

31.

Belgium.
31 January 1945.

Florence, dearest:

To-day being pay day reminded me of pay days gone by. Then it was possible for me to come home with more or less full pockets of new currency to demonstrate to my dearest pin-up girl that all my initiative, training and ambition was being devoted to the accomplishment of our mutual happiness. But to-day is a different sort of a pay day. Suddenly one realizes how little money can mean without the one you love around. There will be other such days in years to come, and be assured my sweetheart that we will devote more time and money to the devotion of "live to-day, for to-morrow never comes." Yes, darling, money has such an empty feeling under present circumstances, but I'll manage to enjoy its use by finding items of interest for you and Jim.

Went a little sight-seeing for a few hours to a near-by city, and when I returned I found six letters awaiting me. Four from your hotel Dec. 28, 31 and Jan 1 and 5th air-mail letters, also one from Eleanor and one from Margaret. It was a sublime feeling getting so much reading matter from you, and although all the news was hardly of the best, yet your description of you and Jim's present health and state of mind reassured me no end. Harry's letter was quite friendly and lengthy. He certainly appreciated your contribution to

The Home, Eleanor's letter was a jup. and although sans her usual sense of humor, it was quite understandable in the light of present circumstances at home.

In response to my urgent pleas El has explained to me about Jack's affliction. Not that the news makes me feel any better, but at least my imagination will no longer run riot. I feel terribly sorry the poor kid should be so afflicted, and I join all of you in hoping that the doctors are wrong in their diagnoses and prognosis. Time, inevitable, inexorable time will tell. Then to add to this bitter news, your letter disclosed Birkie's fate. I knew this was going to happen but it hardly seems possible that I'll not be able to greet her when I return. I'll write Charlie to-night, but what can I say that will lessen his grief and loss.

I'll return to the brighter side of life now by thanking you for those 3 snags of Jim. The little rascal has no difficulty implying in his mischievous eyes all the cute things you and Eleanor write about him. I was so sorry to miss so much of this growing stage but if some Fortune continues to smile on us after my return I'll spend twice as much time with our next born? In the interim continue to impart your wonderful characteristics and virtues to him, teach him, encourage him, love him, and write me all about you and him.

As requested I obtained a pair of wooden shoes for Jim and will forward directly to him. Will send you another pair or two and you can distribute them as you will, although

I have received them from you, please continue to send some more in the usual manner until I tell you to stop. Sometimes I run short, and I prefer not to be broke if possible. It is possible to obtain beer and cognac here, but the quality of the stuff is rank, so I drink very little of the stuff. My friend Frank has a little old Cognac, and we had a little New Year's. We are saving the balance in the hopes that we will be able to celebrate "V-Day" in style.

Those jewels you enumerated are small, but please eliminate juices, as we get plenty of this at camp, and it is also obtainable at the PX some weeks. Substitute chocolates covered candies and maple sugar candy, also licorice for juice cans. Atlantic or Pacific quality is just fine. Did you receive any of my packages, and is my numbered letters coming them in sequence? Did the folks also get the bundle I sent them?

It is always advisable to repeat yourself in several letters, as occasionally mail gets lost, and although you have replied to my queries I do not get the information that accounts for writing the same thing more than once. Joe promised to write you after he returned to Paris. Have you heard from him? How did Uncle Henry react to his first letter from Joe in over 2 years? This only goes to prove what a small world this place is. Without disclosing it to anyone can you send me Maurice's address. One of these days I may be running into his outfit. Also let me

Know when you receive the snaps I sent you the other day. Will endeavor to send some more this week-end. I have many shots of scenes and buddies in France and Belgium but you must await the war's end before seeing them.

All is well with me, Chew is fair, weather turned warmer, and I continue to miss wonderful you more than ever. The War news will continue to improve with time from here on, and Hitler sounded last night as though he had his back up against the wall. Continue to be optimistic, and don't worry. I do not quite understand your reference to eating "every chew", but I suggest you do all possible not to lower your standard of living. It's enough I have to sample the stuff daily. I have a small recipe for pancakes when I return, and I'll even ~~you~~ show you how to make fritters.

Hope Bob and Fran manage to visit New York often, keeping the folks in good spirits. Try to persuade pop to write me more often. Kiss Jim and my folks for me, and I'll kiss you in mind, with all my love and adoration. My very best to everyone.

As ever,

George

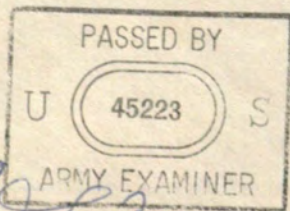
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