

Letters Home from R. Walter Johansen

Excerpt from letter dated 25 February 1945 "Somewhere in Italy"

"You mention again about a package that you want to send to me. I have already told you what I would like. Send me whatever you can whenever you can--canned fish or cheese or anything that you think I might like. Last night we had our second PX night since being over here and buying my limit of everything I was only able to spend \$1.42 which will give you an idea of how "poor" the supplies were (\$.40 for beer).

Speaking of packages, here is something that I want just as quick as I possibly can get it. In this house where I have been "adopted" there are three daughters, ages from 15 to 27. Inasmuch as I can't get this family to accept money from me I have been trying to compensate them for all they do for us by giving them odds and ends that I either had with me or that I can get and they can't. This has not been very much. The little kids are happy about the kits of chocolate or chewing gum, but now I want to do something for the three daughters. Stockings from America would make their eyes pop out of their heads, so will you please put into my next package three pairs of silk or rayon hose, 1 pr. size 8, and 2 prs. size 9. Also some sewing thread of various colors for machine or hand work. The mother wants some wool to knit with and this you can keep in mind, too. This may sound like an odd request but I would really appreciate your sending these items to me for this family. They can be used for filler among the cans. Thank you for sending all of these items to me!"