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Mahonia, Belgium
Sunday, 9 Sept 45.

Flower, sweetheart:

Forgive me, my dearest, for not having written you since Sept 5th. Last Condi-Tennis boy and my carpal prevented my doing so. Many, many Tennis during the first few days I have silently wished to myself that this trip was the first step in my return trip home - but that has well happen in the very near future. As I mentioned in my last letter we started out 2 days in advance of my schedule, and accordingly arrived here well ahead of my anticipated date.

Ray, two other fellows, and myself set out from Leipzig Wednesday morning at about 9 AM in a $3/4$ Ton wergens carrier. This is about the most comfortable riding truck in the army. In a blaze of dust, sunshine, and hopes we set out for the first leg of our journey, which was Paris, 750 miles away. The trip was fairly nice, we had nice weather, plenty of apple and pear orchards to borrow from for snacking, and tomato patches to augment our rations. We spent the first night outside of Stuttgart, stopped the next day in Munich to eat and visit Hitler's Putzsch Beer Hall, went thru Karlsruhe, Saarbrücken, Metz, Olden and finally Paris Friday at 2 AM in the morning. Spent all day Friday in Paris, and then took the train to Brussels Friday night, arriving in Brussels Saturday morning at 8 AM. Exchanged our Austrian money for Belgian, and thence to Mahonia on the 9.45 AM train. A taxi dropped the other 3 fellows at a hotel, and thence

21. The only difference
between the two
is that the one is a
copy of the other. The
original is in the
possession of the
British Museum. The
copy is in the
possession of the
Library of the
University of
Cambridge. The
original is in the
possession of the
British Museum. The
copy is in the
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University of
Cambridge.

to Hank's home. Pandemonium of a mild nature
followed my arrival, but peace and quiet reigned
next, to say nothing of the undercurrent of joy that
every one of us is experiencing here because of my
arrival.

Our good friends are in very good health,
conditions have greatly improved since the war
ended, but food and clothing remain a great
problem. Admittedly, as you well might imagine, I
came not unprepared. Among other things I
carried in my huffel bag the following items
to help make my stay here less of a burden.

- 3 lbs of Coffee
- 10 lbs of canned meats.
- 4 lemons
- 4 oranges.
- 24 bars of chocolate, candy and gum.
- 20 packs of cigarettes.
- 2 packages of chocolate pudding
- 1 box Cocoa.
- 1 sweater
- 2 sets of underwear.
- 1 pair of trousers
- 2 pairs of socks
- 4 pair socks
- 2 towels.

all this may sound as though I was trying to
bribe my way in, but honestly darling, it was
only my desire to repay in just the most heart-
warming reception I can expect to meet or
experience outside of you and my folks.

