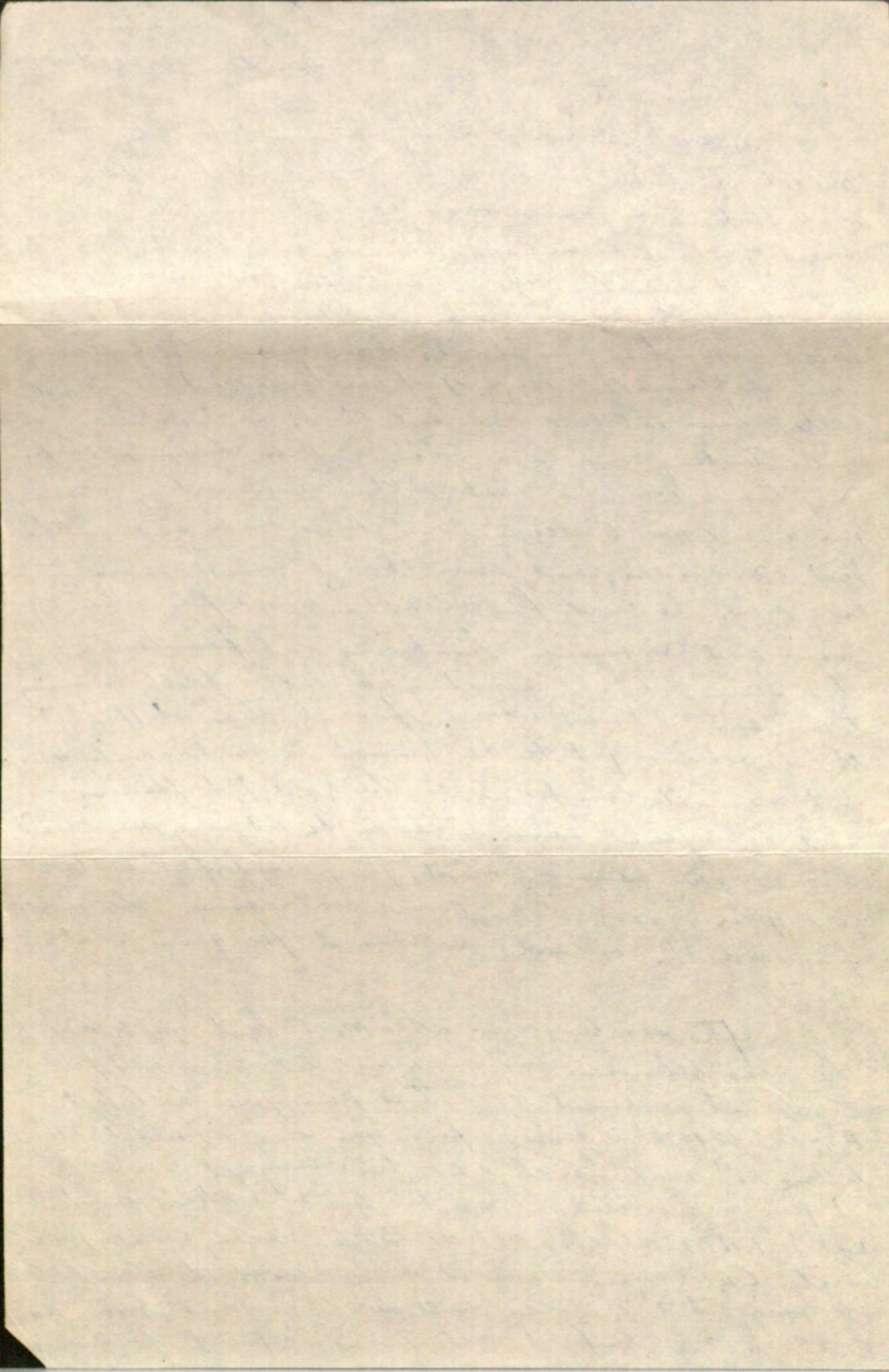


Leiz. Austria
Sunday, 23 Sept 45

Florence. Dearest:

A soldier has many hours of lonely meditation during his army career. It has been my good fortune to have many such moments, and most of these wonderful hours are devoted to the love and adoration of the only sweetheart I have ever had. The mind-murder I have had since our forced separation has always been dissipated quickly when I reminded myself of our happy past life, and looked forward to a renewal of it, with greater understanding and love than I ever dreamed of. Only too well do I realize the never-ending tension you and I are undergoing and have undergone in the past 22 months, but, even though time seems to drag now, the next few months will fly. The pain and confusion, loneliness and frustration, that seemed to be haunting us, are rapidly coming to an end. I know we are of such stern stuff that the short time yet to be passed in limbo, will seem but moments. Compared to the ages of suffering we will be enjoying soon. Hold on tight, my sweetheart. I need your encouragement, your wonderful letters, and your love, to help me overcome the next few months. Thanks so much for your great efforts.

after sending you a V-Mail last night, one of the boys delivered my accumulated mail and packages to me. It included 19 letters from you, the latest dated Sept 14th, 2 packages from you, and about 15 other letters. I need hardly add how amazed I was to get your mail, and I must admit I stayed awake until 1 A.M. reading and re-reading every word you wrote. Once again I am at peace with the world, knowing that all goes well with you and Jim, as well as my kinfolk and yours. Many of the friends

