

9, Holmnew,

Omagh.

Tuesday 4.15.

My very own darling, I wanted to tell you all day long how much I love you but could not until this moment. I have missed you today so much - I felt so very lonely without you. Many many times during class I read and reread this mornings wonderful letters. I could not exist here without your letters. How have I existed all these years with typed cards going off to Japan and never an echo in return!! I prayed always that I should love you very much and God has answered in an abundant way. My heart is not here at all. It is all yours dearest. Frank and never has it, or could it belong to another. To me you are dearer than father or mother brother or sister and it always shall be so. I want to give you everything I have and yet that is not enough.

Saturday seems an eternity of time away. To-day I felt as if I must take the first train home. I ran into the convent chapel and told our dear Lord how I felt. He seemed to understand and gave me peace and the resignation to wait, work and do my duty to these Loreto



children.

On entering Form V (33 girls)  
this morning they one & all chorused "  
"You are very welcome back, Miss O'Leary  
and I felt the tears coming to my  
eyes. These girls I have scolded often but  
they seem to realize it was their interests  
always I had at heart. Yet at the  
moment I want to run away home to  
you and leave them, without a  
regret. Am I very foolish or is it a  
bout of homesickness that I am  
suffering from? Do tell me, dear  
Doctor!

I was uncertain whether you  
would phone or not at 10.45 but to be  
sure I left class at 10.35 & took up  
my position at the telephone. Who  
appeared on the scene at the same  
moment? — Mr Ford, Irish Inspector!  
I had a long chat with him later & he  
remembers me from Ruanast days, so  
long long ago. He even remembered my  
attempts to sing at the Ceilidhs. I told  
him about you & he was so interested.  
Miss McKeena thanked me for  
delaying him so long.  
I have told you how truly  
marvellous I found your 2<sup>nd</sup> diary  
I simply could not leave it down until



the last line was reached. Sometimes I laughed outright at your description of those army folk you met. You thought that Paul & Mary had a happy home, well I believe that ours shall be even happier. But Frank you must finish the story - the days and months between Rawalpindi and Singapore's fall. Do you know that I haven't even started to talk to you and tell you everything that is in my heart.

yes, I am taking plenty of rest.

Alas to night I cannot be rude so must go visiting. Onagh folk are rather touchy in this respect.

To-day has been the first day of winter. The countryside is covered with a white frost. It would be ideal for a walk but there is no time. I want to surprise you with a phone call to Okellys. The enclosed Snap was taken some months ago to send to Japan. If you look closely you can see our beautiful engagement ring. Did I ever thank you for it - it twinkles so.

I am so happy you enjoyed the Sigerson dinner, and your visit to



Pomsonby. I am not surprised the way  
the ladies gravitate towards you. I  
know they must all love you and  
yet I have been the lucky one. A  
very saintly nun at the convent  
to-day called me aside & said "I  
said when you came to Loveto years  
ago you were destined for great  
things. Remember Eileen until the  
day I die I will never forget you  
in my prayers. The others will be  
giving you wedding presents but I  
want you to know that my personal  
one will be the sacrifice of the  
mass said for you both."

I had a visitor for the past  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour  
now she has gone & I am with you  
again. Alas I used my last envelope  
yesterday so must hurry up town  
& make a purchase. This letter must  
make dreadful reading. Forgive me  
darling.

Do not worry about the broken  
heart. I'm hale & hearty for many  
a day to come. With this letter goes  
all my love & affection

Ever your own  
Eileen.