

Spring Villa

195 Springfield Rd.,

Belfast.

20 : XII : '42

My darling Frank,

My other weekly letters to you seem to hold very little news & so this week I'm going to squeeze in what I can.

Our first aid exam took place on Friday. We - Mary Jo. & Mairead - were examined by Dr McEntee. Are you interested in my questions? Well here goes: - Written question was "The femur is fractured and there is a haemorrhage from the femoral artery. How ^{would} you render 1st aid" The 3 oral were (i) Circulation of blood (ii) Foreign body in the stomach (iii) Epileptic fit. The (the doc.) said excellent so often that I've decided I must have passed. The practical test was "to bandage a broken clavicle." We shall hear our results on December 30th. Please God, I shall commence my "Home Nursing" in the Mater in January. Would you mind, dear Dr Murray, losing some patients to your wife belatedly? I'm afraid I failed badly when the doctor asked what I would do during a 'blitz' - I said "I'd make for the open spaces" He laughed heartily.

Since the Hospital Ball in Omagh on Dec. 2nd 1941 I have not been dancing. However Josephine & a big party of her friends coaxed me to make my reappearance at a big civil service dance in Balmoral on Friday night. Frances Roland & all the de Menteusters were to be there also. I went darling, but my heart was not in it. However everyone thinks that I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I wore my black frock & was complimented on all sides on how well I looked.

I just said to Frances afterwards (She was ill & couldn't come),
"Had Frank been there it would have made all the difference in
the world to me" However I danced every dance, had lots
of partners who complimented me on my dancing. One thing I
heard that night from a doctor just come from Shanghai (He
was one of the recent repatriated British Subjects.) which was
well worth going to a dance to hear "how well the prisoners
were being treated in Shanghai." Are you in Shanghai darling?
When am I going to hear from you? You know so well
how I long for a letter. It is not your fault dearest. I am
still most grateful to have your postcard. There were quite a
few Queensmen at the dance, Jackie O'Kane, Paddy Bradley
Charlie Stuart etc.

I shall write again on Christmas day. We all hope to
be at 6 o'clock mass in Clonard. This happens every year. Though
thousands of miles apart my Christmas will be spent entirely
with my dearest Frank. There will be 15 at our Christmas dinner
but by my side you shall sit. I shall be thinking of you all
the time.

Daddie has booked seats for 5 of us at the Philanthropists
concert to-night. John Torney is singing. Hugh Fergus & Joe
are expected on Wednesday. I have a bottle of whiskey as a
Christmas gift for your father. I'm knitting Anne a pair of
gloves. When they are finished I shall visit them and convey my
greetings. I'm still adding to our bottom drawer - slowly but
surely our collection is growing but more of this anon!

I cycled over to see Frances this morning. She is still in bed
but in grand form. I told you of her good news in another letter
I popped into bed beside you & told her all about the dances.
Gabrielle (Rolands sister) came up with scrumptious soup for the
two invalids!!

Why can't I write a decent letter. Do you receive any of
these letters? I write every week and have done so since June
I am still and always shall be very much in love ^{with} my Frank
God bless you and bring you all happiness this Christmas time
All my love darling, Eileen.