

Sunday - Dec. 24th

My darling,

It's almost evening and we've had a most pleasant day. Jimmie and I are well and hope you're in good health too. Again I'm thankful for having you and baby and although you're so far across the sea my heart and hopes are with you. We love you so very much, dearest, and will keep our courage high until you're with us again for keeps. Just don't get too lonesome.

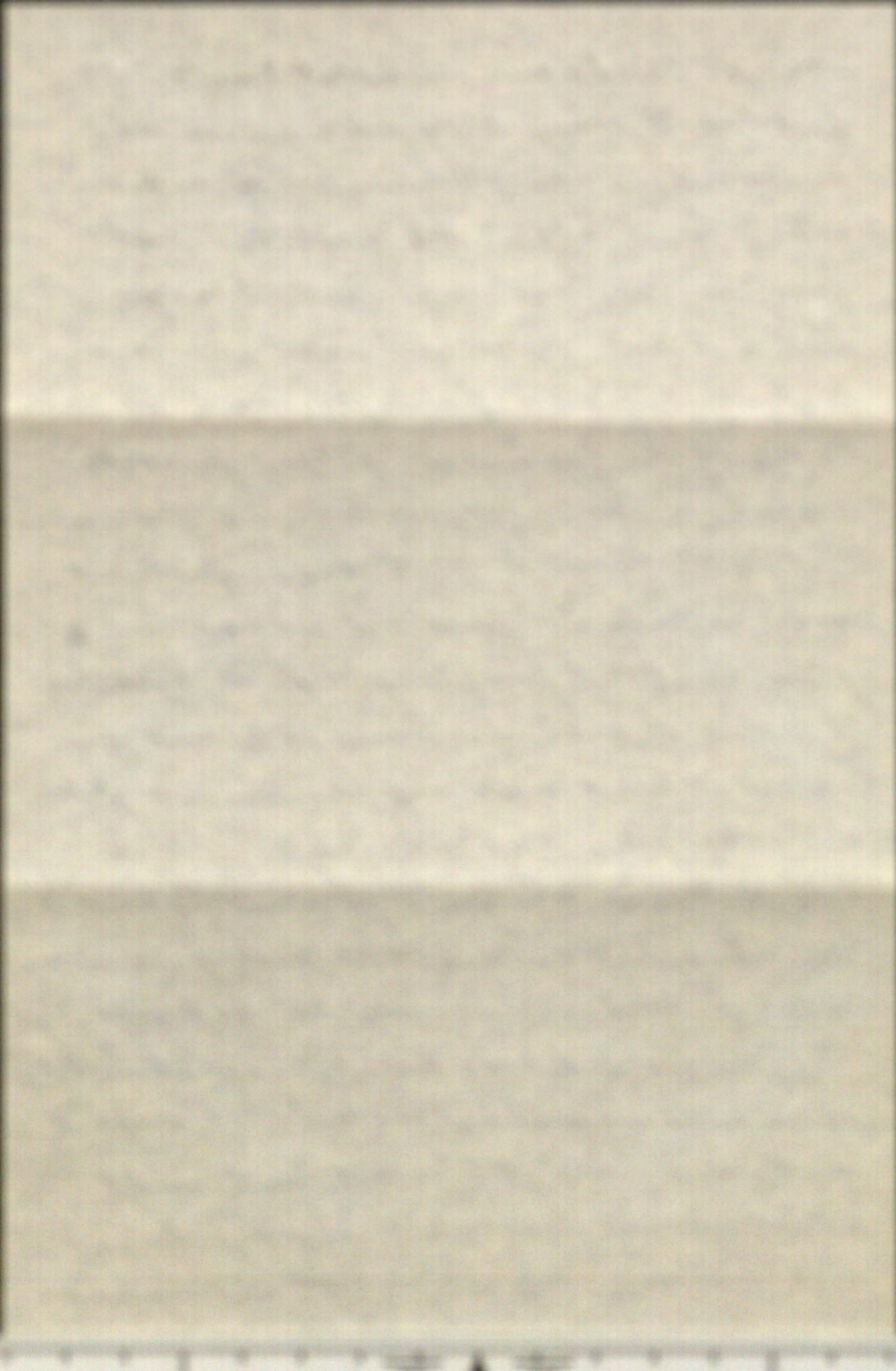
Bess is very good to us and makes our stay a most welcome one. The weather hasn't been too good and rain is forecast for tomorrow. According to news broadcasts, the war is going much better today and your weather is clear and good for flying. Those Nazis have to be beaten and it may be very soon, let's hope. We'd love to see you before Jim has another birthday so please tell that Hitler gang to give up.

