

DAVID H MYERS
65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
WWII—EUROPEAN THEATER
261ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, C COMPANY, MEDICAL



Nov. 5, 1941

Dear John,

How is radio coming along? I hope you are doing well in school. Does dad teach you in any class? Well, John I kept forgetting to get you a card in the P.R. and I haven't been to Rockford since I've been here, so I couldn't get you anything for your birthday so I'm enclosing some money. You can get your ring with it. If you've already bought that, I know you'll have plenty to use this for. I know it costs a great deal to graduate.

So long,
Happy Birthday,

Dave

P.S. Excuse the writing I'm on my bed.

This collection was donated to the 65th Infantry Division Association during the 2021 Annual Reunion of the Association at Camp Shelby, MS.

Daughter, Diane Stroo, shared a box of letters and her permission to post these on the Association website for other families to read. It preserves her father's history and the history of the men of the 65th. Each veteran had a different background and story, unique to themselves. Each story deserves to be known and preserved.

The 65th Infantry Division Association's mission is to gather and preserve that legacy.

The letters have been organized as well as possible and then digitized and put into a book format (pdf.).



CAMP GRANT
ILLINOIS

6 Feb. 43

Dear Family,

I arrived safely in Camp ten hours ahead of time. I went as far as Pittsburg with that horsey boy that lives in Colonial Ave. The fellows all paid their debts so I am sending \$30 of the \$40 I owe you Dad. There is not much more to say except I am pretty sure I won't be shipped across for a long time to come. However I don't know where I'm going.

I'll try to finish paying my debt next month.

Goodbye till
next time

Have.

Mr & Mrs Alfred Myers,

Well here I am all the way across
the United States. Just about three and
a half thousand miles from home.
I'm in the infantry, although I was
unable to get into the Marines, I
intend to do just as good a job here.
I heard Dave passed his physical for
the Army, that's swell. Dave said he
wanted to get in very much. The
major General of my Division is
talking about combat and seems
to think well of us about four
months only. About twenty boys from
town and vicinity are here with
me. The other boys I have met are
very generous, and helpful.

I would appreciate hearing from
you and the rest of your family.
I surely miss all of you. Dad
used to say that if I stayed over
at your house so much more, that
he would send my trunk over.
I certainly had some very nice
times at your ~~house~~ house
and want you to know I appreciate
over &

all you did for me. Well here it is
approximately 12:00 and the fellows want
me to go to bed. Yes, we have a
lot of Corp. and other boys who think
the army couldn't get along with-
out them. I guess I'll have to
close for now, but I'll write you
a better letter in the near future.

as ever,
Christian



VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL
PHOENIXVILLE PENNSYLVANIA

March 29, 1943

Dear Mom, Dad & Kids

I am now stationed in Pennsylvania. I am in the Medical Corps. So far though it has been more like the Navy, because all I have done has been scrub floors on K.P. This hospital is not yet completed but eventually it will hold 3,300 patients plus the entire hospital staff. I think it will be one of the most beautiful ones in the country. It is built entirely of brick and is spread out over 5 square miles of countryside. My barracks are about ten times as comfortable as those at Camp Meade. John how are you coming with your radio course? Charlie if I was you I'd join the Marines, maybe you'd not get so much K.P.

Yours Dave



MAIN GATE
FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON

Sat.
April 3, 1943

Mr. & Mrs. Myers

Well here it is Saturday, today is the first day that it hasn't rained for two and a half wks. I heard David passed, I know he was tickled. Please don't worry the army will take good care of him. The food isn't so very bad, although it can't compare with good home cooking. How is sis I bet she's getting along very well with her piano lessons. How is Charles? is he still boxing in his spare time. Tell him he can use them as long as he wishes to. I bet Johnny is coming along very well with his radio code work. You're very lucky to have such fine intelligent children. Well I sure would like to receive a ones.

letter from you, about the happenings
around town. Well I really must
close for now, as I hear the
whistle for mass.

Your friend
Chris

P.S. Excuse my English, I never
was very good at letter writing.

P.S. Tell Liz and Charles to
write.

V.F. H.

May 12, 1943

Dear Mom, Dad, and kids,

I am at last breaking down and writing a letter.

The interview I had was very short. The board soon convinced me that to study for intelligence would not be such a good idea. But instead he listed me for engineers. He told me not to be expecting anything on it for a good while. He told me that it would take at least 6 months to look up my record, and it would be a lot longer than that before I would get the necessary training.

Please send me Alfred's address. I haven't written him since I was stationed here. And also, send me Joe's address. Try to get Jack's

(over)

to. I have sadly neglected my letter writing since I have been here.

Things keep up like they are in Africa you might not be needing your victory garden. I forgot to tell you how much we appreciated that candy, but I didn't so I had so many friends until the day it arrived.

Charlie and sis I'll bring you each a third service command emblem the next time I come home.

John you don't want to forget those lessons, but keep reading your airplane books, too. If you learn all that stuff the Army won't be able to do without you.

P.S. Happy mother's day, mom Hasta la vista,

P.P.S. Please tell Chris to write me. Dave

P.P.S. John, if anyone wants me to write them give them my address and tell them to write to me. I'll answer their letters. Dave

NEWS FROM HOME

As Compiled By
LIONS CLUB OF EMMITSBURG

May 25, 1943

Due to the very acute shortage of gasoline, the Emmitsburg High School Alumni will not hold their annual banquet this year. The exercises will consist only of graduation, to be held on June 4th.

The first news item this month concerns the Town Election. Joe Hoke was elected to succeed himself as Burgess without any opposition. The vacancy for Commissioner, due to Coolie Combs not being a candidate to succeed himself developed into a two way contest between Luther Kugler and George Byster. Luther Kugler was the winner by 65 votes. Dick Zacharias who was a candidate for Commissioner, withdrew when he was appointed Liquor Commissioner for Frederick County. He takes the place the late Paul Little of Thurmont. At last Emmitsburg did get something.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Margaret Kerrigan, She was the mother of Ward Kerrigan and was the oldest living woman in Emmitsburg since the death of Mrs. Codori. Her grandson, Joseph Kerrigan, who we reported during the winter as having enlisted in the navy, has been enlisted in the marines. He will be allowed to finish school before he is called for active service.

Kayo Keilholtz and Maxine Sells of Taneytown were married at the Methodist Church in Ephrata Washington on Easter Monday. They will live there for the present. We also announce the wedding of Frances Kessler of Emmitsburg and Robert Lewis of Thurmont. They were married on May 7th in Emmitsburg.

Mr. & Mrs. Wales Rightenour are parents of a son. Mrs. Rightenour was Madeline Ryder, daughter of Gerald Ryder. Mr. and Mrs. Gummy Knox are parents of a daughter.

The following have been home on visits from service: Louis Rosensteel, Alvey Kline, Carroll and Vince Topper, Charles Peters, Francis Sanders, Bill Bushman and Ned Rhoades.

We have received letters from the following:- Greta and Kayo Keilholts, John J. Wantz, George R. Sanders, Joseph Fitez, Dan Saffer, James Hahn, George Topper and Vernon Keilholtz. Leonard Kessler who is in the navy, has also written. Sgt. Hoke of the 28th Bomber Squadron, has told us of his work. Greta Keilholtz says that he is still losing weight and that Dick Harner is losing his hair. Roland Sanders and Vernon Birely have received honorable discharges from the army. Donald Lings, who was wounded in North Africa is recuperating from his wounds and hopes to return to duty in the very near future. We wish to announce two promotions in the navy. Ned Rhodes and Ed Combs have been promoted from Ensigns to Lieutenant (j.g.). Vernon Keilholtz wishes us to correct the statement in the last issue that he was a lieutenant in Aviation. He is an Air Cadet. Charles Edward Rowe has been accepted as an Air Cadet and is now at Sheppard Field in

TEXAS.

Emmitsburg High School students during the month of April purchased a total of \$2,585.00 in War Bonds and Stamps.

Warner Boyle has graduated from the Officers Command School at Aberdeen with the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Department.

There are three air raid warning stations in the Emmitsburg District now. They are on 24 hour service and are placed as follows: Les Fox's Service Station, Rocky Ridge and on Payne's hill near Thurmont.

Mrs. Bob Daugherty, Mrs. Edgar Wastler and Mrs. Robert Ford of Thurmont, spent the Easter holidays visiting their husbands at Camp Edwards in Mass. Bob Daugherty is recovering from an attack of Pneumonia there. Edgar Wastler and Bob Strine have been promoted to private first class.

Mt. St. Mary's held its final commencement last week. For the duration, it will be used only for training the air cadets and a large number of pre-medical students.

Gene Cramer is stationed at Aberdeen, Jim Lingg in Florida and Jim Pryor in Alabama.

Keep the Club informed of your change in ADDRESS.

The Blue and Gray Tourist Camp located on the Gettysburg Road has been sold to New York people.

Ledlie Gloninger has sold his large home known as Valley View.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterling (Bud) Peters are the parents of a son. They are located in Baton Rouge, La.

Pvt. Earl Topper was home on a 10 day furlough from Bainbridge, Georgia. It was his first leave ~~xx~~ since he was inducted last August.

Henry Pecher who was reported as missing, last August, in the Philippines, is now officially listed as a prisoner in Japan.

Three Sons in Service
Pvt. David Myers, U. S. A., serv-

ing with the Medical Corps, stationed at Camp Grant, Ill., is spending a week's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Myers, Milton avenue. They received word yesterday that a second son, Pfc. Joseph W. Myers, United States Marine Corps, has arrived safely overseas and is receiving his mail in care of the postmaster in San Francisco. A third son serving with the Marines is in the South Pacific.



VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL
PHOENIXVILLE - PENNSYLVANIA

May 26, 1945

Dear Mom, Dad, & Kids,

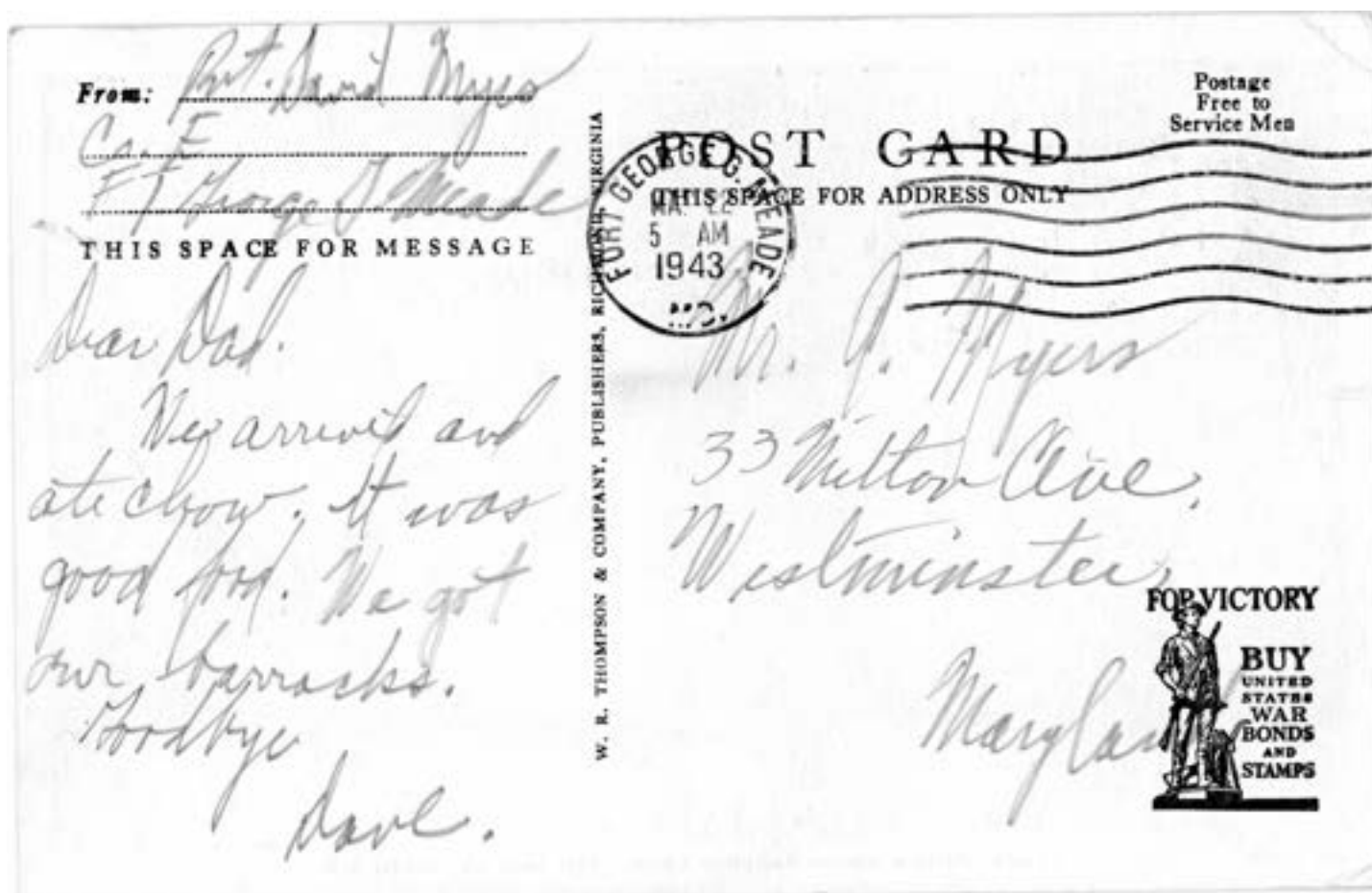
Thanks for the letter. I'll be home in a couple weeks. I'm writing to you tonight. I'm going down to Quantico to see him soon. I can get to Washington quicker than I can get home. We got a new mess sergeant today. He was in Africa and got wounded so they sent him here. I didn't get my basic yet and I won't get it until July. By the way things look the war will be over before I get it. The longer I wait for basic, the longer I wait for a furlough. I can't think of anything to write. Nothing goes on around here. I don't know what's wrong with this, but he better write soon.

Dave



Re. C. 10

Typical Barrack Room—Reception Center—Fort Geo. G. Meade, Md.





VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL
PHOENIXVILLE • PENNSYLVANIA

June 6, 1943

Dear Family,

I returned to camp okay, and on time. Just finished the day of ~~Proctor~~ after not getting any sleep all night on the train. I started to hitchhike up on Washington Road and got a man going to Pennsylvania station to pick up rookies for training up at Camp Ritchie, but I had to wait for two hours to get a train to Philadelphia. I had to stand up all the way to Philly. When I got to Philly I had to catch an "underground" to Reading Terminal, that was a ~~rather~~ new experience for me too. I had to wait 3 hours for a train to Phoenixville. I never was so tired in my life, but now I am not so tired. I had two showers and went to sleep in the sun today in my shorts. These refreshed me a little.

