

France
December 7, 1944

Dear Anne

I received mail for the first time since I've been in France a few days ago and among them was one from you. It really was good to hear from you, Anne. The mail situation is very poor over here and I must admit that it makes for pretty low morale as far as little old Ed is concerned. I guess I shouldn't complain though; Ward, our bombardier, hasn't had any mail since he left the States. Naturally, we don't expect to receive any packages from home because we left so late in October but it still gives us sort of an empty feeling when we see the rest of the boys carrying home their Christmas packages. But then, we'll be getting packages after their packages have been long gone.

Well, I suppose you have had snow

in Greenwich by now. It is pretty cold here and we get quite a lot of rain but it hasn't snowed as yet. I saw Bing Crosby in "Holiday Inn" about a week ago and I hope we have a "White Christmas" here. It won't seem like Christmas if we don't have snow. This will be the first Christmas I have spent outside the States and I must say that, as yet, I haven't quite caught the spirit. We have a darn nice church and priest here and I think he is going to have midnight Mass. I hope so anyway.

I haven't had a chance to visit Paris since arriving at this station but the boys and I will probably be on the next Paris pass list. Strangely enough, it really doesn't make much difference to me whether I get a pass or not except that I might get a chance to pick up a few gifts there. Prices are very high because of the inflation and we are paying much more than what the ~~france~~ is worth so we are taking

quite a beating on the deal.

Security regulations forbid my telling you how many missions I have flown or how many missions are considered a tour of duty over here but I hope the war in this theatre will be over before I have a chance to fly that many missions. I kind of have a hankering to do some flying in China or the Pacific. A lot of guys have advanced predictions as to when the war over here will be over but I don't even pretend to know. It's beyond me.

I haven't heard from Rob for a long time but I haven't written him for a long time so I can't complain. I'll have to get on the stick and drop him a line to see how he is getting along. I'm still waiting for Red Carter's address so that I can write him. I wrote Pink and also Jim Hayde so I should be getting an answer from them in a month or so.

There isn't much doing on the post. We have a theatre but we have

seen almost all of the pictures and we also have a club where one can get stewed on champagne, cognac, scotch, and some other wines. Each crew gets two quarts of bourbon when they go to Paris on pass and I'm looking forward to that. I haven't had any bourbon for a long time.

I taught my co-pilot and bombardier how to play cribbage and we have some pretty good games. They give the teacher a good run for his money.

That's about all for this time, Anne. ~~Give~~ Give Paul and your daughters my best regards and write me when you have the time. This should reach you by the end of this month so I'll wish all of you a "Happy New Year."

Ed

P.S. Have my allotment checks been coming through alright?