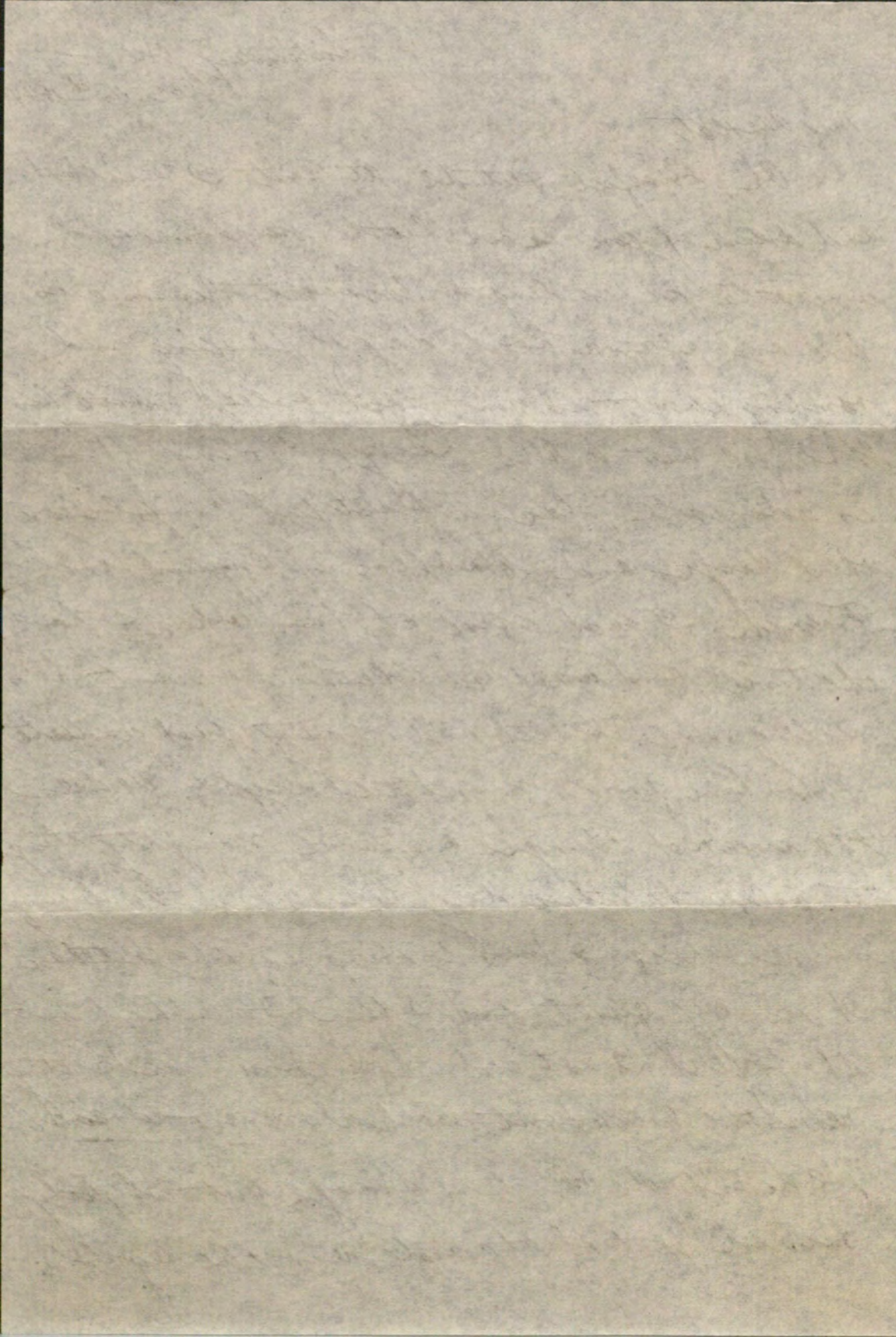


Saturday eve —
Dec. 16th 1884.

