

Linz, Austria
Weds, 26 Sep 45.

Florence, Sweetheart:

Most of the day has been devoted to reviewing all the events leading up to this eventful day, three years ago. Little did we realize at that time that I would be forced to miss Jimmy's last two birthday celebration, but it took a World War of the greatest magnitude ever to keep me from both of you. I certainly hope the little rascal gave you a day to-day which will make you prouder of him than you are already, but I know that future years will certainly justify the wonderful training and devotion you give him. I know for myself that loving and having you has been the most wonderful single thing in my life, and I have every reason to believe that Jim too will realize that before he becomes much older, if he doesn't already. To be sure I intend giving him some orientation on that subject when we become the happy trio in the near future. Please give him a big birthday kiss for me, on both cheeks.

No mail from anyone to-day, but to-morrow is another day. The news in to-day's Stars and Stripes about the increased shipment of men home does much to kindle my hopes to be home long before Xmas. Of course the army is a funny place, and it is even possible that I will be home long before that. In any event let us set Xmas as the deadline, and anything sooner than that will be just that much more gravy. You recall it had been our hope that we would celebrate our reunion sometime this year, and I have every reason to believe that we will. Until that time comes, my dearest, keep smiling, and dream of the wonderful days and nights to follow.

To-night is my turn to be CQ, so I am sitting in Battalion Headquarters typing letters. It had rained all day, but the weather cleared towards evening, and now it is quite nice out. During the rain of the past three days it felt as though winter was on its way, but I doubt it. I have no idea how cold it gets around here, but I do know the surrounding mountains bring much snow. Hope I am not here that long, but if I am I may get to do some skiing. Otherwise, perhaps you, Jim, and I may get to do some when we go on our second honeymoon.....

Pop's letter of yesterday related that my cousin Joe had spent a day with him at the store. No doubt he had many things of interest to relate. I do hope you will get to see him before I get back. He never answered any of my recent letters, but that's of no interest any more. The main thing is he is home and all in one piece. Do let me know how some of the other soldier-relatives and friends make out as time goes by.

Bess's prolonged pregnancy has sort of messed up your schedule, but I do hope that she has had her baby and that all is well and under control. I know you are anxious to get back home in order to get the place winterized, and Jimmy back to his usual routine. No doubt you intend keeping the car out for a while yet, so please do not overlook having it checked and winterized sometime towards the end of Nov., or sooner depending upon the weather. I hope you intend sprucing up your wardrobe before I come back, as I expect to find you the Queen I left. Do not hesitate to spend some of that money I sent you in the past few months. As a matter of fact do not forget to send me some more five

dollar bills I requested the other day. I'll need them.

I haven't sent you the package I intended to yet, but probably will do so shortly. Please be sure to acknowledge the bundles I sent you from Belgium, and also the money order I sent you on Monday of this week. Also let me know when and how much Herb pays you for the 16 sets of stamps he owes. I have arranged the purchase of 75 additional sets, and expect to send those to him via air mail before the week is out. I will keep you advised on my shipments to him.

