

Spring Villa,
195 Springfield Rd.,
Belfast.

9/2/43

My darling Frank,

I went over to Beechwood on Sunday afternoon to welcome your father downstairs after a dose of 'flu'. The kitchen, scullery & parlour were newly painted in cream & brown & everything looked very bright and attractive. About 9 p.m. I made us both a cup of tea & toast but of course ended up with having more paint on my hands than on the walls!!

There are two subjects of which your father is constantly speaking (i) whether to sell the shop and premises or not, (ii) whether to wait or make out his new will now. His indecision is due to the fact that you are not at home darling. In the first case, would you like to use the apartments above the shop as your surgery? If so he will hold on. In the 2nd case he wants you to be one of the executors of his will. Should this letter ever reach you then write your answers to him and give him the advice he seeks.

Jerry Boer (Mrs Frank McLaughlin whom you met in India) has now got word that her husband is a prisoner of war in Malaya. She must be so relieved. I wrote her a note which also was to thank her for the nice letter she sent me when the news of your safety reached me. That was October '42 and since then there has not been a sound. This morning 2 letters which I sent to in January 1942 were returned. In all there has been 4 letters returned. I could not even think of reading them. In one week's time February 15th, it will be one year since you became a prisoner of war. Oh, it has been such a long time! Surely it cannot last forever. These years are so precious to us - isn't it sad we are separated but then that must be God's will for us both. Ours truly has been a strange romance from the beginning. I do not regret any part of it. I love you now and I shall love you always. Your ring is ever on my finger, night and day to remind me - though there is no need - that I am yours and shall be for aye. If only you could get a letter through to me how contented I should feel!

We are now in the midst of the novena to Our Lady

of Lourdes. I am making it earnestly for us both. May she bring me news of you soon.

Frances is very busy preparing baby's trousseau. I've been searching the town for wool and managed to get her 12 oz. It was like a $\frac{1}{2}$ note to her. We have planned to spend Monday afternoon together - pictures & up to Mt. Charles for tea.

10/2/43/

a lady friend arrived in last night with $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen glass clothes for me so my letter writing had to cease. This is another addition to our home - I'll allow you dry the dishes some day, if you promise not to break any!! Mrs McMillan's firm is a linen one. nowadays they go in quite a lot for white embroidery so I am going to have Frances' wedding present to us both embroidered with a nice "M" You will surely say I am confident that you will return to me alive and well - well it is the truth. Already I am planning to embroider an "M" on some Gwels. Now what are you doing young man? From the mysterious lands of the East have you collected anything? Sure of course you have not!! Don't worry darling I'll work & collect for us both.

This morning five more of my letters to you were returned - in all 9. These letters were sent by air mail before the fall of Singapore. Some are filthy dirty. Don't it heartrending that they did not reach you. I wonder are these "Red Cross" letters getting to you?

To-morrow - my half day - I am playing golf with Jo Courtney. She was a famous hockey player in the Dominican years ago - the game is at Knock, which will be my first time on that course. Half & free days are very precious nowadays. I have my lunch at the canteen where I work so I am gone from home from 8.30 until 5.30 p.m. Mollie O'Hare & I are thinking of taking a few days in Dublin in March. I am looking forward to it.

The Sigerson cup is being played in Belfast next week-end. Jo & Mairead are off to it and the Caledonia. I thought I saw your friend Gerry passing in a car today. It is an age since I was speaking to him. Your father tells me he (Gerry) is house-hunting in order to get married.

Now dearest thank everybody who is in grand form in both Beechwood and Spring Villa. They all send you their love and assure you of their constant prayers. Need I tell you how lonely I feel for you or how hard I am praying for you. I love you, yes with all that I have and shall do so for aye
God bless you your loving Eileen.