Duke & I, Billy & [unintelligible] sat at the same table. We got into some sort of a discussion & McHale told me to shut my mouth & got up & left. Benny said, "You're a fool to let any man talk to you that way." Guess he's right tho.

On the way to Garda he tried to pass it off but I was firm. I decided to let things slide for a while.

Half way to Garda we passed Arabella's S. W. and we stopped for awhile to talk to them. [unclear] came up to ask where the dancer was. She'd probably have a terrific time if she were in my place.

Our billet turned out to be a deserted Villa Hotel. Three stories high, hundreds of rooms and just us. After some bickering I finally got a single room on the third floor. Everyone else was on the second.

We unpacked slightly & had Hank drive us all down to the Off. beach. It proved to be a terrible place. More Ey ties than Amer. Everybody had to mistake me for an Ey tie too. Duke apologized after blowing his top off at Billy because I repeated what Billy told me in Verona.

Hank picked us up and we dressed for dinner. All the men are displeased because this is Hdq & they have to wear ties & sleeves rolled down. Had a good dinner then went out for a motor boat ride. It certainly was beautiful. The sun was just about getting ready to set and the mountain villas were just dreams. Went to bed pretty early because we were both dead tired.

Monday July 16

Did a little more unpacking just before dinner. Had to sleep most of the morning away. It was too darn hot to do much else. After lunch we came back to the billet and siesta'd until about 3:00. Got dressed and our pick up came at 4:00. We drove out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> [unclear] Hosp. to have dinner with Pat's singing Dentist. Turned out to be a [unintelligible] but we did have a pretty good meal. I have seen nothing but

a bunch of tents. I still can't see why the Americans can't requisition houses. Later I learned that the patients were mostly V.P. cases so they deserve to be out there. McHale & I had our bites looked at & the Doc gave us some lotion. I'm just about mad with the bites on my leg. We waited for our luggage to show up but finally had to take off without it. Leroy came with us & "pawed" McClure all the way to the 15<sup>th</sup> Army Group.

Made a 2 to 1 bet with Ma[unintelligible] that the luggage wouldn't show up until after 8:30. I won but came at 8:33. The 2 trunks certainly came in handy. Those Venetian wraps certainly busted me. Some sort of argument started in the car & was continued in the tents. What the cause? Musicians as soon as McHale heard them were to be musicians he started with. [unintelligible] left out two bars of first number & comments, "There go 2 bars." McHale accused me of talking to the musicians on stage so I blew off. It wasn't as hard working as I thought after a week's vacation. Audience reaction wasn't as good as usual but I guess it's just too darn hot. We were [unintelligible] to have a snack at the E.M. place all but McHale came. He was sore & went home with the luggage. Also got into a tiff with Pat because Pat thought I was going home too. We stayed til darn near midnight. I was plenty tired when I got home so it wasn't too difficult going to sleep without seeing Duke. I didn't miss him too much. The fellas were awfully sweet & congenial. Most of them had seen me at the Florence swimming pool & I got teased about being the only girl there. We had lunch & afterwards the usual make up procedure started. We siesta'd till about 3 then got ready for a 4 pick up.

We drove out to some out of the way place. Used to be Gess[unclear] hang out. Beautiful set up for a Hdq—a former Count's place. Had dinner in a beautiful dining room & was served by the most impressive butler. Did our show on a platform outside. Audience terrific. Especially in my second number. I don't know how but I fell in the illusion [?]. McHale was cramped with laughter & I was at it too. Could hardly finish the number.

Golly it was darn hot. Had a [unclear] with the officers after the show. Talked about all our flights. Late we went down to the E M joint & everybody got loaded down with Mausers except me. Some kid told me he'd send one home for me & I [unclear] It was well after midnight after we got underway. Pat was sore because I insisted upon going home. My bites itched so I almost went mad. Thank goodness we finally got the netting.

Passed out almost instantly I was so tired.

Wednesday July 18 Milan

Wasted the morning away—took off for Milan after lunch. Larry didn't want to go & Helen didn't show up—we knew she had a Swiss plot up her sleeve.

It took us about three hours to drive. Milan is the closest city to an American city that I've seen over here. Duke, Hank & I shopped around. All we bought were some Borselino Felts. I got one & Duke got two for Catherine. Why is the pang so great when he thinks of her. It never use to be. I remember encouraging him not to forget her. We stopped at a sidewalk café for some drinks. Met Pat & Benny at 6:00 & ate at the E. M. mess. Pat bumped into the fellow he had been looking for all aft.—Eddie Cantor's script writer. After chow we drove around & started back to Garda about 8:00. On the way we found Mussolini's end. Took pictures at the gas station where he was strung up. We had to make

another stop for Benny & Duke to get vino. They came back with two bottles. T'wasn't long before we passed two truck loads of G. I.'s & we passed the vino on to them.

We got home almost at midnight.

We stopped at the Cossion for beer. I didn't want to go in but Duke convinced me. Benny asked me for a dance. Duke got slightly burned up & when it came time to go home I asked him if he were going to be agreeable. He said no so I went home in the station wagon. He I knew would come home blind. I was a bit too tired to miss him saying goodnight—but it would have helped.