(over)

I don't think I'll be home again till
next pay day, and I will have started B. T. by
then.

I'll tell you what we had for dinner here
today. Tea, fried chicken, gravy, dressing, lettuce & tomato
salad, & creamed asparagus, and bread & butter. Ice
cream for dessert. They find us pretty good.

So long,

Have

June 26, 1943

Dear Family,

I was very glad to receive your letter, yesterday.

A contingent of 50 W. A. A. C.'s came in a couple of days ago. They are eating at our mess hall, but they are crummy imitations of soldiers.

I am at last going on basic training. I start Monday morning for six weeks of it. This place is getting a lot stricter now. That makes me like it all the more. I'll probably be home next Sunday if nothing happens.

Goodbye,
Dane



UNITED STATES ARMY

Saturday July 7th.

Dear Family,

How are you all? I got a letter from Alfred when I was at V.P. I, and sent him one the same day. Have you heard from Joe yet? Please send me his address when you get it. When you send my glasses send my bathing suit and tennis racket and my lions club pencil. Dad I'll send that twenty in about two weeks. I've classes haven't started yet; but we have a very stiff physical schedule. Please try to find out where Chris is John. Goodbye. Love.

Cadet David H. Myers
5th Platoon Co. B
3321st A.S.T. P.
Wm and Mary College
Williamsburg, Va.



VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL
PHOENIXVILLE - PENNSYLVANIA

July 11, 1943

Dear Family,

I got a letter from Alfred yesterday he didn't have much to say, except asked me how he was making out, and commented on my work. I'll be home Sunday I hope. Please try to get Joe's address for me.

I played softball yesterday in my gasmask, and then went on a 15 mile hike with two 15 minute breaks. I have a blister on my heel to show for this, but I feel more like I am in the Army anyway. I got a picture taken yesterday in full equipment. I may be able to bring home a print or so. We got a lot of technicians in yesterday, this will make it a lot harder to get a rating, but I've given up hope for that long ago. So long, Dave.



VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL
PHOENIXVILLE - PENNSYLVANIA

7/25/43

Dear Family,

I arrived here after a 22 hour journey. I come through Lynchburg but that was about 3:30 A.M. and I was sleeping away. This is a really big college here, but so far I've haven't had anything to do.

I took my test yesterday, and they were plenty tough. I'll find out Tuesday whether I'll pass or go back to the hospital.

I went swimming in the college's beautiful indoor swimming pool today and played a little basketball. ~~very~~

There are still a few cadets here. They work in our dining room. We eat at tables with dishes and tablecloths and have waiters. The food is pretty good to.

I sleep in a room with four people in it,
it's alright, but we have a few bad companions
here that I don't like very much. Well, nothing
more to say. Until next time. So long
Dave



VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL
PHOENIXVILLE - PENNSYLVANIA

July 27, 1943

Dear Dad,

I passed my test here and had my interview. I am going into a basic class refresher course here for a week or two then I will be shipped to some other collidge I don't know where. I need equipment and I'm broke. I wish you would send me ten bucks as soon as possible.

Yours truly,
Dave

Post David A. Myers
3310th Service Unit (Star) G.E.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Blacksburg, Va.



UNITED STATES ARMY

August 31, 1943

Dear Folks,

I'm sorry I haven't written to you sooner. I to go today and I wrote last week to Chris. I wrote a letter an enclosed 10 dollars but I tore it up to get some clean linen so I'm enclosing \$5 with this letter. I invested 20 dollars today for six months at 6% interest. I'll get it about Christmas.

I've gotten a letter and a card from Joe but I haven't gotten a letter from Alfred for some time.

The hardest subject here is Physics, it is way above my head. The math is really tough to. We've gone from simple arithmetic, through algebra, into logarithms in the month I've been here. The English, Chemistry, and History are the easiest. We carry more subjects here than the best of college students are allowed to carry in civilian life.

Besides getting up at 6:30 and having two hours of supervised study every night, but Saturday, till ten o'clock. If it weren't for Physical Education and Military I'd go batty. - I'm sending a picture of myself that was taken at V.F.G.H.

I won't be home for another two months. I only have from 5 o'clock Saturday till 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon free on week ends and I should study most of that time. I hope I pass but I seriously doubt it.

Sincerely,
Dave

P.S. Dad make them teach more math in high school.

Dave.



UNITED STATES ARMY

October 2, 1943

Dear Family,

I was kicked out of Q. S. T. U., ~~today~~ because I failed Physics. I went to see the classification officer and he said I didn't have enough background to finish the course. I'm now at Camp Grant, Illinois. This is a Medical replacement training center. I might be here for the next four months and then again I might ship out in a few weeks. Thanks a lot for the cable.

I meet several boys here from the Q. S. T. U. at Western Maryland. They liked Westminster ~~very~~ very much. One of them is engaged to Pauline Humme.

Did I tell you I got a letter from Alfred and answered it just before I left Wm & Mary.

I got your letter just before I left,
but you mentioned a letter from Chris. It
wasn't in the envelope. I written
him several letters but I haven't gotten
an answer since I was at Meade.

How long has it been since you
got a letter from Joe? I haven't heard
from him for a month.

Happy birthday siss! I guess
Pae is going to the other school
now and you ~~are~~ are all by yourself
over at West End.

So long
Dave.

P.S. I'm sorry as the devil I could-
not make the course, but I couldn't.
Dave

But. David H. Myers
Co A. 2nd Platoon
32nd Battalion
Camp Grant, Illinois

P.P.S. - Please send me my yearbook Dave.



UNITED STATES ARMY

October 17, 1943

Dear Family,

How is everybody at home? I am very well. Have you gotten Joe's overseas address yet? I haven't written any letters for over a week now I lost my stationary box over in the thirty-second battalion, so I borrowed this paper but I like it.

We are really busy here we went overnight problem last Tuesday crawled through barbed wire in the middle of a rainy black night when you couldn't see your face in front of you. Yesterday our platoon went through two gas chambers one tear gas and one chlorine gas. I was the first

AIR MAIL 

in Camp Grant ever to go into a chlorine chamber, and our platoon is the only platoon that is going to go through it! We are going to have a lieutenant general and two major generals. The Surgeon General of United States and Canada will be there to watch us.

Joe Lewis fought an exhibition bout here for us last week, and the light-weight champ was the referee.

You asked me what I wanted for Christmas, well I can't think of anything particularly, but I like to borrow ten dollars for about a month. I really need it my wool uniform is still down at Wm & Mary at the cleaners along with most of my laundry and I can't get them shipped to me without money. We are having inspection next Saturday a week and I am short on everything. I have two months pay coming the tenth of Nov. and then I can send you all I owe.

I hate to ask you for the money but
I need it, and I'll be able to pay you
back almost immediately. I loaned a
boy twenty dollars the first of Sept.
and I don't think I'll be able to get
it back because I left Wm & M.



UNITED STATES ARMY

Thanks a lot for sending me
the yearbook but I don't see it
now because the boy I was going to
show it to has left camp. I'll bring
it home if I ever get home, otherwise
I'll send it. Goodbye Goodluck

Dave

P.S. Don't me in on anything you
are going to send to Joe and Alf.

My new address is:

Pvt. Daniel H. Myers

Co. A. 1st Platoon 30th Bn.

Camp Grant, Ill.

AIR MAIL



October 31, 1943

Dear Family,

It was very glad to hear from you. I've been really busy here. Friday our company went through the infiltration course. Machine guns were firing about thirty inches over our head, and land mines going off all around us. It was really lots of fun. We only have four nights of a week here. Tuesday nights we have classes and Thursdays we go on night problems, which consist of crawling and creeping several miles with a strip pack. The only time I get to write letters is on Sundays.

During the day we have classes from 1:30 to 6:00. These classes consist of lectures from anatomy to shelter and ward tent pitching. We've completed five of our 17 weeks training.

Thanks a lot for the box, but don't worry about me going overseas for at least five or six months.

God I hope you like teaching at Westminster.

(over)

I hope Charlie likes Westminster Elementary too.
and "Sis" is all by her self over at West End now. I hope
she doesn't get lonesome. I imagine John is a big
shot in high school now he being a Senior.

I can't think of more to say right now, but I
think I'll get home once before I ship.

Goodbye

Have

Nov. 12, 1943

Dear Family,

At last I've gotten a pay. I'm sending
that twenty-five I owe him and twenty-
five to help with Christmas at home.

Thanks a lot for the letter. I haven't
been out of camp since I came here, but ~~we~~
Curt and I are going to a hotel in Rockford
to spend the weeking. (Parton the writing
but we are preparing for an inspection and
I have to get started.

You asked me about getting a picture.
I have a coupon for a 10x14 oil painting;
3, 4x6 pictures and a 10x14 picture. I can
use this as soon as I get time. Well
I have to get to work. So long

Dave

P.S. That twenty-five is my Christmas
present to all.



30 Nov 43

Dear Family,

Thanks a lot all of you for the letter I got it yesterday and one from Alfred today. Both together they were a real treat.

Alfred gave me the devil for flanking out down on Wm & Mary, but I enjoyed his letter considerably. I won't be home for the holidays but according to the sergeant we all get furloughs about Feb. 1st.

We did 12½ miles this morning. We started about an hour before sunrise and there was an inch of crusty snow on the ground. It was pretty rough for a while but we came out without any broken arms. About a tenth of the camp is down with respiratory diseases.

Today was payday I'm not sending any money home this time but I will later so I'll come to spend on my furlough.



29 Dec. 43

Dear Family,

How is everybody at home? I hope nobody is sick from too much Christmas. We had six passes for New Years from our platoon but we drew numbers for them and I wasn't lucky enough to get one. I couldn't have afforded it anyway.

Sis you shouldn't have started crying when you were talking over the telephone. I couldn't talk to you long enough.

We go on ~~furlough~~ furlough Tuesday for two weeks. The wind much warmer here though, so it won't be so bad. We got Arctic clothing, sleeping bags and all that stuff issued to us already.

Mom, would it be alright if I bring a pal home with me when I come home on furlough? This fellow is a very good boy. He is from Puerto Rico and can't go to his own home. He is about 23 and has an A.B. degree and several years in Medical College. He is a very intelligent boy. I haven't asked him anything about it yet, but I'd like to ask him even if he wouldn't.

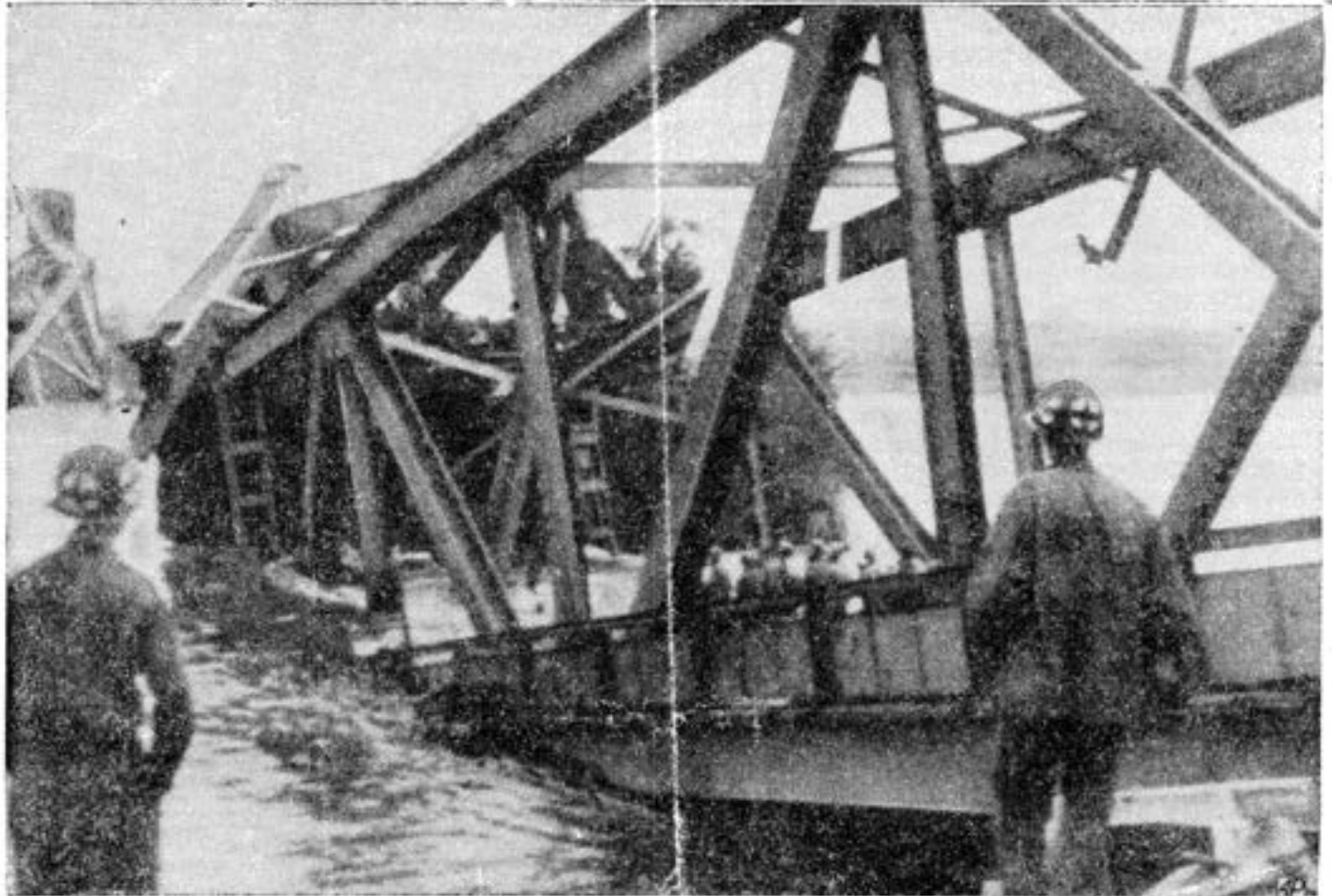
take me up on it. I got a letter
from Jack and a Christmas card.
He is down at Norfolk. He wants to
send me your home address and
Joe's address. I am going to write
to him tonight, if I get a chance.
Before lights go out.

Did I tell you I got cards
from almost everybody on the street.
Thanks them for it will you. I
can't write that many letters.

I don't seem to be able to think
of anything interesting or otherwise tonight.

So long,
Dave.

P.S. I won't be ~~nightly~~ writing any-
more till after business, but write me.



REMAINING BRIDGE AFTER IT COLLAPSED—First Army medics stand on a collapsed span of the Remagen railroad bridge over the Rhine, ready to aid men being rescued from the wreckage below. The bridge, at Remagen, Germany, fell at 3:15 p. m. March 17, after serving as the first span to carry U. S. troops across the Rhine in this war.—(AP Wirephoto from Signal Corps radiophoto).

Co 'C'
261st Inf.
Feb. 13th
Tuesday, day before
payday.

