

Somewhere in France
12 December 1944.

Florence, dearest:

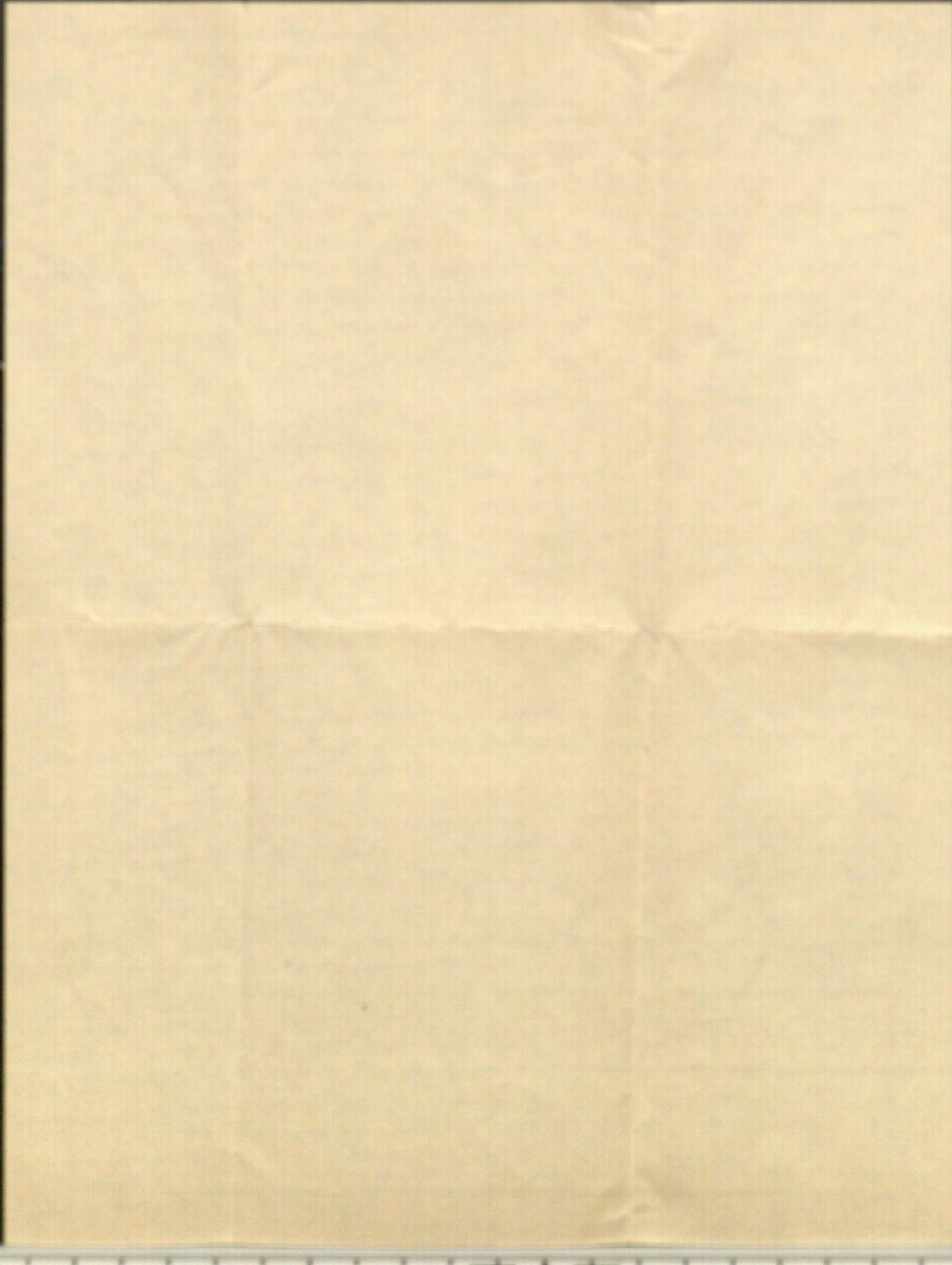
Although I have had a busy day and evening I am going to write you a lengthy letter, firstly to remind you (as though you needed reminding) that I simply adore and love you, my sweetheart, and secondly to tell you of the home run I scored in to-day's mail call. It was the first mail received in almost two weeks, and although none of my packages arrived I did receive 30 letters. Really something to be thankful for, and I've been wreathed in smiles since 1 P.M. and it is now almost 10 o'clock.

Your letters were dated as follows: Oct 22 and 23rd.

Nov. 7th, 8th, 10th; 20th; 21st; 26th; 27th and a birthday card. Also had letters from Eleanor, Don, Pinus, Jeff, Bob, Tess and several others. Will endeavor to reply to everyone in the next few days, but it's sure to give me writer's cramp or something.

Unfortunately the sequence of your letters is broken up, and there are many questions I find unanswered. However first and foremost I am most interested in Jell's health and condition. Your references to him sound ominous, and knowing only too well his affliction I fear the worst. Please write all the facts if you have not done so, and believe me I'm as sorry to learn that the little fellow did not get any good breaks. Hope you are resolute in this latest source of worry, and that you are keeping yourself and Jim well in hand. I know only too well what your reactions are to such situations, but I believe by this time you are quite steeled to adversity and such troubles. This business of the survival of the fittest can sure get nugged on occasions, and I guess you are learning all about this the hard way.

Without Ken of all the circumstances I am thankful that you are managing to get away to the country during these periods of loneliness. The peace and quiet of the country side, covered with snow, few people, and no phone calls should do much for you. Take advantage of these days, especially since time seems to pass more quickly with several children around. Jim should be having a grand time playing in the snow with Jan, and one of the first things we'll do when I return from the woods will be to get a country place. Hope you decide to take the place for the summer as you suggested in one of your letters, and let me know what you do about it.



Thanks so much for your sweet birthday card, and I can't visualize your smiling eyes staring at me from every word of love expressed in the verse. I smiled right back at you - ever so longingly - . If ever you made me happy through the arrival of the snaps taken at Jim's birthday succeeded 100%. It warmed the cockles of my little heart to look at the beaming countenances of my only sweetheart, my only son, my only mom and pop, my only old maid sister in law, and if my imagination is not running riot, part of my only mother-in-law. What more could a lovesome G.I. ask for, than to see everyone I love, cherish and adore seemingly in good health and spirits. The snaps are excellent, and I sure wish I had more of them. Jim certainly has developed into a fine looking boy, and I'm sure Dad must be very proud of her offspring. How's Eleanor making out with her latest breeding - bull? As soon as I receive the camera pictures forwarded I'll probably be able to demonstrate to you how well I look - even overseas.

You are quite fortunate in having so many co-operative friends these days, and as soon as I get my present mail answered I'll write Betty and Ben a letter. Sam Rosenberg wrote in letter I received to-day that the office sent me a package. It sure is going to be a jammer when all my bundles en route arrive. Be sure to pack every package extra well, using heavy corrugated or wooden boxes. In the next package you send me please include 50 Cigars from my dad (Queen shape - mild), some maple sugar candy, 6 handkerchiefs (not rolled-edge type), and some cookies of any chocolate flavor. In return I am accumulating some gifts and souvenirs for my next package to you. It will probably be some weeks before I send it but if it arrives in good order I know you will have much pleasure from it. Be sure to acknowledge my previous 2 bundles, and the money I sent you thru the War Dept Finance office.

I feel fine and dandy, especially chiffer since the arrival of your mail, and in good spirits. Hope you, Jim, the folks and your family are all well and not worried. Kiss Jim for his daddy, and I'll kiss you in mind, adoring you as ever,

George

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