My dearest,

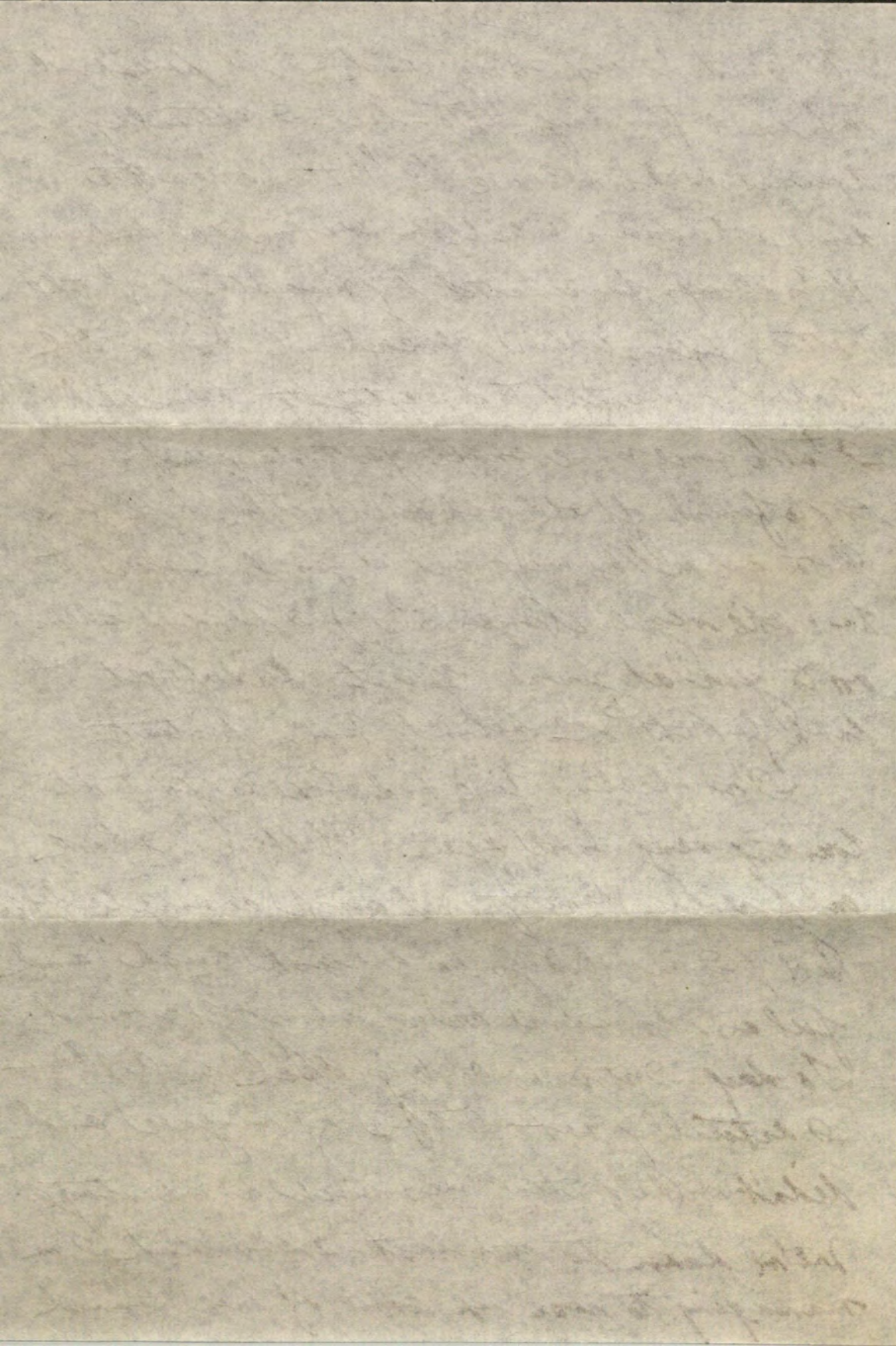
Oh, blissful solitude. At least I can think and dream of you in our little kingdom and write to you in length to-night. Jimmie is fine and, after a hard day of playing and romping about, is now fast asleep with his S. J. Joe next to him. George darling, Jim is adorable, has a beautiful complexion these days and blabbers in English and French. I just stare at him when I have the time and wonder whether or not he's really ours. Health and beauty just radiate from him from morn till night. He does the sweetest things and some naughty things too. Only the other day he was in the living room while I was cooking in the kitchen. It was very quiet and when I walked into the foyer I noticed that Jim was sitting near the breakfast with a screw driver. He didn't do much damage but slightly marred part of the side near the leg hole.



