

Germany
9 May 1945.

Florence, darling:

There are some days when I find it more difficult to express my erotic feelings and emotions than others. However much because I have recourse to someone else's written word it will hardly detract from my love for you. The enclosed poem was no doubt written by a GI who is as homesick for his sweetheart as I, if that is possible. Read it, my sweetheart, and imagine I had the ability to feel such beautiful thoughts.

No mail from anyone to-day, so I read and re-read these sweet letters I received from you yesterday. I guess you had a nasty time curing yours and Jim's colds, but since you assure me that you are both well I'll not worry about this. All this probably due to the lack of sufficient heat in the apartment during the coal spell, and the apparent inefficiency of the superintendent. I hope you are enjoying as beautiful weather as I have been for the past three days. It is positively grand, a bit too warm too quickly, but the evenings are perfect for sleeping.

There's nothing to do evenings but attend a GI movie, but the pictures border on the antique side. The no-fraternizing rule keeps the men away from the girls, and there are no bars. Talking about girls, they sure are a brazen lot wearing tight sweaters, short skirts and riding bicycles to and fro. You can readily visualize so many lungs waving in the breeze. Of course, however, I don't look, the boys tell me all about this. People are beginning to come back to their homes, having retreated in the face of the onslaught, but in most cases the home that used to be is now either demolished or just a heap of rubble piled in front of your piece of property. I have many scenes of these places, and

[The page contains faint, illegible handwriting.]

-2-

I bless the day these Wered Wars have been fought in Europe instead of our native land. My knowledge of German stands me in good stead for a little interpreting and I am using whenever possible. Children are becoming bolder in the presence of soldiers, and now many of them plead for that universally desired - chocolate. As yet the results are not too good, but time will probably knock down that barrier. It's just too different to be blaming these young children for the stupidity and greed of their elders.

Thanks so much for contributing to the Moscone War Chest. Billy, I received a letter and a card from the Center in St. Paul, and the Hulls send you their best. They are both quite well, still doing their duty, and miss all the boys. Billy continues to be a good and true friend, and ably in his own simple manner is a pretty good Joe. I wish they didn't add a little pepper and salt to him in the process. I hope you took advantage to attend the Ladies Night at the Lodge, as I'm sure there are many who would like to see if you are managing to get enough food during my absence.

Your description of the dress Billy presented you sounds mighty interesting, but I hope you are not neglecting your wardrobe these days. There's no reason for it, as you have the funds, and with the war ended, and my homecoming in the offing you'd better be dressed smartly, or else I'll have to attend to this detail myself. As for Jim, I can see by the snapshots that he has plenty of clothes. Have you discovered any clue to the cause for his annoying rash? Has he improved any lately? The new toy he just received should satisfy his destructive tendencies, with no fatal results to the toy.

Seems to me I write you that we were in ninth army territory, but they were never approaching Dresden. It was the first army that over-ran that territory. However, I'll be near Dresden, and if it's possible I'll buy you some Dresden pottery. I'm going to package some souvenirs for you in a day or two, and I hope they arrive in good condition. As usual I'll use wooden boxes. Still awaiting word about the Churchill's Royal the boys were to buy for me, but he patient I'll know in a day or two. It's possible for me to mail parcels to Belgium but they must go first class. This is expensive but immaterial, so have no fear, anything you send for them will be forwarded. However I do hope you can send them directly thru the post office - advise me on this score.

I feel fine and dandy, patiently awaiting the announcement of the army mustering-out plans, and hoping we are not left out of consideration. The Pacific war is strictly a young men's job, and although I feel sorry for those who have to go there, any of them can do a better job than I. So be of good cheer, continue to rejoice that the slaughter of Americans in Europe is over, and that the future looks brighter than it has in 18 months.

Kiss Jim for me, and I'll kiss you in mind, adoring you every moment. My best to everyone,

as ever

George

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the purchase of a copy of the "History of the State of New York" for the use of the Library of the American Museum of Natural History. I have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been ordered to be purchased, and will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received.

For what we cannot do, we must
leave to the Lord, who is the
author of all our mercies.

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