Dear Folks,

We are having a beautiful day here this morning of course by nightfall it will probably be raining.

My platoon has details today, so as usual I'm sitting in the tent doing nothing. They are all gone so I'm acting tent guard.

I made myself a writing board so my letters will probably be more legible from now on. I borrowed this paper I'm writing on. That reminds me. I couldn't get any stationary in town, so if you'd send me some of that thin typewriting paper to write on I'd sure appreciate it.

I know I've been asking for quite a lot of stuff, but I wouldn't ask for it if I didn't need it. I don't need any envelopes. I can get plenty of them, but there sure is a paper shortage.

The boys are sure making a home

Co 'C'
261st Inf.
Feb. 13th
Tuesday, day before
payday.

Dear Folks,

We are having a beautiful day here this morning of course by nightfall it will probably be raining.

My platoon has details today, so as usual I'm sitting in the tent doing nothing. They are all gone so I'm acting tent guard.

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The boys are sure making a home

of this camp. We have a nice stove, gas lamps, ~~a~~ a nice clean dirt floor, and everything.

We had a super chow this morning. Oatmeal, milk (powdered), scrambled eggs (powdered), doughnuts, slice of bread with butter and jilly, and coffee. The best we've had since we've been here.

Oh-oh, didn't I tell you the sun's gone in and it's getting cloudy already. We're having regular April-March weather around here.

When Al gets married don't forget to send me an invitation. I wrote to him day-before yesterday at his new address.

Well, folks, I guess I'll sign off, so long. We have mail call today I hope there is a pile of letters for me.

bye,

Dave

Capital Oct. 18.

David Myers, formerly of Westminster, shot his first deer while hunting in Sheep Mountain, Utah, on Oct. 18, the first day of the deer season in that state. His prize, a doe, weighed 140 lbs. after being dressed. His one shot went through the one shoulder of the deer, through the heart, and out the other shoulder. He was back on post by 10:30 and his deer attracted much attention. Mr. Myers bought his rifle in August while visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Myers, Westminster.

March 14th

Dear Folks,

I hope everybody at home is in as good shape as I am.

I'm lying on a blanket in the sun and writing this letter. I can't say anything about what we're doing but I like it.

I got your letter mailed March 6th today. I haven't gotten the box yet but I'm in no hurry for it. They feed us pretty good up here.

March 14th

Dear Folks,

I hope everybody at home is in as good shape as I am. I'm lying on a blanket in the sun and writing this letter. I can't say anything about what we're doing but I like it.

I got your letter mailed March 6th today. I haven't gotten the top yet but I'm in no hurry for it. They feel no pretty good up here.

I wish you had cancelled
the paper. I like to get it,
but it sure gets here late.

You should soon be get-
ting the money order. I'm
not going to send any
more though. They're too hard
to take care of.

Mail has been coming
through pretty good. I got
mail from Grandmother and
other mail from Westminster
yesterday.

John will never get
into the Navy I don't think
and if he volunteers they'll

probably talk him into the
Army. Tell him not to do
anything he'll regret later on.
The Army is good experience but
not in war time.

I'd trade Europe and every-
thing that goes with it for
a nice claw bath in
our bathtub at home, but I
don't want to leave here till
the job's finished.

I can't keep you up on
events over here but I'll tell
you as much as I can.

So long,
Dave

Wed. MARCH 8th

Dear Folks,

I had a very definite boost to my morale yesterday I got two letters from home, one from Aunt Rhoda, and a real long one from Al. You don't have to worry about me I'm okay.

The weather over here has broken. It's not cold if you keep moving and all the snow is gone.

Toke's outfit is in a mighty rough battle. I hope he pulls through okay though. I know all about Charlie's nickname. It looks like Charles is going to make a much better go of scouts than any of us did.

I'm in no hurry to make more money in this army all I want to do is get back home. I don't want to make a career of this thing. I want to get out and get some work started in civilian life.

Thanks a lot for the box that's something that I can always use. Rather we can. When somebody gets something here we all share it.

Thanks a lot for the letters from Chris and Jack, too. I haven't heard from Jack myself for quite a while, but I

got one from Chris since I've been
over here.

Chris is up in Belgium. I've been
writing him. I haven't heard from ~~Chris~~
Sack for a heck of a long time though.
I'll have to write him and get him on the
ball.

Now that mail is coming through, I'll
answer your letters when I get them. I'm
in a spot where I don't get a chance to
write every day. So if you want mail
you'll have to write it.

Well so long folks till next time.

Have

P.S. I found a straight razor made out of
Paris steel. It's the best one I've ever seen.
If I get a chance I'll send it home to
dad. I bought a watch second hand. It
needs cleaning. If I get a chance I'll send
it home, too.

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over here.

Chris is up in Belgium. I'm been
writing him. I haven't heard from ~~Chris~~
Sack for a heck of a long time though.
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needs cleaning. If I get a chance I'll send
it home, too.

PLATTEN HOFEN,
GERMANY

DEAR John,

Thanks a million for the letter. I was beginning to wonder what happened to you. I had to hear you met somebody you know. They say this is a small world. I agree.

I wouldn't mind be stationed on the west coast. When I came in this Army I wanted to go to Calif. I imagine you like it there. I've got to come out there and see the west some day. For all my time in the Army I didn't get west of the Mississippi. I'm sorry I haven't written

more often, but I don't seem
to be able to sit down and write,
though God knows time hangs
heavily.

I'm glad you liked the
long letter. You see when
you actually have some fun
you have something to write
about. That month I was gone
I had just about as much fun
as I've had during my Army
career.

Al sure got himself a good
job didn't he. He travels all over
the state on it. That's the
kind of job I want. Only I'd
like to travel all over the Americas
They can keep Europe for my

part. I don't want anymore
to do with it.

I think that Bell Herring
you were speaking of graduated
from High with me. It might
have been another though. I'm
not at all sure.

You say you were in
Frisco. Why don't you tell me
about it. I'd like to hear about
the place. All these guys from
Calif. are forever bragging about
the land of golden sunshine.
Well, I plan take it easy.

Dave

Pfaffenhofen,
Bavaria

Dear folks,

It seems the mail is being
held up somewhere along the line again.
I haven't gotten a letter for over a
week now. It is easier to write a
letter when I have one to answer
but I'll try to think of something to
write anyway.

As I told you in my last
letter, spring seems to be the present
craze. I have bruises and bumps
all over my body from my part

in that sport.

I spent all day from about 10 till 4:30 falling down hills day before yesterday. I still can't sleep on one side from a bump on my hip. It is still lots of fun.

I went to Munich yesterday for the purpose of getting some skins. The store I was supposed to get them at was closed, so I guess I'll have to make another trip next week.

We are moving to Mosburg Monday. I won't have nearly so good a deal there, but the change will be welcomed.

I've got on a new pair of boots
and they are sure plying the devil with
my feet. I must have walked 10 miles
in Munich yesterday in them. I have a
blister on my left heel and can't do
too much walking.

I long folks. I'll see you around
the last of March or the first of April.
I may make it home for Charlie's
birthday.

Dave

Moosburg,
Germany

Dear Folks,

Although I have not heard from
you for sometime I thought I might
write to you and tell you about
my new habitat.

We moved up here Tuesday. It's
not much of a place, but is much
better than I was had to expect
by the rumors about it.

The barracks are better than
any that I ever saw or heard of
used by the American Army in the
States. My ^{quarters} ~~room~~ ~~to~~ be used by the

S. guards before we put the guards in the prison and started living in them ourselves. They are built on the outside and well plastered on the inside with tencota stone, that take some time to get heated, but after they once get warm they stay warm over night. The mess hall is ~~not~~ inside our building and so is the red-cross club. We hardly have to leave for any thing.

There are about 10,000 prisoners in the stalog. Half of these are soldiers and half civilian Nazis, also there are some

three or four hundred women Nazis here.

For the last two days I have been guarding from 6 to 10 PW's myself. I go over and check them out of the logs and bring them over here to the messes and find work for them to do. I have put them to work mostly crosscutting and chopping wood for our fires. They also do most of the details around here; build fires, sweep and mop the hall and rooms, and move our furniture in.

I stayed up till two o'clock last night playing pinhole. I'm sure a sleepy guy this morning.

W. H. Folger, 4th write again soon.

$$\begin{array}{r} 54.86 \\ 25.9 \\ \hline 28.96 \\ 11.95 \\ \hline 40.91 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 20.51 \\ 1.50 \\ \hline 22.01 \\ 11.95 \\ \hline 33.96 \end{array}$$

Done

4.35

P.S. I intend to be home for Charlie's
birthday.

Raffenhofen,
Bavaria

Hello, John,

I got your letter yesterday
just after I'd mailed one
to you, so I guess I'll spend
some of my leisure time
answering this one.

I got a letter from
home, a card from Al, and
a card from Uncle Will, all
at the same time. A pretty
fair catch for one day's
fishing in the E. T.O. don't

you think.

You asked me how the snow was over here. Well I'll tell you. There ain't none. No, it's about 7° above 0° over here but beautiful weather and snow no.

Glad to hear you graduated from S. K. T. Also glad to hear you got duty Stateside. That is the best. You will probably get your chance at sea duty before you get discharged. But you won't like it much after the

novelty wears off.

I am inclined to agree with you on the point that Joe is sharp in civies. He is. He is going to give a competition as a lady killer, too.

I don't get the Hanover paper anymore. I don't want it anyway. I get all the news from letters a hell of a lot sooner than that paper would get over here.

You mailed your letter,
this one I'm answering, on
Dec. 11th and it took till Jan. 3rd
to get it. Think how long
it would take for 3rd class
mail.

That is a good deal
having a close buddy that
is married. You ought to
meet some nice women in
that setup. That is if you
are a Casanova, which I
imagine you are. Yes.

Will Johnny - no more
news. So long. Dave

Plattenhofen,
GERMANY

Dear Folks,

Well at last the tests are finished. I finished the drawing that today. I had the last part finished a couple of days ago, but the sketching was very difficult for me and my equipment here is very meager. I'll say this for sure, if I ever have to draw any circles I'll have to use a compass.

Last night was Halloween. We broke the Dutch in on a little of the good old American customs. The Red Cross had a party in Lygalstadt but

I didn't go. Some body
brought a live donkey in the
Red-Socks Club. It really made
the Frauliens scream.

We got an Irishman
drunk and he sang some
Irish songs for us, accompanied
by a Polack accordionist. We
got the Dutch Band to play some
Boogie and two of the guys got
out on the floor and did some
jitterbugging.

I dreamed last night it
was on my way home. I
hope that dream comes true soon.

Well folks

So long

DAVE

Pfaffenhofen,
BAVARIA

DEAR Folks,

Thanks a million for the letter
and also this will probably be late

~~thanks~~ MERRY XMAS. Thanks
mom for the airmail stamps.

I see by the letter Joe is
having quite a time getting something
to wear. I had expected that
from the news over the radio. By
the time I get out there probably
won't be anything left in mens
stores. I'll probably have to buy a
few dresses to wear till the shortage
is over.

Joe must be really laying in
a colossal wardrobe. I don't blame him.
When I get out of here I'm going to
have one, too. Wearing the same thing
all the time really gets on your
nerves.

They are planning a big Xmas
week here this week. I hope we
can enjoy it without interruption.
If these Nazis try a revolt I
imagine this will be the perfect
time to try it. I don't think
she will. They haven't got the
guns anymore. If she do they
can't succeed.

Well so long, Merry Xmas.

David,

PLATTENHOFEN
GERMANY

DEAR FOLKS,

Thanks for the package. I got it last night. I wish you people would write me and tell me when Joe comes home.

I went to the dentist today. I tried to get my front teeth fixed up. He said if I came 5 years ago it would have been a much easier job. About 5 years ago Doc Hitchcock told me to wait a couple of years and he could fix me up. It looks like somebody is full of baloney. And I don't think it's this guy because he's a friend of mine. I'm supposed to go back Friday and get

my teeth chamed. I'm going to
talk it over with him then. I'm
determined to get this job done
sometime soon. Everybody thinks
I'm a kid with these snaggle
teeth.

Well, no news. I'll write again
soon. I'll see you in May or
thereabouts.

So long.
Dave

Plattenhofen,
GERMANY

Dear Folks,

Thanks a million for the fruit cake. I sure enjoyed that very much. I was in the best condition of any box I have yet recieved.

Sad thanks for the test I've completed all but the drawing test and whenever I can get hold of a ruler I will finish that and send them all home.

I told you I was going to be shipped to the 7th Div., but the order was cancelled, so I guess I'll remain here for the time being. Until new orders come through. There is a rumor out that the old div is going to get another battle star. That will give me a total of 53 points if it comes through.

If I was in the States I would probably get a discharge in Dec. with that many, but it will be longer than that over here.

I hope he gets home for Xmas, and I think so will. ~~transcript~~ I am going to try to save some dough for some presents, but I hardly think I can do in case I don't dig into my treasury. And

buy them for me. It is senseless
for me to buy anything over
here because the prices are all
ten times what the articles worth
and money is worth nothing.

It will be hard to save
anything on the measly 8 bucks
a month I'm getting now unless
I can hit some luck.

I want you to get something
for the family, each individually
and grandmother, and Mary Ellen.
Mail something to John and we
hope he will be home.

That is 9 people in all.
Make 50 dollars (50) cover it.

I still have to get a wed-
ding present for Al, but I'll take
care of that when I get home.

Thanks a million

Have

Plattenhofen,
GERMANY

Sept 13, 1945

DEAR John,

I'm sorry as hell to hear about your bad luck. As you know I flunked out of a service school in the States, too. I know how you feel. It's too damn bad you couldn't get higher math in school at home but you'll live it down. As I see it you'll be in the Navy for at least a year yet, so why not take a self teaching course in algebra through USAFI. I started one before I came over, but I had to give it up when I took the boat ride. They give you plenty of time to get your lessons done.

You were speaking of liberty in Chicago. I was there for a half day coming through from Camp Grant. This is the best liberty town I've ever been in except maybe N.Y. You should like it there.

As you can see I'm in Germany now. I'm in the 9th Div. one of the regular outfits. This is going to be an occupational outfit, but rumor says that all of us with 45 or more points are going back to Austria. I have 48. If this is true I might be home in March. I hope.

My mail hasn't caught up with me yet. I imagine it never will if I keep moving around.

I have a good deal here. An old buddy of mine from the 65th and I run a pro station. We are all by ourselves. We have two rooms, and we never have any business all we do is eat and sleep.

The frauleins here are pretty nice to look at, but they are more or less afraid of us. They have a lot more to eat and drink here in Germany than they did back in Austria. It ought to be the other way around. These Germans have it too good.

I saw Buchenwald prison. I know how they treated the other conquered people. We ought to treat these Germans the same way.

