

Saturday 5-20-44

Flanence, darling:

No matter how many springs one has lived thru it is the one season of the year that always manages to revive hope and plant courage for the seasons to come. Spring this year finds me distant from you, my sweetheart, and all those whom I love so dearly. It finds me separated from home and my friends. It finds me among strangers in a strange place. And yet despite all these undesired conditions Spring once again renews my hope for the immediate future, and for our life together. Courage is once again being sown not only deep in my heart, but also in yours. Once again we must plant now to enable us to reap a new harvest of hope and indomitable courage. Being so much alone will enable us to care for and tend to our excellent crops, and I know you and I will be able to bear whatever destiny has in store for us. Love can do these things, and I feel that we will be no exception. Carry on, dearest, be of good cheer, don't worry, and soon our separation will be a thing forgotten; only a bad dream that we will dismiss and charge to experience.

Your Wednesday letter arrived to-day

and it makes me happy to learn that you, Jim and the folks are all well. He must have gotten quite a thrill out of that car ride, and perhaps you ought to take him more often. I'm awfully glad Jack is home again, and I join you in hoping that future events will find him a cured boy. The colored girl coming on Wednesday sounded like a good deal, and I think your suggestion that the rug be shampooed and stained is a good one. I think it is advisable that it be kept clean for Jim's sake if no other. As for about Betty, and as for her worrying about Bennie, I guess all the women folk belonging to service men are having the same difficulties these days. Aren't you? No other mail to-day, and I guess some of our friends think I've been in the army so long that they are tired of waiting.

The Company Commander has asked me to work on personnel charts for awhile, so I guess I won't be mail clerk for the next week or two. In reply to my query about the transfer request he told me he expected to get some answer from Headquarters this coming week. It seems that as a result of our Major being hospitalized for the past 10 days nothing could be done about the request. However yesterday we had a new Battalion Commander, a lieutenant-colonel appointed, and so I've been promised action. Keep your fingers crossed, not so much that I get

an affirmative reply, but that whatever does
happen be for the best. At present I have
a good set-up - but I will determine my
future actions by what happens to this request.
Don't worry, honey. I spent the first 6 months
in the army learning the business, and now I'm
doing everything, including brown-nosing,
to take care of me. Getting the mail-clerk's
job and a Corporal's rating was only the
first good break. Now that I've got my
teeth into the set-up I know how to continue.
Next Wednesday we get in to our cotton uniforms,
and those I brought home for adjustment
have been exchanged for some that fit
perfectly. Working in supply helped a lot,
see what I mean. Before this is over
I'll probably be able to do anything but
get a discharge, and even that will come
in due course.

I hope you and Jim are getting plenty
of fresh air and sunshine, and getting yourselves
well-tanned. You always did look your best
browned up, and I think Jim will probably
be more handsome with a brown skin. So get
to the park or beach daily and have fun. I
feel fine and dandy, and looking forward
to talking with you to-morrow. It seems
like a long time since I last saw and spoke
to you my darling, but the calendar says it is
only two weeks.

This is being written about 3 P.M. It

4 o'clock we have the pleasant task of letting the doctor play with our things to see if all the men are clean and healthy in the business! So think of us, lined up all over the barracks, nude, bashful, and our guts hanging out. You will overlook my writing such lewd items but it always give me a laugh, and I thought perhaps you too would like to give your imagination a little space.

I hope you received the medals and corporal stripes by now. Also please do not forget the duplicates of the snapshot I asked for. As suggested I will endeavor to get another face photograph, but will wait until I am in summer uniform. Perhaps that will come out better than those I took in N.Y. or did I tell you this once before. I wish the mail would arrange itself so that you would receive my letters daily, but that is beyond our control, too.

Stay well, my sweetheart, kiss Jim for me, and have the little hammer kiss Mommy for his G.I. daddy. My best to the folks and your family

As ever,

Reg.

CPL.

~~Pvt.~~ G. Stoff, 42050100
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