

No. II

FROM

TO:

Chap. Sidney Ballon
1250 AAFBU-NAFD-ATC
APO #396 c/o PM
New York City
Chaplain's Office

Master Jeff Ballon
1601 Hampton
Columbia, 33, S.C.

Chas Reyner
GOD-PARENTS
Hortie Reyner
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Daddy,

I'm the boss they say - Since you went away
And what I'm s'posed to do - Is break the news to you.

February 22 is the date

6 pounds 12 ounces is the weight.
And Daddy, we're just all aw whirl -
'Cause it's a precious little girl.

We found a name for our sweetheart -

Martha Elaine and "Muff" for short.
Ganny and Papa were right on hand -
All our friends have been just grand.

Glad to say Mommy's well

And Dr. Seibels did just swell.
All that we're hoping now - is maybe
You'll be home soon to see our baby.
But 'til you come, please don't forget
That I'm the boss, so don't you fret.
That's all for now, dear Dad -
Know you're proud and glad.

Love xxxxxxxxxxxx Kisses

Your son,

JEFF

Carbon Copy to All Friends

V... - MAIL

Chaplain Sidney Ballon
1250 AAFBU - NAJD - ATC
APO #396 c/o PM
New York, N.Y. Chaplain's Office

Chaplain Richard C. Hertz
HQ, SCU 1962
Fort Ord, Calif.
3 April 1945

Dear Sid:

From "Master Jeff Ballon" came word of the good news that you are the proud pappie of a little girl. Heartiest congratulations on the happy arrival!

From your APO address, I gather that you are "chaplaining" at some base unit along the ATC, spread out from here to God's country, and that you are travelling up and down the airways seeking out Jewish men. I'd be very much interested to hear of your doings where you are, and how things are coming along.

Me, I'm still at Fort Ord. I guess the Army has forgotten me here. I've been here a year and a half, unprecedented for any other Jewish chaplain serving here before I came. But Mary Louise and I have been very, very happy -- just to be together this long. This may not be the ^{most} important spot in the Army, nor in the most strategic locality, nor even too convenient to home. But so what? I'm busy. I'm happy. I'm griping (so you know I'm happy). And I can't wait to get this damn war over so that we can go home. Brother, when it comes to the Army, "include me out." But then, you can probably write a book on that subject too. Most chaplains can.

I know of very little news to pass on. I feel almost as isolated as you. Except that Norman Goldberg is out of the chaplaincy and back in Sacramento, hoping for a good break and a clean one too -- from Sacramento.

Write us soon, and meanwhile, accept our heartiest congratulations.

Cordially,

Love to Jean and Jeff.

✓

HEADQUARTERS
NORTH AFRICAN DIVISION
AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND
1250TH AAF BASE UNIT
APO 396, N.Y., N.Y.

In reply
refer to

10 April 1945

Dear Dick:

Thanks very much for your congratulations. It was good to hear from you again after such a long time. Glad to know all is well with you. Stop your griping! After you are overseas and have babies at long distance, then you will have a right to gripe. But even with this right I am not griping. I have been quite fortunate in my assignment. Casablanca and the rest of North Africa is definitely preferable to the Pacific. My territory and wanderings take in from French West Africa down through the Persian Gulf. This has afforded me the opportunity to see many things of interest and I could write pages about it all. Of greatest interest was Cairo and Palestine. I spent a week in Palestine and it was magnificent. I am hoping to go back for more.

Tell me, how do people get out of the chaplaincy? Such as Goldberg and Unger, I mean. What is the deal?

My best to you and Mary Louise. Hope we all meet soon in civies. Thanks again for your good wishes.

Sincerely,

Dick

