

21th Field Ambulance,

c/o Army Base Post Office,

Singapore,

Monday, 21th October

Eileen, my own darling,

I am still reading your wonderful letter which reached me on Saturday and oh how happy it makes me. You wrote it just before leaving Kellough and you were a little sad at your family gathering breaking up. My dearest one, you have been very good to me all during the holidays in writing so often and sending such long letters. Believe me, Eileen, I understand how very difficult it can be to write letters during vacation by the sea. Surrounded by all your dear ones and friends, you have to join them in all the fun. And yet, my darling, you sacrificed many happy hours and wrote to me. You see, it is so different with me here; I have no dear ones around me, I am in a strange land and in a spot completely cut off from civilization. In the evenings there are no amusements; I have no excuse for not writing to you daily because I have so much spare time to myself. My thoughts are always with you, no matter what I am doing, and so each night after dinner I tell you all my thoughts of the day and tell you how much I love you. It makes me very happy to write to you and I only hope and pray that my shortcomings do not annoy you or bore you. I love you so very very much Eileen; I am yours and I shall always belong to you, completely and entirely. All the affection and love that is in my heart is yours and never could belong to anyone else but you. There is no need to tell you that I shall be true to you even unto death, that the longer I live the more I love you and the harder I pray to our Good God for us both. Our love would be useless without prayer - it depends on prayer and on holiness. I shall never forget this

because I have known it since the first time I met you. God will send me safely back to you my darling and we shall never be parted again.

I have just come back from the mess and heard the "Blue Hills of Antain" over the radio from London. There was actually a Belfast programme on and oh how grand it was to hear that accent again; to hear the linen mills working, and to listen to its music. At the mention of Sandy Row my heart gave a pump and it brought back memories of Queen's days when I used to see your footsteps down that same Row. My darling, I am sorry if I caused you any annoyance then, it was selfish of me not to consider your feelings no matter how much I loved you. Do you remember the day we cycled around the T.T. course through Ard and Comber with Mabel O'Hare and a girl called McFade? I was actually happy when we lost the other and also when you had a show puncture, the latter gave me a chance of doing something for you! My dear mother (R.I.P.) knew all about my romancing with you but she never mentioned it to me and now you have told me that she hoped and prayed that some day I would marry you. How I wish that Josie and mother were both alive now - they would love you because they both had a loving and generous nature and would have done any mortal thing to welcome you to Beechwood. You don't know how happy it makes me to hear that you love all my dear ones at home - it is so very important to me. My dearest one, you have shown great courage in going forth alone to meet all my people but I was always with you in spirit to introduce you to them. You have shown me how much you love me and made me ashamed of my poor love for you. I wish I had met all your dear ones too - that would have made things perfect for us both, but I love them just as much as you love my family at Beechwood and the three nuns. Do not fall in love with handsome Philip when you meet him!

My darling, please send me the universal prayer of Pope Benedict for peace; I am ashamed to admit that I don't know it yet even though I heard it a few times in India. I hope that all my letters are reaching you now at regular intervals and that you no longer have to wait 3 or 4 weeks for them. Should my great Christmas present ever reach you Helen, please do not think that you should send me something. I only want you to send me your love - that is the greatest treasure in the world to me and I deem it more precious than anything else. Then there is that miraculous medal which you sent to me - it brings me great joy each time I kiss it and say its prayer to Our Blessed Lady. I am sorry you were disappointed with your photograph; you are a terrible girl to waste so much money in trying to please me! If only I were worth half the trouble that you take with me.

I meant to go to the village today and send you a telegram, but I had a job to do at the aerodrome. We were practicing loading "patients" on to the planes and unloading them. And so my darling your telegram could not be sent but please God these people can manage without me for a couple of hours to morrow while I send my best girl a cable. It is nearly midnight and I must go off to my bed. Good night Helen and may God bless you and keep you safe.

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 28th. - Another day nearer to you my own dear Helen - that's what I say to myself every evening. Yes, it is another day nearer to our reunion, to our wedding day and to our happy married life together. I love you even more to night and yet last night I did not think that this was possible. I ask God each day to make me a better man, to make me love Him more because then I know that I shall be able to love you. I often think and wonder what right I have to the happiness that you have given to me; I have treated you so badly in the past and yet I have loved you all the time. I do not deserve your love, Helen, but I shall try hard to be worthy of it and shall give all to make you the happiest wife in the world. I shall never grow weary

of giving my all to you because that always makes me very happy.

