

Spring Villa

195 Springfield Rd

Belfast.

December 4th 42

My darling Frank,

A very very happy birthday and many so much happier returns of the day! Just imagine wishing you this & you sound asleep in bed having already celebrated your 30th birthday! (8.30 p.m.)

Somehow to-day I felt you nearer than ever to me I thought of you all day long, wondering where you were and what you were doing. I was all set for 8 A.M.

mass said by Fr Joe in St. Brigids all for your dear self when he informed me that "your" mass was at 6.30 on account of this being the 1st Friday. So

darling I went to Blonard instead but there, I prayed harder than ever (and that was hard indeed) for you and you alone. As we were all up rather late last

night we wished you a happy birthday before going to bed (1 a.m.). You would have been quite pleased had

you heard the chorus of voices. You never even smiled from your photograph which stands on the sideboard of our living room — the only photo in the room??

Everyone in the house was at mass & Holy Communion (this happens every day) and you were specially mentioned by each one. They all love you Frank & long

for your homecoming. Need I say how I wish away each day because it is one day nearer our happy reunion!

My letters seem to be rather dull these times but thank God I do not feel as dull as they sound. I have become Daddies Secretary!! His Shop boy is ill so I pay all his bills, bank his spare cash & keep an account of his rents. He appreciates it so much. It means however that I can get little work of my own done. My tea cloth still lies unfinished not to mention a host of Christmas presents I am making. As a matter of fact I stayed away from my 1st Aid to-night so that I might spend the time with the one I love best in all the world - above father, mother, brother & sister. There could never be any other.

The lady in the Post office told me to-day that she heard that the Red Cross had got parcels through to the prisoners in Shanghai. Your card darling is supposed to come from there so please God it is so. Dont worry about not writing to me for Xmas - or even my birthday. I can offer it all up to my - our account - with the Good God and withdraw later all the favours & blessings we shall both need in our life together.

Some time ago I did a good turn for a lady & her family. She writes "You will get the reward you deserve from God for what you have done for me, Eileen for He alone knows just how much it meant to us" You too Frank shall share this reward. I spent Wednesday last at Beechwood & never did I see your father in better form. Your cousin was up from Drapierstown & she has invited me to Steve Gallians foot. Everyone of your relatives is so nice to me. I love them all. Have you had a happy birthday? all my love
Your ever loving Eileen.