

Seckirchen, Austria
 Sunday, August 12, 1945.

Florence, Dearest:

Please forgive me for not waiting you yesterday, but since I spent most of the afternoon and evening traveling from Rinz to Passau to Salzburg and then to Seckirchen I was too fatigued to write. I arrived here at the company last night about 11 PM, and intended to spend to-day in Salzburg at the Music Festival. However since it is the opening week-end no tickets were available, but it will run for 19 days, so perhaps I'll be lucky yet. However, the weather is ideal to-day. The scenery exquisite, and I'm having a jolly time with my boys. Also played a game of indoor beer-bell (outdoors). Took a roll of film, and sunned myself for hours. It was an ideal day in an ideal setting to dream of my only sweetheart, and honey, my every thought these days, and nights, are solely of you. Please forgive me if I think of Jim every hour on the hour. I love and miss you both terribly much, but if the radio is not leading us astray the big news is momentarily awaited. A Jap surrender brings our reunion date that much closer. We are patiently awaiting the announcement later in the evening. It is now 7 PM.

Yesterday's mail call brought me a bonanza. I received your air mail letters dated July 27th, 29th, 30th, 31st, and August 1st; two from Bob dated July 29th and August 2nd, and one from Harry chronic of August 2nd. I was most pleased to learn that Bob may not sail or leave for a month or so, and any delay there may be helpful to him if the Japs capitulate shortly. He seems to be okay, and despite his desire to take this deal non-committally, I know how a fellow feels to be enroute to "destination unknown". If his luck holds out I guess the Japs will cooperate by giving up.

Your wonderful letters were just like a shot of blood to a man who needs a transfusion. All the letters were packed with news, anecdotes and love. A fellow and sweetheart could hardly ask for more, and I've read and re-read the above letters at least 4 times in the past 24 hours. I can think of no more significant clue as to your mind's and heart's thoughts and wishes than your naming the two kittens

"Romeo and Juliet." This little announcement told me volumes, and I'm even of the opinion that Jim will soon appreciate the significance. Surely when he becomes a part of the life we will live after my return, he will soon appreciate the words "Romeo and Juliet." It won't be long now, sweetheart, so keep smiling, and don't let those army chiefs do anything that will keep me in the army one moment longer than necessary.

The letters you have written about average may bear fruit in the days to follow VJ-Day. If they don't lower the critical score low enough to let me out we may have to continue fighting for the age angle. In any event by the time this arrives you may know all about their plans, so keep your fingers crossed, and your hopes high.

Only too well do I realize that your social life has been as neglected as your married life in the past 21 months. However if it is humanly possible I'll do all I can to keep current that situation when I return. We'll attend every affair possible, we'll go to the theatre, dances, parties and almost any place that will afford as pleasure. I owe it to you, and nothing will give me greater pleasure than to pay this debt off. Of course you realize my social life has also been neglected during the same period, so this period of social limbo will take lots of adjusting in the post war era.

It pleased me to learn that my letters are coming thru, even though in an unsteady stream. However I write daily, send many interesting features via regular mail, and oft-times a copy of Yank to enable you to enjoy some special features therein. I'm glad the \$20.- money order arrived, and that the vase was settled. Although the price tag on the vase was 275 Belgian francs, the dealer accepted 5 packs of cigarettes as a gift, and gave me the vase as a token of Belgian appreciation for American liberation. Be sure to advise when other funds arrive. If I can get a money order I'll send you some more laugh this week. Harry Abrams' letter told me about your visit to Mina, and I'm glad you looked them up. I'll write him in a day or so.

although you acknowledged the cigarettes I sent

My dear friend,
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well and happy. I am
also well and hope to hear from you again soon.
I have been thinking of you very much lately and
wondering how you are getting on. I hope you
are as happy as ever. I have been very busy
lately, but I have managed to find some time
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in one of the packages, you did not mention that you gave them to Eleanor. Did you? Also did you receive 4 brass-shell ash trays, or only 2? You inquired in one of your letters whether or not I was living in billets. Well, honey, we moved into billets about 10 days after we reached Leipzig. It's not a hotel like Hippstadt, or a private home like Hamm, but it's a former school-house of 3 stories, and there are 6 men to a room, which could easily accommodate 10 or 12. It's adequate, but we go to a public bath for shavers. The latter was taken over by the army solely for GI's use. Chow is pretty good but I can hardly wait for some home cooking prepared by my own pretty wife. If Jim don't become a good eater and drinker with me around he never will. To-day we had Virginia ham for lunch, and fried chicken for supper.

Eleanor continues to run into tough luck romantically, but I'm sure someone, someday will discover her. I know you are one of her chief boosters, and if you think she's deserving of your praise, I'll add mine to yours. Perhaps her man will be coming out of the army too, and then we may find another pal to add to our small select circle. I certainly hope so.

Glad all is well with you and Piraro, even though I may have misinterpreted the facts. I know all about American Basch from before the war, but have not heard anything recent about any ownership difficulties. However Mac will probably keep me advised. Don't worry about the small investment we have in that stock. You continue to save whatever extra money I send you plus any surplus of your own, and I'll be satisfied. We'll manage to make some dough within the next ten years.

Stay well, my darling. Kiss Jim for me, and I'll save all my celebrating for the days to follow our reunion. My best to your kinfolk and mine, and remember I'll always love and adore you

as ever,

George

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