

Spring Villa

195 Springfield Rd.,

Belfast

Christmas Day 1942

My darling Frank,

Midst a house full to overflowing I sit down (it is now 5.45 p.m.) to send you my love and best wishes for this our second Christmas together. You have been in my thoughts the day through, from 6 o'clock — but then you are always in my thoughts — Last night our burning candles were kindled in honour of Our Lady and Her Divine Son. We were all at Glonard's first mass and before breakfast at 8.30 we heard at least 6 masses.

Dinner is just over. Four years of war have made very little change on our Christmas fare. Hush says if Frank should ask "what we did on Christmas day"? Tell him we ate "Should he ask "And what then?" You answer "And ate "and ate" You have an idea how we are all feeling!! There were 14 of us for dinner Daddie, Mammaie, Auntie Carrie, Fr. Joe Mamma & Joe Murphy (Uncle Jim's children — he is dead) Felix, Mona (& Sheila peacefully asleep in bed) Josephine, Mammaie Hugh, Teresa Joe May and myself. May & I did the whole dinner. I took the Soup & Trifle and carved the turkey — She did the rest. Everything went off without a hitch. The crowd sent up 3 Cheers for the cooks. Now please God, darling you will be with us all next year. Christmas would then be a perfect reunion of us all.

Never did I receive such a large mail as this year. All

The Loreto children must have written. I also got some very acceptable little gifts: - Rosary beads (pearl) from Fr. Joe; a beautiful little Sanctuary Lamp bearing the inscription "To dear Eileen & Frank with best wishes for a very happy Christmas from Fergus" This gift gave me most pleasure - The glass is red & the stand oxidised silver. It will ever burn in our home in the Sacred Hearts' Honour; a glass Sugar duster with silver top to us both from Mairiad & Josephine; a very sensible pair of kitchen scissors on little stand from Mammie; the kip of St. Gertrude from Hugh (he selected only Mairiad & myself for his present - after that he confessed he was broke; Auntie gave me 1/2 yds of very nice material to do some dressmaking upon; your father filled my case with all sorts of goodies and Margaret gave me the beautiful picture she herself painted. Then there was Mrs Mc Gurgans picture which I described in a recent letter.

December 28th I had to wait until to-day before posting this letter - To-morrow is the 29th, our anniversary!! Do you remember? This afternoon Mammie & I are going to visit Margaret in the Convent. Last night we were all at a party in O'Hara's & had to walk home - from Derryrolgie, but it was worth it. There is another 'do' there on the 6th. On Saturday night we went to St. Pauls parlóimne. Thank God the days are passing a little more quickly than usual. Who knows what the New Year may have in store for us both! May it be one filled to the brim with health happiness and peace for you my dearest Frank and may it see our happy reunion. This is my prayer for you and for us both

God bless you
All my love, darling
Your loving Eileen.