

Somewhere in North Africa
Saturday, Sept. 11, 1943

Dear Nell -

I'm sitting in my tent writing you by candlelight on my desk, which is my pride and joy. When we arrived here we had only our blankets and tent - the ground was very hard for sleeping, but I built a wooden bed and made a straw mattress. But then I had no place to unpack anything - so I went to the city and found a child's desk and dresser - they are very cheaply made but the desk cost \$26.00 and the dresser \$15.00 - they fit well into our tent so I bought them - there is no place to

spend money so I thought the
 luxury of a desk and dresser
 was worth the price - and they
 are a joy to me. We now have
 army cots so I put ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~langer~~
 legs on my wooden bed so
 as to make a platform over
 my cot - Now, the platform is
 a wonderful place to keep my
 things off the ground. We are
 still eating out on the ground
 from our mess kits, but we
 have good food and I eat like
 a horse! The fresh air, sun-
 shine, and good appetite are
 making me blooming with health
 and my nose is much better.
 They are building our hospital
 across the road and before

long we will be receiving patients. When we move into the hospital we will have floors in our tents, and will eat in a screened mess tent at tables - also we will have running water, and there is a possibility that sometime we may have hot showers.

The boat trip over wasn't bad at all except that our quarters were very crowded. I didn't get the least bit sea sick and we did have some rough weather. Our ship was a medium sized vessel but was a very good one. The trip was uneventful except for one bombing which was quite

exciting - they didn't hit
us at all, but it added
some zest to the trip and
made us really realize we
were in the war. Our camp
here is out in the country
and we are as safe as if
we were in the good old U.S.A.

Since we aren't ready to
practice medicine, I had to
find something to keep me busy
so as to make the homesickness
bearable - So, I requested
to be appointed Post Exchange
officer - I now have a
beautiful store in a tent
with counter and shelves
built from old boards. We
can get quite a wide variety

of US products to sell such as tobacco, candy, soap, toilet articles, pipes, towels, etc - I have great fun as a store keeper - my shop seems to be quite a success, and I think it has helped moral a lot to make it possible for our men to be able to walk in and buy things just like in the good old U.S.A. - I have trouble making change because about half the men pay in Francs and the other half still have American money.

So, our life here is developing every day - but every day I miss Barty and Abby more

and more - the war news
 does look encouraging - it
 mustn't last very long, because
 every minute away from
 them seems a thousand years.
 But, someday this war will
 be over - then I shall
 never let them out of my
 sight again.

That is all the news for
 now - write me - tell
 Bob, Peter, and Nannie hello
 for me. Incidentally, I
 miss you and love you, too.

Mary

P.S. - Air mail gets here faster
 than V-mail

