

Spring Villa

195 Springfield Rd,

Belfast.

17<sup>th</sup> January '43

My darling Frank,

Another week has come and gone and still there is no word from you. Thank God I can now tell you honestly that this past week has passed more quickly than any since 1942 dawned - my new work is very interesting and keeps me well occupied from 9 AM until 8 PM. So I have little time for thinking or worrying, or even doing anything else.

Guess who has commenced this work with me?

Joe Heagrey - you know the <sup>who</sup> girl engaged to Billie McGinley. She has been through a terrible time as he has not been heard of since the capitulation of Singapore. We have a lot in common, although I have been more fortunate in getting a card from you, dearest. However I'll bet - as we balance our worries - that she has Billie for 2 weeks as recently as November 1941. How long is it since I saw you Frank? Was it in the Imperial Picture House?

I spent last Sunday evening at Beechwood with your father & Philip and thoroughly enjoyed myself. Philip showed me all his snaps & gave me a beauty of himself and yourself taken in the cement pathway in front of Beechwood. Do you remember it and one taken in your tennis outfit? I made tea for us all & afterwards Philip walked over

to Oldpark Rd. with me where the Springfield Road par  
passes. Anne went back to Dublin last Wednesday. She was  
in grand form.

Mariad & Hamnie are going to Dillough for the week  
on Tuesday to give the house an airing.

I shall be thinking of you all day on the 20<sup>th</sup>. On  
such days I feel you especially near. Mrs O'Hara has invited  
Jo and me over for tea - coming from work. I hope to manage  
a few lines to you that day. If someone were to ask  
me what birthday present I should like, then without  
hesitation I would say "a letter from Frank". Sure I know  
you must be doing all in your power to get me a letter. The  
"Prisoners of War" magazine which your father receives every  
month gives us the latest details (very few) of Far East  
prisoners. I am keeping all copies for you.

Frances is away in Castlewellan for the week. Her 1<sup>st</sup> baby  
is expected in June. Ita is now a dentist and job hunting.  
Maurice McEnaney is in Bangor now, Fred Breen in Cairo.

Did I tell you I have a new black hat. It is very  
smart with a tiny pom of silver fox on the top. When you  
are allowed to receive enclosures I shall have a snap  
taken in it and sent to you. You haven't seen our ring yet  
It is the admiration of all.

Are you receiving any of these letters? I have written  
every week since June 1942. Time only makes me love  
you more and more, Frank. If I only knew you were  
receiving these short letters it would make all the difference  
in the world to me. You can understand how it is.  
God bless you and may He bring me news of you  
soon. All my love darling, your ever loving, Eileen.