Well, John, there's no news so,

Adios
Dave

Dear John, These are 2 letters we
rec'd yesterday with some German paper
money. Please send them back for me
to file. I am terribly busy and tired. We
worked at Alfred's apartment yesterday & last
night. Bye dear - Love from Mom

Somewhere in Germany
April 5, 1945

Dear Folks,

~~XXXX~~

I haven't got much time but I thought I'd write and let
you all know I'm OK. We've been pretty busy lately. You have
probably read about our outfit in the papers by now. We fought
in Sargolautern. I'm sitting in a German house writing this on
~~XX~~ a German typewriter. Its the first time I've found a chance
to write on a typewriter for quite a while so never mind a mis-
take.

We've been having some rain lately, but we don't mind that
we've been living in houses most of the time anyway. I still
haven't got that box you were going to send. I suppose it will
get here eventually though. We've been living on K and C rations
for about two weeks now so I'll really appreciate it when it
does come.

Well folks I guess I'll close for now.

So long,

David H. Myers
Dave

Camp Shelby
10 July 44

Dear Folks,
Thanks a lot for the letter. I would sure welcome one from either of the boys. I couldn't very well make Charlie's last one out. He must have eaten some loss week.

Now I mean to see that flower garden when I come home. He said you got a bunch of sweet peas out of it three times a day.

So John and dad are making practice mines etc. Well I've used quite a bit of them in training.

That clipping you sent. The soldier kneeling did look a lot like Joe, but you can only see the side of the face and there are a lot of Marines on Saipan.

Dad will your place send me a money order for 80 bucks? I hate to ask you but I'll need it very soon.

Well folks goodby. Still to
seeing you soon.

Dave

Good-bye
10 July 44

W.H. Miller Book Co.
in Germany.

April 30, 1945

H. H. Miller,
How is it?

I really had some luck recently. I got
a letter from you the other day. I was
from John and Kate. I was
but I never saw a Ford. I was
now into the world with me.

But the other things are lucky
and I was in the world while I was
on the way. I was in the world
that machine has caused me. I was
there but I still fight with
occasionally. However, I'm not so
worried about anything as I was before.

Dear you & my mother - W.H. & Ed & D.D.
in Germany - and

to the post office and to 2 April 30/1/45

H. H. tells, I & D. are all good. The
how is our life? 3:15 P.M. 12/4/45

I really had some luck recently - I got
a letter from you the other day. I was
from John and that today. I was
and I was very - I was very
and I was very - I was very

get the other things going - I was
a much - I was very - I was
on work - I was very - I was
what machine has come - I was
the - but I still fight - I was

occasionally. However, I'm not so
concerned about anything as whether I go

W.H. Miller & Co. Ltd.
in Germany.

APRIL 30, 1945

H. H. Miller,
How is it?

I really had some luck recently. I got
a letter from you the other day. I was
from John and Kate. They had been
but I never saw a Ed. I was all
I saw into the night. I was 120.

get the other things. I was lucky
I was in the hospital while I was
on the way. I was in the hospital
that machine has caused me. I was
there but I still fight with
occasionally. However, I'm not so
worried about anything as I was before.

W.H. McEcklin
in Germany

April 30, 1945

H. H. McEcklin,
How is everything?

I really had some luck recently. I got
a letter from [unclear] yesterday. I was
from [unclear] and that today. I was
at [unclear] in [unclear] all
the way into the night.

But the other [unclear] are lucky
as well. I was [unclear] while I was
on [unclear] for [unclear] of
what resistance has been here. I was
there but I still [unclear] back

occasionally. However, I'm not so
worried about anything as whether I go

to the Pacific or European Occupational
force.

John seemed to like the Navy O. &
the first day. He ought to be able to
get a commission with all he knows about
radio.

One time we were really upset
with the news about Roosevelt's death.
We really lost a good man. He was
all for the service man.

The Germans aren't so bad as
the S.S. The people are deathly afraid
of them and they are all afraid of the
Russians. We'll see how long folks
will keep so long folks.

Done

Plattenhofen,
BAVARIA

Hello Johnny,

How is the swab jockey?
I'm fine and getting better
all the time. Have they
got you on the boat yet?
I can't see why you are
so anxious to go overseas.
It's like coming in the
service. You'll never be satis-
fied until you try it
for yourself. You will
appreciate the experience after
it's over, but you won't
like it too much at the
time if you are anything
like me.

Did you have a good
Xmas and New Year? Mine

was O.K. Plenty of dancing,
parties and frolics. I
imagine you got home for
that. Did you not?

I am spending all
my time sleeping as usual.
Once in a while I take
a break and write a few
letters. That doesn't happen
very often though because
there is much of anything
to write about.

I saw a darn good
movie yesterday. Betty
Grable in 'The Diamond
Sneakers'. It was really
well filmed. Not a very
new plot but Technicolor
can make a good picture
out of practically nothing.

There is a new furlough
coming up. It's a furlough
to quaint little Switzerland,
which is the most un-
changed country in Europe
plus a tour down to Rome,
Italy which is the supposal
to have some beautiful
scenery. I'm going to try to
get in on that deal if
it is at all possible.

Well John, until next
time, so long.
Your brother,
Dave

HERBERT R. O'CONOR
GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

September 8, 1942

Mr. David H. Myers
33 Milton Avenue
Westminster, Maryland

Dear Mr. Myers:

It is with great pleasure that I enclose herewith your identification card which signifies your membership in the Maryland Minute Men.

I wish to commend you most wholeheartedly on your patriotism.

By enlisting in this organized militia, and volunteering to protect the lives and homes of neighbors in your community, you are rendering an invaluable service to the State of Maryland.

Yours For Victory,

Herbert R. O'Conor
Governor

HRO'C:S



Certificate

HONORING

DAVID HENRY MYERS

who is a member of the armed forces of our GREAT AND
GLORIOUS COUNTRY.

This community takes a personal pride in the knowledge that
your efforts and sacrifice will prove to be a vital factor in our
inevitable victory.

COUNCILMEN

Oliver L. Myers, President

Jesse C. Royer

Roy A. Shipley

J. Albert Mitten

Scott S. Bair

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

Conrad F. H. Thomsen
MAYOR
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

Date March 22nd, 1942.

CAMP Shelby
Feb 44

Dear Family,

Don't be alarmed by my
Q. P. O. number. This place is
so far away from civilization
it is like one of those
Pacific islands. I'm in the
Medical Corps attached to the
65th Division. I don't know
what my job will be yet
but I imagine it will
either be letter bearer or
company aid man.

We live in little
righter man hutments.
we have to walk a
half a block to wash up
or use the latrine.

Most of these Infantry men here are still in training, as of course we have to go through training again with them.

This is a much larger camp than Grant. They have the whole 65th Division in training here. Artillery, Infantry, Mechanics and everything.

We left Camp Grant Thursday at 5:30^{AM} and didn't arrive here till 9:30^{PM} Saturday. We slept in Pullmans Thursday night.

The nearest town, twelve miles away, is Hattiesburg, a town of about 5,000 people. New Orleans is the nearest big town. It is located about 145 miles from here.

I just went over to the
mess hall. That's the only
building in camp that doesn't
look like a chicken coop
inside.

Well - I can't think
of much to say.
So. Goodbye.

P.S. Did you get the wrist
watch band? Please have it
fixed and keep it for me.

Thanks

Dave

CAMP SHELBY

16 FEB 44

Dear Family,

There is nothing to do here but write letters, so I guess for the next couple of months you'll get plenty of them from me.

I don't remember whether I told you or not how much I disliked this camp. I was really down on it the first couple of days, but I'm getting more acquainted with it gradually.

I'm taking basic over again. The same old thing we had at Grant, and we don't get any credit for having taken it. Some of the men here

I will very soon. I can send you the copies after I receive them.

Mom, I'm sorry I couldn't get my pictures taken. I promised you I would, but there wasn't time while I was at Grant. I will get them done in New Orleans as soon as I get a chance.

I saw ~~as~~ a U.S.O. show down at one of the Post Theatres tonight. It was pretty good. That is one thing I have to say for the Army. They give us good shows and movies both.

Charlie and Sis. Did you get many Valentines this year? I hope you got a lot of pretty ones.

I guess John (the chick) got a basketful.

who have scarcely been in the army two months have got P.F.C. stripes and they are still taking basic.

The movies are not very well liked in this camp. You have to fight to get something to eat.

We went on a twelve mile hike this afternoon. I didn't mind it very much because I'm getting used to them now, but most of the hike was over muddy stretches. It rained two out of three days since I've been here and its really very sloppy out.

I said something to you Dad about getting you a subscription to Yank. Well, only army men can subscribe to it.

I'll send you one of my
new shoulder patches as
soon as they are issued to
us.

I guess I better send the
clipping about Alfred back before
I lose it. You'll find it enclosed.

Well, its fifteen minutes
past lights out. The fellows want
to go to sleep.

Goodbye,
Dave.

DOING DANGEROUS MISSIONS

Sergt. Myers in Charge of
Delousing Detail, Had
Two Narrow Escapes
With Booby Traps

SAW 100 DEAD JAPANESE

(The following story was written by Staff Sergeant Donald A. Hallman, Sr., a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, of 5101 39th Avenue, Long Island City, N. Y.)

Cape Gloucester, New Britain, January 6—(Delayed)—When the Japanese were blasted out of a big hollow back from the beach, they booby-trapped everything in sight.

An advancing infantry officer noticed a mine and warned his men. Two days later the engineers were called out to remove the booby traps. Delousing, it is called.

The job was dangerous and unpleasant. There were more than 100 dead Japanese in the area. Each one had to be examined for explosives, then buried.

Sergeant Alfred Myers, 33 Milton Avenue, Westminster, Md., in charge of the delousing detail, had two narrow escapes this way. He is the son of A. N. Myers, and saw action on Guadalcanal.

The worst job was crawling into dugouts and pillboxes to check the dead.

Private First Class Sterling Lamar Taylor, Jr., of 809 Broyles Avenue, Maryville, Tenn., was operating a bull dozer.

"Just hope my shovel doesn't hit a mine," he grinned.

After a morning of work, a pile of a score or more mines, grenades, dynamite blocks, and other booby traps had been removed and carried to a tree where a guard was set up.

Private First Class Conrad Chechile, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Chechile, 114 Walnut Street, Springfield, Mass., had that job. He didn't like it.

"I would rather be guarding a passel of Japs than these things," he said. "They go off sometimes."



CHEVROLET
REARVIEW

Camp Shelby

FEB 25, '44

Dear Family,

I was very glad to receive your letters. Thanks a lot for the Valentine too.

I hope everybody at home is fine and dandy. I am in very good shape myself. In spite of the dishes I have for this camp. In general it agrees with me especially the warm weather. That is the biggest thing I had against it. Although it rains here almost half the time the sun is so hot it dries it up very quickly.

We go out on our field problems rain or shine, however. It rained for about an hour today and the ground is very muddy but we are going on our night problem nevertheless. So much for the weather.

I wrote to Alfred about three days ago. I have written him quite a few recently although I haven't received a letter

from him for quite sometime. Thanks a lot for Joe's new address. I wrote him a letter last night. He must think I have forgotten about him it has been so long since I wrote to him.

I got a card from two of the boys in my Co. at Sant. The first, Cairnes, a southern boy, is in Camp Reynolds Pa. That is a P. O. E. Jones, the second of the two, is in Seattle at a cantonment. He is assigned too a troop carrier as a medical attendant. He is from Oregon and will probably get a chance to go home. Pretty lucky, although his job will be pretty dangerous.

I wrote a letter to Grandmother last night, too. I hope she is well and in good spirits.

We will have a S. L. party after returning from the problem tonight. I don't know whether I told you what a S. L. party was or not. It is a scrubbing party. Well, I have to get my pack on. I'll write again soon. Goodbye.
Dave



G-A-M-D-R-A-N-T
T-222222

CAMP Shelby

4 MARCH 44

Dear Family,

How is everybody? I was very glad to hear you heard from the boys. I guess I'll be getting a letter from them pretty soon now.

Thanks a lot for the donuts Mom. I really enjoyed them very much.

Our whole division marched out near the airstase this past week to see an air show, and artillery shelling. Three B-26's skip-bombed, and precision bombed targets on a ridge across from us. Then two P-40's dropped 200 lb bombs on mockup targets. After that P-39's came in and strafed with their .50 caliber and 37 mm. blazing away. They marched a whole

div. out just to see that junk. It only lasted about an hour and a half and we had to march eight miles each way. I have a couple of pictures to show for my trouble. Don't let anybody try to tell you, you got used to marching because it isn't true.

Well, today is Saturday. We work all day tomorrow just like any other day. The whole camp does. Gen. Marshall is supposed to tour camp tomorrow. I have K.P. tomorrow anyway so it doesn't make much difference to me. We are supposed to have rest Saturday and Sunday both off.

I got a letter from church with the Tent program in it. They have the Epistle for every day in Tent.

I found a four leaf clover about a week ago. I've been carrying it around in my wallet till yesterday. I gave it ~~to~~ to a fellow to send

it home
He had a
some other
looked like
passed.



CAMP GRANT
TENTH

~~and~~ violet and
flower that
a butchcup
Ever since

I gave it to him I've had bad
luck. First I find I'm on H. P.
and then today I'm hitting the
ground under simulated air attack
and I break my watch. I don't
know what happened but it quit.
I'll send it home when
I get paid. That will
be Saturday. When it gets
there have it fixed please,
and send me a bill for everything
I owe.

Everyday an infantry outfit
goes out on the range a detail
of Med. has to go out with them.
Very often we have a chance to
get practical experience.

I was out on the 43rd Combat

range day before yesterday. That is a machine gun range. I had a very uneventful day, but I watched them fire .30 cal. all day. All we do is take a jeep out and sit in it. Just wait for somebody to show up. The other day a fellow, shot in the chest, died. The Prof. shot two cows and a mule Sunday. Their aim was a little high. Those guns are dangerous up to a couple of miles you know.

The day before I went out one man who was working in the pits got a shot in the arm from a rocket. One of my buddies patched that man up. He is recovering.

I got a letter from Aunt Rooker.

Goodbye,
Dave.

Camp Shelby
12 MAR. 44

Hello Folks,

How is everybody? I'm fine. We had to work last Sunday for the funeral. Now this week we have Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday off. So I've been getting a good rest. I was going to New Orleans but my buddy didn't want to go so we stayed here. Yesterday and the day before I was in Hattiesburg. It's a small town, a little larger than Westminster, and there isn't much to do there.

me a free subscription to
the Evening Sun do you?

They sent me an application
blank once, but I never used
it.

I tried to put in a sub-
scription to Yank for dad
but only soldiers are allowed
to get it.

I got a V-Mail letter from
Jack he is in Italy now. Joe
or Alf neither one have written
to me yet. I don't know why
but they haven't. Father has Chris.

Dad do you use that Spanish
English Dictionary still? If you
don't I could use it. I have
a pal down here from Los Angeles
he is Mexican. I would like to
spring some words on him.

