

Hamm. Germany
19 May 1945.

Flavence, dearest:

Your wonderful letters written May 8th and 9th reached me to-day, and demonstrated to me that your reaction to the end of the European War coincided with mine. Nevertheless there was that minor feeling of joy in knowing that part of the job was done, but that the future of each soldier was still too uncertain for unbridled enthusiasm. Those over 42 years can apply for discharge, those with 85 points or more may be discharged, and in about ~~six~~ ^{two} weeks this critical scene may be raised or lowered, but other than that the balance of us just wonder - and are sweating it out. No one knows what the future holds in store, but whatever it is I feel inclined to lean towards the optimistic view. You, too, must be patient, dream of and plan for the days to come, and *tempus fugit* as ever. Being in love is going to help sustain both of us in the immediate as it has for the past 18 months.

To-day's two letters are so full of good cheer and joy that I find myself marching with a spring in my feet. You knew that Toffy was feeling VE Day probably had you and the folks counting the minutes before I return home, and I confess that's about the only

reaction I had to the news. It will all come in due time, and as the future of your dear Commando unfolds itself I'll try to keep you posted.

I have been rather busy since the war ended primarily computing the credits for each man in my company. It may interest you to know that we have only two men in my company with a score of better than 85. There is also one man older than 42. You can readily see if other plans are not set up by the War Dept, such as lowering the score, and or reducing the maximum age limit, there will be many in my outfit in the same spot as I'm in. My adjusted score is 43, and not 44 as I wrote several days ago. Let us be resolved and patiently await developments.

Your advice that you contemplate leaving for the country in the next two or three weeks sounds great. No doubt you will advise about change of address, and all that sort of thing. I hope all turns out as you plan, and that your summer up there is not one of confusion and petty difficulties. Somehow I cannot lose sight of the fact that Bess's Dr Jekyll-Mr Hyde characteristics depend upon the season of the year. I am only concerned about you and Jim, and feel that the others back home, who do not have the mental strain of a soldier's wife, should not add to the already over-burdened

heart. Have fun, be careful, and just let Jim and yourself soak up all that wonderful sunshine. I am convinced even as you that this is our year, and good health for all of us is always the first order of the day.

I have not heard from Bob in almost a week, and as a matter of fact have not written him since the thirteenth. I knew he's supposed to have completed his training by the 17th which was to be followed by a six day leave. Therefore I deemed it advisable to let off writing to his present address until I knew more about his whereabouts. Please explain this to him in letter or in person. In to-day's outgoing mail I sent Bob a Hitler youth hunting knife and scabbard. The package was sent via first class mail and was addressed to Bob care of my father. Try to see that Bob gets this souvenir whenever he may be when it arrives.

In yesterday's V-Mail I advised you that I had forwarded you a first class bundle containing two ounce bottle of Churchill's Royal, German medals, a Nazi flag and several other souvenirs. No doubt there was a day when some little boy like Jimmy was as proud of this flag as our lad is of his American flag, and yet it seems such a pity that any standard of a nation should stand for such cruelty, hate, deceit and treachery as did the black Swastika. This flag will always be to me the symbol of the unhappy

perish if our love life together.

There are about four or five packages en route to you, and I hope you receive when received. I have several more items to send and will do so some time this week, I hope. I did acknowledge your aunt's camera, and may return it to you shortly. Please do not forward package received from John Hancock Lodge, but I'll acknowledge it in about a week or so. Je's perfume was sent to Uncle Harry who will deliver it to you upon receipt. I am anxious to know names of address sent. Please do not give this Chinchilla away, as there is no assurance when or how I'll be able to obtain more. Hope you received the \$25.00 money order I sent you about two weeks ago. Continue sending me the stock price sheets out of Sunday's, or preferably Monday's newspaper. Also continue subscription to the Sunday Times. Even though the paper arrives 4 to 6 weeks after date it gives more news and facts than any other source of information available to us.

