



AMERICAN RED CROSS

- 141 -

Hammer

26 May 1945.

Flourence, dearest:

The worst is over as you say, but I'm not sure whether the worst is fighting a war or being away from my only sweetheart. Now that this phase of the war is over we are sweating out our next move. But in another sense I'm not really worried about my own future as I am concerned how soon I'll be able to see and hold you in my arms.

Most of the job is completed over here as far as I'm concerned, so let's get going. You realize as well as I that combat troops are entitled to every consideration first. I do not begrudge them the first few hundred hours, as I was comparatively safe all the time they were in hell. Patience, my love, that's the watch-word, and I guess we know its significance.

Mail call was kind to me again today, bringing your May 17th and 18th air mail letters, a V-Mail dated May 18th from Bob, letter from Kay and only page 3 of a 3 page V-Mail from Don. I am highly pleased that my letters are coming through in just time, and that package you received sure traveled fast. If agreeable to you I'd like to give my father that lighter for Father's Day - also send the

folks the insignia without my name on it. The clipper was found in a hawthorn - but home in Budenich, Germany. I guess it was the only thing in this house that was not broken or shattered. Incidentally in a recent package I forwarded a piece of Bavarian China, and several demi-tasse cups and saucers. More saucers coming. Signed another form today for that smothered battery, but I'm of the opinion I'll be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars before you collect for this item.

I have written you several times in the past week not to forward any candy, films or clothing for a while. I have plenty of the two former items, and it's too expensive to send clothing to Belgium yet. I will advise what to do, but continue inquiring at the Post Office when it will be possible to send stuff to Belgium. As more of our army goes back home the possibility of package delivery to European countries increases. The other day I sent you a bundle containing your aunt's camera. I have a 120 and a 620, some films and expect more. Truly, dearest there will be many strange stories to relate.

Several of the enclosed snapshots are the first to come from the front taken in Germany. You will please note my "Combat boots". Frank and I are on one snap, and the rest are described on the reverse side of each snap. Many more coming perhaps Monday or Tuesday, but I'll continue to mix them up with the older shots from France and Belgium. Let me know how the race I sent you is going out. Note that I have not lost any weight, look



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chipper, and even have a sense of humor. If the Chaplain knew what I thought and felt about his avocation he wouldn't let me sit in his jeep. This shot was taken in front of the hotel in which we mess. It's one of the few large hotels not damaged too badly in Hamm. Frank's and my picture was taken on the platform of the railroad station outside of the train in which battalion headquarters is located.

Your advice about Jim's rash pleased me greatly. I had not worried about the child's rash as there are not uncommon in children. However it is better not around to annoy him and us. No use starving or even depriving the lot of the good things in life to eat and drink. The summer vacation should really be an elixir for both of you, and I'm hoping one of these days the news about discharges for men like me will really revitalize you - and me too.

Thanks so much for obtaining that sheet of stamps for me; also for putting it in the right place. But that mention of the walnut ice-cream soda puts me with my tongue hanging out. Ray Weinkert got a package to-night containing a muddy salami, but I guess the mud can be scraped off.

It looks like a party before the night is over, and another night of thirst, and no good health seltzer.

am feeling fine and dandy, have tomorrow off, and plan on going on a 120 mile trip with the courier. Taking my camera along in the hopes that I'll get some interesting shots en route. Weather has been cloudy most of the week with some rain, but to-night's sunset promises a nice day for the morrow. Hope you have grand weather when you depart for the country, and that all goes well this summer. Be Careful, keep smiling, and write often.

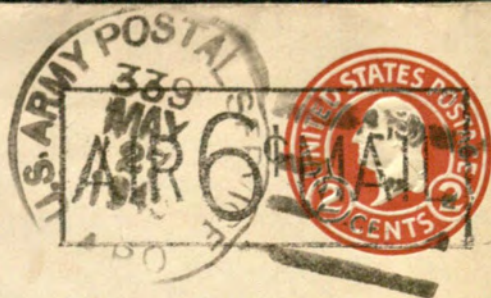
Kiss Jim for me, and dearest I'll kiss you in mind as usual. Thinking and dreaming about you every moment, and to say I miss you is putting it mildly. My best to the folks and your kin,

as ever

George

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May 76

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