Belgium
2 March 1945.

Florence, sweetheart:

It seems the adage that "Life is what you make it" just about hits the bulls-eye. Our separation caused by my service in the army at first seemed so unreal, so foreign to our hopes and desires, then the prospects of my going overseas seemed the last straw, and yet, my dearest, all these things have come to pass, notwithstanding. However despite everything you and I continue to have as ever, our patience and courage awaiting the inevitable reunion is boundless, and I know like every famous love tale "we will live happily ever after." Your wonderful letters prove that to me, and I endeavor to imbibe the essence and spirit of your cheerfulness. The worst is behind us, my beloved, and one of these days, soon I'm sure, the sun will shine for us and ours. Until that day, until the day when we begin to live and laugh together again, I repeat keep smiling, be of good cheer and chin up. That's the way I'm taking this, and I hardly expect my only girl to do less. To-morrow is another day — our day — forever.

The mail situation continues to improve for me, and I hope you are getting my daily letter and many packages. Your air mail letters containing the Feb. 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th letters arrived to-day, and although the news was not unusual I was made happy by several items. I had hoped the cable would arrive in time for the anniversary date, having sent it 5 days in advance, but you can readily see how busy everything is in the communication field. I sent one to Jean and Kay yesterday for their anniversary on the 8th. Hope you were not nervous upon receipt of the cable but I wouldn't be surprised any if you had been.

Also very happy to learn that the battle of "Arnou Arieu" arrived. I am anxious to ascertain the size of the bottle. Upon receipt of the bottle of Caron's perfume I sent you please advise how the 2 bottles compare in dimensions and I'll be able to judge whether or not I was overcharged. You must realize that unless I spend my pay on things for you, Jim and the others back home I have nothing to spend my money on. I don't frequent the bars or go out with any cookies, and since all other necessary expenses are quite nominal I have only one other alternative. To send some money home. Since I get more pay buying perfume and such things you will just have to put up with being overstocked with these rare essences. In addition we need some to give away as gifts to Mrs. Pinas, Jean and

Eleanor so you will probably not have too much. If there are any you do not like dispose of them, but the prices are not cheap. If possible I think you'd attempt to get a quotation on those I've sent so far. It would be mighty interesting to learn how French and Belgian prices compare. Don't be hesitant about asking me for anything for yourself as I'd rather try to please you than get a medal.

I found a toy store in which I can get a wooden erector set for Jimmy, consisting of many wooden nuts and bolts, wheels and parts, but I fear he is far too young to become an engineer; and I don't want him to drive you nuts. Perhaps I'll find something more appropriate for him yet. Your latest letters indicate he is growing nicely, keeping you plenty busy, and mentally pre-occupied. Hope your family is not spoiling him, but I am thankful that Eleanor spends so much time with you. I gather she is not working yet, and I cannot understand this, but I suppose you'll advise me all about it in response to the same query I made in a previous letter. Give her a nice bottle of perfume and tell her I'm appreciative for all she's done and is doing. You do not acknowledge any of the other packages so I'll continue to presume none of them have arrived. Incidentally I also sent you some of Caron's face powder – how's the shade?

The three neckties you sent were a happy selection. I was tired of those ties prior to my induction and I'm glad you sent them. They arrived practically unwrinkled, and both Frank and his son Frank Jr were overwhelmed at such lovely cravats. I had given Frank Jr a Parisian tie as a present, but he liked the New York selection far better. I liked the one from Paris, which just goes to show you. In any event all of them want to thank you very much, and need I reiterate my own appreciation for your taste and service? Patiently awaiting the many packages enroute but they will arrive shortly, I'm sure.

Enclosing a "Sad Sack" cartoon which depicts almost perfectly the embarkation scene I was once a part of. If you don't see the humor in it that I do, please preserve it and I'll explain it to you. All is well with me, my dearest, I feel fit as a fiddle, always miss you, and patiently awaiting the surrender of the Nazis. It will be soon – so make with the smiles. Mother permitting Sunday I'll visit Barnes. Stay well, honey, kiss Jim for me, also the folks, my best to everyone and keep the home fires burning. With a kiss and a hug in my mind you find me

As ever,

George

Cpl. Geo. Stoff 4105010
Co A 735 Ry Opn Bn
APO 228 % Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

VIA AIR MAIL

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3021 AVENUE I
BROOKLYN, 10
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