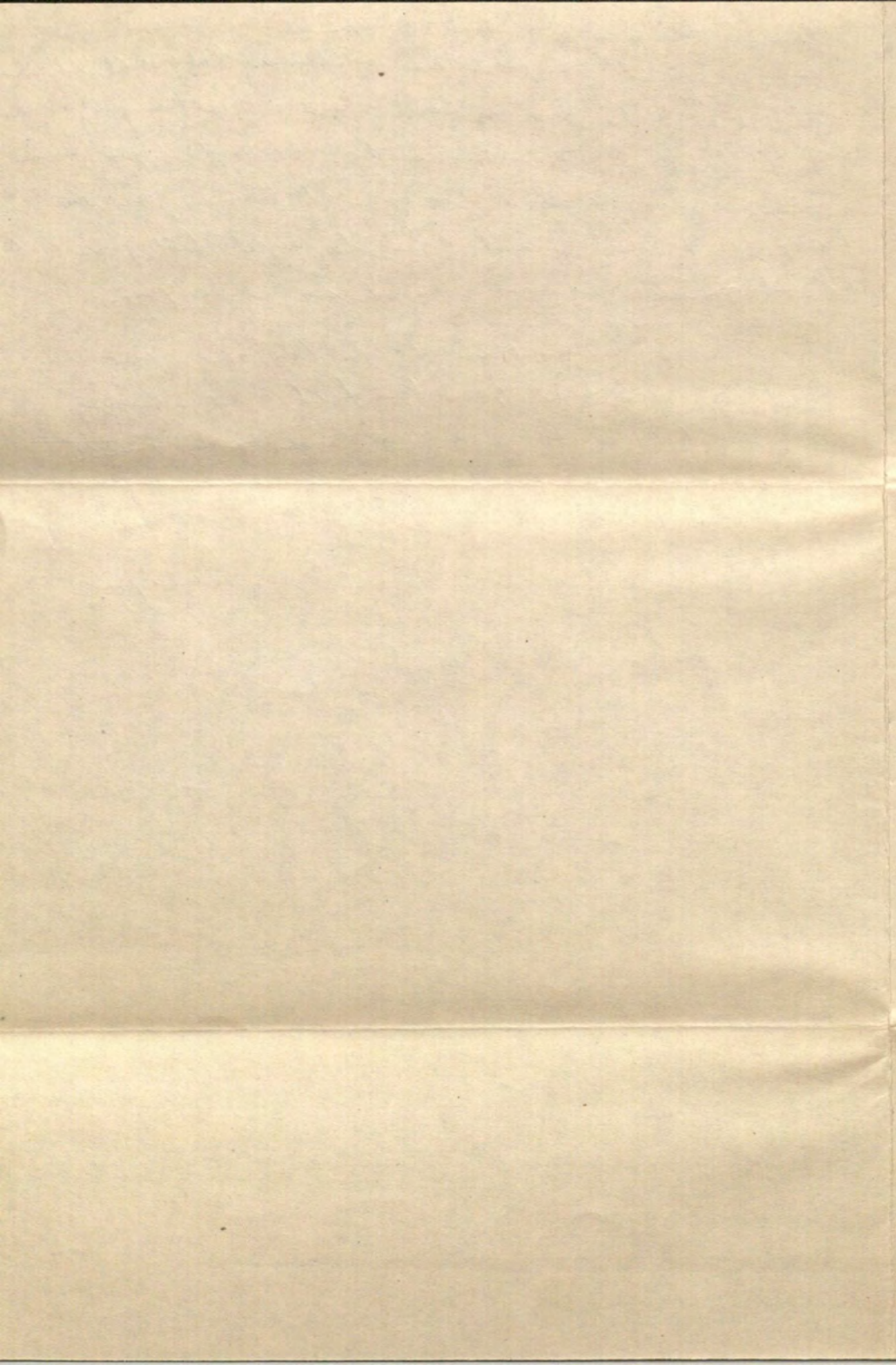
The squibs out out of the Sun, particularly Dare Boone's column were very interesting. The news about VE Day was just as badly handled over here, but I have hopes the Japs surrender will be done up better. Latest radio broadcast mentions a Jap peace offensive, but I fear they are trying to get out from under with a whole skin. After seeing what the British did to the Germans, with of course

the assistance of the Russians and Americans, the Japs may decide to quit. It would be hardly in conformity with their character but time will tell.

Your news about Gladys' malady and change of life proves to me that destiny had given me a break years ago. Not only did I lose her, but in you I found my true love and happiness. Her latest letter to me suggests that she is not improving in health but trying awfully hard to recapture some of her former spirit. I had sent her a souvenir handkerchief from Belgium, just prior to my leaving Mechelen, and she seemed very proud of it. She also noted that she had written her husband but no reply. Believe you me, sweetheart, there has been more than one time when I blessed the star that watches over me.