My darling, I want to suggest something to you and please do not be annoyed with me. When your photograph is ready and you have sent it to me could you also send one to Beechwood. It would make me very happy to know that your photograph stood beside mine in our drawing room. If you do not like the idea, Eileen, well just keep your photograph and mine in your own room at home. My darling I hope you have got better sleep this term than last year; you must take every care of yourself. I know how you put your heart and soul into everything that you do especially your work, but please do not overwork, for my sake. I want you to be strong and very fit for my homecoming because I shall march you over hill and dale, I shall swim with you for miles, I shall golf you to a standstill, and dance with you until your head spins! Gosh these awful threats coming from someone who adores you! How I love fresh air, Eileen, I would never be happy caged up in an office or even teaching. I do not know how I shall ever return to civilisation - to "respectability"; to wearing long trousers and a collar and tie - I shall hate giving up my open-necked shirt and shorts!

The C.O. took me along with him today on a long reconnaissance. We found ourselves 20 miles from camp on the most beautiful stretch of beach I have ever seen. Soft golden sands stretched for miles; tall palms fringed the shore; the sea was green and the sky was blue; behind us lay a lovely stretch of open grassland (a rarity in Malaya); the beach tapered into a huge headland with steep wooded slopes. We decided that it would be ideal for a holiday camp for the men. On the way back we sat down outside a native village under the palms and ate our lunch - and oh it was grand to be alive. Coming through town I made the C.O. wait at the Post Office while I sent a cheap telegram to my

best girl and told her that all was well and that I sent her all my love. You see Helen, I do not want my best girl to worry about me and so if a cable will help she shall have hundreds of them. I have a big day on the beach tomorrow and have to get out of my comfy bed at 6 am (normally I rise at 7 am). Good night my dearest one and God bless you.

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 29th

Well, my big day is over and I am tired after running about in the sun. Do you realize that the heat is very intense when combined with humidity and that one cannot touch one's steel helmet it becomes so hot! I do pity the men who have spent the summer in the Western Desert wearing steel helmets. It was a perfect day by the sea and oh the water looked so inviting, but alas I could not have a dip. The big two-masted vessel rode peacefully at anchor in the bay, the sea was a Mediterranean blue and a gentle breeze ruffled its surface, visibility was marvellous and all along the whole horizon were studded the tiny white sails of the local fishing fleet. I had only a moment to spend admiring this grand scene and I did not want to take my eyes away from it. Evening found me speeding towards the setting sun in my little open Austin; it was such a lovely sunset too and every cloud had a silver lining. I knew that away behind those darkly wooded hills in the west you were hard at work in school and I wondered if you were thinking of me just then.

I stopped at the book shop on my way through the village and bought you another copy of *Osia* which I hope to send off tomorrow to you. It will almost be a year old by the time it reaches you, as it is a June edition! My darling, I shall be able to send you a Christmas card - a Malay one too; it has made me so happy. I discovered the cards tucked away in an old book-case in the book shop and immediately pounced on them! You have no idea how rare Christmas cards are in this

place and I had given up all hope of ever getting one at all. My darling don't you know that I would do anything on earth for you, anything to make you happy. I love you so much Helen that I live only for you; nothing else matters to me except my love for you. My whole heart and soul and mind are all concentrated on loving you and yet it all comes natural to me to love you so much - there is nothing forced in it. We shall be the two happiest people in all the world when we are married. If loving each other across 9,000 miles of ocean can make us so very happy, what will our future happiness be like when we come together again. What do you see in me to love me so much? I know you have had several good men who wanted to marry you and yet you have chosen plain Frank Murray. Young woman, you have no sense at all!!! My darling you must never change in any way. You are not just being an old teacher when you try to do things as thoroughly as possible and as methodically as possible - I love you for it, because I hate to see a job half-done. Helen, my dearest one, I know you so very well and that's why I love you so much; everyone who knows you must love you. Do you know that each time I think of you during the day, and that is often, I always say a prayer. Do you see, Helen, that even my prayers depend upon you; it is you and you alone can keep me near to God. These long months of waiting are really months of preparation for our marriage and we cannot pray hard enough preparing for this great sacrament. My idea of heaven on earth is a Catholic marriage where two people are really and truly in love; the happiness and consolation it can bring. Can we ever thank the good God enough for giving us so great a love - a Catholic love, which is so vital to our happiness.