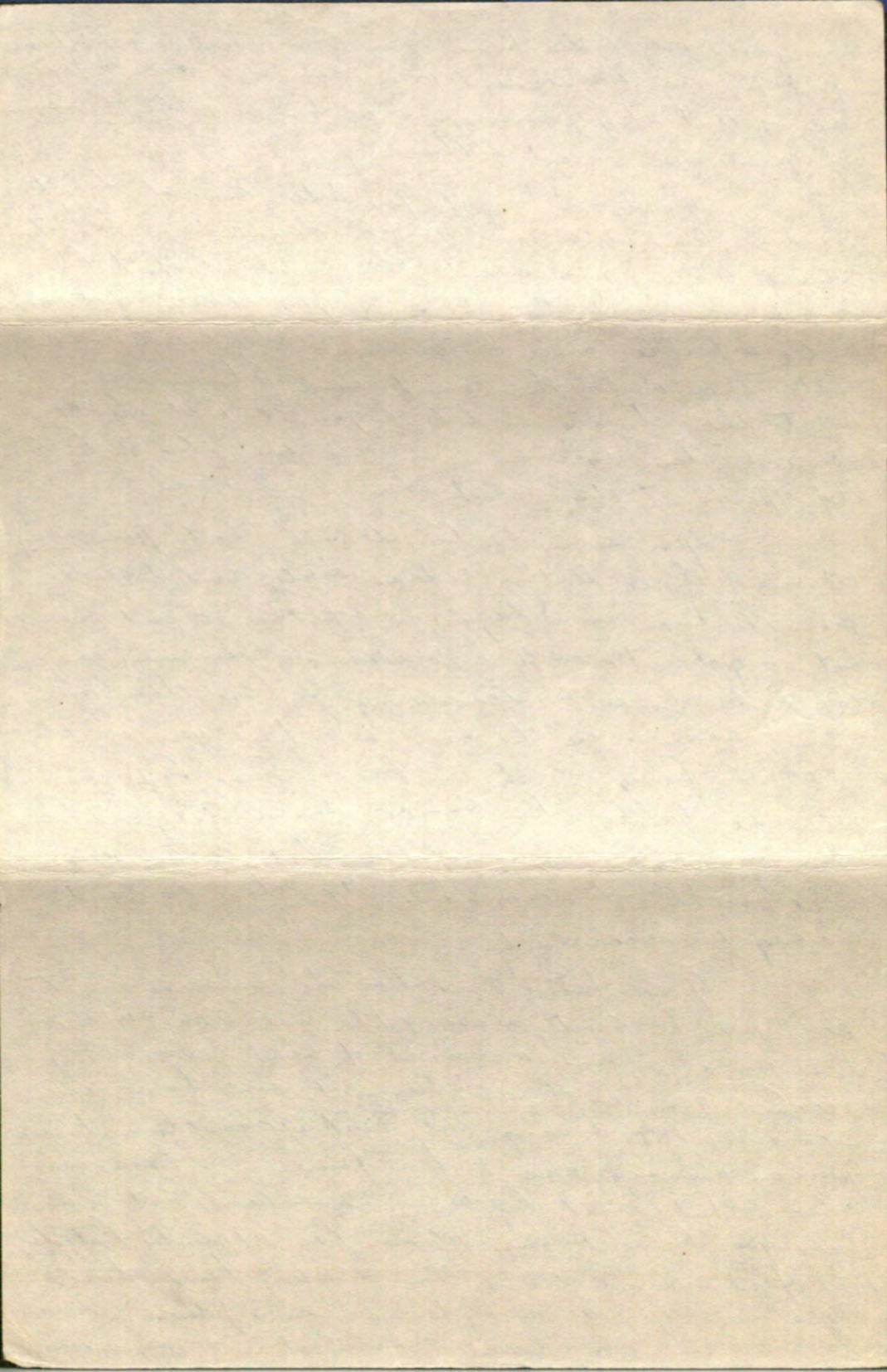


in your early letters have been answered in whole or part by my subsequent mail. so I'll not repeat any of that stuff. However I'll try to reply to some of your more recent letters.

Thanks so much for taking care of Frank's packages, and I'll give you a special kiss for the grand letters you wrote them. I have 7 of his and his son's letters to send you, which I'll do under separate cover to-morrow. They treated me better than a leather canoe, and I know when I relate the stories in detail you'll feel the same towards them as I do. I sure am glad I had the opportunity to visit them once again.

You seem to be pleased that Jim may get one of those leather alpine suits, and I will probably know in a day or so, whether or not he will, but as yet it's only a promise. However since the girl who is endeavoring to have them made is the same as the one for whom you sent a letter to Long Beach, I have every hope Jim will be lucky this time. Incidentally I have already received a reply to that letter, and will go there to-morrow. It's safe, so don't worry unnecessarily.

Your total bill for the summer vacation seems to be quite reasonable, and I'm sure it did you and Jim a world of good. I'm very pleased you both are tanned, and have gained some weight during the past 3 months. I know you can always use a few pounds. I have no idea what will do when I return, but I do hope you have some plans for a winter holiday. The few extra dollars I'm stashing have should keep us enjoy a nice time some place. I was glad to learn you received those last 3 money orders,



and now I patiently await advice that you received
packages mailed August 27th; Sept 11th, 17th (2) and
Sept 21 st. While in Belgium I sent you 4 bottles
of perfumes, Caron's powder, and a mass of other
items. Please do not give anything away as I
want to give something to each person in the
family a souvenir or gift especially to those who
were kind and thoughtful of my sincerest and friend.

