



Tues day, Jan. 4, 1944.

Florence, Darling:

News flashes in the newspapers are quite similar to letters from home in that both express only in retrospect the story behind the story.

Telling you day after day, week after week, how much I love and miss you is just beginning to tell the story. It is almost impossible to pour out in a letter or even series of letters how unusual it seems to be away from home, and you, and Sunny Jim for so long a period; and yet here I am, only able to love and worship you from the distance. I know it is a poor substitute for both of us, but we must accept our inexorable destiny. And, just as the newspapers are beginning to relate, in effect, the beginning of the end of the great German army, so too are they spelling out "Home, Peace and Love" for us. Stay firm, honey, keep healthy, take good care of Sunny Jim, and daddy will hold up his share of the burden.

To-day brought your letter dated Jan. 1st, and some surprises. Total received to-date is 9- and thanks, no luck with that 10-letter, but I still have faith that it will turn up; also received your package, and thank you very much for its contents. The shippers are elegant, and the edibles certainly helped

to break the monotony of the chow-hall, but I suggest you hold off any more packages for a while, as I now have enough merchandise to stock a grocery. The glasses had us a bit hysterical, and since one is cracked I am returning them in a box with all the letters I have received to date also in the box you will find a couple of Cellophane (pliofilm) bags which you may be able to use. Please save letters for me until I return. Among the surprises was a package from your mother, which I thought most considerate, and wrote her, thanking her, to that effect. Please tell El. that postage attached was 54 cents in stamps. Received a card from Abby, a letter from M. Hunt, one from Bob, and also a letter from Ruth Buile, and John Kieher. All sounds well on those sectors.

I wrote you yesterday that I was supposed to go to the firing range on Sunday. Well, just like the army it developed this morning that only 22 are to go, and since I am in the office I was selected as one not to go. In addition I expect that we are to move in camp, and maybe, I hope not, but maybe another new address. I know only too well how disturbing these changes are but there is nothing to be done, but to follow orders. Naturally, I will keep you advised about all and any changes, so sit tight. Suggest that after you receive this letter you hold off sending any more money until I request it. Aside from this there is little else to relate about camp. It might interest you to know that technical schools are located all over the country, in the East as well as South, so without hoping too much, we may yet get a break. I have been writing in the library attached to the Service Club. Now, returning to finish this letter after having waited about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours watching



a group of so-called entertainers perform; please forgive me for leaving those wonderful thoughts of you to watch corn grow; but some of these kiss-billies thought the show a wow! see what I mean. The weather has been warming up for past few days, and I hope the weather is not too hot for you and Jimmy.

Read all about the destroyer explosion that took place in the bay. Did you hear it, and were you and the little fellow frightened? Is he trying any new tricks lately? and has he increased his vocabulary? Glad you gave pop some apple-jack, and I hope you do get Danny something for his birthday. Do mom and pop annoy you by visiting you so often? I hope all is serene with you and them. They wrote and told me they get such a tremendous amount of joy visiting you and Jimmy, and I hope they don't bother you too much in their attempts to help along the situation. You understand what I mean, dear. With so much at stake now I want Danny at home. If you even doubt my meaning, read the letter I wrote your mother to day.

I know Fran and you will probably never quite be sisters; but hang, when this term of servitude is over, and I am once again a free man, I think I will be better able to explain to you why soldiers marry in the service, and are not always the best judges of what is good for them, and yet it is right for them to marry. I have definitely changed my opinion about that subject, and even though I would

not have married had I been single, yet I do feel it is perfectly o.k. for those who want to, to do so. In talking or writing about Fran, just try to remember that, and don't concern yourself too much about her, except, please, to be hospitable.

If I move to a colder climate I will need a khaki sweater so if you or mom are in the mood start one. No sleeves, and I don't want a tight one - size medium. I have a pretty nice wool muffler and gloves, so I don't need those. In my dresser, right hand side of break-front, you will find small erasers for Ever Sharp pencil, please put one in next letter, down in the corner. Nothing else, honey chile, but thanks for taking such good care of everything.

Smile, darling, smile right along, and even if no else in the world understands how you are able to keep it up, rest assured that your partner, mate and sweetheart knows. So, with a powerful embrace in mind, and a big hug and kiss for you and Jimmy, you find me, loving you

as ever,

kg.



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