

Belgium

4 February 1945.

Florence, dearest:

at present being so far from my loved ones it seems simple to determine not to ever again leave home once I return. However, darling, there are many beautiful places and things to see over here, and I hope and plan some day to return to this part of the world with my only sweetheart. You and I together will do this thing right, we will laugh and enjoy the beauties and wonders of these countries as people should. Since we are partners it must not be that I should go to a strange land without you. Someday we will adjourn this, and you too will marvel at the many lovely places I have seen and visited.

To-day was a pretty good day. It started out with a rain and wind storm. For most of the morning I was disgusted and disgruntled, as I had planned on visiting a nearby city for the first time. Had my camera loaded and packed, a date with several fellows, but the inclemency of the weather was threatening too badly. Just after eleven however it cleared, and between the clouds the sun darted about like Markara in "Giselle." So away we went, spent a most delightful afternoon viewing the sights, statues and fountains. Snapped a number of pictures



with various backgrounds and had a fine day of it. Fortunately the weather man cooperated a bit, and only some clouds marred the balance of the day. It takes a little longer than usual to develop films here but as soon as I receive them I'll forward those which are permissible. You see I must not send any which might disclose the name of this modernized ancient city. However I have a set of views of the city and until we visit the place I'll tell you all about it when I return to your camp.

Upon my return to our own town I visited Frank and his family. They held up dinner until my arrival, and we had a swell time of it. We had some kind of watery vegetable soup, mutton, potatoes, asparagus, carrots and peas, beer, and an unusual luxury - eclairs. I had returned with some fancy chocolate candy, not unlike Barton's chocolate covered truffle, which cost about the equivalent of 12¢ each for a piece of chocolate the size of a fancy summer pie. You see what I mean by inflation. We talked about you, Jimmy, home, the war news, politics, oh many things, but kept our ears glued to the radio. The news sounds good and who knows when the big break will come. These visits to Frank are a tremendous lift to my spirits, and they seem to enjoy my company. In more ways than one we appreciate each other. Sure hope your packages arrive soon.

Returning to my remarks to night about 9 P.M. I found your V-Mail letter dated Jan 16th awaiting me.



This just about made the day complete, and after the mail draught of the past week, was most welcome. also received a V-Mail from Dan dated Jan 18th. I am glad you received my second package, and enjoyed the contents. Did you distribute the stuff as I had requested in a previous letter? Under separate cover I sent Jim and Jan each a pair of these wooden shoes. They will be sized for the kiddies and should be worn with a slipper on the foot. I can just hear Jim decking them the apartment with those wooden clogs on.

Dan's V-Mail was typed, and brought me up to date on much of the current news at home. He described the showing of the films, talked about the welfare and spirits of all who were there that night, and assured me that Jimmy is the fitting heir of his father. Now I don't know whether he is trying to compliment me or not. In any event it is always consoling to learn from an outside source that you are all well, and I trust there has been no change up to the present. You do not write about Joel, but I suppose you are endeavoring to spare me any unpleasant thoughts or moments. I am concerned however, and wish you would keep me posted on all developments.

Although packages are slow in coming it is always a good feeling getting one. I know you have approximately 6 or 7 en route, and with the 2 the folks are sending I should be well stocked when,



as, and if they arrive. Thanks so much, and  
keep up the good work. Have not yet received any  
copies of the Readers Digest, should I know he  
interested. Have been able to buy the Paris edition  
of the Herald Tribune, and even though it is a one  
page newspaper its like home cooking to be able to  
relax a few moments to read it. Believe me,  
sweetheart, you have my assurance that when I  
return I'll be satisfied and contented with almost  
any thing and any body - almost. Has Pin-cus sold  
any of our stocks since the recent stock market  
rise started?

I am well, honey, not overworked at present,  
but keeping on the ball, and I truly hope all is  
well with you and Jim. Be careful, take excellent  
care of each other, have fun, it will be over soon,  
and shortly after that there's always the probability  
that old men like me will be sent home to our  
dear ones. It is much to look forward to, and I  
make the most of it. You must do likewise.

Kiss Jim and the folks for me, let me know  
how Bob is doing, and give my best to everyone.  
Chin high, keep smiling, and always remember I  
love and adore only you,

As ever,

George

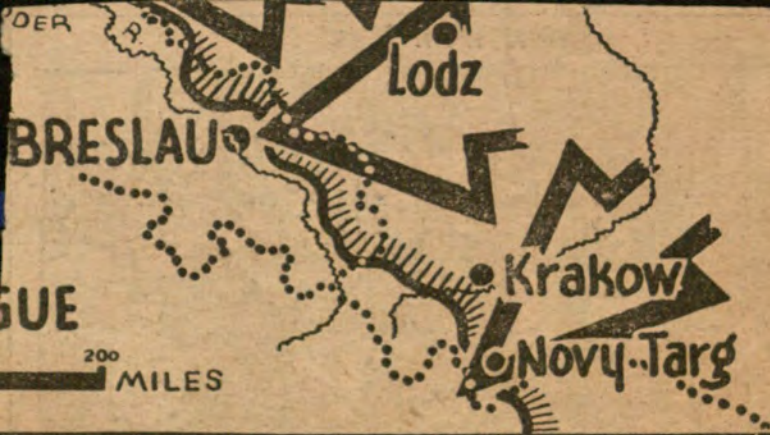
## Up Front With Mauldin



"I'll be damned. Did ya know this can-opener fits on the end of a rifle?"

"MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY" —





Stars and Stripes Map by Brown  
ft) and Gregory Zhukov chart the shortest way to Berlin. Zhukov's army headed 90 miles of Berlin. Above it Rokossovsky's route was past Bromberg into Pomerania near Breslau. Above and below these thrusts, other Soviet forces are in East Prussia and Czechoslovakia.

## Hitler Tells Reich

where and no matter under what circumstances, until final victory crowns our effort."

As Hitler spoke, the Nazi-controlled Berlin Radio admitted that the Red Army forces of Marshal Gregory Zhukov were within 80 miles of the German capital.

"In this hour," Hitler said, "I appeal to the whole people, and above all to my old comrades and all soldiers, to strengthen themselves with an even greater and tougher spirit of resistance."

"I expect every German to do his duty to the last."

Contradicting Hitler's description of the

results of capitulation, the Allies showed German soldiers along the Western Front yesterday with leaflets explaining the meaning of unconditional surrender.

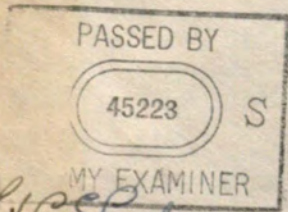
The pamphlets said unconditional surrender "would not mean that the Germans who surrender would be at the mercy of the victorious side." Those who gave up, the leaflets said, would "under protection of the Geneva Convention and would be treated with fairness."

Meanwhile, reports from both German and neutral sources told yesterday

(Continued on Page 8)

CPL. GEO. STOFF 42050100  
Co A 135 Ry OPN BN  
APO 228 40 POSTMASTER  
NEW YORK. N.Y.

AIR-MAIL



MRS. FLORENCE STOFF  
3021 AVENUE I  
BROOKLYN 10  
NEW YORK