Thursday July 19, 1945

Wrote a few letters this morning. Packed our bathing suits & took off for land about 11:30. Sat around the Casino for awhile then plunged in. The water was great. About the only cool spot for miles around. My hay fever has started and I'm on the way to misery. Swam for about 1 ½ then took a short siesta. Our pick up came at four. We had a very interesting drive thru the tunnels where the Nazis had their airplane motor factories.

We got to the place & Duke & I ate by ourselves. The rest had to go souvenir hunting. Afterwards we walked around town but had no cash or no trading material. We worked on a roof top—cement stage so I only did one number.

Duke has been so attentive lately I wonder what has come over him. I am going to miss him more than I have ever missed anyone. It's all my fault for letting him come into my life so why complain. After the show, H & B went to the movies. While Pat showered we played ping pong, then went to the officer's club. What a dull mess they were. Hardly anyone paid attention to us & we went thru our whole repertoire of airplane stories. My bug bites were driving me mad so I had the Doc get me some alcohol. Just a few minutes before the kids got back from the movie we decided to leave and went out to the station wagon. The kids came back & we told them not to stay long. Helen didn't but Benny joined Pat. We hung around for an hour all of us waiting in the car. Finally we dug up the mess sarg & he made us some steak sandwiches to carry out. Still no Pat & Benny. The truck driver had driven 300 miles & was darn tired so Duke & I told Pat we were going to show him the way back. We drove down in the truck & got in about 1:15. Was in bed & sleeping by 1:30.

Continued in another notebook

Friday July 20

Duke came up early this morning to ask if I had heard the racket. Told me the kids got home after 4:00. Moran making all kind of noises in order to wake me up saying, "Quiet now, Miss Zold must get her sleep." What a mean spiteful man that character is. McHale shut him up by saying, "Lieut. McHale must get his sleep too. I hope everyone lets me understand that he didn't wake me. Everybody except Benny was pretty disgusted with Pat. Hank nearly fell asleep at the wheel too.

After lunch we plunged in again. Duke & I had a wonderful time talking on the raft. Came in & had a few minutes siesta & was picked up at four. We drove about an hour & found a pile of tents. Duke & I ate in the officers mess tent. Done while McClure & nose followers went to the theatre. Had to laugh at her standing in the E M mess line. When it came to eating on the ground she reniged.



Saturday July 21

We have been following the same procedure for two days & today made no difference. After lunch we took our usual swim. Something had to interrupt the peace & calm of the day. Berry came by in a speed boat & since McHale a& I had hit it off I decided to go motor boating.

After the rid I came back to the Villa & things were straighten out. Had a little siesta & our usual 4:00 pick up. We drove all the way into Verona again had supper at some care happy officers club. Duke & I took off for the theatre. Things haven't been going well all day. I knew three days of peace, quiet & happiness were too much.

Dressed—tents again. Had a lousy stage & a lousier audience. We weren't invited any place so we took off for Garda shortly after the show.

Decided to go swimming after we got back. Duke, Berry & I plunged in. The water was terrific. We laid on the raft & ripped every body apart for hours. Everyone was accusing McClure of stealing the cigarettes that were stolen last night since he was the first one home—secretly of course. We even compared McClure's [unintelligible]. Even J[unintelligible] Brown was brought into the conversation & that was enough to get Duke started. We quarreled for about an hour before he finally decided to forget. He said he's go to church with me but when I asked if he wanted me to wake him. He told me if I wanted to, to do so. It's so hard to fall asleep after an argument with him.

Sunday July 22

It's so hot these days one wakes up with the sun. Got up at 9:00 & made 9:30 mass at a little chapel down by the lake. It was such a peaceful nice service. No Eye Ties to get into your hair. After mass who should be waiting for me but the Irishman. I was very surprised to see him. We walked home together parked our sacks, went over to have lunch. Sat around the casino for a while then took our usual swim. Then the usual siesta, the pick up at 5:30 & the drive to Verona. We had that [unclear] along. McClure rode in the luggage carrier because she didn't want him pawing her. Ended up at the R.C. & when we got a load of the stage nearly passed out. Didn't know whether to take a chance on it or work on the cement. Had to pile back into the station wagon & they took us to the R.C. billet to eat. That is where McH & I had the terrific quarrel last time. We laughed it off. Chow time has been getting so close to curtain time it's almost impossible to make. Of course I don't say anything because if I did Moran would have us eating 5 min before show time.

We just about made the show. I only did one number because of the stage. Not that I mind-- It was pretty late by the time we passed out.

Monday July 23

We had a little argument this morning about something. D was going to do what he wanted & was very stubborn about it. We talked & talked & soon D[unclear] was brought into the conversation. D. left & told me to think of D[unintelligible]. So I insisted upon going swimming in the morning & packing in the afternoon because I knew he wanted to do just the opposite. He did manage to pack half way. Had our morning swim & then went in for chow. Met Pat & he told me we were not leaving Tuesday but Thursday. The S.S.O. found another Veronese spot for us to play. Had to laugh because Duke thought he [3 unintelligible words] for packing half way.