He said he was sorry and I'll patch it up in a few days. To-day I actually drew 2 baths because he let the water down the drain while I was in the bedroom. He's always fascinated by my story of the water, pipes, cellar, sewer and river. He probably wanted to investigate himself.

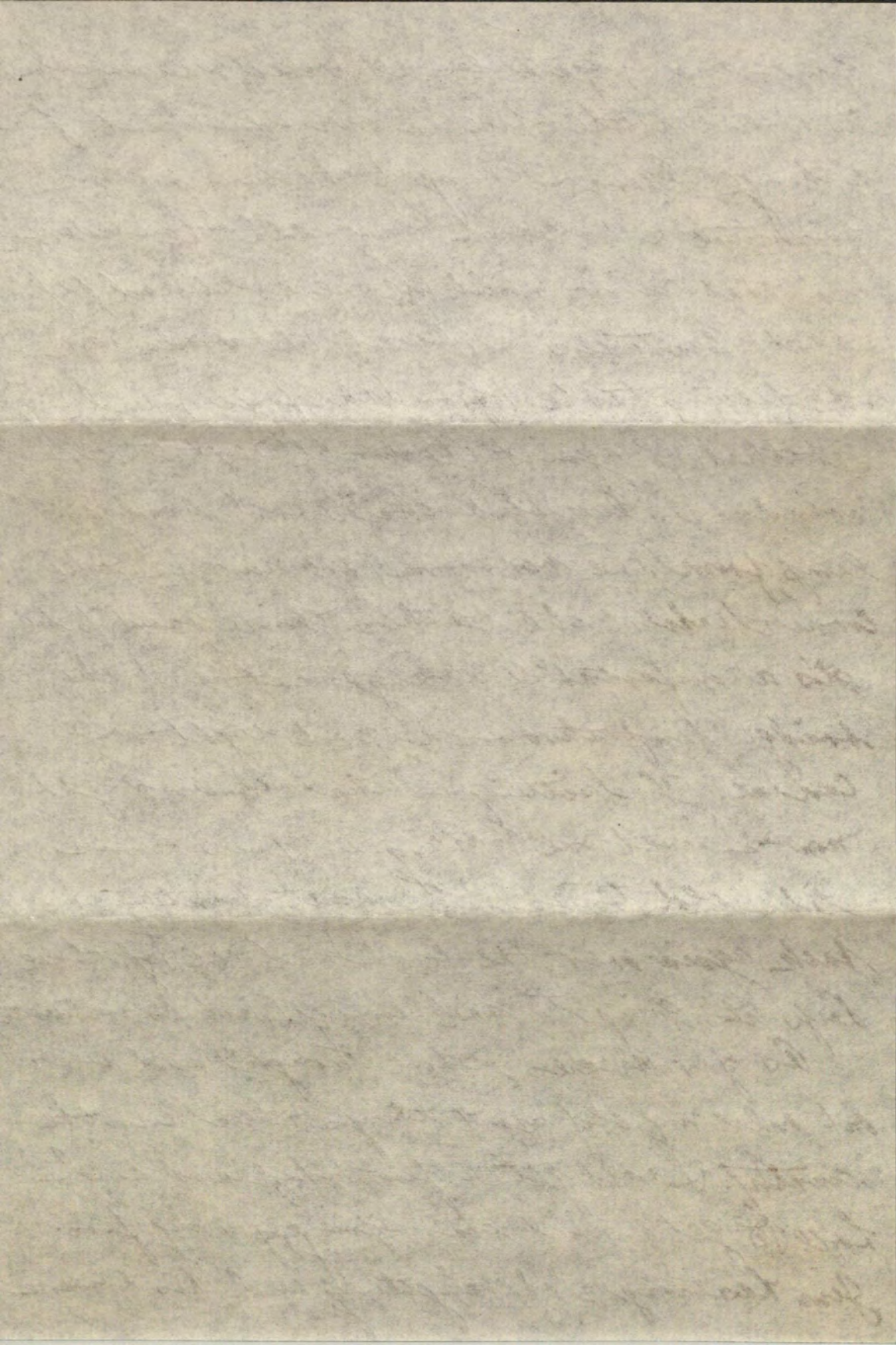
I took some more snaps yesterday and will try to finish off the roll this week. Some fine photos are on the way and if you'd prefer to have the regular sizes (5" x 7") I'll send them on to you at your request. Don't forget to look for the ^{box} behind Jim's picture.