I have been thinking today that the only thing which I like about ^{the} Army is its "Gien-Ais" life. It seems such a shame that an Army doctor should have to do almost everything except doctoring! If only I were learning something about my

profession that would be useful to me later in general practice. I hope I am right in saying that I was meant to be a doctor and not a soldier, though God has given me the gift of knowing no fear, except that fear of losing his friendship. Yes, my darling, should the war start here I would become a doctor once again and do things worth while. Does it bring you any consolation to know that my particular job will always be done 15 miles at least behind the front line and that the distance can increase up to 50 miles?

May God bless you, Helen. Good night

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 30th - My own dearest, if I did not know you and love you so much I would be a very awful man and you would not love me at all! I do not mean that I am good, but Helen dearest you are my good angel every hour of every day. Today, for instance, I have been sorely tried by others and my wild Irish temper would have come out with a vengeance were it not for you. May be I would not pray so hard if I did not love you, and not praying so hard would mean that I would lose my temper many times daily. My darling will you always be at my side and make me do the right thing always; my life would be perfect if you would do this for me. Some day soon please God we shall be together again and walking down life's broad road together, I shall always be at your side and you at mine. We shall share everything, Helen, no matter how trivial. Our joys will be multiplied ten fold when they are shared; our sorrows will dwindle away into nothingness when they are shared. Surely this is one of the greatest roads to happiness in married life. I shall not burden you with all my sorrows, Helen, that would be unfair; but you must tell me all of yours so that I can help in some way. And yet I know that we shall have nothing but joys to tell each other.

This evening we had a football match on the village green with another unit. It was good to see open spaces again, and they were green ones. One would not need to have claustrophobia living in a rubber plantation, and still I

Know that it will always be one of my phobias throughout life. I have always hated large crowds especially on streets in Belfast and it was my delight to wander aimlessly through the quaint narrow quiet streets adjoining the heart of the city - Smithfield, Dockland, and the market area. Well, about the football match - we managed a draw (0-0). The reason I allowed no goals to be scored against me was that the ball seldom came my way! We really did put up a good show against a strong team but alas others (spectators) did not think so and said some uncalled for things - and were it not for you, Celine I should have gone off the deep end!! I enjoyed my evening in spite of everything. I have been kept busy all day long and had not time this morning to send you magazine. However it is now well packed and labelled and ready for the road to-morrow morning. I have a march to-morrow morning early and that means the usual sandwich lunch and getting back late in the afternoon. Thank heavens I like marching and can march for 20 miles and never feel weary. Our week ends up with a hockey match on Saturday and a whole day by the sea on Sunday! So you probably think that your magazine sale is very well off indeed!! Well he is very well off in that he loves you so very much and in that you love him too - that is all that you could want in life.

And here I must leave you for tonight my dearest one. I have loved you even more today than ever before. I have read your last letter again tonight and it brings me great happiness. Good night and God bless you Celine

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 31ST (Hallow Eea!) - When I think of the sunny happy Hallow Eeas I have spent at home and compare them with to-night, well, I wish I were at home again! I promised myself and now I promise you that when we have our own home, that the Eve of All Hallowes will be a happy evening for us, that we

shall remember our childhood days again and become children again. Have you ever thought of how very happy you were when a child, it was a carefree happiness - no troubles, no worries about tomorrow. It makes me almost sorry that one has to grow up at all, and yet, my dearest one, I am glad that we have grown up together knowing each other and loving each other as we do. We have a different happiness now than that we knew as children - it is more mature and deep and lasting. I know that our love has brought us all this and that we are as happy as it is possible for two people to be on earth. Eileen, my darling, we are so very lucky - we have got everything and He has given all to us. We do thank Him but we can never thank Him enough. And now only one small thing remains and when He brings us together again He will have made our happiness complete. I know that He will not fail us, Eileen, because He is so good and is ever granting our requests but with all my heart I say "may Thy Holy Will be done O Lord".