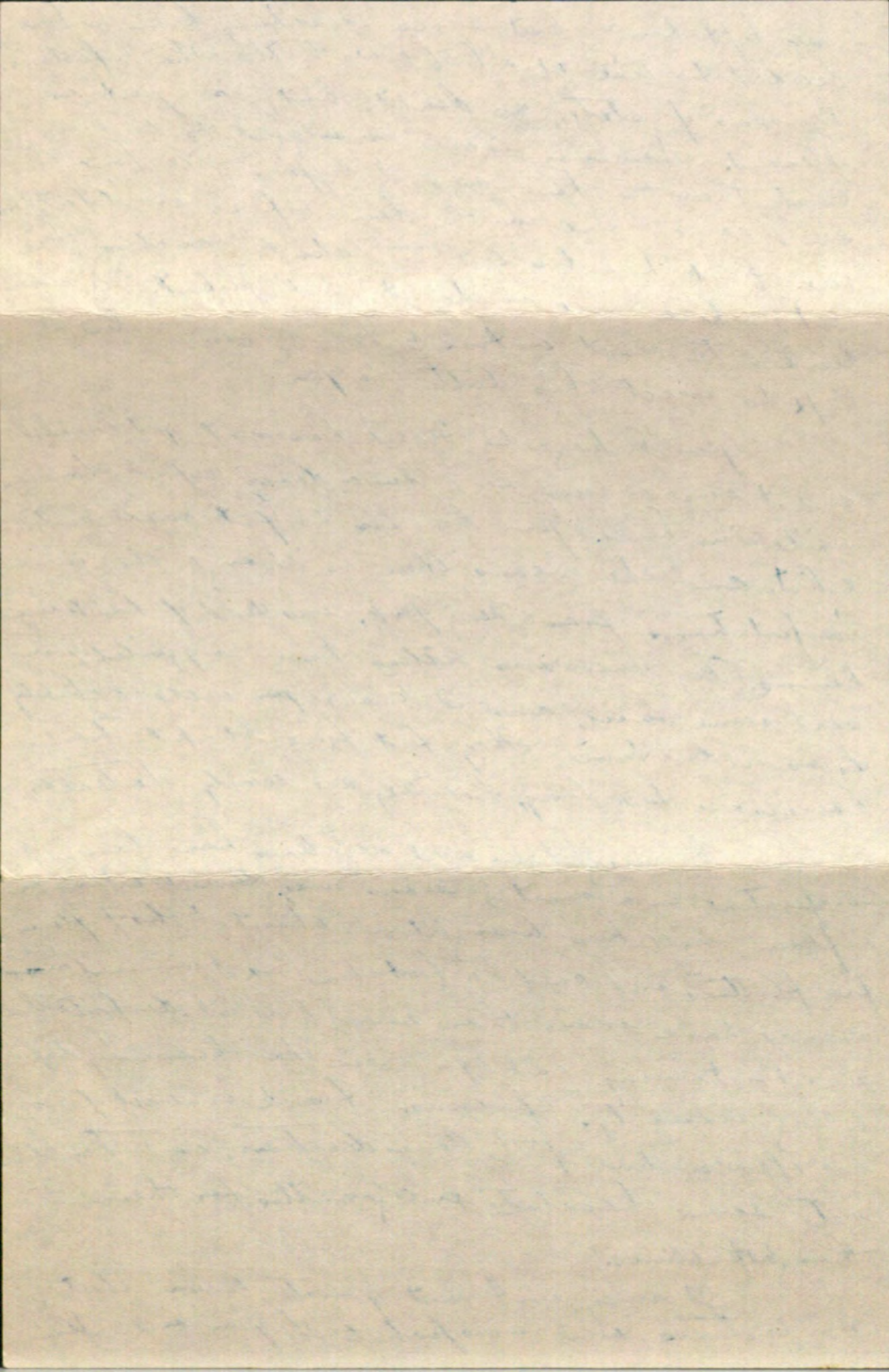
Ray had wanted to live with me, before

we left him. But since reaching here he has decided to live at a hotel with the other fellows. Reasons of state, no doubt, but I'm just as pleased. However, I've managed to keep in contact with them, and I suppose I'll have to spend some time with them before we depart from here. Frank has decided to take a vacation this week, which will make it just perfect. We have decided to visit Antwerp to - Moscow, where I hope to mail this letter to you.

Your package to Frank has not yet arrived, and it sure would be a coincidence if it should while I'm here. Your bureau to get made quite a bit, and she wears them as though they were importations from New York, instead of hand-made things. My previous letters have suggested you send some more, and I know you will probably do so in due time. They fit fine, except the sleeves are too long; but they are easily shortened.

The neighbors and relations have been co-operative in a most generous way. One, working in a flour mill has brought in about 5 lbs of flour for flitters and such; a butcher has promised ^{we} ~~more~~ we have more than enough meat, despite the strict rationing, and eggs were forthcoming despite a big scarcity. Of course, Frank and all of us are offshoots of the Covadunation, and they all eat some chocolate or a jammer for their thoughtfulness.

It may interest you to learn that my pictures, and snapshots of you and Jim



Have replaced photos of their parents in the most exclusive frame in the house. Everyone is impressed by the latent snapshot of you and Jim, and it is quite apparent that he is growing into a fine, young lad, as one compares the snapshot. Of course, I knew all the time that with you in charge nothing else could take place.

You realize that I will have to wait until Sept. 22nd before I receive any mail from you, but I am happy that all is well and under control at home. I will endeavor to write you daily, but if I don't I'm sure you will understand that I'm thinking and dreaming of you every moment. Before I left Ling I ordered a \$5. money order, which was to have been mailed to you by the mail clerk. Please be certain to advise about this when needed.

Hope you and Jim are just fine and dandy, and that my folks are also okay. Kiss Jim for me and I'll kiss you in mind with all my love and devotion. It may interest you to know that there are about 8 people sitting around here waiting for me to leave wanting so that we may continue talking. It is 10.30 PM, but no one wants to leave so I decided to write you notwithstanding. Keep smiling, my pretty darling, and before you realize it you will be included among the groups

celebrating my return to the one I love
the most!

as ever,

Eg.

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MONTICELLO,
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