

Friday 4-14-44

Florence, dearest:

I realize that the time draws close when you will arrive here, and I too, sweetheart find it difficult and wonderful to comprehend, but before you leave you must comply with all the suggestions I have made in recent letters. I know you have been away for a week, and that there is much to be done before you take off, but even if you have to delay the trip a few days, please take note of what you must do.

1. You must give me at least 7 days notice after you get your R.R. tickets, so that I can arrange for a furnished room, or apartment. It is difficult to find quarters in this town, so please do this as soon as possible. I do not want you to telegram me a day before you leave, as I cannot arrange anything in so short a time.
2. It will be difficult enough to find a place to live much less a cot, high-chair and cradle for Jimmy. However, it is my belief that when you arrive here you will manage to either borrow or buy whatever you need. I feel certain that between the U.S.O., Red Cross, and the Jewish Welfare Board we will be able to round these up with very little trouble. So, even if we are inconvenienced for a day or two I think it will work out all right - but don't worry, these are big

towns, and they have everything from the chain stores to very fine department stores, also some antique shops. all you will need is money.

3. I see no reason for disconnecting the gas. Suggest you don't bother with it at all.
4. I think the phone could be disconnected and calls referred to your mother, if they do not remove the phone. Recommend you find out for certain what the phone company's practice is in such cases.
5. Either have the mail delivered to my father's place, or better still give him the mail key, and request that they pick up mail about once a week and forward same. This is a problem and suggest you work it out to your best advantage.
6. By all means bring your camera and film if you have any. I believe we can get some film here but I'm not certain.
7. Do as you please about the radio; but it may be advisable to carry as little as possible. You will certainly have plenty of luggage; but it might prove to be a blessing during those evenings I can't get away from camp.
8. At present I need nothing, but if I think of anything I'll advise before you leave.
9. Please attend to all current bills before you leave, and also pay the rent for May.

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is arranged in several paragraphs across the page.]

10. Bring along a few bank checks in case —
11. There is no telling how long you will visit here, but it may be at least 4 to 6 weeks. So I suggest you buy about \$150.- worth of "Travelers checks" in the bank, and also bring about \$100.- cash with you, all this in addition to your round trip R.R. tickets. You see I will need to buy a R.R. ticket when I go back with you —
12. Have the car attended to before you leave,

I have outlined the above necessities for you, even though I knew you probably would take care of all this without my suggesting it. But, darling, please do not neglect doing all these things so that your trip and visit will not be disturbed or messed up by trivialities. There is much to do so I suggest you do not try to leave by the 20th but arrange for a few days later. R.R. accommodations are difficult to obtain, and I want you to be sure to get a compartment, or at least a lower berth, so, get busy, and either get him to try for you, or do it yourself, or thru Max Eidler.

Your Tuesday and Wednesday letters arrived to-day, and I trust you have received my letters addressed to Monticello. It is too bad you are having disagreeable weather here

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped
out of the car was a warm blanket of
sunlight. The air was thick with the scent of
fresh earth and the distant hum of traffic.
I took a deep breath, feeling the sun on my
face and the warmth of the pavement beneath
my feet. It was a perfect day, just what I
needed to start my new journey.

2. The second thing I noticed was the
sound of the city. It was a symphony of
noises, from the honking of horns to the
chatter of people. I felt like I had entered a
new world, one where everything was so
different yet so familiar. The energy was
infectious, and I couldn't help but smile.
It was a beautiful surprise, and I knew
that this was exactly what I needed.

3. The third thing I noticed was the
view. The city stretched out before me,
a vast expanse of concrete and steel. I
could see the skyline in the distance, with
skyscrapers reaching towards the sky. It was
a sight I had never seen before, and it
felt like I had been transported to a new
world. The view was breathtaking, and I
knew that this was the place I had been
looking for.

April is that kind of a month, as a matter of fact it turned colder here, and after raining all day, we had snow flurries this evening. Hermer forecast is for warmer weather, and I hope by the time you arrive Spring will be the order of the day. also received the money order, and now I can finance the rent for an apartment, but I must know a week in advance exactly what day you are to leave N.Y; and also buy your R.R. ticket for St. Paul.

I am happy you are getting some kind of a rest, and if you think it advisable take another week's vacation, before you come out here, but I'd rather you come out. Talking about me is a poor substitute for me, so make all necessary arrangements and bon voyage. I hope Jim enjoys the train ride, and if you get the good train I think you two will enjoy the trip.

I feel fine and dandy, but a bit disappointed that the "break" I have been expecting has not materialized. It is not definitely out the window, but in this G.F.U. army, you have to continually kiss some one's ass to get somewhere; and I guess you know I haven't yet learned to do that. In any event I worry not at all, and although it wounds my pride to remain a private among these fellows, but down deep I don't give a care about the whole business, except for the discharge.

I have just received your letter of the 11th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well. I am feeling better
than I have for some time. I am still a little
weak, but I am getting on my feet. I am
hopeful that I will be able to go to
the office again soon. I am
very much obliged to you for
your kind letter. I am
Yours truly,
J. H. P.

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Hemenes. it is all hanging fire yet, and perhaps I'll get the breaks yet. Do not concern yourself about all this as it is not worth a second thought.

Hope all is well with you and Jim, and I look forward with impatience to your arrival. Please explain man and pop that I will definitely get a furlough, probably in June, and that I will go right home then. I know they too are anxious to see me, and I miss them terribly too. also tell pop we will pay the Insurance premiums, as we have been receiving that extra allotment check monthly, see what I mean.

Kiss Jim for me, and love him
Kiss you for daddy, and sweetheart, I'll
be kissing you both so often so soon. My
best to everyone

as ever,

Ray.

Put. Geo. Stoff 42050100
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FT. SNELLING. MINN.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. G. Stoff,

3021 Avenue I,

Brooklyn, N.Y.