In Hattiesburg there are four theatres. We saw movies in all of them and two of them we went to twice. There is a very nice Y. S. O. and a good Service Center there also. We played shuffleboard and sat around there for quite a while.

Our first sergeant down here has the same name as the church pastor, Falkenstein. I doubt if there is any connection but you can find out for me if you want to.

By the way, mom, you don't suppose you can get

Dad, I'm enclosing five I'll
send more about the first. so
long. Dave

P.S. the picture service here is
rotten.

Dave

Camp Shelby

20/3/44

Dear folks,

I received your letter this evening and one from Joe this noon. The two of them pushed my moral up a hundred per cent. If I had gotten one from Alf the same day I think I would have taken a drink to celebrate.

Joe said he had raised a mustache and acquired a sheep's coat of tan. He talks as if he is in high spirits.

Dad, the first part of your letter was hard to translate at first, but when I recovered from the shock that I received at first. I thought maybe

fifty books in it but I have already read two. Both of them were by Sabatini and I enjoyed them very much. I was playing ping-pong in anti-tank Co.'s day room when I found these books. I walked out with them. None of the gup crew liked that, but I got the books. None of the outfits here hear any love for me, but we don't hold that against them because the feeling is mutual.

Dad you ought to read Sabatini if you get a chance you might like his books.

Charles, his, and John how come you don't write to me once in a while? I like to hear from you.

you had gone mad. Bit by a ~~re~~
rabid dog or something. After I
had translated it gave me a
bitter laugh than I have gotten
at the movies for a long time.

Now I'm glad you got your
teeth. They ~~will~~ will make you
look a deal of a lot younger than
you look without them.

You asked me if I would
get another fulough. I might
and I might not. I don't know
what the score is here. I
can't understand it. Anyway
don't bank on it. And don't
be too surprised if it does show
up. The future will be
appreciated by me if I can
fight the mob off and if not
by the mob.

This weekend I ran in to
a small library. Only about

Well I haven't much to
say this time. I guess
I'll have to close.

Love
Dore

Oh, I'll send the watch
as soon as I can find
something to send it in.

~

Camp Shelby
9 April 44

Dear Folks,

I guess you've been wondering why I haven't written for so long. I can't answer that question very well because I don't know myself. I just couldn't get in the mood.

Thanks a lot for the fruit cake and stuff. I heard my name was in for Pfc. I hope the rumors true but I doubt it.

Our training period is over down here. I don't know what we are going to do next. I've heard a million rumors on that score too. I guess I'll just get basic training over again. I'm getting pretty tired of basic now.

I've gotten about three letters from Joe and one from Alf in the last two weeks. So they both must be in a position where they can write. This must mean something.

We got Saturday and Sunday off this week. I had a pass but I didn't leave camp. I didn't get up in time for the sunrise service but I went to the regular service at 11:00. The chaplain's name is the same as ours, Myers. I guess I'll have to get to know him better. The second and third Battalions are going out on a two day bivouac but we aren't. I'm attached to the 1st Bn. We were on the alert for a week

and I was attached as a
Co Aid Man.

I got an Easter Card
from BeBair's mother.

I fell on my wrist playing
softball Friday. I thought it
was broken. But the doc
diagnosed it as a sprain. It
was splinted for two days, but
the splint is off now and
I've got it taped up.

Well, folks there is not
much more to say, so goodbye
till next time.

Dave

Camp Shelby
15 April 44.

Dear Folks,

Thanks a lot for the letters.
I hope you are all as well as
when you sent them.

I sent you a letter on a
couple of days ago, but I won't
be able to write for a week as I
thought I better write now.

Our Regt. is going on small
scale maneuvers this week starting
Monday so I'll be pretty busy. We're
going out into the vast wilderness of
Miss. I'm attached to "C" Co. first
Bn. as a Co. Aid Man. This is a
rifle Co. so we'll do a lot of moving
around.

like that is the one who gets ahead
in the Army and probably the
rest of the services. However, I hope
this war is over before he gets
into it.

How are Charles and his
doing in school? I hope as well
as when I heard last. But if
Charles don't get into mischief he's
sick.

I'm get mail now from
all the war fronts except Russia,
that is until Jack came home.

Several of my buddies from
Gant have gone overseas and I
get letters from them now addressed
somewhere in England.

Goodbye,

P.S. Dad. that fifteen bucks Dave
is on my conscience I'll pay you this month.

We have a lot of forced marching and riding to do. This problem, as it is called is supposed to be part of our unit training. After this probably we will go on maneuvers. I had hoped we would move to some other camp for unit training but it don't look like it. Well, anyway, barring blisters and rain sleeping out won't be half bad. In fact I expect to enjoy it.

I'm glad you got to talk to Jack. I wish I could have got to see him. He is the best pal I have outside of my family - bar none. I'm also glad you liked his conduct.

John seems to be getting ahead. I'm glad to hear that he is sticking to his radio. A guy who knows a trade



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

May 21, 1944

Dear Folks,

How is everybody there at home? I hope you are all as well and in as good spirits as I am. I have finished with bivouac and had a good weeks rest in the barracks.

Now, I hope you enjoyed your visit in Cleveland. It seems granddaddy Elmore is in pretty bad shape, but there is a pretty good point about his condition. He don't even know there is a war going on.

Thanks for the Saved Heart Mom. So Alfred sent home some souvenirs, etc. Well, if I get a furlough I'd sure like to see them. If that article in Leatherneck is about Joe, its a tough break, but I imagine he'll enjoy the rest.

It's too bad about Bob, what ever
the reason for him to be discharged. He
was in on the best deal in the army.
I know he enjoyed his work. He
ought to go back to school.

Well I don't have much news
about myself, except I haven't been
getting many letters for about a month.

Joe and Alf neither have written for
quite a while. I guess they are too
busy. Jack hasn't written to me for
quite a while either. All my friends
from Grant are overseas now. One
in Alaska, one in the south seas, and
two in England.

Yours truly,
Dave

P.S. Don't worry about me going overseas
for quite a while yet. I think I'll
get another furlough first. (I hope)

Dave

P.S. Dad ratings are VERY SCARCE.

DAVE

CAMP Shelby

MAY 27, 1944

DEAR FOLKS,

How is everybody at home?
I haven't much to say, but I
thought I'd write anyhow.

I got a letter from Al
Thursday. He didn't say, but
by his letter I reasoned he
might be home in about six
months.

I just heard a rumor
to the effect that I was
moving out of this joint. I'm
very sure though.

If things work out right
I maybe able to be home to
eat some of the produce of
that Victory garden. If there

is anything left by the end
of three more months.

Charlie, how did you like
Robinhood? Did you see the
movie about it or weren't
you old enough then?

You remember that watch
I was going to send home?
Well somebody saved me a lot
of trouble by swiping it. How
about that wrist band has
Bunny fixed it yet? If so
how much did it cost?

John it looks like you
are making an actor out of
yourself. You seem to be
making the best record of all
the Myers boys in school.
Who the devil is ~~the~~ your
date. I might know her.

My Ours are going on the

about starting today at twelve.
When you are on the about there
is always a good chance of
being called ~~out~~ out in the
middle of the night for a
ride around the country side.

I was boxing a little
bit tonight with one of my
pals. I got a swollen nose,
a few small cuts on my lips,
and a knot on the jaw out
of it.

Well, folks, I'm running
out of things to say so
I guess I better ~~sign~~^{sign} off.

Goodbye,
Dave

P.S. If you see Chris give
him the devil for not writ-
ing will you.



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

6/4/44

Dear Folks,

How is everybody at home? I still haven't gotten a letter from Joe, but I got one from Alf today. I also got your letter. The one with the class night program in.

I went swimming in Hattiesburg, that makes the second time this summer. We go swimming in a small lake. You have to know the right people to find this place, but when you get there, there is plenty of room, a nice beach, and good clear warm water.

I saw my name up for furlough when I was looking at the bulletin board today, but I won't get it till sometime in

August.

Well John I guess you and Dad will be going to work down at Westinghouse pretty soon. I hope you like it down there.

Thanks a lot for the Mike Charles I guess you must be doing pretty good over at West. ~~Elm.~~ ^{Elm.}. I saw you were the joke editor.

So you'll be going over to Westminster Elm. next year too, won't you.

Well take it easy everybody I'll be seeing you in August.

Goodbye,
Dave

P.S. Alf said he was going to tell you where he's been and what he's done.

Love
Dave



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

10/JUNE/44

Dear Folks,

Thanks a lot for the letter.
I got it when I was on bivouac.
We bivouac about half the time
now.

I haven't got the owl yet
but I imagine I'll be getting
it pretty soon.

I haven't got a letter from
either Joe or Al for quite a while.
Joe hasn't written for over a month.
I got a letter from one of the
fellows that was up at Shant with
me. He's attached to 332nd Eng., so
I guess he was in the invasion.

John, how does it feel to be
a graduate? I bet you didn't get
a lot of sleep Commencement week.
Did you?

One of the boys came back
from furlough with two boxes of
film and I have about the only
camera in the detachment, so I
guess I'll get some pictures.

Say mom all said he'd
send you all the dope on his
past experiences. When you get
them send them to me with you.

Well my furlough ought to
come in Sept. I'll be seeing you.

Happy Birthday Dad

Dave



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

JUNE 21, 1944

Dear Folks,

Well we just came in from bivouac again. I got your letter with Al's inside of it while I was out there. This time it was a whole division in bivouac. It was the worst one I've been on yet but I imagine there are worse ones to come.

Al wrote you a lot more than he usually writes me. Have you gotten those conveniences he sent yet? He said he figured I'd be going overseas soon. I think he is wrong on that score.

I'm sorry that you and John didn't get in at Westinghouse Road, but I guess you'll like this other job and not such a long tiresome drive to work either. Are you putting the charge in the mines at Congoleum are just building the cases?

Charley it looks like you have a

money making jobs too.

We had an artillery demonstration while we were on Rhinoceros Sunday. We had 75 mm and 105 mm howitzers firing over our head and bursting on a hill opposite our position. This demonstration lasted about two hours and sometimes a complete artillery regiment was firing at the same time.

In the last two weeks I've marched in hikes alone over a hundred miles, besides all the problems and everything. They are really toughening me up here. If this kind of training keeps up till I get my furlough instead of catching a train I'll run home. When we marched back to camp last night we sang the whole way in thinking about getting today and tomorrow off.

We're getting rough training here but were taking it and liking it so it's not so bad. Well I guess I'll close.

P.S. Inclosing Al's letter,

Dave



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

July 4, 1944

Dear Folke,

How is everybody at home?
Steve who I just met? Earl
Koontz was sent down here. He's
in M.C. of the 261st Inf. He
and I are coming home on furlough
together around the end of this
month. I'll be sending home
for fifty bucks pretty soon so maybe
this will prepare you for the
shock. I don't know the exact date
yet but I'm really counting the
days till the end of the month.
The furloughs are really worth looking
forward to ~~to~~ but they really put
me in debt. I'm getting 10 days
and traveling time. Three days more

than last.

I got a letter from Fred Snow, probably the other day but I haven't answered it yet. Joe hasn't written to me for a heck of a long time now. Off for quite a while.

When I get home I want to get my teeth fixed up too. The Army won't do it for me so I guess I'll have to do it myself.

Well I got K.P. tomorrow so I have to get to bed early. There isn't any news anyway. We've been goldfishing most of the week.

Goodbye,

Gene

Camp Shelby

15 July 94

Dear Folks,

I got your letters with the films in yesterday. They were really good. I get to keep them don't I? I got a letter from Alfred today. It only took a week to get here.

I also know now the exact day I get my furlough. Its August 3rd so you can expect me home sometime the 5th. I'm really anxious to see those new additions to our house.

What do you know? I just found out the one good thing about Miss. They grow water-mellons here. We were out on a day and a half water march and bivouac combined yesterday. A civilian brought a couple of earloads of water-mellons. He sold them for two bits

opiece. I ate a watermelon and a
half before I was full. I'm not sick
yet, but I'm breaking our wood.

I have quite a few snapshots
that was took while down here. I'll
bring them home with me when I
come. I also hope to get a studio
picture of myself by that time.

Is it cool enough in the
evening to bring my A.D.'s home
with me or not?

Well folks I'll write again
soon.

So long,

Dave

P.S. Dad, what size film does
your camera take? I'll try to get
some. Does it take colour picture?

Camp Shelby
Aug. 16, 1944

Dear folks,

How is everybody there.

I arrived down here today, but I was 6 hours late because of misinformation. I had to lay over seven hours in Washington. About all I did there was lay out in the Park.

I walked over to the capital and listened to a Mary Bond concert on the steps. They're giving the capital another paint job.

Like I said I was late seven hours. Well the C.O. gave me one week restriction for that. That will do me more good than harm. I'll at least get some letters written.

Mom when you get those proofs. Have two tinted ones made, send one to Grandma and keep the other one. Have some little ones made

too. Send me one. I'll pay for
the whole business, when they are
finished.

To-day was the first anniversary
of our divisions activation. They had
a big celebration. A lot of inter-
company and inter-regiment games.
I missed all of it. I was trying
to catch my own sheep in the hat.

When I got back here I had
a large enough collection of newspapers
to build a house with. I got
one letter, that one was from
Jack.

Charlie, take it easy when
you go to the hospital. Get well
quick so you can go swimming before
the seasons over. Is you help
him get well quick so you can go
swimming with him.

John you little ~~stupid~~ devil
don't forget to write and tell me
the news about town. A long,
Love

CAMP Shelby
Aug. 27, 1944

Dear Folks,

When I got your letter I was out in the field. I was on a range detail for 6 days. It rained every night I was out there, but I slept in a jeep trailer so I didn't get wet at all.

I fired the U.S. carbine while I was out there. I got a score of 73 out of 80, that was rapid fire at 200 yds. I got 11 bulls out of 16 shots. I think I could have gotten expert if I were firing for record.

Charlie did you get any swimming yet? I hope the operation went O.K. and you feel allright now.

Lie you must look pretty good with that wave. That must be the first time you ever got one isn't it?

John, mom tells me you have got yourself a gash in the head. What was the sense of

that?

I got a letter from Chris
already since I've been down here.
He seems O.K., but he didn't have much
to say.

What are you going to do. You
have the piano boxed up or leave it
down there for the kids to practice on?

Dad you didn't hurt my feelings
at all in that Army vs. Marines
argument. I just wanted the Army
to get a little credit that's all. By
the way dad what do you think of
the way they're fighting now?

Well folks, no news, so I guess
I'll close.

So long,

Dave



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

Sept. 8, 1944

Dear Folks,

I hope everybody at home is in good shape. I'm feeling fine myself. I'm sorry its been so long since I ~~last~~ last wrote.

Dad I expect to pay you 20 bucks next month. I was going to ~~pay~~ you ten this month, but a pal of mine's wife was visiting so I lent him the ten instead.