To-morrow (Sunday) is my day off, and although there is little to do, I intend visiting a near by park with my forty little camera. Have located someone who will develop films so perhaps even this will be accomplished. If I get any prints I'll be sure to forward them just - haste.

all goes well with me these days, my health is okay, but I'm getting fed up with all this "chicken" and the suspense. If only we knew from day to day what to expect, but

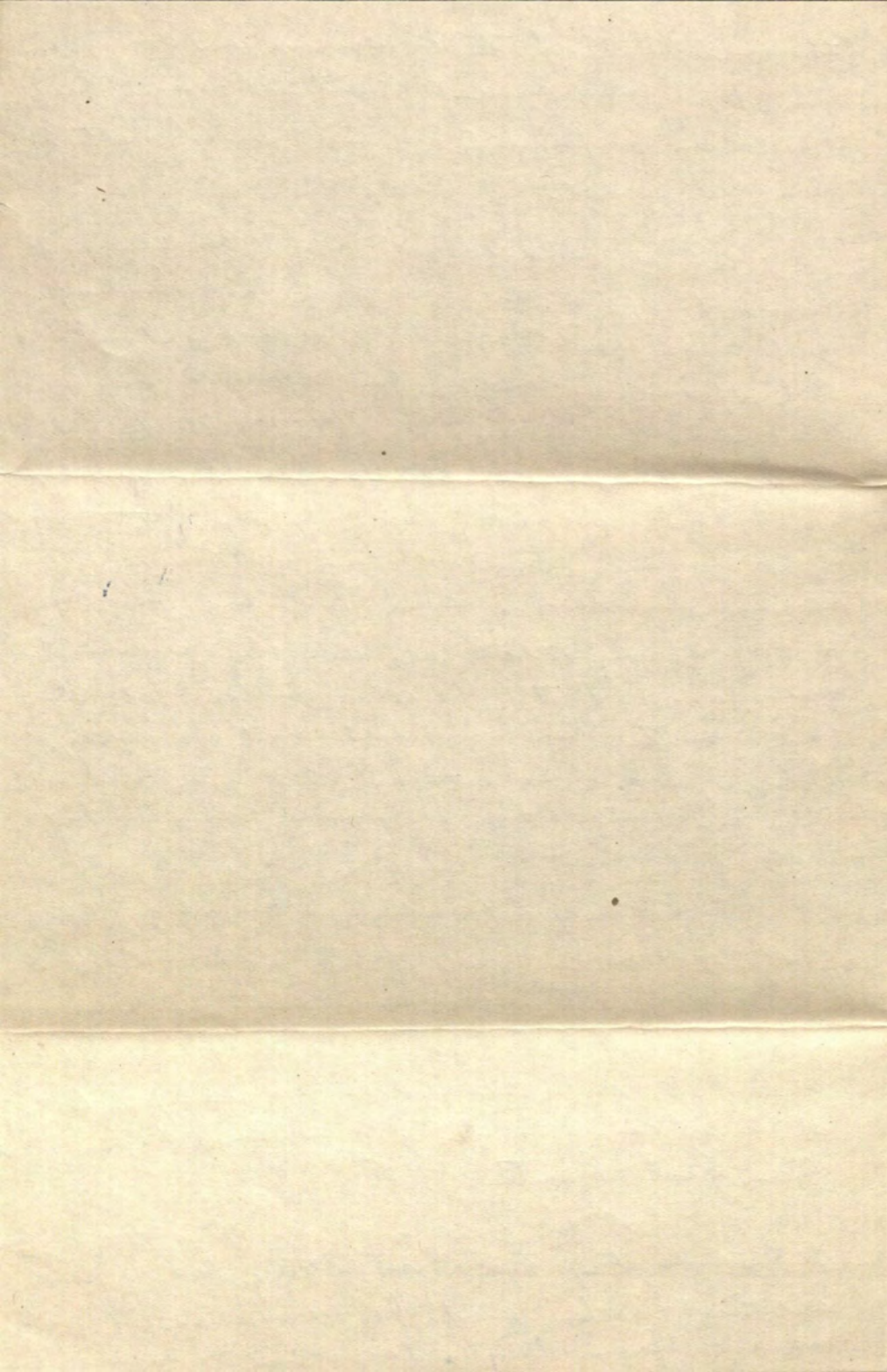


then soldiers are not supposed to know or
think, just to follow orders. Oh well, even
this can't last forever. There's nothing I need
but will write when I do. I hope you and
Jim, as well as everyone at home, are in
excellent health and spirits, and that you
both miss me as much as I do you.

Kiss Jim and the folks for me, give my
best to Bob and your kinfolk, and always
remember I love and adore my pretty
wife

As ever,

George.

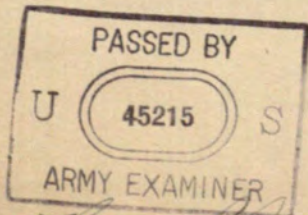


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