Well, today we went a marching along the shore. As usual the Lories came with us to the beach and back again to camp. It took 3 hours to reach our starting point, thanks to delays at the Ferry. We were all set to move on to the Ferry when up stepped two large cars (private), claimed priority and got on ahead of our Convoy of Lories. That meant that our tail end was left behind and so we had to wait for them on the other side for an hour. When I questioned the driver of the private cars I discovered that the cars belonged to the brother of the Sultan of Pahang and of course they have authority to nip in ahead of the Gyalu. I did notice that this man had many wives in the back seat of the car - the Sultan himself has 3 wives! Well, as I was going to St. Pies, I met a man (but that's another story!). It was cloudy today and that is always a blessing in this country when on the march. We marched for 3 miles along the water's edge, rested, and then there was a rush to the sea. Down there were 120 dusky bodies bobbing about in the water. The sea was rough and the waves well

Above my head. It makes me happy to see the men enjoying themselves and I shouted and played with the happiest of them. Later the rains came, we had lunch inside the waiting lorries, and soon we were homeward bound again. It is grand to get out in the fields for a while. It has been a whole week out of camp each day and I have loved it all.

It is midnight and the boys have just come back from the village cinema (I mean the other officers when I say "boys"). Besides one thing as happy as I am just now? I know that one of them will not sleep tonight - he has not slept for months poor chap and I fear life in this camp and in this climate is too much for him. The others made him drink too much last night, thinking that he might sleep but alas he got up this morning with insomnia + a sore head! I am a very lucky man to have no craving for drinks - I am a tea-totaller because I don't like drinks! That is a very unworthy reason and nothing to be proud of. However I shall drink something on our wedding day and occasionally during our married life at the right time and in the right place. If you would rather have me remain tee total, well darling it's just too easy for me, but I can promise you that never once will you find your husband taking to drink and giving you a black-eye on Saturday nights! Our ~~first~~ psychologist - the chap with insomnia! - declared yesterday that he had made a close study of his fellow officers, but also he could not understand his own case. I asked him why I should sleep well at night, why I should be so happy and contented while living under the same conditions as himself. "Ah, Captain Murray, you are different from the rest of us - you would be happy and contented no matter where you lived, because you have trained yourself to make the best of things; besides you have got religion." He is an Indian and says he has no religion. They all know that I am a Catholic and yet I have never discussed

Religion with them; I never preach to them or make demonstrations of my faith to them. They just know all about it. Well, my darling, I have trained myself in a hard school - and it began when I went to Long Dong as a boy with my father and Mrs! I can now endure any discomfort or hardship and live under any condition, and still it would not cost me a thought. I can go without many luxuries and as usual I never miss them - my "acts" have not got much merit attached to them!

Young woman, I have loved you enough for one evening! How you my darling, and I shall never love any one but you till I die. God bless you and may the angels guard thee this night.

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 1ST

I have prayed to all the saints in heaven today as this is their feast; how I wish I could have been to Mass this day. My darling it is such an awful loss to me missing so many Masses daily; and to-morrow I shall feel it most when so many are available whenever there is a priest. The Holy Souls have so many claims on me and my prayers. Celee, my dearest one, if you had only met my mother and Josie (R.I.P.) you would have loved them above all the heavens; my mother so loving and good and unselfish - I know that she gave her life for her children, especially for poor Josie. May be you will understand what it means to me to find another mother like your mummy and to love her in the same way as my own mother. Josie was always a child and thank God she was a child when she died and knew nothing of the world. She was very lovable and good and kind. I have often tried to pretend to myself what my brother Charlie would have been like today if he had lived. He would have been 25 years of age, fair complexion, brown eyes, tall and upright, fearless and striking, and handsome too. You would have fallen in love with him Celee and never had a thought for this Peter in the mind, Frank Murray! I can well imagine him being a pilot in the R.A.F. and winning medals every day for gallantry. I loved him, my dearest one,

Especially when he was ill - he was a miracle of patience, the like of which I have never seen since then and I have seen many sick people since that time. These three members of our family, I shall remember very specially to-morrow. Much as I wish them to be alive today, I do thank God that they have not lived to see the horrors of this awful war. God knows what was best for them and took them unto Himself. I know that all three of them are fighting hard for us, Eileen, and I am sure that their pleading will not be in vain.

