



AMERICAN RED CROSS

204.

King, Austria
Monday, 30 July 45.

Florence, darling:

Truly I am heavy of heart to-night, but not having written you last night I am determined to write you to-night. You will forgive me if I ramble along, dearest, but I have so much to write about. Oh, there have been times when I felt lonesome and blue, because of my being homesick and away from you, but to-day's down-in-the-mouth feeling is due to the actual advice that Bob is definitely on his way. I'm not worried about him, because I know and feel that he'll do okay, finish his job, and return home, even as I will in the near future. No, I'm more concerned about my folks. It's tough at their advanced age to be on pins and needles for over 3 years with Bob, then Bob and me, and now see him leave for destination unknown. They can't be taking these mental shocks forever, and each one is more wearing than the previous. Bob's letter of the 23rd plainly showed he was a bit nervous, trying to joke and write. My dad's letter of the 22nd was written about half an hour after Bob had bid them good-bye. Although he described how brave they were saying good-bye, I'm sure the letter permeated me was written in tears. If only you or I or Jim could have been there to help, but it never merely rains, it must pour. There is no point in crossing those long, imaginary

bridges that never materialize, but one can't keep but be concerned about his future. I wrote the folks a long letter earlier in the evening, and do hope that they are maintaining the stolid front they have up to the present time. Please, sweetheart, you and Jim do what you can to alleviate their troubled minds, and I'll always be grateful to the most wonderful girl in the world.

In the past 2 days I've received many letters, but somehow the only ones that concerned me were those of my dear loved ones, yours of July 12th, 20th and 21st, several from Bob, the latest July 23rd, one from him on the 19th, Don, July 10th, Seymour and several others. I'll be busy replying all evening, but I don't mind. Writing you brings me closer to you, and that's all I'm living for these days. Your late letters contained much news, and the sneps were just grand. I am very glad that those packages are arriving, but please try to enumerate each item in each package to enable me to check against my list. Do you know what to do with the brass and traps? You should receive a total of 4 such traps.

You and Jim look pretty good on the pictures, but both of you always look that way to me. Jim certainly is growing into a handsome boy, with all the characteristics of the male species. Did the poor kitten have to work off the milk, or did Jim steer clear of the feeding? An engara should make a handsome pet, but if you don't like cats, why don't you get him a small dog? Or perhaps you'd better wait till we buy our own home. Is Jim still nursing the idea



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of having a baby around? I know he doesn't know it but he and I are of one mind on that subject.

I am still in the dark about your allotment checks and bond, but I'm sure you kept right after the O D B on the checks. I don't know where to suggest you write on the bond, but keep a record of which month is done yes, and I'll see to it that the August bond goes to my dad's address, and the subsequent bonds to our own home. I am having the August sent to the store since it will probably be delivered some time in Sept. and I don't know when you'll return home. You attend to the allotment checks as outlined in previous letters. It's pleasing to know you still get some dividends. Don't bother about the financial statement as it will be time enough when ever I get home. As for trying to save money during your vacation time, I realize only too well how difficult it must be to get along on those inflated prices you quoted, much less save any money. Although there are 5 or 6 letters missing prior to the 21st of July, I do hope you have acknowledged my \$20.00 money order in one of them. Also sent you \$40.00 thru Army Finance about the 16th of July. Advise when received.

The confused order in which our letters are delivered make it difficult to follow pertinent things, but sooner or later the clouds clear. I think I neglected to advise of those pretty

field flowers you enclosed in an envelope.
Sends as much, Harry, but I could not remove
them since they were so fragile. Apparently my
Belgian friends' letters interest you as they do
me. Your phrase "he writes with his heart rather
than with words" is aptly put. I liked it very
much; but then I love you very much, too.

Harry's suggestion to bring those fine
Carnegie home is a good idea, but up to the
parent I haven't been able to find a hungry
person to trade me one. It's true many fine
corneros, watches, binoculars and pistols were
picked up by the boys for almost nothing, but
confined to an office as I am, I consider my-
self fortunate to have accumulated the junk
I sent home. To set your mind at ease, I
do not intend to take my fine bed back
home with me. I think your jealous, because
I'm sleeping in a civilian bed. It looks low-
ever, as though I'll have to give it up for one
of the uniform GI issue warden-slot beds.

I am finally cleared up on the car,
and I hope you have some luck with the
radio. How is the rubber on the tires? Will
you be able to manage until I get home
without getting these replaced? Keep it in good
service, because it may be 2 years before
we get another.

As I wrote you I finally got away
from being Sunday morning to go to Seckirchen
a small town about 12 miles this side of
Salzburg to visit part of my company. I saw
Richard Fox, Vandenberg, Griffin, and they all
admired yours and Jim's pictures, and wish



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to be remembered. We chewed the fat for a while, had a fried chicken dinner at which I had 3 legs, a wing, and 4 bones, all eaten most deliciously with the fingers. Shadow of La Pahine - no! after chew many of us drove into Salzburg to see Betty Grable in "Diamond Horseshoe" in a very beautiful theatre. Salzburg is a most picturesque town, and because I work next Sunday, I intend spending the following week-end sight-seeing in and around the town. Will also get some facts on the musical festival scheduled for Aug 12th to 30th. Bit as hope that by time I know more about a reduction in the average limit to about 37 or 38. If that comes about I'll really attend the festival with "A Song in My Heart," otherwise I'll attend with only my ears.

Some of my films should be coming thru in a day or two, and I can hardly wait to see them. I snuffed many lovely scenes and sights, and I know you will be interested to see what I saw. I'll try to forward some duplicates to the folks but if I don't get them, please be sure to let them also see the snafu.

That bomber crashing into the Empire State Bldg. really was a terrible tragedy, and I sure hope the folks were not in the store that Saturday. They're worried enough without listening to or receiving that kind of an airplane

cutastrophe. To-morrow afternoon I'm off and I
intend looking for some leather pants for Jim.
Despite the fact about 25% of the men wear
them, they are almost impossible to get, and those
worn are old. I'll let you know how I make
out, of course.

I'm healthy like anything, sweetie, to-
morrow is pay day, and I'll send you some
more money in a few days. Hope you and
Jim are in excellent health and spirits,
having fun, and the weather not too hot.
Kiss Jim for his daddy, and I'll kiss both of
you in mind. Not surprised at Eleanor's
discovery about Sid, as you no doubt will
have agreed with my first reaction to his
awful story. My very best to everyone,
and all my love and devotion to my only
pin-up wife and sweetheart,

As ever,

Eq.

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