

Laura,

Milltown

Sunday 3.30

1936

My dearest Dues,

Here I am Sunday all on my own with Mother taking a nap in the "O'Bearest" & Tom. farming my thoughts wander over the sea & I've begun to take refuge by writing you all that I so wish I could say.

Well first of all I'm wondering if you have arrived in New York by now. We are anxiously awaiting news in tomorrow's paper. The weather has been so foggy here all week we have thought all kinds of things & have often said ye would be complete wreck by the time ye got to land if it were as bad on sea. We are just hung now for news from ye, even tho' it is only a week since ye left here, it seems like six months to us. There isn't a night since ye left that I haven't dreamed about. I dreamt one night

that Eileen got so far you hardly turn her later than last night I was having a row with you over wanting to buy another "O'Bearest". Well by the time you get this letter I hope you will both be quite settled down at home again & that everything will be as well as if you never left home. We have offered the Rosary every night since you left for that intention & will continue to do so until we get news from ye. Let ye take it easy for a while as ye will be dead out after all the rough & tumble here etc. so now Bess. be sensible & don't go fussing about the minute you land take it easy for a while & remember Mary's idea "where there is muck there is luck". We were so happy to get your card from Cobb. I'm sure ye were fed up there trying to kill time until 4.30. It was nice ye met that Chap. Imagine the train not to get in there until 9.15. Ye must be dead out & I suppose ye slept very little that night worrying about the morn. Oh! won't ye be glad

to get home to your own little cot once more.

Will now to begin all the news since ye left:- The weather was lovely since ye left ~~and~~ we were every day saying how well we hadn't weather like this while ye were home until Thursday came & we had an awful downpour & ever since it is drizzling more or less each day. So ye haven't missed much as far as the weather is concerned. Tom. was very lucky he got all the oats in & the hay down from Killoneen before Thursday so now he has only the turf & potatoes to think about & they will be got some time no matter how bad the weather comes. Julia & Brendan ran down from school for a couple hours on Friday eve. like ourselves they thought they should see ye some where about the house. They found everything all right after going home that Friday morn. kids etc. asleep. Mary & me. got home o.k. also. We had a letter from Nora yesterday & really we are highly amused ever since we read it. She said how killed they were & when they arrived in Dromore Hill, Peg & herself went to bed in Pegs & slept until morning & then Joe left them home. Peg was so killed she wasn't able to go to school ~~mandat~~. Now wouldn't that make you scream laughing. I feel like throwing out my chest & saying did not a bad soldier at all considering I was able to stick it out myself without bed until 9.30 & Iris sure they were in bed early enough during the previous week. Mother said it was surprising they didn't put up in some house on the way for a sleep considering they were as bad as all that. I must tell them that too when Iris writing. If you were here for 3 more weeks you would have everyone of them laid out.

Will Mother is thoroughly "at home" in the O'Dearnest. She thought it funny for the first few nights but no later than this morning she said feathers were only in the 2^d place near it & that she wouldn't go back to a feather bed again for all the world. All she is regretting now is that she won't live long enough to have all the satisfaction she wants out of it. All Iris

worrying about is that maybe I'll get "too frisky" & begin
to look for some other partner besides me. Her last
prayer every night going to bed is "God be with ye & spare
ye the healths it is ye left me the comfortable bed."
The other night I dicked out the bed with Bessie's
pillow slips, quilt & filled the hot bottle that sent
& one of her night dresses & hung the bag that sent
her on the head of the bed. Well you should see
her face when she went into the room & saw the
whole display. First thing she wanted to know
was if the priest I was bringing her. Well if
I did I couldn't get her to go into the grandeur
as she says. I got as far as making her down the
nightie but the quilt & pillow slips had become
of for fear "she'd spoil them & not knowing who
might come the way & she not to have a decent stitch
to quill out." "Faith" she said "if ye think I'm going
that quick ye are making a great mistake I'm
hoping to live myself until I see those that gave
them to me once more." So now old dolls chest up we
are all going to keep well until we meet again B.V.
Mother is beginning to chut up again these days. She
missed you such a lot at first however we kept
putting the bright side out for her sake & it's
wonderful how it helps. John I can never forget
how you kept up at the last minute. You were so
brave I'll never forget it had you broken down
it would break her heart to see you. I really
don't know how you did it. Of course I know well
how full up you were & that when you were left
to yourself the tears must have flown. I know
we all must have made it so hard for you it
is only since I realize it but honestly I couldn't
help it as I felt if the tears didn't come I'd just
burst & just now as I'm writing I wonder how
did I ever say Good Bye. Up to a month ago I
never knew I had such a wonderful brother & now

to think after all these years we had you only
for 3 weeks & here you are gone again. It is a
cruel, cruel world. Mother says she will die
happy now that she has seen you & I believe
myself she will as she has lived these years for
that day & thanks God she has seen it. It is only
since you left we hear all your praises being
sung. Everyone says you looked no more than
26 years old never mind being 26 years gone
and that you were the best looking yanks seen
about here in a long time even your dress was
so different to other yanks & the "derby" just
stood out on its own & Bessie was so sensible
& none of the silly clothes you usually see on
yanks. Now I don't want ye to get swelled
heads or think I am flattering I'm really
saying what everyone says & what I think
myself also as I must admit I never even thought
I had such a fine looking brother. Now don't
think I am beginning to get foolish when I write
these things I mean everything I say & I don't
believe in paying compliments when one is
dead. If I could forget the past few weeks I might
settle down but every day since ye left seems as
if it's never going to end. I never thought I could
miss ye so much. I missed Della an awful lot
too but of course when Hattie & Patt were home I was
too young to realize the loss. If there was any of
the girls home even to talk to about ye it would
not feel so bad but with Mother I try to avoid
talking about ye as I know how it upsets her so
I have got to sing grief alone & when I feel too
full indoors go out in the garden & get the
load of my chest. I have the kitchen to myself
while I am writing you this & believe me I have let

the tears drop. However I suppose it's useless
in feeling like this & we must only all cheer
up & hope for the past three weeks back again
in the near future.

You ~~are~~ very lucky John you aren't a
divorced man after the couple nights we
were in Galway. Do you remember the fellow
you told he was the best looking man you
met since you left America? Well he is almost
clear over the top about Bessie. He is talking
foolish about her since in Greanays. So now
Bess. any day you get rid of him don't
feel you have to bother about anyone there
make straight for Galway harbour & you'll
find him greet you with open arms. I know
John will get jealous when he hears this but
it is really true the ~~poor~~ lad isn't sleeping
since.

I have been racking my brains wondering
how I can send you some of the health for
Tom's belly so that it won't be dutiable so I
have decided to enclose a bit in a newspaper. I
hope it will reach you O.K. I know you were
disappointed when you hadn't so it will be a
surprise when you get it.

Now I could keep writing for days all I wish
to say but where is the good. Don't forget to send
a line & say how you all are as we are living
for a letter. I am feeling fine I. God since you
left & none the worse of my outings, lali hours, etc.
Give my love to all the family also Kati & Patt.
& don't forget to keep lots & lots for yourself
Yr. loving Sister Ned. Mother & Tom