9, Holmview,
Omagh,
Co. Tyrone.
Sunday, February 8-'42

Frank, my own darling,

Here I am with you once again. Yesterday was a very big milestone in my life, because there arrived by registered post from Belfast the grandest cable I have ever seen. It was not so much the news you gave, as the confident and matter-of-fact way you spoke about your coming home that made me so happy. My heart fairly sang all day long. I read that cable so often that I know every word has been written forever upon my memory. Thank God you are well and happy darling — that was my first worry obliterated. You remember asking me to pray for your special intention — to get to a place where you could have daily mass. Well our joint request has been answered, even though it did take the Battle of Malaya to bring it about! Then you told me of having visited the little Sisters in Singapore. How pleased I was to hear this. What did you think of Les Petites Soeurs des Pauvres? They are the most wonderful nuns in the world because they are entirely selfless. How I long to hear all the details of your visit. Do tell me. I wrote to Good Mother Germaine (Kilmainham, Dublin) to give her this news of her fellow Sisters in Singapore. The 'Good Mother' in the order is the Reverend Mother. I wrote to Mina yesterday to tell her my good news. She has been very worried about you of late. So if letters will make her less anxious I shall write each time I have news.

I phoned home last night & quoted every word of the cable. How thrilled they were to hear. They do love you so much, Frank. The family rosary each night is said for you and this is only a small fraction of the countless prayers which are said daily by each one in Spring Villa for your safety. Anne was over in Spring Villa for tea on Wednesday. They all went over to Kilmacud afterwards to commence the Novena of Wednesdays to St. Joseph. Anne is going to make her visit to Spring Villa a weekly one — Wednesday evening. I am so pleased about this.

2 She was telling them that she had a letter and cable from you. You can rest assured darling that all the news of you that I receive shall be sent to everyone of the family. News of you is precious to us all so all must hear it as soon as the post will allow.

How sad I was to hear that all the 13 letters I wrote to you since September 28th have not been received including one Trans Pacific letter for Christmas and two cables, one for Christmas and the other about our ring. You must be disappointed darling one, that all your corresponding with your jewellers in Bombay has come to nought. Please, do not be sad, Frank because it was to have happened this way. Had it been sent and perhaps lost, it would have been heart breaking. True enough I should have loved to see the ring of your choice but how much more shall I appreciate the ring when you place it for the first time upon my finger. What a wonderful celebration we shall have that day — Of course darling, I shall wear my signet ring. I have never ceased to wear it on the 3rd finger of my left hand since the day I promised to become your wife (except when I play golf. In this game the left hand has so much work to do that the ring blisters my finger — I am just wondering what I shall do with my wedding ring! The only solution I can find for my dilemma is to give up golf because I shall never cease to wear the ring which symbolises our unity) Apart from golf I wear the ring always — at school, at home, cleaning or washing. This ring, you will see on my finger (right hand) in the golf snaps the other snaps as well which I sent to you last Summer. It bears my initials and was given to me years ago by Hammie — she says "at a time when she had little sense"

Frances will be pleased when I tell her of the special mention she got in a cable all the way from besieged Singapore

I told you how you made my heart sing all day yesterday. In the afternoon I cast all my "Saturday jobs" to the

3/ windo, mounted my machine and with Aileen & Mollie on similar vehicles chased the hunt for well over 15 miles. It was at Seskinore, 6 miles from Omagh. The day was in perfect harmony with my heart – the sun shone, there was very little wind, the birds were singing, the sky was blue and cloudless and the first of the seasons snow-drops were peeping out here & there. Arriving at Seskinore we left the bikes at a farmhouse & followed horses & hounds through fields, over hedges for miles. The hunt over we decided it was too early to go home so we crossed the remaining 3 miles into Fintona. One of the hunt, Captain Chambers was returning with his groom & 2 idle horses. Mollie, being suitably clad in jodpurs etc was invited to mount "Gipsey". The groom cycled into Fintona & we all met in the hotel where the Captain (an old friend of Mollie's) invited us all to have a glass of sherry. Though I have no pledge darling, I never drink so I had my lemonade between my friends armed with sherries!! Does this recall anything? The Captain is very keen that I should take up horseriding & has invited Mollie & me to come out to him for my coaching. He says he knows by looking at me, that he could make a horsewoman out of me in a month!! I would adore to find myself perched on a horse and galloping along. What do you say, darling to this wild notion your fiancee has got. Mollie is very anxious to make me a rider too.

To-day I composed a cable for a man who means more than life itself to me. I wonder when will he receive it and will it bring him even a small fraction of the pleasure it has brought to me. If so I shall be quite satisfied. Don't you know darling how much I love you and am loving you every day we are parted. The war may go on for years but it will never change me. I am yours for ever & ever.

I am sleepy to-night because I was golfing this afternoon. This open-air week-end has left me gloriously tired. But I shall be up as usual for your mass to-morrow. Isn't it wonderful that we are both at daily mass now. Our petitions shall go up to Heaven like rockets now. I know you shall see each other soon.

I almost forgot to tell you about our joint banking account. The Munster & Leinster Bank here wrote to their branch in Belfast

4/ (High Street) but alas we cannot have a joint account — to draw out money from this account our both signatures would be necessary. To start even the joint account, a written statement would have to come from you. This has worried me quite a lot darling because I wanted to carry out all your instructions minutely. What am I to do? High Street cashed your cheque & the money will remain there in my name until you let me know what I am to do. This is your money and I am worried lest anything should happen to me. I shall call with Mr O'Driscoll, the manager in High St., when next I am in town. He might find a solution to my problem.

Good night dear Frank, in what ever part of Singapore you may be. God bless and protect you. Our Lady of Lourdes watch over you.