

25 February 1945.

Florence, Sweetheart:

It is most natural for human beings to vary emotionally from day to day or even hour to hour as they listen to accounts of the trend of battles in the war. I know how down-hearted everyone at home must have been as they read the news of the recent German break-thru; and now I can readily picture how encouraged people are as we pour it on the fleeing, but hard-fighting enemy. This, my darling, is possible in things materialistic, but in spiritual and emotional matters this practice can hardly function. You and I are, have been, and always will be in love with each other. Come what may, good times or bad, crisis or difficulties, we are always certain of one thing, one thought, one feeling - "we love each other". Sweethearts, pals, Confidantes, all combined in a oneness that only lovers comprehend and desire. Our present separation is hard, it is hardly desirable, but if anything I have done or will do in this army will make the world a better place to live in for us and ours, it will have been worth the effort. Continue to dream the dreams of a lover, and the element of time will soon be overcome. Our reunion is in the offing, do not lose heart, my dearest, our future seems brighter and full of joy and happiness.

In the V-Mail letter I wrote last night I acknowledged receipt of your air mail letters dated Feb. 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and to-day's mail brought me your V-Mail letter dated Feb. 6th. Also received 3 V-Mails from Bob dated Feb. 3rd, 6th and 10th and one from Purvis. Once again I reiterate that your long letters are a balm to my lonesome heart, and I sincerely appreciate your effort in putting in so much time writing them, especially after spending a day taking care of Jim.

You mention making "mother-son" sets for you and Jim to wear this Spring and Summer. I do not wish to register a complaint but I hope you are not taking advantage of my absence to make a mess of the boy. Then you relate his application of range, and perhaps by now he is using toilet-water and powder. I guess I have to be thankful that I taught him to "stand-up" to make before I left St. Paul. ☺ However your description of his manliness, climbing ability, bicycle riding and stunts, reassure me that he has some male instincts so I hope he holds out until I return, then we'll show you some Commando tricks.

It hardly surprised me to learn that you and Jim were afflicted with sniffles. The newspaper descriptions of the winter back home really suggested that it was a rugged winter. I know it was plenty distressing for you and yours but we must not look backwards, but always forward. Hope Maurice's arrival helped matters but I'll remain open-minded until I learn from you what took place. It is my opinion that Maurice will not only be demonstrative but accusatory.

The package I received from the fields yesterday contained Cookies, Candy, Tea, Cocoa and Tuna, also some clippings from the Jan 15th newspaper. No doubt you got every body on the ball to send these packages so thanks again. Please try to vary the cookies by sending Fig Newtons, Marshmallows, salty pretzels and others. You see if I always get the same kind my friends (Civilian) will think we have no variety, which fact hardly substantiates the stories I tell them. Use your good judgement on these packages and do not try to do the impossible. If something is unobtainable or perished in glass, forget it. That smoked cheese is a rarity so if no points send some along.

In my letter of Feb 19th I sent you a souvenir pin purchased in Paris. Please be sure to acknowledge it. I am sending Kay and Sam a package this week, which I hope will please them and Anita. Did my folks re-set that stick-pin diamond for their gift? I have a souvenir pin for my mom and Eleanor which I'll send along in an envelope shortly. Sent one to Fran to-day, and hope she gets it. In a previous letter I asked you to give Mrs. Pennes, Eleanor and Francis each a bottle of perfume. You will be able to do this when my packages from Paris arrive. I have selected some more in Paris here and will purchase them after pay day, so do not fear a shortage for yourself. Joe, too, has an order to send you some as soon as the stock arrives. Please acknowledge this request in your reply to this letter. The wooden boxes containing gifts for you have no doubt arrived by now, and I anxiously await your reaction to my efforts. Do not hesitate to point out any mistakes or bad purchases I am making, as my only desire is to please you. I have made many efforts here and in Paris to buy things of interest for Jim but no luck. Except everything, and I guess you can do better.

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The Rappy intelligence that the Income Tax Dept finally arrived at the conclusion that I was entitled to the refund that check should come in handy and I trust you had no difficulty depositing it our account. If possible I should like to know how the figure compares to the tax return I filed for 1943. Please look at the duplicate in the metal file and advise me the figure I requested to be refunded. Suggest you buy Jim a \$25.00 bond out of this money, and place the balance in a savings account. At this stage of the game I do not want to purchase more than 1 bond per month in addition to my army bond allotment, Comprene?

at present I am visiting Frank's, had a lovely dinner including some of your nice grapefruit slices and cookies. The weather is nice and we took a long walk after chow (dinner I mean), all is well with me, and I hope this finds you, Jim and our families in excellent health and spirits. Enclosing 3 snaps, but I'm not sure whether or not these will duplicate some I sent you earlier in the week. If they do please give them to anyone desiring them. Have another roll being developed, and will forward them in due time. Hope your friend Eleanor phoned?!

Kiss Jim for me, and I'll kiss you in mind. My very best to the folks, our kin and good friends, and keep smiling. The home stretch seems up not too far distant. My love and adoration to the sweetest girl in the world.

As ever

Kg.

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