

195 SPRINGFIELD ROAD,

BELFAST.

25. 7. '43.

My DARLING,

HERE I AM BACK FROM MY RETREAT AT MY ALMA MATER AND READY FOR ANYTHING. I ENJOYED MY 5 DAYS IMMENSELY ALTHOUGH WE ONLY SPOKE 1 HOUR EACH DAY. IT WAS SO PEACEFUL, SO BEAUTIFUL. I COULD THINK OF YOU AND PRAYER FOR YOU AS NEVER BEFORE. THE GROUNDS ARE WONDERFULLY CHANGED. THE WEATHER WAS IDEAL. I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE ASKED TO SING IN THE CHOIR AS OF OLD AND BEING THE 4TH SENIOR OF THE SET I HAD TO SAY ALOUD MY DECADE OF THE ROSARY IN PUBLIC - FOR YOU MY OWN DEAREST FRANK WAS THAT ROSARY SAID IN THE CONVENT ORATORY AS MANY GIRLISH VOICES CHIMED THE RESPONSES.

I HAVE PROMISED THE NUNS THAT YOU MUST RETURN WITH ME AND I SHALL SHOW YOU ALL MY OLD HAUNTS - THE ALCOVE, WHERE I SLEPT, THE CLASSROOMS WHERE I STUDIED, THE ORATORY WHERE I PRAYED (FOR YOU TOO) THE CAMOGIE FIELD & TENNIS COURTS. FR. PRENDERGAST S.J. WAS A VERY PRACTICAL PRIEST - SO ESSENTIAL IN THIS SINFUL WORLD. WE HAVE PERSUADED THE NUNS TO MAKE THE RETREAT AN ANNUAL AFFAIR - SO YOU WILL HAVE TO "MIND THE HOUSE" IN THE HAPPY YEARS TO COME WHILE YOUR WIFE GOES GALLIVANTING!!
A LITTLE GIRL FROM CARLINGFORD CALLED RUTH RYAN

Told me about your friend the McMAHON family,
of Malaya. Mrs McMAHON is FINNEGAN of
CARLINGTON. Ruth knew ALL THE CHILDREN BY
NAME - they were home about 4 year ago.
Well Mrs McM. & the children ESCAPED to
~~BUTTA~~ DURBAN - the Doctor is a PRISONER OF WAR
I WAS SO PLEASED AT FINDING THIS SMALL LINK
with you my FRANK.

On my RETURN I HEARD THE WONDERFUL NEWS
THAT LETTERS FROM MALAYA CAMPS HAD REACHED
THIS COUNTRY. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY YET
BUT PLEASE GOD NEXT WEEK WILL BRING ME THE
NEWS FOR WHICH I HAVE PRAYED SO EARNESTLY
THIS PAST 18 MONTHS.

To & I LEAVE WITH OUR PIKES FOR WICKLOW
~~to-morrow morning~~ ALL THE REST OF THE
FAMILY ARE IN PORTSTEWART EXCEPT MAIREAD
& DADDY. MAIREAD HAS GOT A 2 MONTHS LOCUM IN
THE WATER. THE WEATHER IS MAGNIFICENT SO
HERES HOPING IT KEEPS UP.

I AM GOING OVER TO BEECHWOOD TODAY
TO SEE HOW GVE ALL BEFORE I LEAVE. I PRAYED
FOR EVERY SINGLE OF THE IN MY RETREAT.
ANNE IS MAKING ME A BEAUTIFUL GIFT. YOU
SHALL SEE IT SOMETIME - IT IS IN BLACK CHIFFON
& IS FOR MY TROUSSEAU.

HERES DADDY FOR HIS DINNER SO I MUST
AWAY ALL MY LOVE DEAREST & GOD BLESS
YOU YOUR EVER LOVING EILEEN.

Dear Frank I seem to have known you all
my life. Hope you are meeting (sorry I must
PRINT THIS) WITH KINDNESS YARE HAPPY HOKANE