This was my duty day and so I had to stay in camp. I have been happier today than ever before and why should I be anything else but happy. I am not callous enough to sit back and wait happily for our reunion no matter when it may come; I feel every moment of our separation and pray hard that it all may end soon. But I cannot be miserable ever in my life again, because I love you so much and you love me - and I have got His friendship too, which means so much to us both. One of my men told me his sad story today - his lady love had proved unfaithful and married his younger brother. How listen to me Miss O'Hane, dont you go off and marry my opening brother!! In India all marriages are arranged by parents and the ladies have no say in the matter at all - so I am glad we do not live in India, my dearest one!! A mail was due today but alas it did not turn up and instead will come to-morrow morning; however I am not expecting a letter from you so soon after the last one. I heard the awful news today that sometimes the Clipper is held up for a week in mid-Pacific due to bad weather. I wish I could do something to avoid these delays in the transport of your letters - I do not want you to have anxious moments about letters reaching you. I shall write every day until we meet again - I am so sure of this, Eileen; just as sure as I know that I shall love you always. Good night and God bless you.

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 2nd (Feast of All Souls) - Eileen, my darling, am I still dreaming or is really true that you love me - you whom I have loved and adored ever since I first set eyes upon you. The only thing in the world that I wanted, the only thing I have prayed incessantly for has been given to me - your love. You have brought a new happiness into my life and have given me joy that I thought could not exist. It does not seem quite fair that I should be so happy while the world is in such an unhappy state. I am praying hard that God may spare us both for each other, so that when this horrible war is over we may come together again and live in peace and happiness for the rest of our lives. I need not tell you what I thought of you when I first met you in far off Kinsport, but I would love to know what were your first impressions of the odd looking big Schoolboy who paid so much attention to you in those days! My darling, I must have been so stupid and boring; how could you be expected to ever fall in love with such a man. I shall never know why you ever fell in love with me. You know that I shall do everything within my power to make you happy. Our marriage will be a happy one, Eileen, because we love each other so much, because our love is holy and God will bless our marriage and our home. I have thousands of things to tell you when we meet again, thousands of plans to make, and thousands of questions to ask. Isn't this a very tempting ordeal to contemplate in view of our re-union???

We set out for our usual pic-nic today in a downpour of rain! It takes more than rain to dampen our stout hearts. I find that rain does not depress me but I experience great exhilaration in the rain. It is always welcome in this country and much preferable to the sunshine! Well, when we reached the shore today the rain had stopped but the sun did not appear; instead there was an awful heat (humid) coming from the heavens and not a whiff of air to give relief! It was grand to get into the water (this was cool, actually!). I grow daily stronger as a swimmer

and always feel ready for more when my long swim is ended! ~~Most people~~ in Malaya find themselves growing weaker and weaker on the days roll by - thank God I am growing stronger. Health is vitally important in this country and I never take any chances with it. Of course one is bitten about ten times per day by mosquitoes, but luckily only a small percentage of mosquitoes are malarial carriers. After lunch the C.O. and I went for a 20 mile run along the coast and back again; I love racing along the sands at full speed in a row. Most interesting to me was the new scenery and strange villages along the shore. I saw two pretty little islands about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or $\frac{3}{4}$ from the beach and I vowed that I would visit them some day and feel what it is like being on such a South Sea island! A single palm on the shore, a grassy hillside in the center, surrounded by trees, and all around a tiny golden beach!

You need not worry about me at all, Cateen, ever. God will send me safely back to you if it is His Holy Will; we place all our trust in His Sacred Heart and He will not fail us. Oh, my darling, how I wish I could see you again and tell you that I love you with my whole heart and soul; all I can do is write to you about it. I shall always love you, Cateen, and nobody else but you; I am all yours and ever shall be yours. This letter has been dull and not exciting, but please forgive me, my dearest one; maybe the climate is to blame! The only thing I have wanted to say to you daily in my diary is that I love you.

May God bless you my own darling, and may His Blessed Mother protect you from all harm.

Ever yours lovingly
Frank

P.S. Love to all at home and Frances.

Frank.