

Seekirchen, Austria
Saturday, 18 August 45.

Florence, Darling:

Now that we know for sure that every letter, every day, every moment brings us closer together, it doesn't seem quite as hard to take. Not that I am not more homesick and homesick than I have been, but that spark of hope, fostered so long by your courage and my determination, is now a raging forest fire of a desire for home. It's a little less than 3 months before I can officially apply for discharge, but many things can happen to expedite our return. This will be our year, my sweetheart, and our reunion will be the achieving of a goal we have struggled towards for almost two years. Patience, my love, has solved all of our former problems, and I know it will solve our present situation. Just keep smiling, don't worry, and be of good cheer.

Mail Call brought me a haul of letters to-day. I received a letter from the folks, Herb Reuten, Mom, Max Riff, Uncle Harry, Frank, Jr. (Belgium) and your air mail letters dated July 26th, 27th, Aug 6th, & 7th, in addition to your letter containing clippings of Aug 8th, and the August 10th envelope containing the stamps, not to forget the package with the 2 rolls of 116 films. Everything arrived in perfect condition, and thank you so much for your effort and quick cooperation. It was a relief to get so much mail from you, and to learn that all goes well.

It is significant that several items you discussed in your letters should have been included in letters I wrote you on or about the same date. For instance, I knew, just as you did, that as soon as I saw those alpine leather treasures that we'd want a set for Jim. As you know by now, I tried every way possible to get a pair for him. Up to the present writing I do not have them, but I have arranged to get them, and have to continue to hope that I will not be disappointed. There is a tremendous shortage of leather over here, but don't give up, yet. I also wrote you about having seen Danny Kaye in "Woodemoni", and I need hardly say to convince you that I enjoyed this feature as much as you did. I guess will be holding hands the next time we see one of his comedies. It is also coincidental that I am on page 158 of Bennett Cerf's "In and Out of Me". It's light reading, and helps to while the hours away. - You can readily see that despite 3500 miles between us, we are still doing things in common, and that's the way it will always be.

The June hand will catch up with you one of these

Handwritten text, likely a letter or document, written in cursive script. The text is heavily faded and illegible due to the age and condition of the paper. The document appears to be a single page, possibly a letter, with a visible fold line across the middle. The handwriting is dense and fills most of the page.

days, as well the July. Since the August bond will probably not be mailed to you until the end of September, I guess you will be home by that time. The August bond will be the last one I'll subscribe to thru the Army, so don't expect any after this last bond. In the future I'll send you the cash for your use or savings. Incidentally there are 2 money orders for \$35.- and \$25.-, and a War Dept Finance transfer of \$40.- en route. Advice when received.

You make mention of using a Collogram if speed is necessary. It has been our experience that a V-mail or regular 3¢ mail will travel faster than a cable. Even the Red Cross in its SNAFU manner of doing emergency missions for patients takes anywhere from 10 days to 3 weeks to get a cable to us. However let us hope that no emergency will arise. When I get orders to move I'll write you a V-mail and air mail, and you'll know in due time.

I see by the papers that Vienna and Berlin are experiencing a want of a "black market." You can easily understand that during a war all kinds of black markets will exist, especially in such places where there is a shortage of necessities and rationing exists. We found the situation the same in every country we were stationed in over here. In England, for instance, a pack of American cigarettes, which cost us 5¢ brought 50 or 60¢. In France the same pack brought about \$2.00; in Belgium about 60¢ to \$1.- but in Germany values went berserk. I have seen a package of cigarettes bring \$10.00; a box of Lifebuoy soap \$5.00; a box of Hershey chocolate 5¢ size bring \$5.00; and coffee anywhere from \$20 to \$25. a lb. However in Austria, and other parts of Germany in which the Russians are stationed, there seems to be no price limit. Any kind of a Soviet watch brings \$200 to \$500.- Cigarettes \$12 to \$15.- a pack; Chocolate 10.- a box; and so forth. There have been many instances of much money being made, and sent home, but it's going to be tough from now on to send much money home. However that's not my worry.

Jim's snafu is the most muddled I've received yet, and it seems hardly possible that he'll be 3 in another month. You must be having your hands full with him these days, but I'm sure he's going to grow into a fine boy, if when well he precedes as time goes by. How could he realize when one realizes you are his mom. - Kiss the rascal for me, and I'll kiss you in mind with all my love and devotion.

I am now with the Company near Salzburg, have a reserved seat for Sunday and Monday's performance of the Munich Festival, and will write you all about it in the next day or two. My best to everyone, and all my love to you

as ever,
George.

[The text on this page is extremely faint and illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. It appears to be a letter or a formal document, but the specific words and sentences cannot be discerned.]

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