Jimmie looks very well and after this afternoon's walk, came in with the

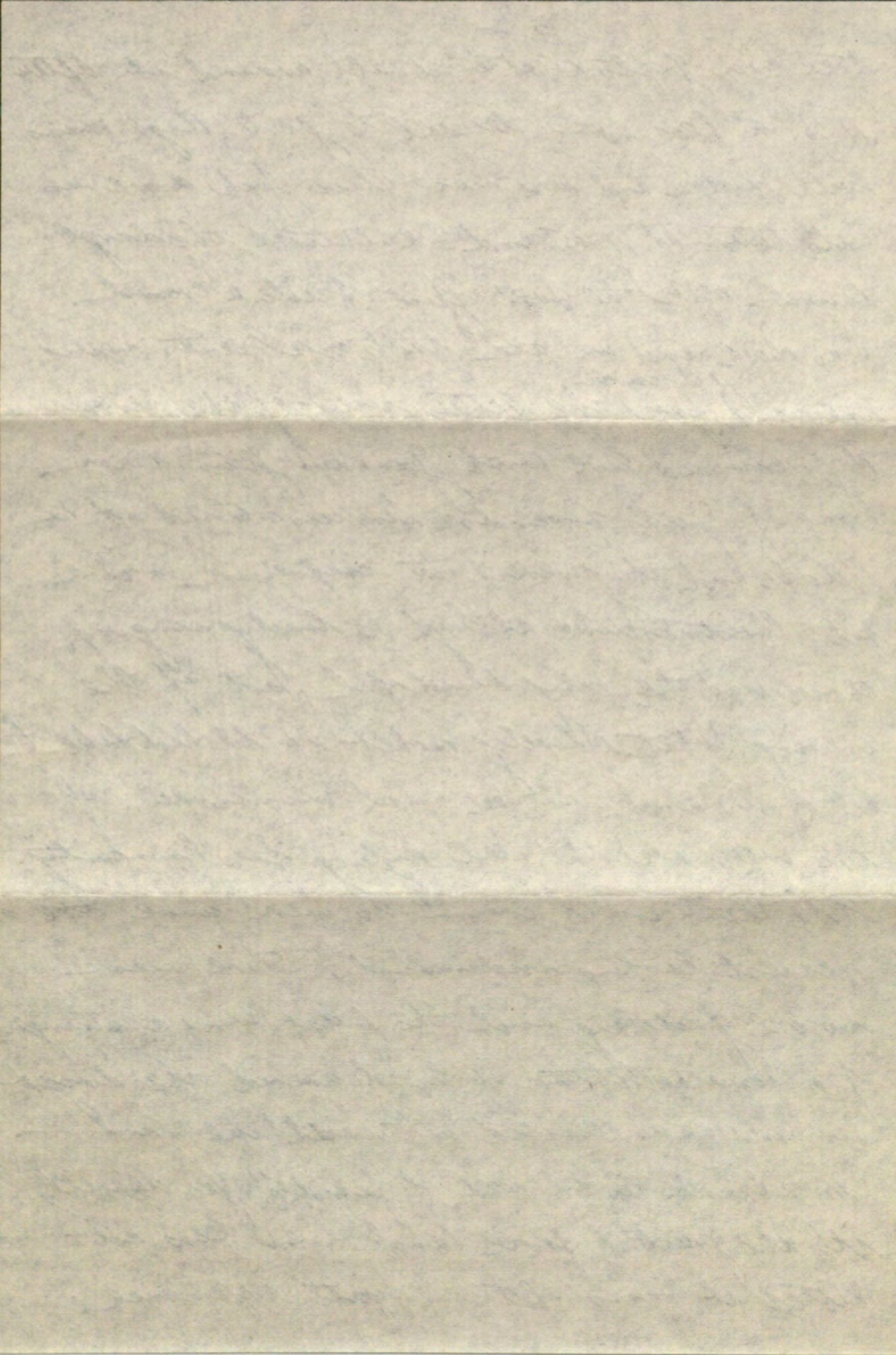
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rosiest cheeks and sweetest smile. He
just loves to tramp along with us in the
snow and is quite observant of what
nature has to offer ~~us~~ mortals. Not
far from the house is a little bridge
with a brook running beneath it. Jim
just wouldn't move from this spot be-
cause of the fascination it held for our
precious one. He'll love it here in the summer
time, if we decide to rent this apartment.
Martha is asking \$300 for it and we may come
up here and stay from May (end) to September.
If I share it with my home it'll cost us
half but I haven't made any decision as yet
and other plans may materialize if this
doesn't. Of course, a European trip would be more to
my liking at the present time and just seeing
you and touching you would be the greatest joy.

