

A lovely Sunday -
Somewhere in Belgium
18 March 1945.

Florence, dearest:

The excellent spirit underlying the expressions of thought in your last two letters have given a tremendous lift to my morale. Not that I am low, or down in the mouth as it were, but because knowing that the home front is strong I find it easier to carry on. I realize how different your lot has been the past six months, what with one source of trouble or another, but it is easy to discern the more cheery feeling and outlook growing up in your mind, and with your permission I partake of this renaissance of your lighter self. This is the Florence I first knew, the girl of my dreams, the adorable wife I have loved and adored ever since I first kissed you. It may be that you think the war has coated you with steel, but down deep I know you have the same sentimental feelings that possess me. It is Spring, my darling, the season of hope; let us plant our dreams and desires, and hope that the harvest later in the year finds all of us together. It is misty like, sweetheart, so keep smiling, cheer up, and if anyone is asking you these days, we'll tell them off together - but good.

Mail call to-day consisted of your March 3rd and 4th air mail letters alone, but that's always enough for me. It was a joy reading all the current events about you, Jim, home and the others. Thanks so much for the money enclosed, but I now have more than I can possibly use for months, so I'll return some of it shortly. I am glad that big package arrived in good shape, and sure put my heart into wrapping that one for you. I am happy everything was in good order, and that you liked my selections. Please advise the names of the various bottles of perfume I have already sent, as I do not want to duplicate them in future purchases.

I have no idea of the source of the ugly substance on one of my letters, but perhaps this one had to swim the ocean. If the snaps were spoiled, advise as I have the negatives. I can make other or forward the negatives to you. I am grateful you are going to give Frances a bottle of perfume, and be assured your doing so will not affect my thoughts about her either, but Bob and I are and have been chummy brothers for a long time, and now that he is a lieutenant, I guess I ought to show him my courtesy. I create you suggesting one for Eleanor and Mrs. Perkins, the reasons being self evident. There are two other bottles en route to you via registered mail,

My dear friend,
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this
letter finds you the same. I have been thinking
much of late about the future of our country and
the state of our Union. I feel that we are in a
critical position and that we must take prompt
action to preserve our liberties and our Union.
I am sure that you share these views and that
you will do all in your power to promote the
welfare of our country.

I have no objection to your making such use
of this letter as you may think proper. I am
glad to hear that you are well and hope
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and these with those I sent from Paris should prove sufficient, but I have several other beauties in mind. Do you want any more Hankies? but they are cheaper at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Dr. Jaffi's dental fee certainly does not measure up to his ability, but I guess this is merely another demonstration of some people's attitude toward soldiers' families. He is to be commended for his consideration, and I'll try to show my appreciation when I return. He sure is a fine fellow. I agree with you that the Times subscription should be cancelled, and suggest sending me only the financial page of the Sunday paper. I quite often get the Paris edition of the Herald-Tribune and can read the editorial page therein. As for efforts, forget it. I'm not concerned with the Yankees this year.

You have been most co-operative in the selection and speed in sending me packages requested. I too have benefited from them, as for instance to-day: Coffee and tea at dinner. Cake baked by Mendrika only possible because of your Crisco and raisins, to say nothing of the evaporated milk. Suffer consisted of your shampoos in a salad, covered with mayonnaise, again made possible only by the use of Crisco to make the dressing, as for the chocolate syrup on some ice cream this afternoon, I need but tell you my friends, and I worship you. Please assure those who contribute these packages that they are doing ever so much for me and my friends. It more than surprised me that your Aunt Mildred is sending a bundle, but I thank her just the same.

The next person desirous of forwarding a package will please include the following: chocolate syrup, packages of chocolate pudding, maple walnut pudding and some pills (if obtainable), mayonnaise or miracle whip, raisins, rice and canned fish of any kind. It would be a pity to receive these if I'm ever moved from here, but I can always supplement some persons diet anywhere.

After dinner to-day we walked along the canal for 3 hours, looking at the farms, orchards and gardens. Buds are just beginning to appear, and in another week or two I'll be able to see at close hand the miracles of nature, in producing the necessities of life from water, sun and earth. Have been dreaming about working so hard in hand with you and Jim, and I have every hope that next Spring it will be a reality. I quite agree with you

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that we spent a second long moon in California, so be patient that's where it will be if you are still so inclined when I get back.

Your stories about Jim are so real and alive. I quite understand the run-around this rascal is giving you and Eleanor. Hope you are fortunate in selecting a safe place for the summer. Have you any plans about this yet? Jim must be getting tall these days, and he seems to be improving his vocabulary daily. His sense of humor seems to be keen, and I hope he's a source of joy to you and the others at home.

Have not heard from Pinus in several weeks but since he's back at the office I presume he's well. Has he done anything to our stark holdings? Have you had any luck with the camera size 116 film I requested. Have 6 rolls of film. Thanks for forwarding the cap and when it arrives I'll have 3, but I think I'll be able to use them during the summer, if I'm still in Belgium. The war news sounds pretty good, and there is a strong undercurrent of feeling that the Nazis are on their last legs, I hope. Am awaiting word on the insurance policy you are checking out, and I trust you work it out all right. Do not forget to pay yours on time! Any word on my notary public commission?

Hope Bob was able to come in this week-end, it is always a bright spot for the folks. Are they well, and do they worry more than necessary? Did you ever receive the package containing 2 Masons (wooden) Casenigs? It seems as though I send so many barrels I can't keep track of them. From now on I'll record them on my chart.

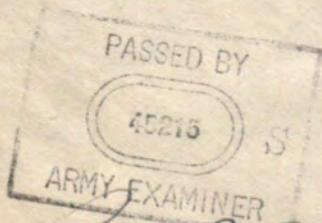
Kiss Jim and the folks for me, give my best to everyone including Capt. Gleichenau. I continue to love and adore you, my pretty wife and sweetheart, and I hope our reunion comes sooner than we dare hope for. Until to-morrow, with a kiss in mind, I bid you a fond adieu,

as ever,

George

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