

Hi, Sweetheart -

July 3, 7 PM

Look - real live stationary! Thought you'd be impressed. I hope my letters are getting to you in a reasonable length of time, for I long to hear from you, and hope you and Matthew are ok. I'm fine, aside from being lonely for you; but becoming bewildered about finding necessary items when shopping. Today, for instance, I drove around for about 45 minutes looking for a particular store, to get an alarmclock - finally found it - but it was frustrating.

Few of the streets have names - directions are given in reference to known points. It's all just a matter of time, but I do get impatient when considering all that has to be purchased before your arrival. Not to mention finding a place to live, that's the easy part. I'm not complaining, my love, just getting things off my chest.

Today I got my military ID, a very important piece of paper in Tripoli. This is far from a police state, however. I saw more armed troops in Rome airport than here. The people are friendly (for Arabs) and very honest. Cars and houses are left unlocked, unescorted Western women walk around in every variety of clothing. It's no paradise, to be sure, but tolerable. I've not seen any great piles of

garbage, like in AD, nor any rats. It's still a dusty, hot, unorganized Middle-Eastern city, but we'll be fine.

On "the great eye disease question:" I spoke to a British nurse stationed here for 3 years on the subject: most observed eye ailments are particular to the Berbers (Libyans) because of extensive inter-marriage. There is an eye ailment spread by flies, easily treatable; but the nurse has never seen a case in a Caucasian. So, I hope your mind is at ease.

On your list of things to check in Libya:

1. Pediatrics: haven't checked yet.
2. Baby food: yes, available - American
3. Milk: yes
4. Crib & playpen: available, haven't got one yet
5. Disp. diapers: yes - Pampers, etc
6. Eye Disease: see above.

It's 8 o'clock, & I'm going to shower & shave, etc. & get ready for work tomorrow. Hopefully I can get to the bank (I have to be shown where it is) & get your check ^{mailed} with this letter tomorrow. By the way, I received \$4,440⁰⁰, or did I tell you? Anyway, more later.

Happy July 4th! Not much celebration around here, but I'm wishing we were together so we could have a party. One can get easily depressed here, living in limbo, out of a suitcase, etc. I can't wait 'til I can get a place, get it furnished, and set my own schedule & await your arrival. It's my turn to do the food shopping tonite - that should be a joy, since I don't know where to get half this stuff. But, I must learn some time, and this is the best way. I'll probably start actually teaching next week; meanwhile I'm just sitting in the class while the Italian instructor completes this one phase. That's when I'll start getting in bad moods - teaching strange subjects to strange people in a strange land, then come home and set up a household. Stores are closed by the time I get back from the airfield, & reopen from 5 to 8 PM. Sharing a car further complicates things. ... Enough complaining for now.

I finally made it to the bank today - have to return tomorrow to pick up your check (have to wait a day after ordering a dollar check - So this probably won't get out 'til Wednesday PM. Sorry, but things move slowly here. If I can just keep my head for the next month, everything will be fine.

I've been reminiscing about a year ago today, and what a happy time we had with B & D, & partying & all. I'm sure glad I have these portraits of you and Matty; I look at them often, and feel more on an even keel right away. I love you both so much, honey. Please forgive my negative attitude, I know it's counter-productive. ~~~~~

It's 3 PM - I'm going to go hang up the laundry (my new red pants on, & I'm afraid colored a couple of shirts) then nap before going shopping. Keep a stiff upper lip, lover; we'll all be together soon.

Hi again! It's 9:45^{PM} July 4, still. I just wanted to communicate with you before going to bed, & pass on a few thoughts: 1. Ensure John Noeding sends a telex here after your flights are confirmed, and he should make reservations a week - 10 days prior to departure. Hope you have your visa. 2. Bring the baby's food masher; I think it would be useful. 3. Another thought about not airfreighting anything: The electricity here, while constant, fluctuates a lot, and rarely hits 110 volts, which tends to shorten the useful life of any electrical appliance. I certainly don't want our stereo here. We can buy and sell a reasonable 8 track tape player. 4. Bring at least one baby bottle (probably plastic one is best) since I'm not sure of the type or availability of them here. There are cribs,

playpens, lots of toys, etc. Water is drunk right out of the tap, but we'll probably boil MBO's.

