Monday Eve –
Jan. 15th 1945

Dearest sweetheart,

The day was quite a busy one for me but bed-time is almost near and I'm quite thankful. Jimmie and I are fine and we were quite happy to get two letters from you this morning. One was a long letter dated Dec. 31st and the other part 2 of a V-mail letter dated Jan. 2nd. The latter is the most recent letter up to date and I'm glad you're well and that you get out to see a movie. Hope you enjoyed the picture show and the contents of the package from the Fellowship Club. The New Years letter was swell reading and I do hope you had an enjoyable evening at your new friend's home.

We've been having plenty of snow and very little sunshine this last week. Jim and I went out-doors before lunch, did marketing for the dinner to-night and had everything prepared and in ship shape order by 5 o'clock. My sister Thelma came during the afternoon, after visiting Joel, and is as low in spirits as anyone can be at the moment. I'm sort of giving up trying to cheer her because she

doesn't make the slightest attempt to be brave or even pleasant. It's a pity that Thelma is so immature and can't adjust her way of thinking after so many tough breaks. She's sure one individualist I cannot understand or even hope to reason with.

Now for the more cheerful part of the day. Jimmie helped me set the dinner table, made sure to kiss your photo above the table and then started to re-arrange the plates and silver. Before we started on this, one of the neighbors, Gert Johnson kidnapped him for half an hour to have him play with her little girl. Then at 6 o'clock Bob and Frances came here, both look well and Jim saluted Uncle Bobby and gave Aunt Frances a big hello. He was in his pajamas there and started to show off and go through most of his new routines and a few old ones. This lasted for almost an hour and, being that he had no afternoon nap, I surely thought he'd be asleep by 7 o'clock. Finally, I gave him his milk and he fell asleep by 7.30 p.m. Meanwhile my sister Bess called from downtown. Had just come off the train and was anxious to know about

the family and Joel. She came here in a short time, Mom and Pop shortly after and then my mom came to see the movies. We all had dinner together and I hope it was enjoyable to everyone. Here's what I served with Bess's much needed help. Choice of Apple Juice or Grapefruit Juice
Chopped eggs, celery and mayonnaise
Lamb Chops and Steak on a large hot platter
Mashed Potatoes, sliced Beets, String Beans
mixed Salad – Root Beer and Cream Soda
Canned fruit and Fresh Fruit

There was plenty of food and some left overs for the next day. When we were finished, our friend Stan came with his usual cheery disposition and the movie projector. He ran off all our films to a very appreciative audience and need I add how thrilled and joyous we all felt to see you moving about and looking at us during those precious moments. Jennie is adorable in every shot and when you return, we'll be off to Kellyland with him. Or shall we just keep this little star for ourselves? Seeing you on the screen awake such a longing within me that I did all in my power to control the unshed tears that are hidden since November 17th 1943.

But I'll be brave and patient until that next meeting and try to be half as good a soldier as you, dearest one. Loving you is still the most wonderful part of my existence and then I'm ever so happy and thankful for you and our precious Jimmie.

For the balance of the evening we sat in the living room, ate fruit and candy and Bob and Dan had much to talk about. There was also a bit of kidding and Dan tried to convince me of all the French belles around in France. We had tea and cake in the kitchen and while at the table, Dan made some inquiry about Joel as Maurice and Thelma were more than anxious to give him the details. We made some notations and will get in touch with me as soon as he makes contacts. It's possible for Maurice to come in - only for Thelma's sake as future health - Joel's condition he cannot help. I'll keep you posted on the developments.

Bob looks very well and Frances hasn't changed too much. She does dress a little nicer than she did and she's also heavier since she's married. I had a short conversation with her and she's quite worried about Bob going overseas soon

Mom and Pop looked well but they were just a wee bit tired they arrived home quite late on Sunday night from the affair they attended. Pop, upon a hint from Bess, spoke to Thelma alone in the bedroom and I do hope some of the advice helped her. Everyone but Thelma and Bess left with Dan at 10:30 p.m. Dan was kind enough to drive the folks and my mom home. It would have been most enjoyable had you been with us but I guess we just can't have everything we desire. Bess and Thelma stayed overnight and here it is Tuesday morning already.

It snowed again all night long, Jim again awake during the night and I guess he's just growing up these days. We all slept until 8.45 p.m., had breakfast at 9 o'clock and Thelma and Bess left for the hospital at 10:30. Joel is very low and is sinking daily. Bess has to leave tonight, she has a baby too, and will be in again in a few days.

Jimmie and I are well, miss you and love you every moment. Stay well, darling, and I'll write again tonight. All the love that's in my heart and a hug and kiss from Jim to our sweetest Dad and sweetheart.

Love
Florence

Mrs. Florence Stoff
3021 Avenue D
Bklyn, N.Y.

BROOKLYN, N.Y.
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VIA AIR MAIL

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