Bess and I got the kids off to bed early,
after a nice supper and we all went down to
Martha's to talk, tell stories and make
a little merry. Atmosphere is very homely
and American especially with the lighted



tree and gifts scattered all around it. After
 11 p. m. Bess and I decided to go to High Mass
 with Martha and her niece Alice. Jack drove us
 into town at 11.45 and we entered the large
 Church near the post office. Quite a crowd
 was there and we all took our seats near
 the back ^{of the church} for the better view of the services.
 My remained here with Jan and Jim and
 some of Jack's friends. Services started at 12
 o'clock and they weren't too impressive or a
 bit Christmas-like, although a lovely singing
 choir was the only beautiful part of the
 evening. What a lovely racket it looked like to
 all of us and not one word was spoken of
 the war or the men dying for humanity.
 The Catholics all around us were sure the
 meanest looking individuals I've seen
 in one gathering and the priest was a stranger
 from another town who delivered the driest
 sermon and started out with the words—
 "our church is in need of funds." Yes, dearest,
 it's the greatest farce and even Bess ad-
 mitted it was so after tonight's experience.

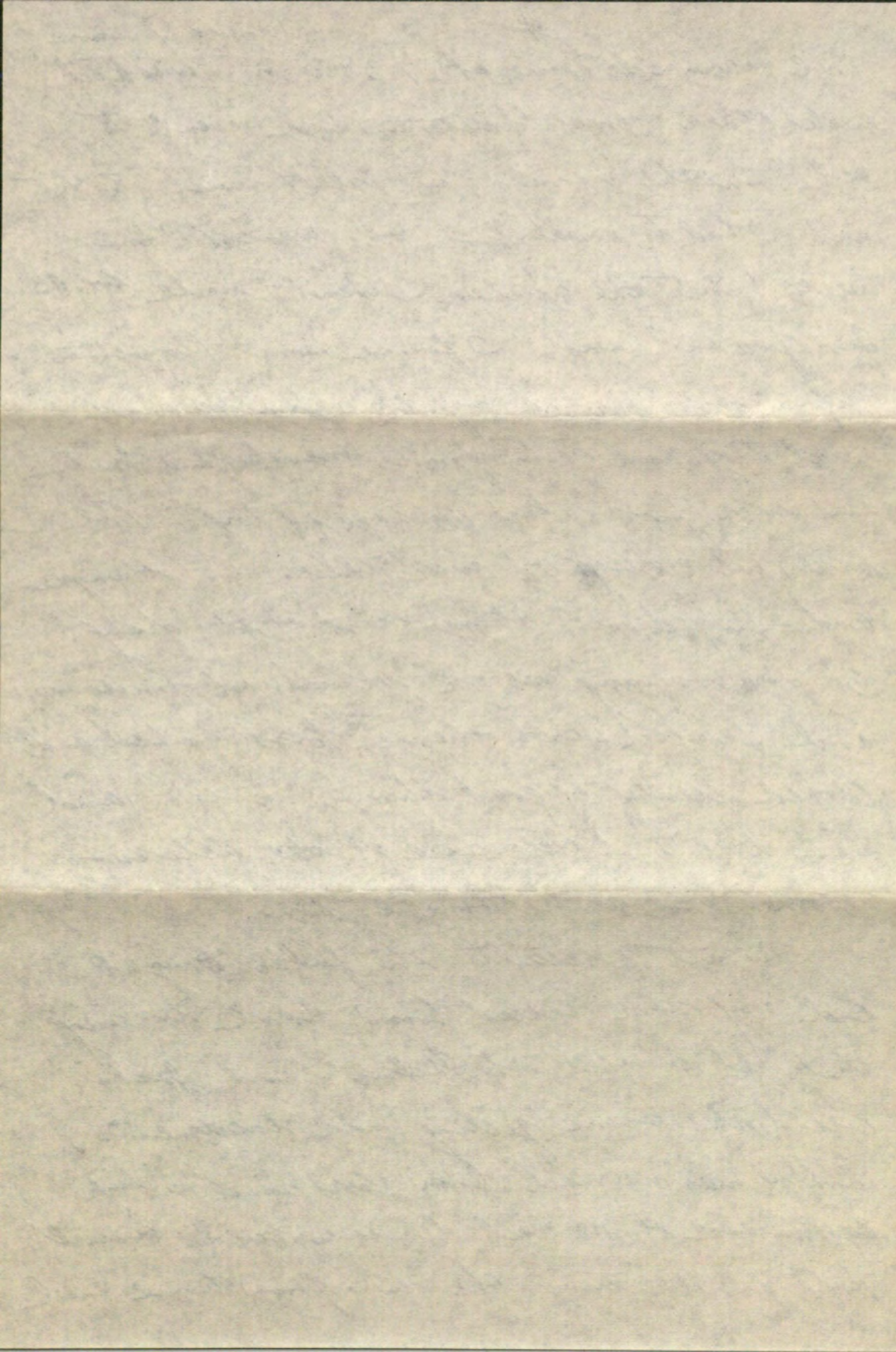


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Monday morn

We arrived home at 1.30 a.m., wished each other Merry Christmas and went to bed. In the morning, we slept until 8.45 and I had to wake Jim who wanted "more sleep." Into the kitchen I went, made breakfast for all and I found some Christmas gifts for Jim