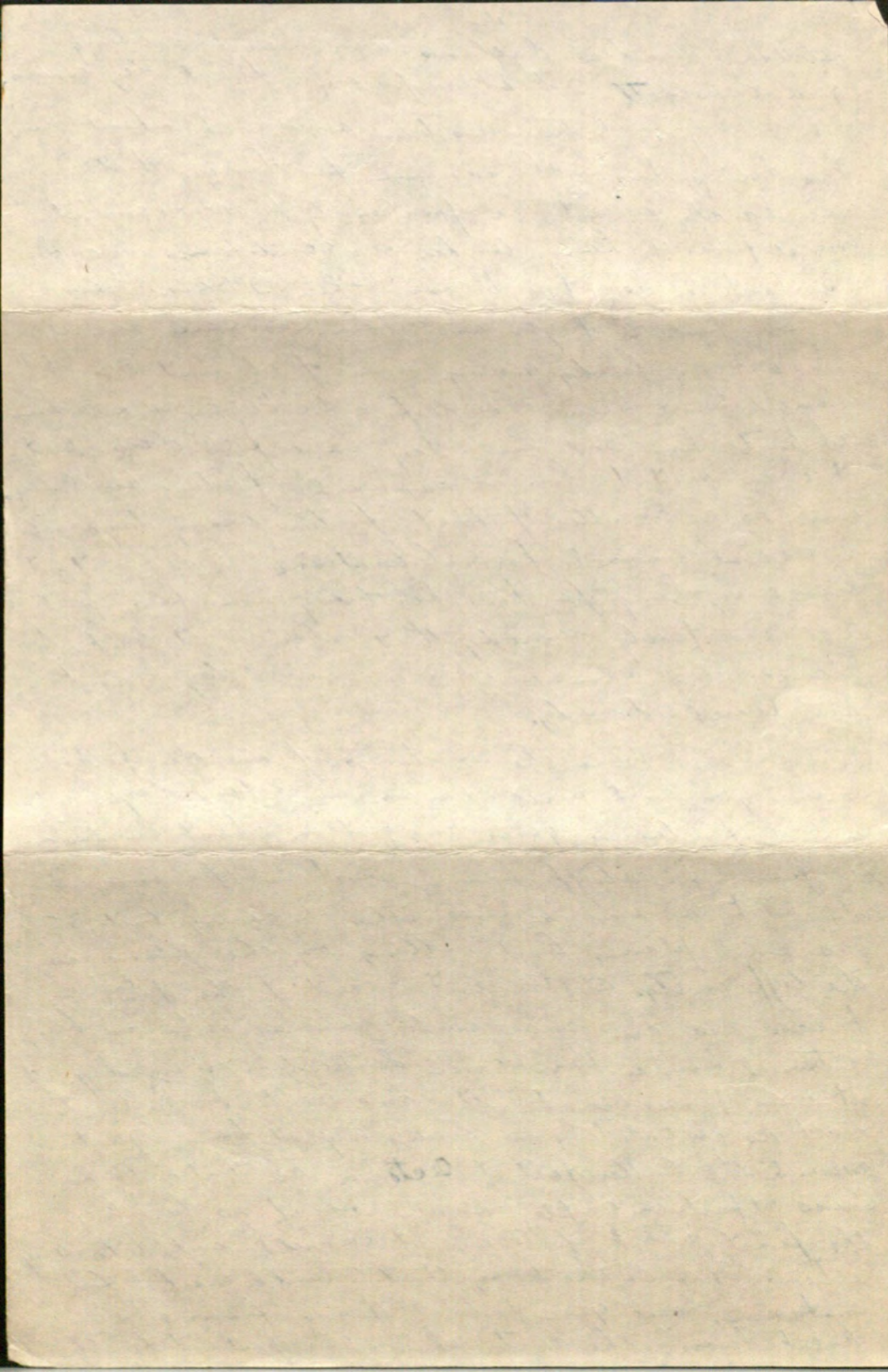
Your description of Eleanor's latest romances
sound more hopeful than ever. I sure hope she
has the good fortune to pick the right one. As
for me, I'd prefer leaving she loved one and that
he reciprocated that elegant emotion. Perhaps such
is the case, and she may turn out to be as happy
as her older sister. Her beau, George, is in a
dilemma with his German marks. I cannot
exchange them for anything, and even if I could
I probably couldn't get the dough home to him.
I'm having a tough time getting my own few
dollars home. Nicot copas?

