

Germany

3 May 1945.

Florence, Sweetheart:

A soldier with a rare sense of humor, and the ability to put in to writing his experiences, has written the enclosed article for soldiers returning to their native land. I know you will enjoy reading it, but take special note my darling that he discusses merely the material aspects of our lives. I am glad he made no attempt to plot our course in our attempts to demonstrate our erotic emotions. Men may change their vocabulary, even their language, their way of living, their friends, but no matter what else happens to him, he will always dream of his love and loved ones in his own way. Whether time, war, oceans, trials and tribulations of his army life, death and destruction, will divert his thoughts, his ideals, his dreams from the one person he loves, the one person who with heavy heart waits so patiently for his return, the one person who means more to him than life itself. No one has to tell me or any other soldier what to do or how to do it when he will once again feel his sweetheart and wife in his arms. Everything that took place since I left home will be forgotten when I first kiss you with my honorable discharge in my pocket. It's this feeling that keeps a free man determined to eliminate ugly beasts from the world, and with the job partly completed the final victory in both wars cannot be far off. All of us must be of good cheer, patient, and ever helpful. Having you has helped me over all the rough spots, and the future together will be a source of joy and happiness.

Last night's mail brought your letters dated April 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd, in addition to your package containing the black olives; also two letters from Bob. The three snapshots enclosed verify all you have been writing about yourself and Jim. He certainly looks grand in that Sheephead Bay scene, but you look extra special with that turkey little hat. If I didn't know your age I'd say you were at least 21 (plus). These snapshots give me every assurance that a homesick Joe needs, and I want to thank you so much for them. Mom and Pop look fine, and I'm sorry Jim was blushed out of that snap. With the good summer coming along I'll continue looking forward to more such shots. Your camera has not arrived yet, but I have 3 rolls of 116 film and 1 roll of 120. Try to send me about 5 or 6

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the ...
and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. ...

more rolls, and I think I'll have enough supply for all the pictures I'll want to take. If I'm lucky I'll have three developed by a friend in another company, but do not count on this. It may be we'll have to wait until I bring them home before developing. In any event I'll keep you advised as usual. Your package arrived in excellent condition and I will probably use the box to send you a few small souvenirs.

I'm glad you received the second money order so quickly, and as soon as I get paid I intend sending you another. Ray has been delayed due to the rapid shifting of scenes in the post month, but other than sending you the money there is no use for it to me. Jim's exceter set was bought for him by Frank and his family, and I guess you better wait until he and I can play with it. I also send another toy piano to this set, but I'm not sure whether or not you acknowledged receiving it. Please let me know. At present you have 4 packages enroute. One contains souvenirs (Belgian), another contains a beautifully hand carved mirror, and the other two have 4 brass ash trays handmade by me out of artillery shells. I wrote you in a previous letter how these are to be completed by my brother Sam. If my bags bring back some perfume for you I'll send it first class mail.

It's good to know that you are teaching Jim to be useful around the house. By starting at this early age he will accept this way of life as natural, thereby being a better son, and a better member of the community. He will have to spend a life of usefulness anyway, and training him from an early age will make it easier for himself and us. But why you make him work with my whiskey bottles is beyond me. He might very accidentally drop a bottle which would be the unpardonable sin with that excellent stock we possess. Naturally I'm only joking, but I'm glad you are keeping him on the ball. One of these days the three of us will be playing on the same team together, and well always win; but win or lose we'll always have fun.

Your query as to what to send to help my Belgian friends stumps me at the moment. I have not been able to ascertain whether or not I may mail packages to them from here. However please check in the post office and determine if you cannot send old clothes and food directly to address I gave you in a former letter. If possible

[illegible]

please forward second clothing and clothes to them. If they cannot use them the family is large and varied. I'm sure it will not go to waste. However I do not want rags or delapidated second hand clothes or shoes sent to them. They are not beggars, merely unfortunate people who have been drained dry by the damn Nazis. Hendrika is a wonder with the needle and I'm certain can adjust anything to correct size. She's about Thelma's build. There are nephews, nieces, brothers and sisters living next door, so do what you can. Believe you me, darling, they are more sincere as friends than the Shubueas. Incidentally speaking of these ingrates, this town reminds me of the gift they sent us during their stay in Virginia a couple of years ago.

I was very happy to read that you located a cottage in Grahamsville, to say nothing of Bess' offer to use her place. Since there are many considerations to ponder about in selecting one or the other I'm not going to add my opinion to the solution. You will know what to do, and probably have already done it, so I'll just wait until I learn from you what your summer address will be. I am overjoyed though that you and Jim will be out of the city during the hot spells. Hope the latest repairs to the car keeps it in good shape all summer but please check it carefully. Whatever you choose to do, I do hope my father will be able to see you and Jim during the summer.

To-night's my turn to be charge of Quarters at Battalion headquarters, so I've devoted the evening to catching up on my mail. This is my last letter, as it is every night. I do this so that my last waking thoughts will be of you and Jim, because my first on awaking is always the same - you and Jim. A sort of a wonderful vicious cycle. Kiss the blood commands for his dear echelon daddy, and I'll kiss you in mind with all my love and adoration.

as ever,

George

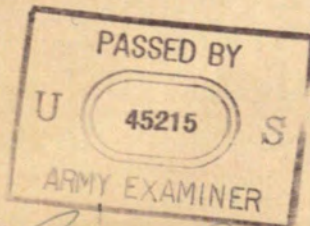
My dear Mother
I received your letter of the 11th inst. and was
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope
these few lines will find you the same.
I have not much news to write at present.
The weather here is very warm and the
season is progressing rapidly. I have
not much time to write at present.
I am, dear Mother, ever your affectionate
son,
John Smith

CPL. GEO. STOFF 42050100
20 A 135 Ry OPN BN
APO 350 40 POSTMASTER
NEW YORK.

AIR-MAIL



May 3



MRS. FLORENCE STOFF
3021 AVENUE I
BROOKLYN 10
NEW YORK.

*Thomas P. Casey
1st Lt*