I'm feeling fine and hope to go to the country very soon again. Up there, I have only serene beauty and such a simple life. Here, I'm always in a "rush rush" and feel as tho' I'm on a merry-go-round. To-day I struck a big deal in ASP - I actually got 5 lbs of sugar and didn't realize there was such a shortage. We're down to the last 2 lbs. and I'm managing to use up some of our canned



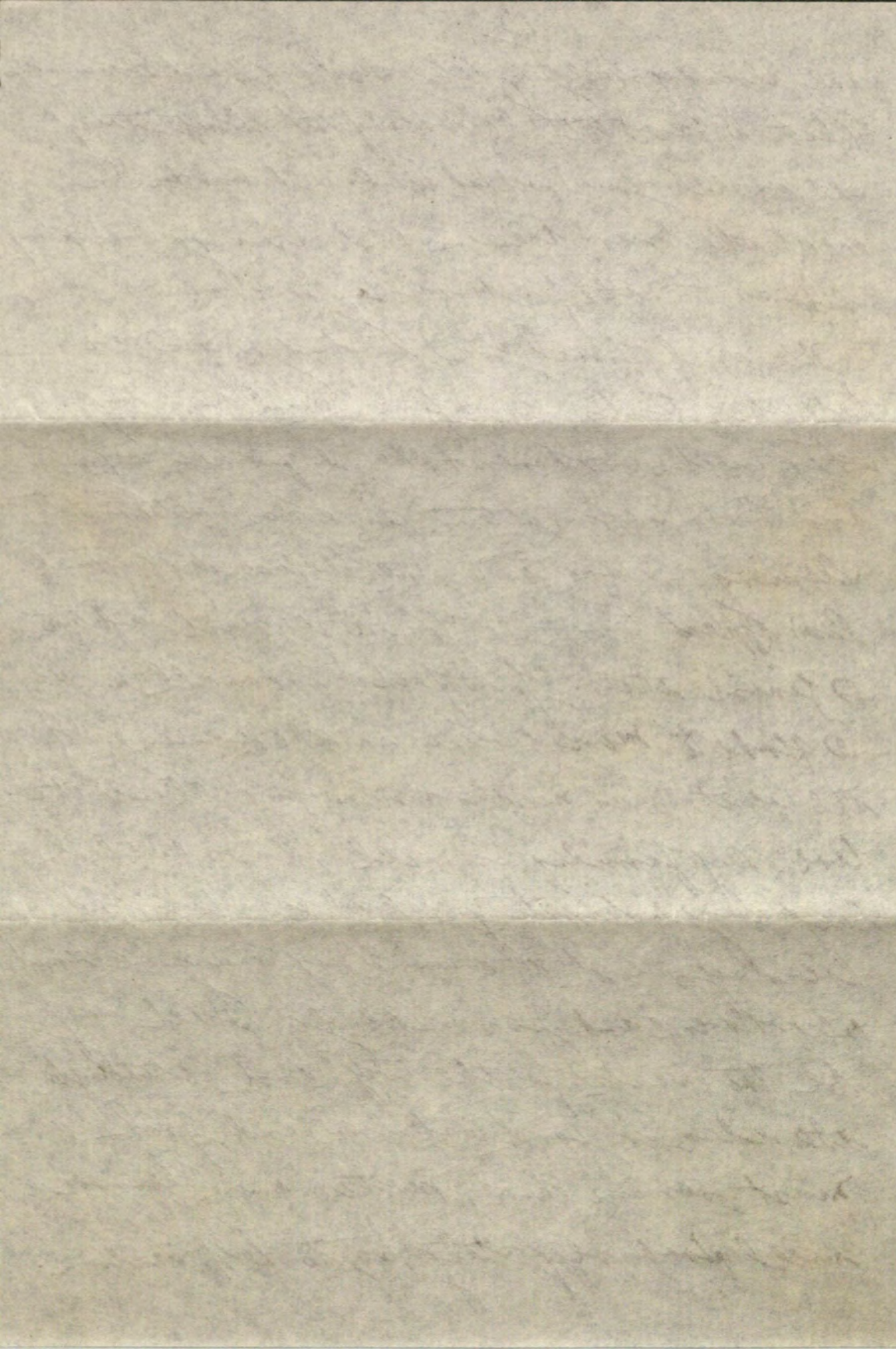
fruits and vegetables. It would be well to have a little space in our apartment for a change. Again I changed the living room furniture a bit and may sell the credenza and that mirror which we never liked (if I get a customer) I placed the radio on the feeding table (from the foyer) and set that up against the wall next to the windows. Our club chair and bridge lamp, from the bedroom, are now in the corner where the leather chair used to be. It's a comfortable arrangement and the bridge lamp throws a good light. I can tell you sitting in that chair right now - with me resting in your arms like old times. The boat painting is back again over the couch and one of these days it's going to sail away (perhaps westward).

