

**NAME:** Orville

**RANK:** First Lieutenant

**ORGANIZATION:** 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division

**OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE:** Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following text is directly from an original wartime letter written by Orville. This is one of many letters from Orville in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following text is presented under public domain provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**Orville writes his girlfriend in the United States:**

“8 July 1944

Here it is another Sat. morning and as there is nothing doing at present I'll try dashing off a few letters. I just now received your letter of 29 June and I was certainly surprised to hear of my having another nephew. That was the first news I have heard about it, although I imagine mother's written to me concerning it...

...With regard to that fellow's letter stating that the 1<sup>st</sup>. Div. will be returning home soon I can say that it's strictly 'scuttlebut.' True a rotation plan has been started and some of the men are returning, but only so many at a time. I don't know when my turn will come, but I certainly hope it's sometime in the near future. However, honey, as I've said before we can't be too optimistic and must just wait and see how things develop.

So the heat is starting to get you, eh? Well, I know how you must feel as I've seen many a hot day in the past year and a half. You must have had a change of heart though, for if I remember correctly you were always complaining about the cold, saying 'I'll take summer anyday.' Personally, I wouldn't mind alittle snow and ice for a change, although I'll probably have a hard time accustoming myself to cold weather again.

I saw two fairly good shows last night, 'The Lodger' and 'Higher & Higher.' The fellows got a big kick out of Sinatra as this is the first time many of them have ever seen or heard him. Personally, I think he's a good singer, but I can't for the life of me see why all the 'teens' go 'Ga Ga' over him,

The weather has been rather dismal for the past few days and at times I thought it may snow. Today is just the opposite as the sky is clear and the sun hot. I'll probably play some basketball this afternoon, as Sat. afternoons are free.

Yes, darling, 18 mos. sure is a long time to be separated and it hardly seems possible that I've been away so long. At least, the greater part of our separation is over and, honey, I'm just living for the day that'll bring us together again. I love you more than ever and miss you lots and lots.

Forever yours,

Orville”

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- Orville was killed in action later in the Second World War.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the Battle of Cape Gloucester which Orville participated in (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/Attack-TheBattleforNewBritain>
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Orville’s wartime organization, the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division (reader discretion advised):**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st\\_Marine\\_Division\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Marine_Division_(United_States))