

Somewhere in France,
28 December 1944.

Florence, dearest:

Writing you a letter is just about the best part of any day for me, surpassed in joy only when I receive a long, newsworthy letter from you. Being in love is so much like the evergreens, the rippling brook, and sunshine, we never tire admiring and adoring these beautiful features of nature; and people in love find their emotions framed in a setting not unlike the splendours of the universe. Our love will last forever like the evergreens, brilliantly lighted by our erotic emotions and understanding, and as peaceful and serene as the bubbling brook. It is no mean achievement to find the complement of one's self, and how fortunate you and I are to have discovered in each ^{other} the sweetest and mate we had envisioned for a long time prior to our marriage. This emergency separation is trying, I know my darling, but with so much to look forward to in the near future, to say nothing of the joy created by our joining, you and I can take this rugged deal with a smile.

To-day was another great day for me as a batch of mail arrived, and I sorted as usual. Received your Nov. 17th, 18th, 22nd and 25th letters, together with an enclose of \$2.00 in one of the letters. This makes a total of four received and I'll continue to acknowledge these remittances as they arrive. Also among the mail received were letters from Uncle Harry, M. Pinus, and M. Hunt. Sorry, honey, no packages yet, but they are coming thru for the other boys, so I guess mine are still en route. Did you receive the 2 packages I sent, also the Nov. remittance?

Uncle Harry requested that I endeavor to contact Joe, I wrote both Joe and Uncle Harry on Dec 20th, but I'll try again using the address supplied in to-day's letter. It was a fine gesture on the part of the kid to send you and mine each a bottle of perfume. Perhaps he's close to a source of supply of this, and can obtain it more easily than I can, but it was most thoughtful of him to remember you and mine. Hunt writes among other things that he visited the Greenbergs, and both of them seemed in better health and spirits. I wonder if they'd object to mail from me! or perhaps a ray of sunshine from Jimmy. Your air mail letters are really more desirable than a

V. mail letter, but I realize we cannot pen a lengthy letter daily, but do try to get several out each week, supplementing them with V-mail forms. I presume you feel the same way about my literary efforts. Your mention of Bob recalls to my mind that I have not seen him for about 18 months, and you and Jim for over 3, to say nothing about my mom and pop. Who would have ever dreamed I could get along without any or all of you for any period, much less such a long time. But I'm not getting along. I'm just existing, as it were.

at the moment I don't remember congratulating Bob on his birthday as I did not write him after the 5th of Nov. knowing he would be en route around his natal day. Thanks so much for remembering to get him a gift. Let me know if he liked your selection. Your description of him sounds fine, and I suppose he enjoyed having a bull session with our Jim. Did Fran visit with him, or during his leave, or did you insist on being stubborn about her? This is no time for a soldier's wife to be cold or cruel to another G.I.'s wife. There are more vital problems in your life and mine to solve and ponder over, other than Fran's acceptability, so be a good kid, if you know what I mean.

Jack's illness must be a source of anxiety and worry to all of you. As yet I do not know his present ailment, but I gather from to-day's letter that it is related to his operation of this past spring. X-ray treatments are not used for cads, etc. It sure is a rough time for Thelma, and I hope that Maurice is able to get back from overseas to help soften the blow. His getting home will be difficult for him to arrange, if at all, but I sure hope he makes it in time. I am glad you and Bess are taking every precaution with the boys, and I guess you know the reasons therefor. Please write more about his ailment, also advise Thelma's address.

Jim on the other hand continues to give me so much joy and happiness. The little anecdotes and incidents you write about him assure me that we have been blessed with a fine son. Keep him that way, darling, don't let anyone spoil him, and write me about him when you can. I keep both your pictures on my desk in front of me, and mentally we have

a long talk during my dull moments. Listening to Jimmy's chuckle gives me a big kick, and looking into your "care-sick" eyes always lifts me from the wastel of reality to "never-never" land, where all people are everlastingly happy, eat candy and cake all the time, and no grief or worries exist. Something akin to what our lives will be when I become a civilian again.

To-day's letters sound as though you and Jim had a grand time in the country listening to hunters trying to shoot deer and bears. Unfortunately for our side that these same sportsmen do not see fit to go hunting for big game. There are plenty of "animals" to be hunted over here, and believe you me, more good will be accomplished every time they fire. I agree with you that some folks have been little affected by the "struggle" other than an increase in their salary. You and I and millions of others like us realize this, but such is the "struggle for existence." Some just don't have to struggle, unfortunately. Too bad you can't find more pleasant company up there, but the Kiddies do much to remove the ache.

Now for some explanation about purchasing perfume, and trying to keep everyone at home happy. It seems the Germans during their stay in France cleaned out most of the perfumes, and did not permit the manufacture of much due to their confiscation of alcohol. Although assured that we are being sent the real stuff I prefer awaiting your decision on what I forwarded in my first package. Since then I ordered some perfume sent to you by Stars and Stripes Shopping Service; and also have a bottle of Ceron's "Pour une Femme", which is supposed to be exquisite. I intend buying more for you, but somehow I find it too difficult to satisfy all the requests you could probably get. Please don't let anyone get the impression that I'm on a shopping and sight-seeing tour. In addition these shop-keepers have been waiting for the American soldiers, it seems, and prices are hardly cheap. Joe's situation is different from mine, and he probably had easier access to buying the stuff. However I'll continue to do all I can for you, and you can use your own discretion about what you receive. If you find any of the bottles undesirable sell it, and I'll advise you the equivalent cost in American dollars. Stars and Stripes reports in to-day's edition that New York's

been blessed (?) with below zero weather. Hope the boiler in the building didn't give up just at this point. It gets coal around here but hardly freezing. I use the little slipover sweater under my shirt, but still no long red flannel drawers. Had a sniffle the other morning but it never got beyond that. Feel fine and dandy now, and the only thing the cold affected was my stock of clean handkerchiefs. Incidentally, have located laundry service which eliminates one of my mighty chores, together with shavers and baths, good chow, plenty of buddies and mail, and you can readily see I found a home in the army (?).

The folks have not written me in many weeks, so please get Pap on the ball and have him write me real soon. His rush is over and I expect him to devote a little time to me and Bob. I hope they are both well, in good spirits, and don't let the present German drive worry you. It's just a matter of time, and they knew it, all too well.

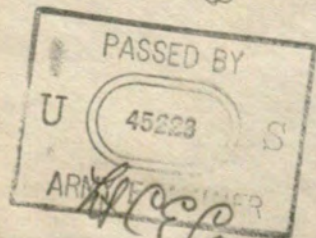
Thanks for attending to the Rotary renewal, and I suppose you attended to the payment of all my insurance premiums, with corresponding entries in the book. Did you ever adjust the McKesson dividend check? Sent you a package for Jimmy, included with which was a package of cigarettes. Here there for me with the other mementos I have accumulated since my induction. Everything has a story attached, and I want to have a reminder for each story.

Hope this finds you Jim, my folks, your folks, and all our mutual friends in excellent health and spirits. Give my very best to everyone. Kiss Jim and the folks for me, and I'll kiss you in mind with all my love and admiration as ever,

George.

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