



UNITED STATES ARMY

Weds. 12-1-43,  
2:30 P.M.

Florence, dearest:

Not having heard from me for the past several days, first let me tell you I love you more than anything, and that I can hardly wait to once again being with you and Sunny Jim, but I guess we will have to postpone seeing each other temporarily again - because it seems at the moment as though the best laid plans of "mice and men" oft ~~be~~ <sup>do</sup> ~~frustrate~~ <sup>frustrate</sup>. Monday morning, with much ado about nothing, 75 men were awakened at 4 A.M. and told to prepare for shipment, no word where we were going or how. Subsequently, at about 11 A.M. we were entrained on Pullmans and then began a ride that one in civilian life imagines only happens in the movies - Nobody knew where we were going, except the lieutenant in charge and all he did was smile. He ~~was~~ <sup>wasn't</sup> ~~sure~~ <sup>wasn't</sup> of one camp or another, or one branch of the service or other. But it was fun after a fashion; most of the men in the group are married with kids, some are younger but not physically perfect, and everyone was most concerned about the bush-bush, and about the distance we were traveling from our loved ones. Well, darling, everything must have an ending, this trip, the war, good things, bad things, even life itself. Even this fantastic trip came to an ending. We finally arrived in New Orleans, La. So it seems as though I get to see the famous Mardi Gras before and without you - However all is well - I feel pretty good - physically.

Of course, you must realize, darling, that I am here merely for my basic training; and although I have been here only 2 hours, it seems that I am in the Transportation Corps of the Army. As yet we have had no one explain to us exactly what that means - but we have been told that the basic training lasts from 4 to 6 weeks, and that following that - most men are shipped to different camps throughout the Country. So it is not impossible for me to visit up ~~down~~ <sup>home</sup> ~~home~~ <sup>home</sup> after this basic - but, don't worry, because being in the Army means doing what you're told,

being sent where they need you, and complaining all the time. I know that we were hopeful of a much better break but I guess it could have been worse. You must try awfully hard to be brave, take good care of Jimmy and yourself, and keep writing me. This rather mess cant last much longer, and then there will be a "Reunion in Brooklyn". Incidentally, I think I wear the same insignia as does Denny, but I will know more about everything as the days go by.

The camp is 7 miles from New Orleans, and I believe we can visit it over the week-ends. I will try to find some souvenirs for you and Sunny Jim to remember me by, but dont hold me to it. I will attempt to send all mail via air-mail, and suggest you send me some 3¢ stamps, not many as I will get same as soon as I find a Post-office. Also please send me about \$10.- just in case. Send it regular mail in one \$10 bill, inside of a letter, w'cent ps? I will acknowledge it immediately upon arrival.

The weather is beautiful - slightly warm, although we were issued two blankets for sleeping. Fruit mess here was fair and will let you know more about everything as the picture unfolds itself. Just keep your chin up, I will take good care of myself - and all will turn out well, I know. I hope you received the picture I forwarded and that you are proud of your soldier - sweetheart - daddy. After awhile I will have another taken and forward it to you. In the meantime please remember I love you dearly.

Please tell my mother and father where I am and that I send them my love as usual. I wrote Bob before I left Upton, but no answer from him. If you receive another address for him please advise; otherwise, until to-morrow with loads of love to you and Sunny Jim,

as ever  
G.G.

Pvt. GEO. STOFF (4V050100)  
6TH. BN. Co. H  
ASF - UTC - No 5A  
NEW ORLEANS, LA

PVT. GEO. STOFF (42050100)  
6TH. BN. (PORT) CO. H  
ASF - UTC - NOSA  
NEW ORLEANS 12, LA.

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David