We siesta'd all afternoon. We were picked up by some dope at 5:30 & driven around the lake to a signal outfit. After running up & down hills for hours the Dope decided to take us to this officers club. The S.S.O. was so drunk he didn't know right from L. The show was scheduled at 8:00 & it was 7:10 before they realized we hadn't eaten. Pat told the booby trap beer story so often & McHale laughed harder each time it got on my nerves. Finally when we did sit down he told the story again & Duke laughed again. I came out with the witty "I wonder what Moran is going to do for an audience when McHale leaves. We finished dinner & Duke & I left. As soon as we got outside we exploded. I didn't hear half of what he said because I didn't want to. I kept yelling back at him to shut up.

The weather is so hot & we had to rush to get ready. It's hard enough working without having to fight with him. I carried my own wardrobe up the hill after a lousy show. There had been some discussion about going home by boat. McHale asked me, I told him it was more of his business & the Capt. Was standing right there. I finally told the Capt. That I'd go with him. Later Duke asked me if I wanted to go with the English Capt. & him. I said a definite no! Then Berry & I took off with the Capt. The Col. Came for Helen & Pat, Larry went home with Hank. After a drink at the officers palace we got into the speed boat. It was a terrific job and we had a pleasant ride almost all the way home. The rudder guard broke & we docked it shortly before capsizing time. Hitched a ride home from the M.P.S.

Berry, Hank & I went swimming. I missed Duke a little but I was angry too. Expected him to come in drunk but he pulled up while we were sitting in the station wagon and he didn't show any effects. It was very hard to go to sleep with having him say good night to me

Tuesday July 24

Got up around noon. Hank had to ~~tk~~ take Helen to the P.O. & Duke went along. There was some sort of discussion because they didn't wait for Berry. Hank & Helen came back. I wondered where Duke was. Finally had to end up eating chow with Benny & Larry. Duke was sitting on the porch but I didn't discover him until half way thru the meal. He came in later & threw me a 10 he owed me. After lunch we drove down to the P.O. to mail Berry's Mausser home then went in swimming. I had a pretty fair time until McHale started throwing slams around. He made me so miserable I had to cry. I started to go in and then he beat me to it. The rest of the afternoon was fun after some more fellas got out in the raft, all Americans too. We got back to the billet at 4:15 & our pick up was at 4:30. Just about made it. We took the usual [unclear] to Verona. Had dinner in some old count's hangout. We were sadly neglected by the officers. Since that new issue came out for officers to lay off 450 personnel it's been terrible. Dinner was delayed & we had about 15 minutes to get ready for the show. I just about made it. Had a slight discussion with McClure about the ten flaps. McHale made me madder than ever when he introduced me with a sneer. When we fight he is the nastiest soul on earth. The show as far as I was concerned was lousy. Afterwards we talked to a few kids from Chi—it was so terribly hot that when McHale was giving D later a short ride I went [unclear]. I knew he was after some guns. Later I found out he had gotten 2 barrettes for free. We were softening up a bit. Benny rode home in the luggage carrier & I sat up front. That was another arrow in Duke's back so we were off again. McClure complained about the speed we were driving so Hank drove 45 miles 25-30 MPH nearly drove me crazy.

When we got home, we all got our suits. Duke walked on ahead—Hand drove the rest of us down. We were in before McHale. He was standing on the porch drinking beer. Golly it hurt so terribly much not being on speaking terms. Finally he came in. It was good to have him near even if we weren't speaking. Half way out to the raft & got a cramp but decided to go on to it. Berry wanted to swim back right away

but I told her to wait because I had a pain. When I got out to the raft I slightly exaggerated the pain & asked Billy to get me a life raft. I waited & paddled back. I really didn't feel too well but to see me out you'd think I were dying. I got up to my room & felt so lousy & miserable & started to cry & the character that lives next door popped in & asked me all out of quarters. I got up & went down to Hank's room. McHale passed by & came up stairs. I knew he was going to my room so I [unclear] Hank after he assured me he gave me the Barrettes. I knew darn well something was fishy because Hank wouldn't have given me the Barrettes unless Duke put him up to it. Duke stayed with me for awhile. Even though I knew we wouldn't make up it was a comfort to have him. He didn't stay long enough for me. Any way it was as hard falling asleep as it would have been had he not been there.

Wednesday July 25

Someone threw some letters at me & woke me up. I had a hunch it was Duke. I got a letter from home from Mom saying the Dr. just came to take out the stitches. I nearly went crazy with such little information. I started to cry—went down & told Benny. Duke heard me & offered a bit of consolation. He was fairly nice. Had dinner together. Lots of [unintelligible]flew around. We went swimming together. He started to make [unclear] for which I was grateful. The fellas that were put in the raft yesterday so McHale had a bit of competition. Today being Wed. was the day we didn't work & I knew drinking was in store--& it came—McHale & the mess sargent. We swam all afternoon.