As for clothes, I have enough and wear out only my old sport things when in the country. I did get a few chequers and hope to get a suit this spring for my furs. Jim has enough of everything and his drawers



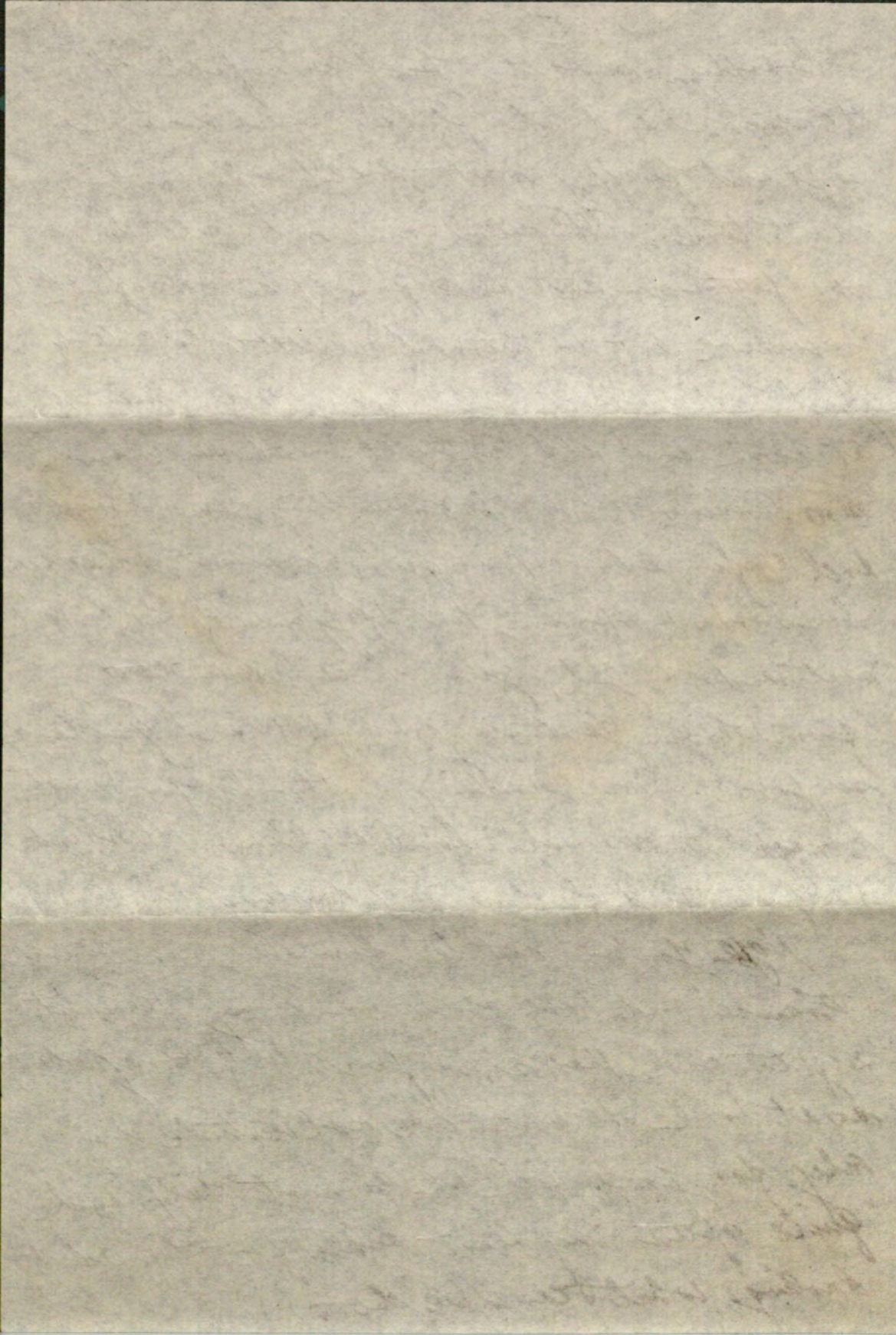
are already bulging like Daddy's and Mamma's
 expect to clear out the breakfast completely,
 set up all your school work and books in
 one of the lower drawers and arrange everything
 just so — the first rainy week.

