

146-92 St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
May 15, 1943

Dear Frank,

Yes, chum, we finally did get around to paying your "three sisters" a visitation; Brennan, Joe and I went over there some three weeks ago, I guess - to Peggy Doyle's. And I must confess that I found it a very spirit evoking experience, although I won't venture to speak for my companions, and certainly not for the girls; but perhaps even some of these found the time passed not unsatisfactorily. My lord! - I did become bold ... reading my poetry - a lot of it! - aloud! - with an Oxford accent! - without blushing! Oh yes, a wolf I was at heart and a wolf I shall become.

I'm sorry, Frank, but I can't say the same things in this epistle that I did in the last; I given up all that. Since Easter, indeed, I've given up all that. I haven't even been tempted by the treat of shocking Duffy (as if he hasn't been already shocked beyond my poor ability to add or detract). But I confess to a violent interest in "dog shooting" - "just aiming a trigger, squeeze exercises" Most intriguing, I'm sure. And do you have the WAAC's to help you?

Seriously, it was gratifying to discover that you are doing so well with the Farand and Browning rifles - spent scores and all that. Keep it up! Keep it up!

I had learned, before the time you wrote that Joe (Shields) is over there, and had been offering prayers for him as for everyone in

the service. Your letter shall surely not give me reason to discontinue them. I am certain that if everyone in the warring warring kneel down at this moment and say a fervent act of contrition, they would see to discover that peace had come Tunis over! Already our most excellent statesmen are sharpening the shears with which heads will be severed from bodies, and a people from its residing-place, and a peace from the ideals of peace. I wonder what fools, of the most vindictive and irreligious - what would fools do when once the war has been won? They would defy Reason's law, and God's, and readmit the evils that bring about wars again... But to divide a nation and a people so firmly set together by generations of un-animous custom and belief - this is not to defy Reason's law! And to drive to ruin and suicide a people that is no different from other peoples, but whom

misfortune has made bitter, and
whom kindness - charity would
restore in amicability - this is not
to defy God's law! And to know that
agreements made in injustice are
made to be broken, and then to
crush a people, realizing that the
very terms which crush it will give
it sustenance to rise again, bet-
ter than before - this is not to
bring about more wars! The love
of God and reason are much more
loyal than this, it seems, and
wars never arise over such tri-
vial matters as destruction of life
and loss of happiness. Oh, how
clear it is that our statesmen, who
intend these things, are not
fools, vindictive and evil-givers.

Pray, Frank, that it's left up to
you, and to the boys who fight
with you, what these peace
terms are to be. But it is more
likely that you'll be hampered
always in your efforts to look
in on what goes on about the
table, so that when entrance is

at last permitted, a bland, smiling face will wave you to a chair and bid you watch the brewing of some new concoction, which is prepared for your children. Oh hell, — so let's be pessimists with regard to the world, if we can be optimists with regard to ourselves. As for the world, you can only talk about it — like this. "Know then thyself" — here's a heavy job for me to start on ... De me fabula!

Duffy's excellent — even in spirit, I think. Last week, because of his fine record, he was given the choice of remaining in Pittsburg, or going ahead to Flight School, an advance of two months, I think, over his contemporaries. That bad, n'est-ce pas? Duffy's career is a constant wonder; not only does he persevere,

but he succeeds. Yes, we
do make comments and ex-
press doubts - I have been
guilty too; but his moral
stability (I fully believe he
has this), the strength of his con-
victions exercised through
many years and without
weakening - these will carry
him through worse straits
than those he has already felt.
Sometimes a faulty character can,
by virtue of one trait super-
eminently powerful, project
itself across a thousand obsta-
cles of a trial whose main
obstacles are such as its sole
strength is able to defeat. Nor
is moral integrity Duffy's
"sole" strength, though it were
enough. I pray that I
be not less weak

We went over to
Fr. Maddegan's again. There's
a work I could really persuade

with eagerness if...

Brennan's deferment procedure
until September. I expect he'll
receive a 3D classification tho'.
Gene, we learned, upon his
penalty writing, has been made
a pfc.

Yesterday, going to the
movies - yes, to the movies -
I ran into Brennan, we who
in turn ran into Carlson,
we who in turn ran into Her-
mida (the man is married!),
we then of whom Hermida went
home to wife, Brennan & Carlson
to some dive on 74th Street,
and I, much delayed, to the
Alpine - "Slightly Dangerous"
(I should have stayed home), with
Sara Turner (I'm glad I came)

Your old friend, Norman
Kron, (in the Navy) is expecting
to be sent to California, whence

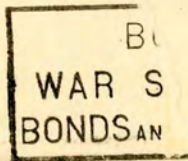
to the South Sea.

I think I told you ~~that~~ that
my cousin has been made a
Major.

(Hey Ma, — anything else
I gotta say? — Dem wat
am I am I writin' anything
else in dis damn letter for,
him? ["hin" to be pronounced
as in French]) So long, Frank;
spare news, but not a very
good reporter here.

Your friend
John

T. Callow
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