

Letter, George Stoff to Florence Stoff, Somewhere in France, Nov. 4, 1944
[Transcriber: Kathryn Manning]

[Envelope]

Cpl. Geo. Stoff 42050100
Co A 735 Ry OPN Bn
APO 5942 c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Florence Stoff
3021 Avenue I
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New York, USA

[Letter]

Somewhere in France
4 November 1944.

Florence, dearest:

This letter will have to substitute for a Saturday night date, but in mind you and I are always together. Let us make believe that we are out to-night, having dinner at La Palina, to include baked clams, lasagna, and then lobster a la cacciatore, wine, and then we'll go around the corner for that elegant Italian Spumoni. Gosh, I always make a pig of myself, and tonight was no different. As usual we ate too much. Well, let's take a walk along Broadway before show time. Plenty of soldiers and sailors are out to-night, and gosh look at the number of service men wearing the European Theatre of operations service ribbon. Too bad Eleanor and her date could not go to-night but perhaps next Saturday, although I think her boy friend is bit timid in my presence. Let's drop in to see abby, and perhaps have one more cocktail before we enter the theatre. I sure hope the show is as good as the critics say it is. Here we are, Let's go in now, I want to wake with the thing before curtain time.

I had a lovely time in my mental date above, and my darling, only time separates us from doing just this in the very near future. Be patient, take good care of yours and Jim's health and I will do the same thing as the Stoff plenipotentiary here in France. There is little else to do but dream of you, Jim and all my loved ones back home, but, sweetheart I wouldn't trade my dreams, past, present, or future, for anything in the world. They are undoubtedly the greatest sustaining force of the American Army, and certainly mine. Join me in dreaming our wonderful dreams, and time will pass ever so quickly.

Yesterday's mail brought 9 letters, 4 from you dated Oct. 14th; 15th; 17th; and 18th. As yet you do not acknowledge my letters by date so I do not know which you have received. Please endeavor to do this in future letters. Also received 2 from Pincus, 1 from Bob, 1 from the folks and a notice from the [Broders'?] Square Club to attend a meeting. Joke! I have replied to all mail, and concluding with this one to you. Pincus included a book of air mail stamps, and among other things sent me the latest quotations on our holdings. The stocks are moving up and he suggests continuing their retention. Bob is his usual self and as solicitous as possible about my being overseas. Hope he gets a furlough after he graduates from bombardier school. I'm sorry to hear that Joel was afflicted with the Grippe, and I sure hope he's all right. The kid certainly is getting his share of the tough breaks. It's good to hear that the Eidler boys are still in the States. Your description and stories about Jimmy keep me keyed up about him, and next to missing you I am most lonesome for him. I have my favorite pin-up girl and son on my desk at battalion headquarters, and all day we gaze at each other – fondly and longingly – I know a G.I. hasn't a better home or sweetheart or son to come back to, when this rotten job is done.

You have been so kind to forward packages, and although none have arrived yet, I know that when they do I'll be not only surprised, but the envy of all the boys. We are a little short of cake and cookies, so in your next packages be sure to send along plenty of them, chocolate-flavored. Xmas will probably be a joyous season, even if only because of the excitement of tearing open packages to view the selection of those back home. In this community life of ours, everyone

sees and shares everything the other fellow gets. It has been a difficult problem, but I have been fortunate, and as in a day or so I will forward a Xmas package to you. Could get nothing for Jim, but among other things the box contains the following:

1 bottle of Perfume for my mom

For you

1 bottle of Perfume

2 boxes of Powder (face)

1 Decanter (sort of an Antique)

1 set of English and French Coins.

Please be sure to acknowledge receipt as soon as possible. At times it is possible to purchase CARON'S perfumes. If I can obtain some for you I'll send it along. Examine those I sent and let me know if the quality is there – the prices seem rather fair so advise as soon as possible what you'd like, and I'll try to locate some. Believe me, honey, it made me feel just grand to be able to buy you something for this lonesome Xmas, and I do hope it is the last we spend apart from each other. Please select the odor you prefer and give the other to mom.

All is well with me, keeping on the ball as usual, and love you, my darling, more than ever. My very best to the folks, kiss them and Jim for me, and I'll kiss you in mind, with that ever increasing longing for the sweetest wife in the world.

As ever,

George