No mail from you to-day but I do
 hope this finds you fine and dandy.
 For weeks I haven't heard from Ray
 and Bob hasn't written since his return to
 Fleming. I wrote to Joe Shapiro by V-mail.
 I expect to write you a V-mail after
 I finish this. Your folks are well and
 I hope to hear from them earlier in the evening. If
 the weather is nice to-morrow, we'll see them
 here. My family is well, Jess called
 last night inviting all of us for the
 holidays and the wind up may be that
 only Florence and Jim will go. Jack may
 be too weak for the trip and although
 the idea is good Helma and Jack
 must remain here. Mother and Eleanor
 will probably stay, too, to help Helma.



Brooklyn saw its first snowfall of the season and the flakes came down soft and fluffy but melted up in a short time. The sun came out late in the afternoon and no signs of a snowfall anywhere but it turned a little colder. Just had a phone call from Mr. Pinus at home and all is well with him and Mrs. Pinus. He's also writing you right and confirmed my inquiry about whether Louis Loh works in your office. If I haven't mentioned it yet, Jim received a toy from him yesterday which was quite a surprise. I'm sending a "Thank You" note tonight to Mr. Loh's home address. He must be quite fond of you, my darling.

Hope you're not too lonesome in "Sunny France" and have you seen many pleasant sights and places so far. Not worry about us at home because our solicitude is only for you. Well we cannot help and quite often my heart aches for him but darling, what can we do.

