

Lin 3 —
Thursday, 16 July 45

Florence, Sweetheart:

There was a decided improvement in today's mail call in which I wound up with 8 letters. Two air mails from you containing your letters dated July 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th, one from Bob dated July 17th, another from the folks same date, Jules Licher, Pinous and several others like Bob Seff and my Belgian friends. This is the way I enjoy receiving mail but now I have plenty of letter writing to do.

Your letters and recent snapshots were particularly good, since they assure me that you and Jim are well, in fine spirits, and that you realize the importance of being more patient now than ever before. Other letters I read received by several other men around my age indicate that the average limit is still burning, and I've read several forecasts by responsible people and newspapers that the age will be lowered soon. I still believe it will come, whether or not it will be in the next few days or few months I cannot guess, but it will happen. Don't let up your constant letter writing until it is announced, and I know your happiness and mine will be supreme in the hope of an early reunion. I love you so much, dearest, I can hardly wait, but I'll take it until that inevitable day comes. As for getting drunk in celebration of anything without you, I promise you will share every moment of hilarity with me.

I was happy to learn that Jim's rack is not bothering him these days. It is amazing to have such young lads find so much energy and vitality to keep going, but they do. Perhaps a better way for me to lose weight rather than dieting would be to run after Jim a few days. I hope to try that too. However the letter from the folks related about their visit to you over the week end. They had a swell time, felt sorry to leave so soon, and reported that all goes well with my favorite pin-up girl and our little boy. They also noted that you added a few pounds to your weight, which I hope is so. You'll need the extra poundage when I get back!

Sorry to hear about Bens' Calitis, which must be most annoying during her present condition. Do hope she has improved since you wrote this letter. Eleanor seems to be doing quite well, as is Shelma. If I remember correctly sentimental alliment checks are not forwarded to a new

address, since the office of Dependency Benefits prefers to be advised about the change. However please advise how you managed to get the allotment check, if you have not done so already. The address of the above mentioned office is Newark 2, New Jersey, if you ever have to write them concerning your allotment. I don't remember which package I sent to the folks for you, so please advise contents of each package.

The bed I wrote about is a very fine single bed with box spring and mattress. I found this in the home I lived at in Hamm, and when I moved from Hamm to Hippstadt, and thence to Ling, I carried it along. I am still using it, but will soon have to give it up for a G.I. bunk, Orders, you know. In any event it was a delight up to now, and I'll not worry about the future.

Bob wrote me the whole story about his leg-fever and its complications. Seems as though he and Fran are having some fun wheezing and sneezing. I was happy to hear he's still at Wiesbaden, and who knows a good case of leg-fever may keep him here along. Funny things can and will happen in the army. For instance I have most of 40-30 rounds off to go on a boat ride to Passau, about 75 miles each way on the Danube. Two meals enroute, scenery, a minstrel show on the ship, and my trusty camera. You note I take advantage of every opportunity to go places, see things, and waste time. In this way life without you is less monotonous, and time goes faster. Will write you a detailed account of the excursion to-morrow.

Under separate cover to-day I sent you an OTO ribbon with 2 battle stars affixed. I have several extra ones, and thought you or Jim would like to wear it. I have also been issued the Good Conduct Medal, which is a handsome decoration, and I'm sure our last will show it off in grand style. I'll have to pack it with some other trinkets soon and send it along. Will advise when I do. Also sent you some reading matter and literature of a lesser nature to amuse you while swaging in the Hammack. All this stuff went via face mail.

Not very busy to-day, so I devoted part of the afternoon to letter writing. After work I walked down to

Handwritten text, likely a letter or document, written in cursive script on aged, yellowed paper. The text is faint and mostly illegible due to fading and the texture of the paper. The document is folded, with visible creases and a horizontal fold line across the middle.

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the Danube to watch the kids swimming. Soldiers are not permitted in the river so it flows rapidly. This I'm sure prevents some GI's from drowning. Had coffee and doughnuts at the Red Cross, and saw "The Mark of Minutemen" with Sidney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre. We only had to count 48-49-50 about 3 or 4 times, but I still look forward to a movie I can enjoy. The weather is rather warm during the day, but humidity is low, and evenings are comfortable.

Hope all goes well with you, Jim and all our kinfolk. These elegant sympathizers demonstrate that everyone is trying to keep in good health and spirits, and perhaps those Japs peace feelers will develop into something real. It must happen some day, so they may decide to be true comrades instead of dead heroes. Jim and I will keep smiling, tell, I hope. In the meantime, darling, keep smiling, have fun, and don't worry about me. I'm okay, and feeling 100% physically. I'm homesick, of course, but I can continue to take this until that moment that destiny has earmarked for me to become your lover and sweetheart in person again.

Kiss Jim for me, and I'll kiss you in mind. My best to everyone. With all my love and devotion

as ever,

Sp.

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