Now the props to that picture got here. I don't think much of it but at least its a picture and thats what you wanted so its O.K. The picture itself is good but I wore the hat too high on my head.

We go on the alert again tomorrow for a week. I doubt very seriously if it means anything.

but there has been quite a few rumors around about combat mobilization of this outfit. In fact there are a lot of guys who ought to know what they are talking about placing bets that the outfit will be out of here by Christmas. There are also rumors to the effect that we'll be occupational troops, too. Personally I think it's all a lot of baloney.

I haven't gotten any letters from either of the boys since I've been here, but I've been pretty lazy about writing.

Please write soon.

So long,
Dave.



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

Oct. 1, 194

Dear Folks,

I'm sorry its been so long since I wrote, but I just couldn't think of anything to write.

Thanks a lot for everything. The cake was very good, and the bracelet was nice.

I'm sending Sis something. I would have before but I was broke until yesterday so I couldn't. She should get it this week though.

We are going out in the field for another week starting tomorrow. The chiggers are just about gone now but its still plenty hot.

Its getting to look more and more like were going to go for that cruise. I hope its soon.

We change to O.D.'s Oct. 15th. I'd be glad of it because that takes

get too dirty too quick.

I got my S.S. drivers license last week. I didn't tell you I was going to drivers school because I didn't want to fail it and have to tell you so but I didn't so all is well and good.

But I'm going to take you up on not paying you yet for a while, because I'm going overseas so I'll send you allotments to pay you off. Let me know if you need it however and I'll pay you as quickly as I can.

I hope to go on as I say pass the middle of this month to see New Orleans or Memphis I don't know yet, which.

Kids, best be the best students and the nicest kids in your classes. You better be good because I do a lot of tagging about you.

John use your head and get that radio school. There has to be one smart one in us four boys.
So long for now.
Dave.



CAMP Shelby

Oct. 8

Dear Folks,

I finally got over the
weeks bivouac. I guess I have
a million chigger bites to show
for it, too.

I'm in Laurel, Miss., now.
I came down here to look the
place over its a lot nicer place
than Vicksburg. There aren't so
many servicemen here.

We go out for another
week in the field tomorrow.
Then we go out for a month

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE SALVATION ARMY • THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELLERS AID ASSOCIATION

U S O IS FINANCED THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

from the second of November
~~and~~ until the 5th of Dec.

We are supposed to get
all allotments checked and sign
a statement for our wills and
power of attorney. I know
when we're moving out, but
I can't tell. We have quite
some time yet though.

I think I'm getting what
I've been waiting for at last.

The general saw our pltn.
on a combat range and said
we were ready for action.

Please don't tell a soul
anything about this, not even
your best friends. It's too hot.

I'll write again soon.

So long.

Dave.

(1)

Cct. 16th 1944

Dear Folks,

I got your letter yesterday and off a Joe's today. I was darn glad to get all of them.

I see the dining room is really pretty. It sounds so by the description. And you say the living room is going to be done over the same way? That really sounds nice. When Al gets home he'll be darn glad to get a look at that.

How long will Al's hitch last in the Marines. I hope he doesn't sign up for another whole hitch. If he doesn't he may get out on this new point system. And that will be good, because

then he can ⁽²⁾ get a head start
on the rest of us guys who waited
for the draft.

It's too bad about Buck Long.
He was a good guy in spite of
all his bluff. It's bad about his mother
too she always did get excited easy
though.

John I'm damn glad you
like the job you got now.
Because you can sit out this damn
war as far as combat goes and
still do your part in it. Joe wrote
me several times to try to talk you
out of getting in the service. We
know what it is. It's a big disappoint-
ment, but if you finally get in combat
in spite of all the complaining you're
glad to be doing your job.

So Charlie is the great scientist

now eh. We⁽³⁾ all went through
that. That's good for you Charlie
keep it up. You're going to college
boy and learn plenty. When I get
out of the Army I'll go too. By the
way you're growing by the time I
get out of the Army we'll go together.

How do you like social
studies sis. This always are the
best in social studies. I hope
you did a good job on the map
of ^{the} Roman Empire.

~~You~~ sis you and Charlie
ought to get down and write me
a real long letter all by yourself.

I sure like that color
scheme you picked out for the
dining room and living room.

Sad you and Mom don't worry
about me this coming back after
this is all over. It'll take a lot
more than a few bullets to keep us
from coming back to that big reunion

we are going⁽⁴⁾ to have V-Day.
(V-Day is when we beat the Japs)

Dad don't worry about that
inferiority complex. I'm superior to
any Jap or German alive, that I
know. And I'm superior to 9/10 the
Americans I've met too. I can ~~get~~
take anything they give me and hand
them back more than they can handle.
I might be a little scared of them
but fear makes the best soldiers.

I got Christmas greetings from
the Church today. They sent me
a year's subscription to the Reader's
Digest and a nice handkerchief.
I'll send them a Thankyou card
come Xmas. On the card they
sent they had a photograph of the
church altar. It was real nice.

When you send me a Xmas
box don't send me anything but candy
and cookies please. I enjoy them
much more than anything to wear or

anything else along⁽⁵⁾ that line.

Dad I think I've finally decided what to do when I get out. I want to either be a civil engineer or an architect I'm not sure which, because I don't know much about either of them. Only enough that I think I'd like either.

Well folks so long for tonight. I'll write soon. I had planned on spending another furlough at home in Dec., but we should be out of here by then. Sometime in Nov. is the latest report. I don't know where maybe not overseas. So don't worry.

So long
Gene



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

1 Nov 44

Dear Folks,

I'm still in Shelby and I suppose I'll be here a couple of weeks anyway. You asked about sending that Xmas box, well don't send it unless you have already. I'll appreciate it a great deal more even if it is a little late.

So he wants to hear from me does he well I'd sure like to hear from him, too.

I saw Charlie's name in the Sun about him being in the Bazzar.

Have you got the storm windows up yet. Dad? That's a pretty good job, but you and John did it last year so I guess you'll do it this year.

There are about 6 guys talking in the hut so my powers of concentrating is not as very good

match for them.

If we go to a staying area
in the East I might get a few
hours ~~in~~ at home before I go. Maybe
we won't. Don't let anybody know
I even hope to get home though.

I can't think of anything to
write so I'll close for now.

I'll write soon.

So long,

Dave



65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

Nov. 9, 1944

Dear Folks,

I'm still around. I'm twisting my thumbs waiting out a furlough. I doubt if I get one though. They're giving as many of the Sgt. furloughs as they can though.

Thanks a million mom for the boxes. They arrived here today except for a little crumbling. If you wrap each item separately next time I think that handicap will be overcome. I don't get to see very much of the ~~the~~ stuff anyway.

So Charlie & cut sh. I
hope you get farther in the cuts
than Joe and I got in Scouts
Pac.

Sis don't let that cold get
you down. You and Charlie
better write to me too. Its
good practice if nothing else.
If I'd written when I was
your size I could probably write
better letters now.

I was on H.P. all day today
so if I seem in a bad mood
tonite you can blame it all on
that.

Those two brothers of mine
in the Marines better start
writing to me too or I'll go

over after them and bring
them back.

I had some real bad luck
payday I lost 3 ten dollar bills
out of my pocket. No body found
them yet at least nobody admit-
ed finding them. I'm gonna wize
up and get careful one of these
days.

John, I'm sorry I couldn't get
you something for your birthday, but
were on the alert and can't get
to town.

Well folks I'd better sign off
before I get thrown out of the hotel
these jerks want the lights out.

So long,
Dave.

Camp Shelby.

Nov. 25, 1944

Dear Folks,

I was darn glad to get the news that Al is on his way home. I guess that explains why I've gotten so few letters from him recently.

I might get home to see him. The departure date has been moved up so I couldn't say. I'll be in the next bunch to get furloughs if there are anymore.

I've been on detail for the last 3 days and have detail tomorrow and the next day.

I'm trying to mass enough capital in case I do

got a furlough.

We had a division parade last week. The general thought our regiment was the best, not that this is any great accomplishment.

Dad I sent in for that correspondence course a couple of weeks ago like you asked me to, but up to now I haven't got any results.

You asked me if I saw anymore of Earl Hootz. I see him now and then and we talk over old times.

The last I hear from Chris he was in an inf. outfit in Camp Pickett which is a P. O. E.

Thanks a lot for the box
of nuts. They were received in
this vicinity with great app-
reciation.

Glad to hear you located
a revolver for Joe, too. I bet he
really appreciates that.

I played night ball on
our lit. football team Thanksgiving.
We played H. Co. The score was 0-0.

We had a very good
Thanksgiving dinner - Turkey, cranberry
sauce, pumpkin pie and all the rest
that goes with it.

Well so long folks,

Dave

Camp Shelby
Dec. 20, 1944

Dear Folks,

It's been a long time since I've written and I have no excuse for that except for the fact that I didn't have anything to write, but it seems to me you would have plenty to write ~~soon~~ on account of all being home on all that.

Did I tell you that I got a picture and Christmas card from Joe. I haven't been writing him a lot, and I'm sorry for it. I want to write him when I finish this letter.

Everybody is getting new equipment

for old here now. Combat shoes,
jackets and everything. That is
most everybody. There are a few
of us with odd sizes and we'll
have to wait for ours.

The aid men are drawing
rationals and training with our
companies now. I'm with the same
company I've been doing problems with
and bivouacking with since last June.

How does Al like civilization?
I'd bet he's really celebrating. Tell
Al to write me about everything, up
at Beard's, and down town.

I saw Toontz last night. He'd
just gotten off N.P. He didn't have
much to say. I showed him Joe's
picture and he laughed at the mustache.
I showed him those Owls too.

I'm afraid I won't get home

around Xmas or any other time to see
ab. There might be a chance if
my P.O.E. is close enough to home for
me to get there on a twelve hour
pass, and that is not likely.

The news on the Western Front
don't look so good today. I hope
that's taken care off quickly.

Well, Merry Xmas folks. I
have to close.

Goodnight,
Dave.

Camp Shelby
Dec. 23, 1944

Dear Folks,

I haven't much to say, but I have a lot of time to say it in tonight. We leave tomorrow and the next day off, so I should be able to get caught up on a lot of ~~shop~~ ship.

I'm sorry I couldn't contribute to the family Xmas fund this year, but I can't seem to amass any funds. I've had extremely bad luck this month.

I still can't believe any outfit could be so chicken as to keep me from celebrating my last Xmas in the States at home especially under the existing

conditions.

Last year Christmas seemed like Xmas. We had plenty of snow for a setting up at Grant. Down here it feels like spring.

I wrote to Grandma and Aunt Rhoda tonight, too. Its the first time I ever wrote to Aunt Rhoda. She has written me very regularly and I'm glad I wrote to her at last.

We've been playing pinochle everytime we get a few minutes off in the hut and I'm getting so tired of seeing cards that everytime I close my eyes I see them.

I think I'll go to church tomorrow if anybody wakes me up in time.

I wrote Joe the other day and sent him that picture I had taken by C. City. It is

conditions.

Last year Christmas seemed like Xmas. We had plenty of snow for a setting up at Grant. Down here it feels like spring.

I wrote to Grandma and Aunt Rhoda tonight, too. Its the first time I ever wrote to Aunt Rhoda. She has written me very regularly and I'm glad I wrote to her at last.

We've been playing pinochle everytime we get a few minutes off in the hut and I'm getting so tired of seeing cards that everytime I close my eyes I see them.

I think I'll go to church tomorrow if anybody wakes me up in time.

I wrote Joe the other day and sent him that picture I had taken by C. City. It is

not a very good picture in my opinion
but I had to get rid of it because it
had my division insignia on it and
I wanted to send a picture to Joe
anyway.

I'm sending home in this letter
two negatives which I haven't got
prints for; if you want prints made
of them you can get them done. They
aren't too good though.

I'm sending, also, a paper
I'd like you to keep for me. It
authorizes me to get the Good-Conduct
ribbon but I wouldn't be seen with
it on unless I had a couple of
campaign ribbons to put beside it.

Well, folks I hope everything
goes right for Christmas. I'm
signing off with the possibility of
seeing you again soon. I hope.

Dave.



Camp Shelby,
Dec. 24th

Dear Mom,

I know it seems funny
writing two letters today, but
I'd like to know if it would
be alright to bring two guys
home with me in the event
that I get a 24 hour pass
or so from my staging area?

We have a lot of guys
here that would sure enjoy

some place to go. They
are from the West and
wouldn't get a chance to
go anywhere.

I can't tell you where
we'll be there but I'll
call you up before we
get there if I can.

So long,
Dave.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Officers of the 261st Infantry regret that your son
prvt David H. Myers, Med Det, 261st Inf

could not be with you this Christmas season. They wish to assure you that they are constantly considering his welfare and directing his training to the end that after the war he will return home safe and sound with a deep sense of pride in duty well done.

William R. Jacobs
Lt. Col., 261st Infantry
Commanding Battalion

Joseph M. Hoover
Colonel, 261st Infantry
Commanding

Thomas E. Myers
Lieutenant, 261st Infantry
Commanding Platoon

Thomas E. Myers
Captain, 261st Infantry
Commanding Company

Thomas E. Myers
Chaplain, 261st Infantry

Jan, 28, 1945

Dear Folks,

I'm writing this letter by the light of a burning dubbing candle. When the writing gets bad you can blame it on that.

I had a nice trip over. It was very uneventful thanks goodness. We can't hear or see any action here. I imagine we'll move up sometime in the future. Personally I'm in no real hurry as long as it's this cold. It's cold enough in these tents without having to sleep in foxholes.

It is a wonder I
didn't get seasick on the
way over. Maybe I should
have joined the Navy. That
would be the life.

I paid a short visit
to Le Harve. That place
is really wrecked. There
are very few buildings
that went untouched.

I should at last be
able to save some money
in this Army. There is
no place to spend it here.

The light here is getting
to bad I'll have to finish
this tomorrow.

By now I guess you
know I'm in France. I
sure don't envy any of the
civilians around here. Its beautiful
country I imagine in the

summer or spring, but
right now its to cold to be
pretty.

We only get two meals a
day here and thats only about
enough to keep us alive, so
if you decide to send some
food don't hesitate a
minute.

I just got a letter from
you mailed Jan. 11. This is
the first letter I've received
since I've been here. It
was really a treat to get it
too. The main reason I
haven't written is that
I haven't got any.

I suppose I'll be getting
more mail now though. Things
are getting more organized now.

I'm still an aid man.
I'm ~~still~~ with the same

outfit I trained with in
the States.

Now, I wish you'd send
me Al's new address, so I
could write him too.

I think Chris is over
here somewhere, so if John
can get his address I'd
sure appreciate it.

I'm sending home about
\$50. in a money order this
week ~~and~~, so if you can
find my old bankbook you
can put it away for me.

