

Malines, Belgium
Thursday, 13 Sept 45.

Florence, Sweetheart:

My only regret for taking this furlough was the necessity of missing your daily letter, as I was absent from my unit. However, the fates have been kind to me, and to-day the postman delivered your August 15th letter to Frank. It may interest you to know that a letter from America is a matter of tremendous news and excitement in normal times, but now it is even more so. Everyone in the neighborhood knows about it, via the post-men. At this time it created nothing short of a furor. To be entertaining an American soldier, and at the same time to receive a letter from America. I need hardly add how I thrilled at the sight of your handwriting. Well, honey, it was just as though you had written that letter to me. Everyone insisted I open the letter and read it to myself. Then I had to read it aloud. Then Frank read it, translating it for Git. By the time this had been done I had a big lump in my throat, Frank and Git were crying, and Frank Jr took a week not to show his emotions. Believe you me, dearest, it was a beautiful letter, written by the sweetest girl in the world, and continued to repeat the many happy feelings we have for each other. After reading the letter I feel better, even though I realize the news is old compared to the more recent letters I received from you prior to my departure from King. Our God friends are so grateful to you for writing, and I'm certain will be even more so when they receive that package you send, and the

Subsequent you in kind clothing. Frank asked me to tell you that he will endeavor to reply after I leave.

The weather has been most co-operative since I left Ling. Very little rain, much sunshine, and not too warm. Feeding me has not been too much of a problem yet. Meat rations are hardly enough for themselves but my tin, plus the fact that fish is plentiful and plentiful has helped a lot. Of course the fish prices are high, but they insist, and knowing that we are making it up to them in other ways I don't object too strenuously. Flounders are fresh and delicious, shrimp are pygmy compared to ours, a fish called "roq" tastes just like crab meat, and even the eels have been something unusual. Fresh radish with each meal have been as good as those we get back home, and tomatoes right out of the garden is a "must" it looks like for me. When I leave here I'm going on a diet of one meal daily instead of two. To night we had coffee fruitless until no one could stuff another away.

Yesterday two of my buddies and I spent the afternoon in Brussels. Since it is practically impossible for soldiers to send home so much money as they want I decided to spend some of it while here. So, under separate cover I forwarded you a package of perfume and powder to Jap's store address. It included a box of Caron's powder, which I think you asked me to repeat, a bottle of Schiaparelli perfume, and a bottle of "Le Chic" by Molyneux. Please do not give these away, because no one can afford to wear such fine perfume except you. I also purchased a few fine cigarette lighters. Expect to be in Brussels and Antwerp again before we leave, to enable me

It is the first time that I have ever
written a letter to you, and I am
very glad to do so. I have been
thinking of you very much lately,
and I have been wondering how
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to look for some exceptional souvenir for you.
The day before I left King I mailed a map to you
care of Jeff's address. Please be sure to obtain when
the letter & packages arrive. Before I leave I also
intent getting a few more small bottles of fine
perfume for gifts, and such. To-day I bought
get a lovely frame for 2 photos. It seems that
you, Jim and I are so popular that they seemed
pictures of their parents from the best frame to
insert our snopes. So I decided to do something
about, and did. Also bought her several nice
sch. keeps, all of which got me a spanking and for
spending my money like a drunken porter. Little do
they realize how simple it is to replace this dough,
and no way of getting it home. Will tell you all about
this when I can relate the humorous stories that
go with it.

Frank's brother in law, who lives in an adjoining
house, has a friend who is a caretaker in some
rich man's castle. To-day he brought 4 apples in
which were cultured and grown on this estate. Each
apple is about the size of a golf-sized golfball,
and of a distinctive flavor. We had quite a time
with them, and lots of fun talking about them
while eating apple-fartness.

In previous letters I have attempted to
outline some of the items you should include in
packages to these friends. No doubt you will find time
to send them after your return home. Clothes are very
important, since the prices are fantastic, and the
rationing severe. Dresses, shoes, sweaters, undershirts,
socks, towels, tooth towels and the like can all be

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well utilized. This is just a war-time emergency, because in years to come all will be well with them. Also try to include a pair or two of silk or nylon stockings size 9. I hope, for yet. new ones, of course. Among your foodstuffs eliminate coffee, but include loose tea, pepper (white), salad oil, Spam, or any canned meats. I ought to be home in a couple of months, and then will do some of this together. In the meantime carry on with a big smile, and have fun.

Hope you and Jim are in excellent health and spirits, and although I know not whether you are at home, I am sending this and all subsequent letters to our home address. I feel great, but the days do not go quickly enough to please me. All in due time, I know, but missing out holding you in my arms is long, long overdue. Stay well, my dearest darling, kiss Jim for me, and wait yourself for the big days, and nights, soon to come. Hope Bess is okay, and that she had her baby in easy fashion. Looking of behind, notice the evocative cartoon, in Flemish, depicting the parade of allied soldiers on the 1st anniversary of the liberation of Belgium. The caption below reads "and they couldn't learn to say 'No'". My very best to my father, and your mother and sisters, and all my love and affection to you.

As ever,

Sp.

CPL GEO. STOFF 42050100
Co A 735 Ry OPN BN
APO 380 40 Postmaster
New York.



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MRS. FLORENCE STOFF
41 LANDFIELD AVE
MONTICELLO
NEW YORK

% BAXT.

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