A letter from Herb Reichen acknowledged
receipt of the 16 sets of Austrian stamps I
sent him. They cost me \$1.03 per set, and he
advised he sold them at \$1.65 per set. He wants
some more, which I'll endeavor to send
him in a few days. I have also instructed
him to send you a check for this stuff. Of
course he's entitled to part of the profit, so
please advise when you get any money from
him, and also the amount. I leave the
distribution of the profit to his discretion. If
you should see him before I return please
show him all the stamps I sent, but especially
those I sent you since the 1st of August. I
feel certain some of those will bring us

several hundred dollars. am now awaiting
your passport 24 stamps and first-day covers.

Your letters contain so much about Jim,
his dawg, his enthusiasm for things, that I
can hardly await the opportunity to re-acquaint
myself with him. Under no conditions will I
overlook a bag of pop-corn when I come home.
The snapshots of you and him convince me I
am a very lucky young man of almost 38. It
would have been wonderful to help you and him
celebrate his 3rd birthday in a few days, but
it was not to be. Be assured future birthdays,
and as a matter of fact, future every-days will
be cause enough for celebrations. I did not get
him anything for his birthday over here, but
I'll positively remedy that when I get back. Do
please kiss him a special birthday kiss for
his proud daddy.

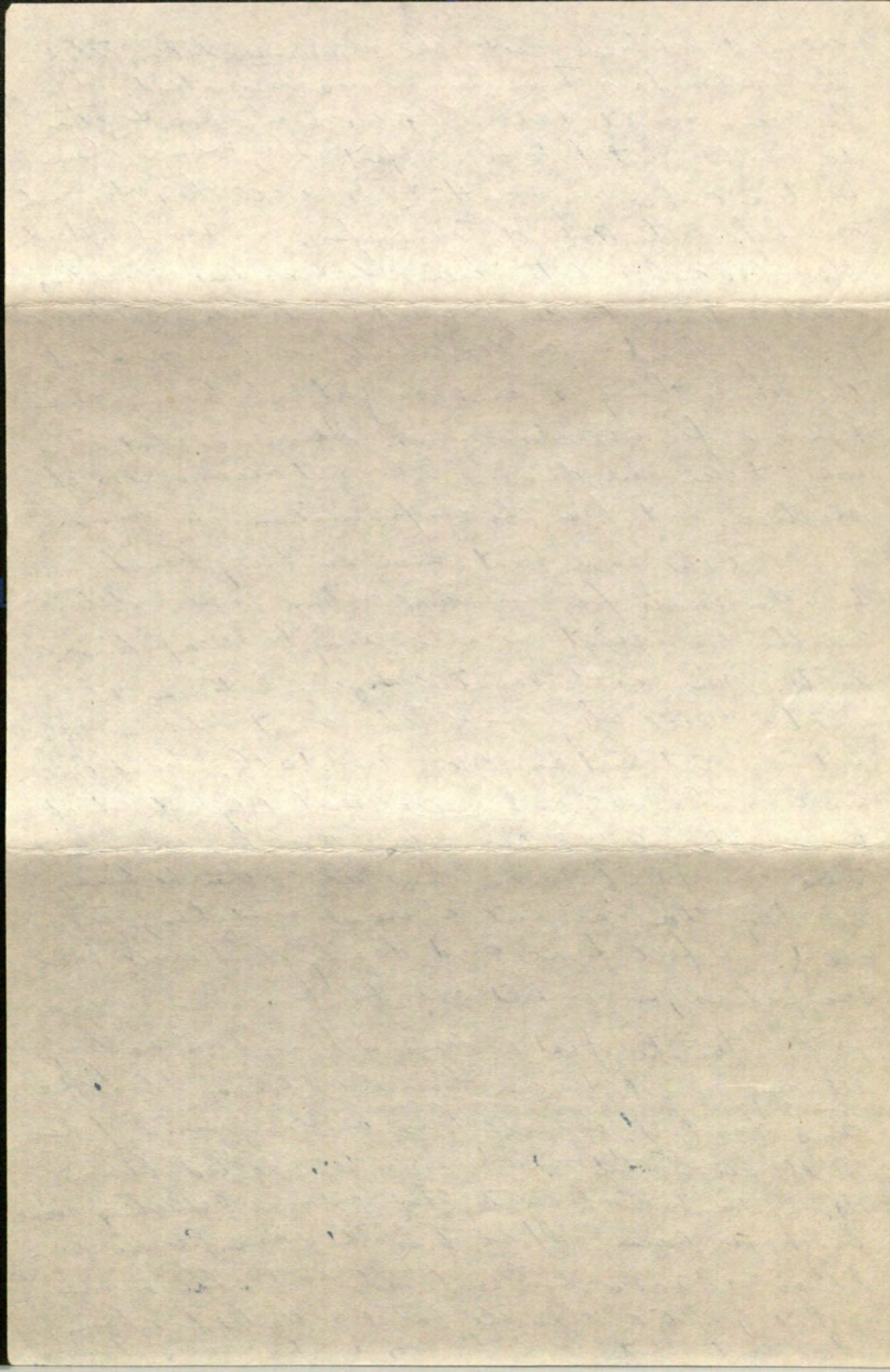
I have the makings of another package
to send you, and will do so in a few days. I
intend following your suggestion about sending
all personal stuff home instead of carrying
it. I know and is permitted to carry but 35
lbs on a plane, but getting on the plane is
the difficulty. At present most of the plane
passengers are men and women who are being
returned home for some domestic emergency. If
it were possible to get some doctor to cooperate
with us in creating an emergency at home just
around the latter part of October, so that a Red
Cross report on cable would reach us here by
the first week of Nov, it would expedite my
return. This is the way that would work. For
instance, were you to be suffering from a "venereal
break-down", the doctor should report it to the



