

Somewhere.
14 January 1945.

Florence, dearest:

Each day that passes brings us that much closer to the end of this mess, and a day nearer the time when we will be united as one. I realize only too well that it is a trying time for you, but our love for each other must be the sustaining force to keep us strong and brave until that day of day arrives. Time seems to be moving along quickly, and although there are moments of loneliness for both of us, yet I'm sure, quite sure, that our cup of happiness will run over when I return. Be of good cheer, be proud, stolid, and don't worry too much about me. We are both capable of leading our end up, and I'm very certain the near future will see the end of all this horror and warfare.

The mail situation has not been too good this past week. Very few letters from you, and practically none from any one else. I wrote you about the two packages I received. Pinus' camera examined, and although I am most anxious to take some snaps I had no opportunity this week. To-day was the one Sunday a month I have to work, and after work it's too dark. However this coming week may prove more fruitful, and I hope to take several of your favorite G.I. as well as some never to be forgotten scenes and sights. Be patient, I'll have them developed here and forward to you as soon as possible. I wish you'd snap some of Jim and yourself in the snow; especially Jim slushing it up in his new galoshes. Your letter describing the bonus check was a

most pleasant surprise. I had expected you'd receive a
Xmas check, but I hardly awaited one as handsome as
the sum you quoted. The firm is surely treating me
like a son, and I've written Kees thanking him. It
surprises me not to have heard from Mr. Brown since
I arrived overseas, but I suppose he's a busy man. I
think I've written him on several occasions.

The package received from you this week was
the source of a pleasant report the other day. We
didn't like the meal prepared for us so I opened
general cans, one of the other boys opened several, and
four of us had an enjoyable time of it. We then
supplemented this with coffee, fruit salad, fruit cake
and cookies. I think when I get home I'll be eating
fresh salads for two years just to even the score;
to say nothing of some home cooking in porcelain
ware rather than greasy mess kits.

After work to-day I visited my friends' home,
had a little snack for supper, consisting of a fried egg (!)
(the fruit I've had in almost 4 months) bread, apple-
sauce, a little cold meat, coffee (your Nescafe) and apple
fritters, which were out of this world. It is too soon for
me to tell whether or not the grease will bother me, but
I expect little difficulty on this score. It was grand just
sitting around, chewing the fat, talking of home, dreaming
of you and Jim; and for the short time forgetting all
this. These people have little to offer but I try to show
my appreciation by chasing my packages and candy
rations with them. To-day I brought them a 12th.
fruit cake, contained in the Followcraft package last week,
some of your cookies, the Nescafe, and some shaming and
hard soap. I have given them some salmon and
sardines, but these are being saved for an occasion.
I have requested you to forward some items I can give
them as a gesture of my appreciation of their hospitality,
and I guess you'll rush this out to me. I will thank
you to make up another package containing the
following items, which you'll please send out as soon

as possible, to wit, and thank you. honey:
Coffee in a can if possible: Maple syrup in a can; peanut
oil; Raisins, not the muscated type, tea bag, cookies, Cocoa,
and about 3 of my neckties which you think I like the
least. Include some walnuts, Chiclets and a few chocolate
bars. I know this is a big order, darling, but please send
it out pronto.

Not receiving much mail naturally makes me more
anxious to hear from you, but rest assured I'm not
worrying about the capabilities of the sweetest girl in
the world and her sweet son. I know you'll both manage
all right, and I do hope that circumstances around
you are such not to give you too many anxious moments.
Jael's illness must if necessity be distressing to you
but you know very well that money will help very
little. Do all you can to help them but please take
care of your emotions in the matter. I'm quite
interested in learning how Maurice made out with
his furlough request. Please keep me advised as to the
lad's condition.

The news here about McArthur, the Russian
offensive, and the valiant efforts of our own boys here
in the European phase all sounds tremendously
encouraging. I'm sure everyone at home has been
heartened by all this, and who knows if winter comes,
can spring be far behind? We read quite a bit about
the unusually cold winter back in the States, particularly
in the East. I know you two are well protected,
and I hope there has been a minimum of colds
and illness in our household, as well as my
pecks' and yours. If you think I'm old enough
to take all the news please do not hesitate to
write to me -

As usual all is well with me, I'm in excellent health, have plenty of work to keep me busy but it keeps to pass the time. Chew is fair, and my friends companionship on Sundays does much to break up the monotony of things. I'm continually on the look-out for things to buy for you, but am patiently awaiting word of acknowledgement of all the packages I've sent you. Be sure to advise the condition of the contents, as well as the desire to receive more. So far you have stated on the first package I sent. I'm still awaiting word on 4 more shipped to you, and one to Jim. Also sent one to the folks. Did mom enjoy the perfume I sent her in the first package? Let me know if you'd like some more of those wooden shaks, or perhaps you want some for someone else.

Kiss Jim for his daddy. Tell him to continue to mind you or I'll give him extra duty when I return, to say nothing of a court-martial. I know there is no need to caution or threaten you as you are a good soldier, even as I try to be. Stay well, sweetheart, give my love to the folks, your family, and all our good friends. Do try to send me the latest quotations on our stocks whenever possible. Mr. Kincaid can give them to you during his phone call. Have you ever been advised by the Internal Revenue about my tax refund for 1943?

Until to-morrow then, I bid you a fond adieu, adoring and loving you,

As ever,

George