You better take the
first couple money orders and
take out that eighty bucks
I owe you though.

The news looks mighty
good to me in this theatre
I sure hope to be home
next fall.

Tell Charles and his
to be good and to write
to me. And tell John when
he gets time to write, too.

Well folks I'll write
again whenever I get time.
Keep your chin up, and man
and I hungry.

So long,
Eane

P.S. I still like mail more than
chow.

Somewhere
in France
Jan. 31st 45

Dear Folks,

I'm still sorry that I
didn't write you for so long.
I imagine you've been pretty
worried.

The weather here has
turned a great deal warmer,
and I don't mind it so much
now as I did at first. The
chow is still bad but its
improving steadily. It rained
yesterday and last night so
the snow is mostly gone.
A six inch deep mud has
taken its place but its
not nearly so cold and I don't
mind it.

The country around here
reminds me a great

deal of home. Its a farming district and seems a whole lot like Carroll county. Its full of small villages and farms.

I'm glad you like your work John. If I were you I'd stick to it and not do anything foolish. There is really a future for you in that job.

It looks like the Reds are going to save my skin from seeing any combat I hope so, but if they don't we'll finish this damn war ourselves.

Poe why don't you tell the barber not to cut your sideburns off. You know the customer is always right. I'll bet you and Sis are really enjoying yourselves though now that you don't have to go to school.

I'm glad to hear about Al getting home every weekend. Say when is he going to get out of the Marines? Is he going to do another hitch or stay in for the duration & six months? Another thing it looks like I may have a sister-in-law eh? Boy I'd sure like that.

Well folks I'm kinda running out of music. I'll right again soon. You'd better too.

So long,
Dave

261st Inf.
Feb. 1st

Dear Folks,

I haven't much to say today except routine stuff. I thought I better write though to try to make up for not writing before.

The sun has come out today and it's really beautiful from the horizon up, but there is still a lot of mud on the ground. About a week of this kind of weather though and the ground should be as dry as a bone.

I guess you know these letters are all censored, so I won't be able to tell much real news, but I can let you know that I'm O.K.

We had a fairly good show this morning and I

went through the line twice, so I'm in about the best condition I've been in since I got here.

We haven't done much this morning it's too muddy to ~~run~~ march or hike. The boys in my platoon are cleaning their rifles. I don't have any so I'm taking time to write. We didn't have reveille this morning so I got about an hour more sleep than usual.

I went up to the Medic's this morning to see if they had any news. I should have another mail call today, so I'll be looking for a letter from you.

I'll be looking for a letter from Al, too. That marine better write to me.

Well, I'm signing off all tomorrow.

Dave

C Co.
261st Inf.
Feb 2

Dear Folks,

I'm trying to start writing
a letter a day. I don't think
I'll be able to keep it up later
on but right now we aren't doing
much of anything.

It's windy and raining
out right now. Really a miserable
day. We are supposed to hike
at 1200 and in this to once they
make up their mind we follow
their orders rain or shine.

We had beans and cereal
for breakfast and plenty of it
so I feel full.

The boys had rifle inspection
already. We're waiting for our
lunch right now. We have a
peanut butter sandwich and coffee.
for lunch; not much better

than none.

I got my boots at last. They are 3 sizes too big but they keep the water out.

I bet Charlie Poe has a hard time riding his bike this kind of weather. He better ~~right~~ write and tell me about that bike of his.

The next time you take any pictures at home. Take some inside. A shot of that new dinning room paint job would be terrific. Speaking of pictures I haven't got a good one of Alf, and I wouldn't mind having new individuals of the whole family. The ones I have are getting pretty beat up. Let those little ones enlarged about 2 times. I'll take care of expenses. I have money to burn now and I'd sure like some good pictures.

I have a damn good picture
of Joe. If I had six more
like that I'd be satisfied.

Well, folks, I'm signing off
till next time. Take it easy.

As long,
Dane

P.S. Au revoir, bonsoir

C.C.
261st Inf.
Feb 4

Dear Folks,

I hope everybody is well at home. I am. Nothing new has happened here. My platoon is on K.P. today. We Aid Men don't draw any details so I'm without anything to do but take up the censors time.

I washed some handkerchiefs today and sorted out my barracks bag. I found my pipe in the bottom with a broken stem. I patched it up with adhesive tape, so I guess I'll get another year's use out of it.

We draw our P.X. ration today. We only get 4 bars of candy a week. I'll eat them all today. That's

one thing I'm going to get
a lot ~~one~~ of when I get back.

I'm going to try to get to
Chapel this afternoon. Last Sunday
you couldn't even get inside
the door of the tent.

I just finished lunch. We
had cold spam, bread and chili
sauce.

It has been might warmer
around here the last couple
days, but I guess we are due
for a lot of cold weather yet.

So long folks,

Dave

Co C
261st Inf.
Somewhere in
France

Dear Folks,

We're having another one of those dreary days. I'm getting used to not seeing the sun. I haven't any news. I didn't make chapel yesterday. I meant to when I got up..

I wrote Joe yesterday, but I still haven't got any mail since the first mail call. I guess my mail must have gotten hung up somewhere.

I guess you have to have a request to send packages. Well, I sure could use some oatmeal cookies or fudge. We aren't starving like we were when we first got here, but I'm still not getting enough.

They are going to issue us combat slouses. They're really a snappy outfit. They call them Eisenhower jackets.

There isn't anything here to have
to dress for, but I guess they'll
come in handy sometime.

We are supposed to get
paid this week, too. So there
will be a \$50 money order on
the way pretty soon.

So long,
Dave

P.S. You can write to me at
either of these addresses.

Med. Det. 261st Inf.

~~over~~
• ~~3rd Ptn.~~ 3rd. Ptn. "C" Co.
261st Inf.

261st Inst.

Feb. 7

Dear Folks,

I didn't write yesterday. I was waiting for mail call. I kept hoping I'd get a letter so I could answer them. What's wrong anyway, I've only got two letters from home and they were mailed in Dec. Did you forget that I was alive. Or is it messed up in the mails. I sure would like to get some mail. One boy here has got 35 since he's been here. I don't expect near that many but two a week would sure keep up my moral.

Well, that's enough crying about that. I'm sending those clippings about at home. They'll just get ruined over here.

We take a hike this afternoon. Nothing new here just the same old grind.

We are supposed to get paid
Fri. or Saturday. I'll mail a money
order then for 50 or a 100 dollars.

We can't buy anything around here
not even food. They are afraid the
civilians will run short of rations
here.

Mom you never told me
what happened about that wrist
watch band I left down at the wigwag.
Have they got it yet.

I wish the devil he would
write. I haven't heard from him
for a long time. If I don't get
a letter in a couple days. I'm
going to quit writing. I'm warming
out of stationary anyway.

Well, folks so long for
now. He's hoping I get some
mail.

So long,
Dave

Co. C.
261st Inf.
Feb 8th

Dear Folks,

Nothing new has happened here. I hope you are all okay. I sure am. The sun is shining after a rain storm last night.

We go on a 10 mile hike today. I guess I'll have to go, too. The mud is pretty deep so I imagine the hike won't be a pleasure.

We fed better than usual yesterday. I hope it keeps up. We are putting up a Btn. mess today so we should have more regular meals.

I didn't get any mail yesterday but I'm getting used to that.

It won't be long now to St. Valentine's Day. I hope you'll

get plenty of Valentines. We can't
buy them here.

We are supposed get paid
tomorrow, but nothing is for sure
here.

I'll write again tomorrow
if I can find anything to say.

So long,
Dave

C C
261st Inf.
Feb. 8th

Dear Folks,

How is everybody at home today?
I'm fine. Its a pretty warm day out
today. We have a mail call today.
I sure hope there is some mail
for me.

We are going to start having
Co. mess Saturday, so maybe we'll
get some better chow. I'm really
going to do my best to get in
the good graces of that mess
sargent, too.

Oh, by the way I made
P.F.C. yesterday. After two years
in the Army a private I'm kind
of ashamed to admitt it. If it
takes that long to make Cpl., I
hope to be discharged before I
make it.

The boys are working on
there weapons. They do three times

as much work on their weapons
as they do on themselves.

We are going to start getting
5 hour passes Saturday. I guess
I'll get to town and try to get
some stationary then. I've
been borrowing for two days
now already.

We sure have it easy here.
S.O.P. inspection, orientation, French
class, and a hike every day, but
I guess were resting for something
big. Every now and then somebody
comes in with a cut or a blister
and I fix them up.

Well folks so long till tomorrow.

Goodbye,
Dane



C.C.
261st Inf.
Feb. 14th

Valentine's Day

Dear folks,

Thanks a lot for the valentine. I got it yesterday at mail call. I was hoping I'd get mail, but you went one better.

By the looks of that shipping Al is getting himself hitched. Tell him to save me a piece of the wedding cake.

We got paid today at 3:30, so there should be a money order close on the heels of this letter.

By the looks of the letter P.O.E. is going to be an amateur chemist. Who the devil gave him that name, "Sam the Sad Sack"? It looks like he must have been reading Army literature.

I can't understand why you haven't got any of my mail

get. I've written almost continuously,
every day for the last two weeks.
This valentine you sent me was
mailed Feb. 5th and I got it the
13th. That's only eight days.

I'm sending a hundred dollars in
the money order. Dad I want you
to take out the \$80 I owe you, and
then I want you and mom to
figure out any other debts I owe. If
there is anything left put it in the
bank.

Next month I won't send so
much. I was saving up this
month to come home but I
couldn't make it, so I'm sending
it home. There isn't much to
spend it for here.

Well, so long folks,

Love

Co "C"
261st Inf.
Feb 15th

Dear Folks,

I hope everybody at home is in as good spirits as I am now. We've had two beautiful days in a row now.

I played baseball and volleyball practically all day today. I'm plenty tired and hungry right now, but I feel like a million dollars.

We have to inspect mess-kits at every meal now. I think its a darned silly idea but I'm not giving orders. I'm going to chow I'll finish this later:

We played a little black-jack tonight after we ate supper. If the weather stays like this I won't mind France a bit -

I said I would send
home a hundred bucks, but all
the boys that owed me money
couldn't payoff this month, so
I'll send 50 next month.

I'm enclosing \$75. Let
me know when you get
it.

Well I'm really played
out. I think I'll turn in.
So long,

Dave

Co
261st Inf.
Feb. 17th

Dear Folks,

I finished the roughest day since I came here yesterday. We had a twelve mile hike that seemed like 15 in the four hours. When I came in there was a letter lying on the bed from home so I didn't mind it so much.

I had about enough time to eat supper, read the letter, and patch up the men's blisters and then to fall out for a night's rest.

We walked another 5 miles on the path. When we came back the Red Cross had doughnuts

and the cooks made coffee for
us. I got to bed about 10 o'clock.

I have to inspect the mess
hall today and turn in a report
on it. ~~That~~ about all I'll do
today because my plt. has
details.

I still haven't heard
whether you have got any of
my letters yet. You should have
I've written a heck of a lot
of them. I put in a request
for food, too. (I sure would
like to get some oatmeal
cookies. If you can get any
candy I'll take care of ex-
penses, too. We can't buy any
candy over here so if you
send me a box every couple
weeks I'll pay for it because
it'd be just like buying

it at the store. Only I don't
have any store here.

Well, I can't think of much
of anything to write this morning
I'm still running stationary, so
I'll have to conserve it anyway.

If Al and Mary Ellen do get
married they have my best wishes.
As far as I'm concerned
a good catholic is as good as a
good Lutheran. The religions don't
make a bit of difference, and
I hope that doesn't interfere.
I think Al has better judge-
ment than the rest of us boys
anyway. He always did and
if he didn't combat would
have taken the madness out of
him.

If I were you all I'd be

glad he didn't marry any
nigger that's what they're doing
over here.

That's my opinion, and if
a brother's blessing matters he's
got mine. He's a man he knows
what he's doing.

So long,
Dove

Co 'C' 261st Inf.
Feb. 19th

Dear Folks,

How is everybody at home now? I haven't had any mail for a couple of days. I wrote at yesterday at Quantico. I wrote a letter home yesterday, too.

I played softball practically all day yesterday. Sunday is never a pretty day in France. It was foggy all day yesterday.

I'm preparing for C.I.P. inspection now. My boys are out for rifle inspection.

We are supposed to draw P.X. rations today. They are supposed to have stationery, soap, toothpaste, etc., today for a change.

I had blisters on my feet last week from marching, but

the rest, over Sunday, fixed me up
like a new man.

I played a little mummy
yesterday. I can't think of anything
else to write about. This is a mighty
dull place.

John, you could really do
me a favor if you could drop in
at Coffman's and Shiffin's every
now and then and try to pick
up some #120 film. And mail
them to me.

(Look folks don't forget to
send me some grub.) I'll
write again tomorrow.

So long,
Dave



Feb. 21st '45

Dear Folks,

Do you remember me telling you about trying to buy some stationary in one of the French towns. Well this I'm writing on is it. It cost me 55 francs (\$10) for a tablet that would cost me 10 or 15¢ at home. I hope I get some of that writing paper from home before I have to buy any more of it.

We have really been busy here today. We have been preparing the area for a visit from the 'Brass Hatt' tomorrow. We've been getting everything dressed up for an inspection just like we used to have in the States.

I got a S. I. Laurent today. It's about half an inch long on top. The tent is full of drying clothes. We washed them today.

I still haven't gotten any mail, that you wrote in answer to my mail. I haven't received any mail from home for nearly a week now. So please write.

8:45 P.M. Wed.
2045 hours.

So long,
Dave

Feb. 25th 1945

somewhere in France

Dear Folks,

Today brightened nice and cheery. We had a late breakfast of hot cakes and corn flakes. We didn't have any training today except the usual and everlasting S.O.P. inspection.

Some of the guys drew names to cable mothers day flowers home. They were let many do it. I was unlucky as usual.

We got P.R. rationis today - I hope. I'm getting so I don't crave the candy so much of course I always enjoy eating it.

I broke my pipe stem on the way over. Today I was repairing and cleaning it. I was cutting some tape to mend it and I cut my hand. It was only a scratched though so I fixed it up myself. I got the pipe fixed allright though. I don't smoke it much anyway, but when I do it cuts down on my cigarettes. The cigarettes are the best items except soap for trading purposes. Some fellows could have traded a bar of soap for merchandize in town that cost as much as \$7.50.

The most valuable thing I have is a cigarette lighter, I could have sold it for a thousand francs (20.) yesterday. I didn't trade though. If I don't soon get some

now flint somewhere. The darn thing will
be useless.

I wrote grandmother yesterday. I got a
letter from her since I got one from home.

Will be long for now.
Love

C. C.
March 4th

Dear Folks,

I'm sorry its been so long since I wrote last, but I haven't been exactly in position to write for a few days.

We are living in homes now. We are no longer in tents. We have been eating C rations for the last couple of days, but we are supposed to have a hot meal tonight for show.