nearest Red Cross, with the recommendation that the husband's return home was important. The Red Cross might follow up with an investigation, or might just take his report. They would then write in cable my outfit. Were all this to reach me before the 9th of November, we could attach the cable and a letter from Headquarters requesting rush action. Under present conditions it would probably wait. You can easily see how involved the whole thing is, and might only bring me home a few weeks sooner. However that's the way it can be done. I do not recommend the practice, but bear the information in mind.

All the high point men are being transferred to other units for eventual return to the States. All the low point are also going to occupational units. Men with points ranging between 45 and 60 will stay with the unit. I have 56, but can get out on age Nov. 10th. Frank Bell has less than 45, and will probably get stuck for another 6 to 8 months. All this movement gives me plenty to do, but I'd rather be busy all day than sit out around watching the clock. I feel fine and dandy, and will be as careful as you want me to be.

For the past 10 days I have been sorting all my mail to our home address. I do hope Bess has had, or will have, an easy time of her child-birth. Let me know when the lid blows off. I think Bob wants that pop was collecting some dough for Baron. If such is the case please add \$15.00 or \$20.00 to the fund, and advise me what you did. Also the total collected for him. Pap wants that Uncle Harry's "Joe" was home.



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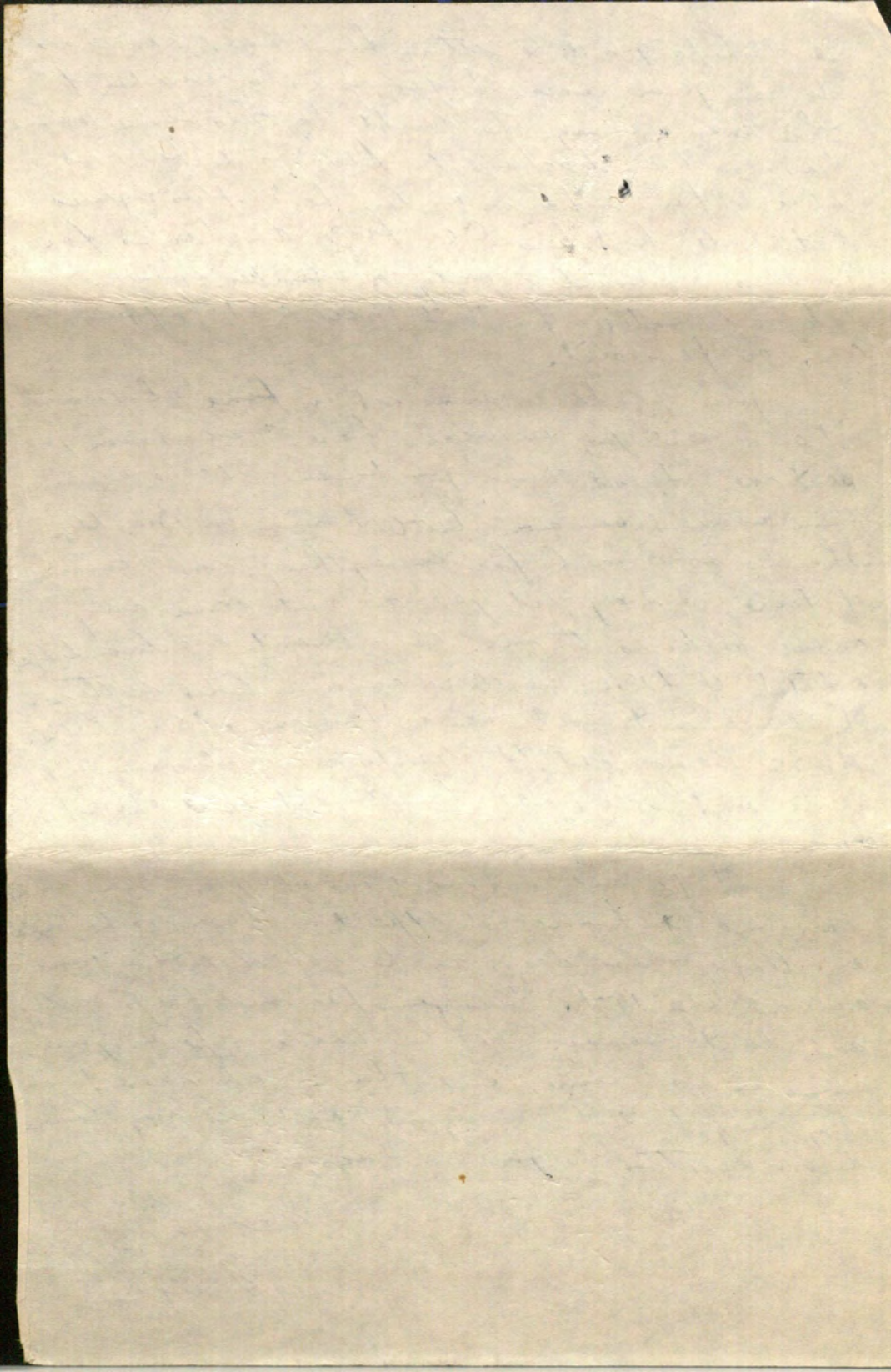
so perhaps you'll be getting first hand abuse as to how your leave shapes up as a member of this man's army. No doubt by this time Maurice has also been discharged. Don wrote he was eligible for discharge under the "35 plus 2 years duty rule" but his CO froze discharges for 90 days, a privilege only a stinker would take advantage of. That will not happen to me, so fear not.

Your packages arrived in fine shape, and it's a real joy to wear those macassar you sent me. First thing you know I'll be wearing them around our own little home in Brooklyn. Thanks so much for everything, and because of time, I suggest you do not send any more packages to me. Also want to acknowledge a total of \$15.00 in these accumulated letters. If convenient send me a few more \$5.00 bills. The 25 Russell 14 stamps were also in good shape, and I'll hold them until I get the 26 ones.

Hope all goes well with you, Jim and everyone at home. I expect Bob will be home on leave these days, as he expected to get home around the 19th. Kiss Jim for me, keeps smiling, and don't worry. I'll be home, safe in your arms in no time, and then - oh man! My very best to everyone, and all my love and adoration to you always,

As ever,

George



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