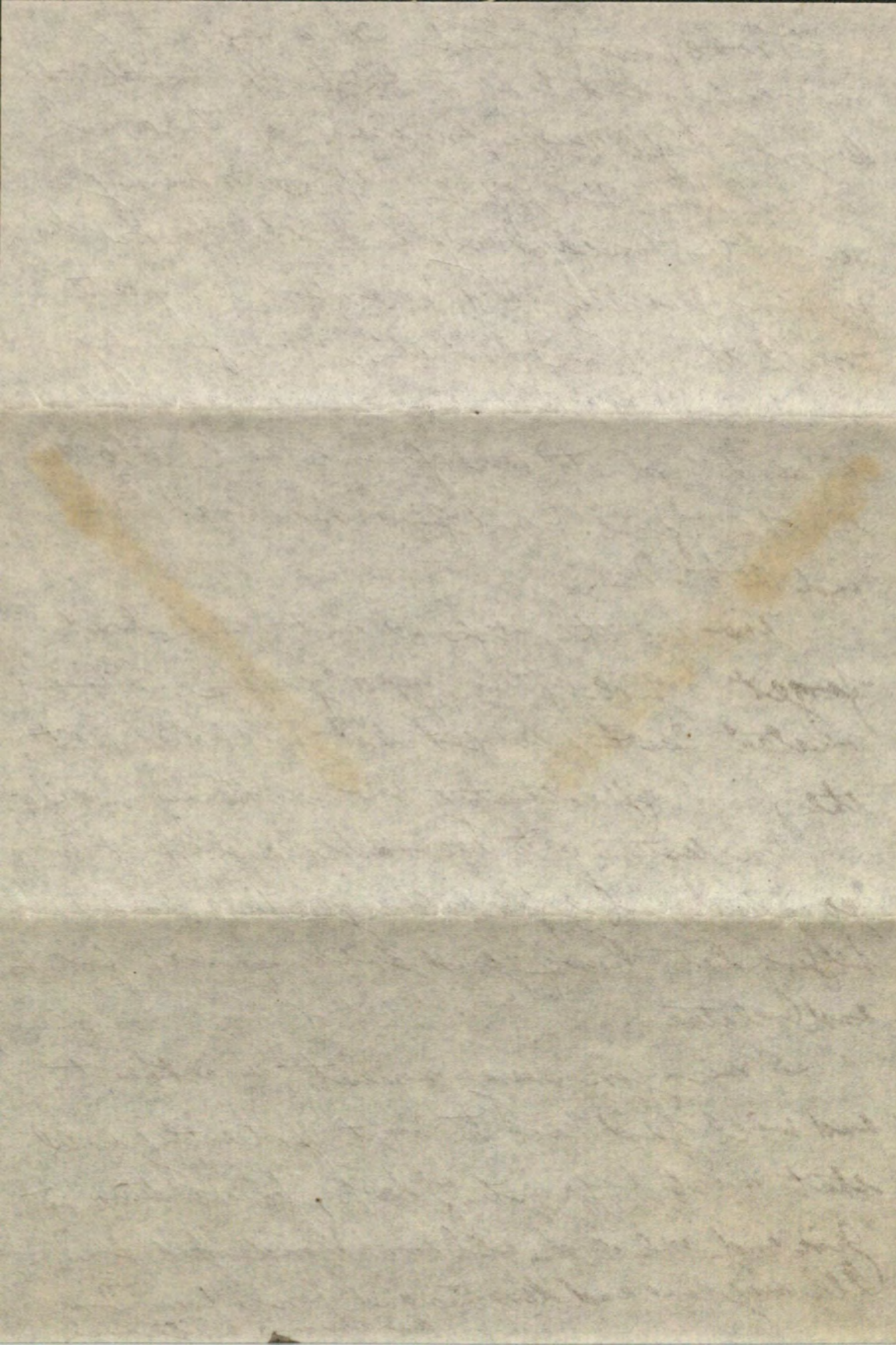


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Excuse last 2 weeks I've neglected
my reading and have to catch up with the
Digest, Life Mags, an issue of Time and
several House Beautifuls. Your mommy
sure keeps herself busy and the days do
go very quickly. My Xmas list is quite
small this year and it's your family
who's on the list but I will remember
to send cards to our friends and those
in the office. I'll give our supt \$2.00
and Otto - \$1.00.

Now are the boys I met and don't
forget to give them my regards. I haven't
visited Bea Lee as yet but will do so at
the first opportunity. How is Ferdie's wife?
Am listening to the radio and expect to
go to bed earlier for a change. Have been
keeping late hours just gabbing with friends
and relatives.

I miss you every moment, sweetheart,
and will just have to wait patiently until
that most happiest of days, your return to
Jim and me and all our wonderful plans.
All my love and devotion and kisses from Jim
as always, - Florence



AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Mrs. Florence Staff
3021 Avenue C
Brooklyn, N.Y.



12/16



VIA AIR MAIL

Cpl. George Staff (4250100)
Co A - 935 Regt OPN BN
APO# 562 % POSTMASTER
NEW YORK - N.Y.

Paolo