

Friday eve
July 20th 1945.

Dearest Beloved,

An explanation in to-days P.M. regarding our rainy season was quite interesting. It seems that a mass of warm air is all along the Atlantic Coast and that's resulted in the dumping of plenty of sky water. I'm always talking about the weather, aren't I?

There's not too much to do when we stay indoors but watch the rain coming down. We had a sunny spell for two hours and I cut some lawns with the mower. Jim followed after me with a rake and we both enjoyed the work out. Our grounds could use a few gardeners but they will have to take care of that matter when he moves in here. All we care for is a nice view of the rear of the house and you can see it on some of the snapshots. Here are a few more of us and Eleanor.

Received your v. mail letters of July 11th and 17th #1874188. One was written in Lippstadt and the other in write to someplace. Hope you arrived safe and sound with your fine bed and mattress. Are you going to bring that home too, as souvenir? Did I mention that there's another package with Eleanor that contains a plate (bird design), 2 ash trays made of shells and a round glass. If there's anything Eleanor left out I'll write about it in my next letter. Also had a letter from the folks. They're well; had a

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will trip home last Sunday and also mentioned
that Bob will be moving next week. They had
two letters from you this past week and were happy
to know you're well. Your trip through the mountains
sounds interesting and I've already told Jimmie that
you saw a big's castle up on the hill. All Jim knows
about these days are giants, Ali Baba, Rip Van Winkle,
The Old Puffer and Haddocks. He's a good listener.

Eleanor didn't show up last night due to business
and just called from the bus station. Ralf came up
for the week end so I guess we'll finally have a
man around the place. I'll also make sure that he
takes good snapshots of us. They've just come in and
Ralf let me take a peek at his Leica camera which his
father brought him from Germany. If you can get a
Rollicard, Roliflex or Leica rangefinders up to \$75.00
ask for them. They're worth \$100 to \$250.00 here at
any time (good condition only). Eleanor tells me more
things came in 2 packages this week. Letters, Linn & Burt
Shore's File, Glass Jar, German Ribbon & Eagle, Paper Weight
& Youth Knives, small dagger, 6 faps. Philip Morris and 9 rolls
of film. It also received a package in the store for me.

I'm exhausted and it's past midnight. Kater to mother,
dearest, pleasant dreams and all my love and devotion
to you. Hugs and kisses from Ralf, regards from Ralf
and Eleanor and Mom. I still love you as ever.

Sincerely yours,
Harold

P.S. Also received that roll of film to be
developed. Will take care of it at once.

Saturday eve,
July 21st, 1945

My darling,

The ringing of the phone woke me before 8 a.m. and it was only this hap ^{Sid} who wanted to know if Eleanor came in last night. I said no to him, upon Eleanor's advice and later in the morning she explained to me that he could compete with Maurice in a lying contest. So I guess that's the end of Sid.

Jim and I are very well and miss you so much. These days are any day without our Daddy are not normal ones. But we expect you home this year and will bear it a while longer. Hope my letters to all the right people accomplish something in time.

It was quite funny and fright when Jim and I sat down to breakfast, and later on Eleanor, Ruby and Mom had theirs. Jim played outdoors most of the morning and when I opened the back door, I found a stray kitten. Jim was overjoyed and didn't take his eyes off the dirty thing until I placed a saucer of milk near it. Poor Jesus, what his fate will be I don't know with Jimmie around. But I warned Precious not to touch the kitten because he has germs. It'll be a problem getting rid of the kitty but I intend to do it to-morrow. The main reason is that Jess and I were promised Angora kittens to-day by a friend of the family's. We expect to get them in a week or 10 days so Jim will really have a fine pet. Altho' I'm ^{not} too fond of cats, I'll put up with

At one night among our friends a great fire and
the night before a magnificent banquet in that
and will have it a noble supper. The day after to all
we are not even over that night to have the same
much. There has a long time passed and finally
this end to our way with that same thing as

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an angora kitten. They're like large powder puffs,
fluffy and soft all over. But the cat will probably lead
a life of hell with one little stick of dynamite around.

The mailman was kind again to me but not too kind.
Had no mail from you directly but I did get those two
letters. Frank wrote to you May 24th and June 6th. I honestly
enjoy reading his letters because they're written with more
heart than words. You made a great hit with them
and I'm happy others appreciate your presence as well as
I have all these years. You darling sweet heart. Also
had a letter from Bob who definitely says he's going to
be shipped to Esparto, Washington this coming Tuesday.
I'll answer his letter to night. He's feeling lots better and
his hay fever is almost gone. Frances is not going with him
and he'll try to get home to see the folks, even if only for
a few hours. I feel a little low about Bob but this
news we've been expecting for months and it's always
difficult to resign oneself to any kind of definite departure in
war time. Hope Mom and Pop keep on being brave. I'll
also write to them to night and hope they'll come up
again next week-end. Jim will do them a world of good.

Had 2 bills from Wellwood for maintenance - Pop's
and Mrs which I'll take care of - amount is only \$1.50. Re-
ceived a dividend check from Allied States for \$10.00 which
I'll cash in the Williamsburg Savings Bank. Another check
cash which I ordered advised to stop and I'll send out
some checks next week. I wish you were around to take
care of our accounts again - and don't forget Jim and
me too. Look, how I need you, my darling.

My dear friend,
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this
letter finds you the same. I have been thinking
much of late about the future of our country
and the state of our Union. I feel that we are
in a critical position and that the future of
our country depends upon the wisdom and
courage of our leaders. I hope that you
will be able to do something to help our
country in this time of need. I am, my
friend, very truly,
Your sincere friend,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

After lunch to-day, Jim only rested in his crib and seems not to require a nap (But I do) and after one and half hours I allowed him to play in the hammock. During this time, Ruby and Eleanor had gone down to Saugatuck Lake and Mom followed them soon after. I relaxed in a beach chair and had a chat with our neighbor's son who's just been released from the army after 3 1/2 years in service. He was wounded but seems to be fine now. His mother and family haven't seen him for 3 years so it was quite a thrill. He spoke of the battles he was in on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte and Saipan and didn't hesitate to tell all. With his sense of humor though, he managed fine and kept his outfit in good spirits. An arrow (Jap) got him in the shoulder and after 5 months in the hospital, he was discharged.

To-night, Saturday night is really the loneliest night for me for I keep thinking of all those past Saturday night dates with you. We did ^(evening) manage to drive to Saugatuck Lake to see Jim and Bess, stayed a short while and then we all drove home together. Had a nice dining supper and all are out to the movies and I'm with Jim. Met Joe and Sophie Rohmitt again and they send their best regards.

Hope there's news of you again on Monday and that all continues fine with you. Now I love you I'll never let you get into weeds. Stay well and Jim and I will take good care of each other.

All my love and devotion to you as always, oceans of love and kisses from Jim and best wishes from Eleanor, Bess, Mom and Ruby.

Yours always,
Faranel

AFTER 5 DAYS, RETURN TO

Mrs. Florence Stoff

41- Sandfield Ave

Monticello, N.Y.

7/20
7/21



VIA AIR MAIL

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