On a different vein, shopping wasn't too bad, although I did manage to spend \$40⁰⁰. There are 3 stores where one can buy 90% of needed groceries and non-food items, and they are all within a half-mile of each other on the same street. I have yet to explore the main Sugs downtown, but will one of these days. 10 PM, and it's bed time, my Love. I'll be dreaming of you, & promise to finish this tomorrow, enclose the check, & mail it straight away. Good-nite, & tell MBO I love and miss him, when you get him up tomorrow am.

Tuesday, July 5, 8 PM

Well, it's hot today - 45°C, or 113°F at the airport today. In town it was about 90°F, and tolerable. I went right to Dick Clark's ^{head instructor} house from work to prepare for teaching next week. I'm upset, because of the depth of technical knowledge I should have, and need to teach the course properly. There are 2 Libyan assistant instructors per classroom who have had 8 months training in Italy, and are more proficient than I am. I'm afraid they will find out my relative ignorance and report to the Libyan officer in charge, who could then have me removed for not being qualified. It's happened before.

That is a major worry for me. In the meantime, ~~instead of studying,~~ I should be finding a house, ^{apartment} which are in incredibly short supply. There are some few available on the edges of town, unparel streets, with unreliable water supply because of the distance from downtown water systems, and surrounded by construction of other ^{much}apartments. It would be difficult to walk the baby in the stroller, and necessitate crossing a very busy street for shopping.

Where I am now, in a section just west of the city line called Hai Andelous, is where a number of Americans live. ~~That~~ It's a desirable section because of its proximity to shopping areas - within ~~shopping~~ walking ~~distance~~ distance of stores - where I shopped the other ~~ite~~ ite. And because of this, expensive (average \$880 rent) and most unavailable. I could employ a housing agent, and pay a finder's fee of a month's rent, which I'm desperately trying to avoid. Then, it would cost four or five thousand dollars to furnish a place, even with used furniture. If I sound negative, it's for good reason. Admittedly, the thought of leaving now has crossed my mind, before getting locked into furniture and a lease, and cutting our losses. I particularly don't want you and the baby put thru the ordeal of coming over here, to turn around and leave because I'm not qualified, or for some other reason. And I don't want you here in this company transient apartment.

Then, I think about having packed up and left that really nice apartment in Wapp. Falls, and all that, and I get sick over the thought of returning, especially after spending all that money - If I returned to Syracuse, I'd be forced to work @ 2. Syr. Chev., or not get un-employment. I'm really sick at heart right now, thinking that I've made a huge, irreversible, costly blunder; where returning to the U.S. would be almost as bad as staying, except that you and our beloved baby are there, the only constant and true parts of my life any more. Right at this moment, I just don't know where to turn. Guess I'll go take a shower & maybe feel better.

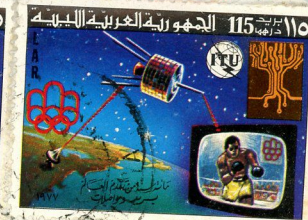
 Shower's over; I feel better, physically, at least. I'm going to do a little studying then try to sleep. Tell you what - don't sell the car until you hear from me that we're definitely staying here. It may necessitate you staying in Syr. a little longer, (but I doubt it), but would be better to leave open what few remaining options we have - one of them being the car.

Maybe the fact that I miss you & MBO so much is causing me to be more negative than reality calls for. I just don't know. Anyway, Kath, I'll sleep on it all and continue tomorrow. Good nite. I love you!!!!

Wed July 6 5PM - Hi, Honey - finally got the check - will mail this in 10 minutes & start another. Take Care, I love you - Jon
hug & kiss to Matthew -



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