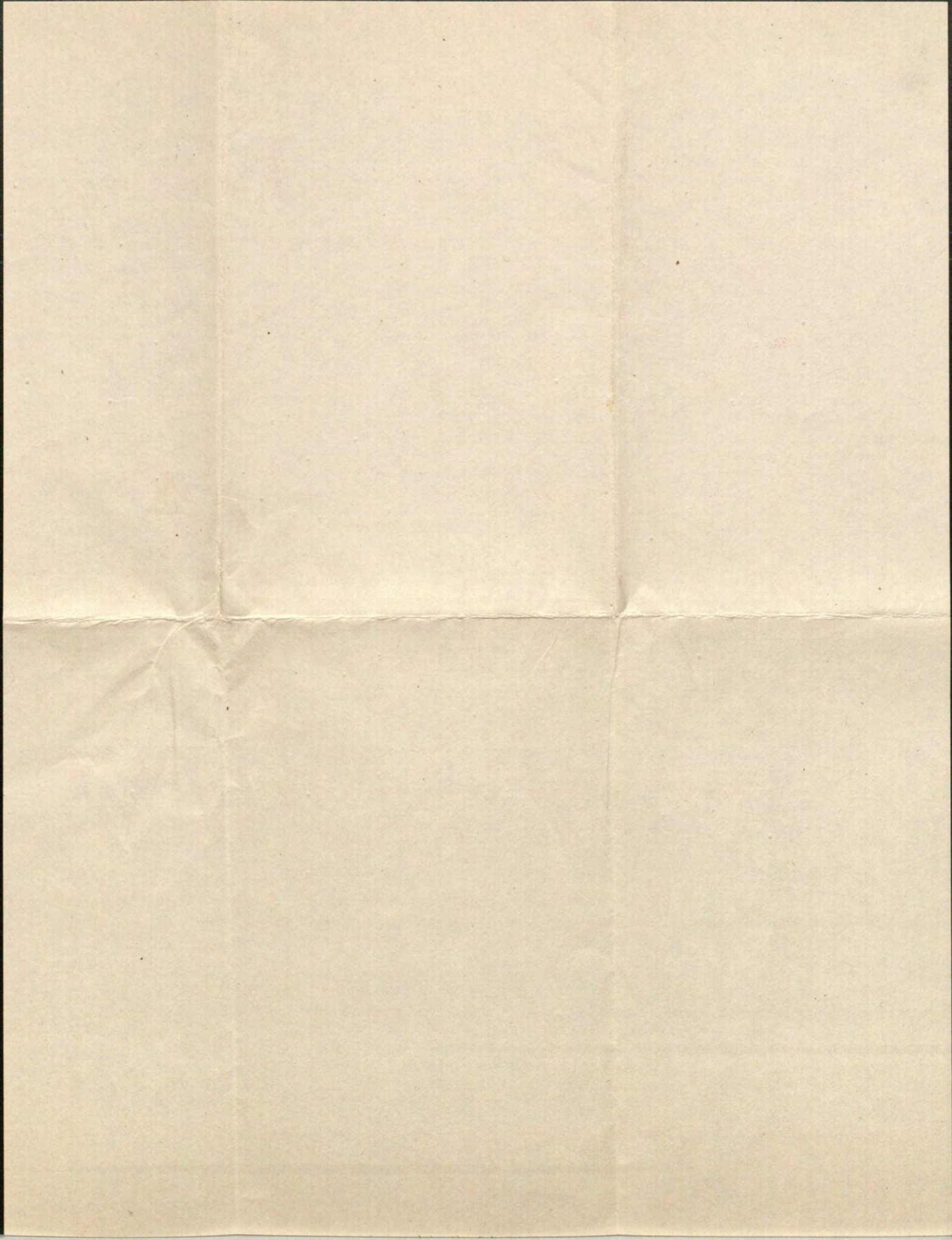
September is almost over and pretty soon it will be pay day again. Recall that I advised you that I have canceled my monthly bond allotment, which means that I will receive the additional \$7.50 per month. Please check to be certain that you receive all bonds up to and including the August issue. I do want you to continue to purchase a \$25. bond for us, and an occasional bond of like denomination for Jim. That's just about the best investment at the present time, and if we need any additional funds we can redeem some of them. As a matter of fact I think we have some of them about 5 or 6 years old now. When I come home I intend selling all those Nazi and Austrian stamps I sent you. I think they will bring you the price of a new dress or two. Incidentally there are many opportunities to make money over here, but getting it home is the big difficulty.

With the social season just around the corner I hope Eleanor has some kind of a production schedule and plan all worked out. I know there is no use trying to tell it to her, but she really ought to bait her line with all the allure and charm that x-soldiers are going to crave so badly. It's now or never for her, and I am pulling for her, to get the one who will make her the most happy. Perhaps it will still be possible to spend an enjoyable evening with a brother in law whose mind surpasses the ability of a minnow.

Darling, I know I have been rambling along from subject to subject during the writing of this letter, but all I really want to say is "I love and miss you so much, my sweetheart." Keep smiling, stay well, kiss Jimmy for me, and I'll kiss you both in mind with all my love and devotion. My very best to everyone,

As ever,

George



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