and myself. Jan received some tuffs and socks from Martha and Jack and even Jim got a package of toys. The babies were delighted with their new things and played with them most of the day. It was raining so we remained indoors and played with them ^{too}. Bess baked and cooked plenty of good things to eat and I'd love to bottle some of the delicious aromas and send them to you.

I wrote a letter to the folks tonight and my mom called from home to say that all is well at Thelma's and Jack is still the same (getting more treatments). There was no mail from you since 3 days ago because of no mail deliveries here in Monticello. Hope you're getting the news from home and



that you've received and sampled some of those goodies I sent. Will send you more parcels when I arrive home next week - and maybe liquor too.

Jim and Jan are fast asleep, after a nice Christmas Day and Bess and I are snuggling. I'm making an attractive slipper with alternating green and white stripes - and one to match for Jimmie. He is out with the boys tonight and tomorrow he's going into the city. We're listening to the radio, talking of you, my dearest one, and I'm having a relaxing Ymas holiday. Just always wish you were near me. And some day my dreams will come true again. Meanwhile stay well, my love.

Again I wish you a merry Ymas and may we be together to love and not ever part again for many, many years. All my love, devotion, affection and adoration for the "sweetest feller" a girl ever had. Kisses and hugs from Jim and love from Bess.

Always yours,
Harlene

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