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(GIBSON'S STAMP)

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LINEZ, AUSTRIA.

18 JULY 1945.

(Date)

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FLORENCE, SWEETHEART!

I MUST ADMIT THAT A QUARTER MOON PEERING OVER THE MOUNTAIN IN BACK OF THE DANUBE RIVER IS A MOST ROMANTIC SIGHT. IF FOR ANY REASON YOU FELT CLOSER TO ME TO-NIGHT THAN USUAL, IT IS BECAUSE WE STROLLED ALONG THE RIVER EDGE PARK, ARM IN ARM, AND OUR HEARTS BEATING AS ONE. IT SEEMED LIKE OLD TIMES, AND THE THRILL OF DREAMING ABOUT YOU IS STILL MY ONLY SOURCE OF MENTAL RELAXATION FROM ALL THIS MONOTONOUS DRUDGEERY. LOVING YOU IN AUSTRIA IS JUST AS EXCITING AS IT WAS IN ALL THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT UNTIL I GET BACK IN THE GROOVE OF LOVING YOU IN BROOKLYN NOTHING MATTERS.

NO MAIL YET, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE END OF THE WEEK THERE WILL BE A RESUMPTION OF SERVICE. I CONTINUE TO WRITE YOU DAILY AND HOPE MY LETTERS ARE COMING THRU IN FAST TIME. YOU WILL FORGIVE MY USING A V MAIL TO-NIGHT, BUT OTHER THAN TELLING YOU THAT I LOVE AND MISS YOU EVERY MOMENT I HAVE LITTLE ELSE TO RELATE. I DO HOPE THAT ALL IS WELL WITH YOU, JIM, AND ALL OUR KINPOLE. NO DOUBT BY THIS TIME YOU AND THE LITTLE BANTAM MUST BE WELL TANNED, AND QUITE ADJUSTED TO LIVING IN THE COUNTRY. I SURE HOPE SOME SNAPSHOTS ARE ENROUTE TO ME BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER. WE FOUND A FILM DEVELOPING PLACE IN TOWN TO-DAY, AND I HAVE THREE ROLLS IN THE PROCESS NOW. HOWEVER IT WILL TAKE ALMOST TWO WEEKS BEFORE I GET THEM BACK, SO JUST BE PATIENT.

AFTER CHOW TO-NIGHT I WALKED DOWN TO THE BATH HOUSE, SHOWERED, AND THEN PROMENADED WITH MY MENTAL PICTURE OF YOU ALONG THE STREET BORDERING THE DANUBE. MET SEVERAL OF MY BUDDIES AFTER A WHILE, AND PROCEEDED TO THE GI MOVIE, WHICH HAD NO SHOW TO-NIGHT. AS A LAST RESORT WE WENT TO THE RED CROSS DUGOUT, DUNKED DOUGHNUTS, LISTENED TO A MAKE-SHIFT BAND, WATCHED A BILLIARD GAME, COMPARED RUMORS, AND CURSED EVERYTHING FROM HITLER TO ALL THINGS NOT AMERICAN. ABOUT NINE PM RETURNED TO HEADQUARTERS TO WRITE YOU AND BOB, AND SOON IT WILL BE TIME FOR BED, AND PERHAPS DREAMS OF MY ONLY SWEETHEART. NO LUCK YET LOCATING AN ALPINE SUIT FOR JIM, BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE A CARBINE THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME ONE WILL WANT TO GIVE ME JUST WHAT I WANT.

I AM FEELING PINE AND DANDY, THE WEATHER IS REAL SUMMER LIKE, WITH THE HEAT SUBSIDING IN THE EVENING, MAKING FOR GOOD SLEEPING. CHOW IS STILL PRETTY GOOD, AND I AM STILL WATCHING MY CALORIES. I PROBABLY WEIGH AS MUCH AS I DID WHEN I FIRST ENTERED THE ARMY, BUT I EXPECT TO BE LIGHTER WHEN I FINALLY GET OUT. I INTEND MAKING USE OF EVERY SUIT YOU HAVE SO CAREFULLY PRESERVED AT HOME.

LEARNED TO-DAY THAT THERE IS AN EXCURSION TRAIN THAT MAKES A DAILY TRIP TO BERCHTESGARTEN (HITLER'S HANGOUT), AND I HOPE TO MAKE THAT TRIP ONE OF THESE DAYS. WILL TAKE SOME PICTURES AND TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT WHEN I DO. STAY WELL, KISS JIM FOR ME, AND I'LL KISS YOU BOTH IN MIND WITH ALL MY LOVE. MY BEST TO EVERYONE. AS EVER.

V-MAIL

George
 Post Office Department Form No. 11

