

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944

Image

27 July 1944 465

Darling —

One could classify today as "D." day — just plain "Disencouraging." To start it all off we had a visit from the Inspector General's Department. As usual every body goes around biting their nails and worrying about unfavorable reports. The supply sergeant worried about his records, the clerk his files, the cook his kitchen, the motor sergeant his trucks — everybody was worried —

However they weren't so interested this time in administration but morale and recreation activities — I as rating officer for my company withstood a barrage of questions about rating procedure — ~~what do~~ then they poked through recreation facilities, wanted to know this and that — looked at mess halls, day rooms, volleyball courts — etc. — That ordeal over with I received your charming letter of the 17th which about sent me up for a Section eight discharge into a boiling hatch —

I don't know exactly how that gag sounded to you but if I recall correctly, I wrote something like this — "my feelings for you are purely platonic I only want to marry you!" — Undoubtedly a poor

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09120.465)

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944

attempt at humor but a definite attempt — there was
nothing that should have been construed as my feeling
anything else but the fondest and ardent emotions in
your direction — who the hell ever heard of
a guy musing for "Platonic" reasons —

I don't comprehend this thing deal —
"I might just as well have left it off huh? — now you
know, " — All I ask is — did you — or
didn't you — ~~it's~~ still not clear — as far as
the so called "interest" is concerned — well let's not
get subjective —

Going to hell? — oh — things like
sitting all night with a ~~head~~ and talking when you
know she was interested in other things or when
some nice kid says "I'd like to plant you in
my back yard and put a fence around you" — and
you say — "Sorry, I already grow in
someone else's garden and there's a very big
fence around me" — There's the times
when you roam the streets — lonely and
disgusted when you want to see how it
feels to get stinking drunk — When the
months away from home begin to grow at your
mind — There's the times when the
stark of the deal and the moon of the wounded

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09120.465)

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944

make you feel awfully sorry for yourself — values
change, thoughts are shattered, dreams become
hazes for off in the distance — so far — so
very new for — The times when your mind says —
"just" — the times when you'd laugh at a
picture and all the while there's a hungry
loneliness banging at your insides — How have
you helped? — Just by being around, writing —
saying nice things — ~~joking~~ — yes even scolding —
you've been good to me and good for me — I
don't know how to say this because — well —
it doesn't need saying — you know how I feel
about you —

Well anyway — to get on with
the story of "D" day — In the afternoon I
gave a two hour lecture on the matter to an
infantry outfit — By now I can rattle the
stuff off like a clucking hen — the lecture took
place in a chapel — it was hot — by the time
an hour and a half was up I was getting that
strained tone to my voice — almost close to
crying — my mouth & lips were dry and sticky —
a white foam formed in the ^{corner} ~~end~~ of my lips —
Talking is all right but not marathons in blah-blah-

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09120.465)

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944

maybe I understand — maybe I don't —
I don't feel that I know what's going on between us
but something apparently is and well. — let's
quit. — — — Scolding, misunderstanding,
etc. — okay — I've got most of that coming so
I'll not ~~blame~~ complain — but sarcasm —
no!! — but definitely! —
~~what's the point?~~
I love you very much — so there?
Yours,
Sid

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09120.465)

Transcript

27 July 1944

Darling-

One could classify today as “d” day - just plain “D”iscouraging. To start it all off we had a visit from the Inspector Generals department. As usual everybody goes around biting their nails and worrying about unfavorable reports. The supply sergeant worried about his records, the clerk his files, the cook his kitchen, the motor sergeant his trucks - everybody was worried - However they weren’t so interested this time in administration but morale and recreation activities - I was voting officer for my company withstood a barrage of questions about voting procedure – [struck] then they poked through recreation facilities, wanted to know this and that - looked at mess halls, day rooms, volleyball courts - etc. - That ordeal over with [struck] I received your charming letter of the 17th which about put me up for a Section eight discharge in a loony watch –

I don’t know exactly how that gag sounded to you but if I recall correctly I wrote something like this – “my feelings for you are truly platonic I only want to marry you!” - Undoubtedly a poor attempt at humor but a definite attempt - there was nothing that should have been construed as my feeling anything else but the fondest and ardent emotions in your direction - who the hell ever heard of a guy marrying for “platonic” reasons –

I don’t comprehend this ring deal – “I might just as well have left it off huh? - now you know.” - All I ask is - did you - or didn’t you - it’s still not clear – as far as the so-called “intent” is concerned - well let’s not get subjective –

Going to hell? - oh - things like sitting all night with a babe and talking when you know she was interested in other things or when some nice bird says “I’d like to plant you in my back yard and put a fence around you” - and you say “Sorry I already grow in someone else’s garden and there’s a very big fence around me” - There’s the time when you roam the streets - lonely and disgusted when you went to see how it feels to get stinking drunk - when the months away from home begin to gnaw at your mind - There’s the time when the stink of the dead and the moans of the wounded make you feel awfully sorry for yourself - Values change, thoughts are shattered, dreams become haze far off in the distance - so far - so very very far - The times when your mind says “quit” - The times when you’d laugh at a picture and at and all the while there’s a hungry loneliness longing at your insides - How have you helped? – Just by being around, writing - saying nice things – joking - yes even scolding - you’ve been good to me and good for me - I don’t know how to say this because – well - it doesn’t need saying - you know how I feel about you –

Well anyway - to get on with the story of “D” day - in the afternoon I gave a two hour lecture on the mortar to an infantry outfit - By now I can rattle the stuff off like a clucking hen - The lecture took place in a chapel - it was hot - by the time an hour and a half was up I was getting that strained tone to my voice - almost close to crying - my mouth + lips were dry and steady a white foam formed in the corner of my lips - talking is all right but not marathon in blah-blah –

Maybe I understand - maybe I don’t - I don’t feel that I know what is going on between us but something apparently is and well - let’s quit - - scolding, misunderstanding, etc. – okay- I’ve got most of that coming so I’ll not [strike] complain - but sarcasm – No!! - but definitely! –

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero, July 27, 1944

I love you very much - so there?

Your

Sid