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 ovatory 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
Carlingford. Ruth knew all the children by
name — they were home about 4 year ago.
Well Mrs McM. & the children escaped to
~~Burma~~ 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.

So √ I leave without bikes 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 Maier. The weather is magnificent so
heres hoping it keeps up.

I am going over to Beechwood to-day
to see how are 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
~~N~~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 H.O'KANE