Our platoon has a whole house to itself. We have a kitchen range in the room I'm in. I sure wish we had something to cook. About a dozen hot cakes would sure go well now. Well its no use dreaming. That just makes me hungrier. I'll wait till I come home when I'll just stay at home and eat and sleep for a month or two.

Well I just wrote to let you know I'm okay. I haven't got any news to tell you.

As long,
Dave

March 22

Dear Folks,

Our mail hasn't
caught up with us yet.
So I haven't heard from you
for over a week. I can't
say where I am, but I'm
okay. I'm really enjoying
myself more now than
I have since I came over
on the boat.

They just told us

we could say we're
somewhere in Germany. I
like the people here. They're
very nice to us, but we're
not supposed to associate
with them.

Well I just wrote to
let you know I'm okay.

So long,
Dave

don't do that and in the present in
light of the fact that the thing is all over
on a scale of 100 to 1
was certainly a success in March, 24th
was planned and put into effect

Dear folks,

I hope everybody is okay. How fine.
I guess you ~~all~~ know I'm in Germany now.
I'm with General Patton's Third Army. Our
outfit is having it easy now. We are living
in a little town that has not been very much
wrecked. The civilians are very nice to us
but we are forbidden even to talk to them.
We move them out of their houses and sleep in the
beds. We need the rest, too.

I haven't gotten the box yet but I
imagine I will very soon. Some of the boys
have gotten boxes. It looks like the two
Jima battle is over. I hope he is okay.

The folks over here tell us they haven't
seen oranges or chocolate for 5 years. I
had a little civilian girl for a patient for several
days. She had the quip. I gave her a couple
oranges. Her mother would do anything for me
now.

These German people are a lot more modern

in dressing and in their homes than the French.
We can't be too friendly with them though as they're
likely to slip the sabotage to us.

Jim going to enclose a swastika arm
band in this letter they were originally worn
by I. I. troops.

and don't know whether it'll get through
or not. I hope so.

Not much more to write. I heard
from Al and Chris this week. News from
home for over a week though.

as I am you are sending to long.
could I tell I am writing Done
it is quite a long and interesting letter.

It has been a long time
I have not written to you for a long time
and I am sorry I have not written to you for a long time
and I am sorry I have not written to you for a long time

from home as you. I hope to write to you
the first time you see this as the first time

I am very much interested in you
and I am very much interested in you
and I am very much interested in you
and I am very much interested in you

and I am very much interested in you

Germany

~~March~~

April 10th

Dear Folks,

I'm plenty O.K. We just drew back for a rest after spearheading a big push. I hope everybody at home is O.K. too. Joe's big battle is over now. I hope you've heard from him since. I shure haven't. I think I've gotten one letter from him since I've been over here, and that sums like a year to me.

I've picked up some souvenirs lately that I hope I can bring home with me. I have a darn nice .32 cal. automatic, and a pair of fairly good binoculars. All I need now is a good Jerry ~~camera~~ cameras.

The boxes haven't caught up yet
but I don't need them so much anymore
because we are more or less living of
the countryside now. I'll still appreciate
them when they come though.

Charley is really getting to be
a man about town isn't he. He is
really a busy guy.

I wish John hadn't joined
the Navy. They're going to need a big
Navy to beat Japan. However, I hope this
thing is over long before he had to fight.
Well folks so long.

Dave

Pfaffenhofen, Germany
Sept. 12th 1945

Dear Folks,

I hope everybody there is O.K. I'm feeling pretty good except for a little fever blister at the corner of my mouth. I'm now starting to pick up some of the weight I lost on furlough. If I could wake up in time for breakfast, I would probably pick up some more weight.

I haven't gotten any mail for quite some time but I guess it just hasn't caught up to us yet. We don't have anything to do here. We just sit around and play solitaire. Sometimes we take in a movie. It's starting to get cold evenings now, so sleeping is really easy.

We and my buddy have got things nice. We have a washerwoman and tailor of our own. We are our own bosses, too. We have just about the best job in the 9th Div. Everything else around here is 'cheiken' as the devil.

They pulled a raid on the civilians about 4 o'clock this morning. They really found a lot of junk, about a boxcar full.

I was supposed to ship back to Austria, to the 71st Div., today but the shipment was cancelled. We ought to

be here quite a long time now.

We won't know till they start shipping coal in whether this will be permanent winter quarters or not. I don't care much for the place so I don't really care whether we go or stay.

Well folks there isn't any news as usual so goodbye.

Dave

Plattenhofen, Germany
Sept. 24th 1945

Dear Folks,

Thanks a million for your letters. I got a whole gang of them yesterday, and another today. They were the first mail I've had since leaving the good old 65th.

I'm glad you like my letter from up at Regt. It was rather crude, ~~and~~ if mine was much at writing, but I think you got the whole story there.

Bad you said you were going to show it to Mr. Eaton. O.K., but he'll probably give it back to you with a million corrections. Punctuation, spelling, etc.

These aptitude test of yours really interest me. Had you going to copywrite them or use them for your private purposes. I imagine there will be a lot of these things given to servicemen on their discharge. It would be a good idea anyway.

It sounds like they are giving you training classes as usual. It looks like your teachers should go on strike. I imagine your ~~science~~ ^{science} classes had a good stimulus during the war. All the fellows probably wanted to go in the air-corps. Now that they'll be only farmers and carpenters though, they'll probably

say to hell with it. I disagree with them on that though. They'll still need this science to be good at their job. I wish to the devil I'd taken more interest in it. If I'd taken physics I'd be in much better shape right now.

I'm going to see the I.E. officer today. I've entirely too much spare time now. I'm playing so much solitaire, I'm about to go batty.

That ~~the~~ Saturday Evening Post you were speaking of mom, I haven't seen. I'd be much obliged if you'd send the cover. I seldom see much of Ben Franklin's magazine. Zank and the Stone & Stripes are about all we see here. Occasionally a Time or Newsweek.

Lia. How do you like the sixth grade? You're growing up so fast I'm afraid when I see you I won't know you. I'm glad you like Science and Social Studies. You'll have to tell me what this feathers-lob hair do is all about though I'm afraid I don't know what that is.

Pop. You seem to be in quite a position. It won't be long till you have Pop for a teacher. Then you're really going to have to be on the ball. You passed your second class scout tests already. I was a sophomore before I got that high and then I quit scouts. You better make Eagle before you get out though. When

I come back we'll go camping and I'll see how much you learned. I'm going to make you do all the ~~work~~ work. I'm going to sit under a tree and fish.

Don't you play any football? At this time of year that used to be all I thought of. Of course you are a pretty busy guy right now and it might interfere. The studies are most important. I'm glad school is a lot of fun. I'll probably be home next spring so I want to see you as star in the seventh grade's play.

Mom, I haven't received that box yet, but the mail is still all mixed up. I guess it will get there in due time.

Al's getting pretty bad about writing. I got a letter from Mary Ellen about a month ago, but it's been two months since I heard from Al.

Well folks as they say in the Army - so long - take it easy.

Dave

Plattenthorf,

BAVARIA

DEAR JOE,

I'm darn glad to hear you are home. I'll probably get there some day myself. So you've been painting the town, eh. Good deal. No they have plenty to drink there or don't you drink. Maybe you're like me ~~and~~ and don't even like to drink.

Glad to hear you're going to John's Hopkins. That is a good school. My plans are a little different. I think I'll enroll at Western

Maryland for two years and
after that if I'm - - it in
favor of engineering I want to
go to either California Tech or M.I.T.

My plans however are still
very immature.

Did Frank Zapp ever get in
any of the Services, or was he
too young?

There really isn't a darn
thing to write about here. I
spend most of my time doing nothing.
And doing nothing is very lucrative
as you know.

is that straight dope or just
scuttlebutt about Chris getting married
to a Heine dame? He is nuts to
do a thing like that. I know
he didn't have to because you
don't have to marry them for any
reason. Chris was always afraid
of the girls in the states. I guess
if its true which I doubt. He
overcame his bashfulness I guess.

Well ok I better sign off.

I have to write Grandma and
John.

MERRY XMAS

Dave

Pfaffenhofen,
GERMANY

DEAR FOLKS,

I'm moving again. This is getting to be a habit. Of course I don't mind it if it is in the right direction. This time I'm getting out of an occupation division into one that is scheduled to go home anyway. I'm going to the 71st Div. They are going home in March, supposedly. It's hard to say anything for sure. I'm not going to think about it, that makes time pass so slowly.

The Btm just came back from a week in the field. We were on maneuvers I had a lot of fun. Even though it was rather rough it was a decent rest for me. This is too soft here. A little work was what I needed.

All we did was take a few billions fire enough ammo to start a 3 world war.

I've been reading ~~the~~ Fortune magazine. There are so many ads in the damn thing I was getting homesick looking at them.

Say, If you haven't sent the Xmas box don't bother. Keep the stuff till I get home. I'll probably be transferred so many times it

won't reach me till I'm home
anyway.

I'm glad to hear about Al's
job. He sure struck some luck
there. My compliments.

I imagine Joe will be home
by time this letter reaches you so
I don't see much need to write
him anymore. I hope he has Al's
luck in what ever he intends to
do. If I were Joe I'd study plenty
of math and get in at the bottom
of radio. I know Joe blew the
Marine Corps but there is actually
no future in it.

I'm a heck of a person to
advise someone else though. My plans
are not even slightly blufwater, but
I think I'll be a little more steady
than I was.

Well folks I've ~~no~~ no
news. I'd advise you not to
write till I reach my new address.
So long folks,

Dave

Pfaffenhofen,
GERMANY

Nov. 12, 1945

DEAR Folks,

How is everybody? I'm pretty good except for a broken foot. It's not broken but it feels like it. I walked about 7 kilometers in an hour and a half. That is a little less than 5 miles. Brown in study that wouldn't have been much, but as I have told you previously I haven't done anything like work for so long it's rough to have to do something for a change. Actually I didn't have to, but that's a long story.

It started from a suggestion

by my buddy that we go to
Luisenfeld for a change of
scenery. When we got to the
autobahn we changed our minds
and started for Munich. My
buddy has a girl friend in Munich
he wanted to see. (The autobahn is
a great dual highway, which, if
you stay on it, will take you
anywhere in Germany in a short
time.) We got a ride in a jeep
with a G.I. If anybody ever asked
how far it is from Pfaffenhofen to
Munich I'd tell him in degrees
below 0, or in the amount of
calories you use up - man was
it cold.

We got to Munich and went

to the Red Cross Club to have
a cup of coffee and thaw out.
This Club is the famous beer
hall where Adolph Hitler got his
start. It is an immense place
and really nice. We have a good
orchestra playing there all the time
and pretty German fraulien waiting
on tables. We didn't stay there
long however. We had to go look
for this girl. We had her address
with us so we walked up to the
civilian policeman asked them the
way. He spoke no English and my
German is just about as poor. He
gave directions like a hillbilly
anyway. We must have walked
about a thousand blocks when we

finally found the street, ~~and~~ Just as we got to the house we saw her getting on a street car we saw her but she didn't see us. We lost her after riding 40 miles and walking half that many.

By that time it was about 5 o'clock and getting dark, so we started home. After getting the wrong directions about a dozen times we finally got to the ~~and~~ autobahn and picked up a ride from there to the place you turn ~~of~~ to come to Haffnerhofen, that was 7 kilo's from here. We walked from there home. That was the most exercise I've had in one day since combat.

There are blocks and blocks of
houses in Munich still standing
with all the floors gone. From
a distance they look natural, but
when you get close they are
nothing but shells of houses, no floors
no windows and only fireblackened
interiors.

We are supposed to get our
radio ~~back~~ today. I went up and
heard it play. The only thing wrong
with it is the tubes. They remake
the tubes. Tubes are impossible
to acquire here. The few that are
left or snatched up by the civilian
black market. All the factories
are bombed out. I didn't know
it was possible to remake tubes.

I'm sending some ~~me~~ negatives
with this letter. We took them
around here. They are not to good.
My buddy has a good camera but
it's complicated and we haven't
learned how to use it write yet.
We took some more pictures yesterday
which should be better. I'll send
them when we get them made.
It will be at least a week.

Karl Korny came down to see
me yesterday after the trip. He
has the same amount of points
as I have so we should go
home together. It is hard to
tell though. The Army is crazy.

We expect to get home some-
time between March & May - I hope.

Well I haven't anything more
to say. Tell Charles and his to
write.

So long
Dave

Pfaffenhofen,
GERMANY

Hello Folks,

I'm back from my short stay
at the rest center. It was far
from all I expected it to be. I
could have stayed there a while longer,
however I was pretty fed up after
4 days.

I can't seem to think of anything
else, but when I'm going to get out
of this confounded place. I took
a few pictures of the lake and
mountains up there. For the most
part though they weren't very good.
I'm starting an album though in

which I intend to put them and you will see them when and if I ever get home. We took two rolls of pictures of ourself that were good but the photographer ruined them somehow and they all came out blank.

The rest center is on Kochel ZEE, which is and inland sea high in the Bavarian Alps. I imagine it would be a beautiful summer resort but in Nov. there is not much to it.

We did quite a bit of boating in a canoe and some power boats, and as I said before took some pictures. It was too cold for swimming and not enough snow

for skin.

I'm enclosing two of the pictures
that did not come out so badly.
Also a sketch done of me in Paris
that is rather the worse for wear.

Thanks a lot for the letter
folks it seems everybody was
in the writing mood at the
same time for a welcome change.
Also I was glad to hear Joe is
home. Tell him to write and tell
me how it feels to be a civilian.

I'm glad you got a kick
out of Navy Day Charlie. I would
have like to see some of the
warships myself. I've seen most
of them from a distance but never
close up. You got something on me

there fellow. Well Poe, good luck
with your hunting. Also good
luck with your chemical experiments.

Well Folks so long,

Waver

Plattenhofen
BAVARIA

Nov. 23, 1945

DEAR Folks,

Thanks a lot for your letter. I
received one from Al yesterday.

I had a good Thanksgiving dinner
yesterday. Plenty of turkey, dressing, mashed
potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, asparagus, coffee
bread & butter, ~~pumpkin~~ pumpkin pie, and a bottle of
Funch red wine on each table. The
best meal I've had in the Army.

We and my buddy Wright
take off for the rest center at Garmisch
tomorrow. It's a pretty good deal. I'll
tell you all about it ~~then~~ when
I get back.

When I got the letter yesterday
I picked our house out right away.
I put it ^(the picture) up on the wall with
adhesive tape. It must have fallen
down during the night and when
my buddy built the fire this morning
he burnt it. If you can get hold
of another I'd sure like to have it.

Tell Joe to write to me soon
as he gets home. I'm anxious to
talk to him.

Well, folks don't work too hard.

Sam

Phattenhoten,
BAVARIA

DEAR FOLKS,

Well I don't see why I should write you folks. It's been 2 weeks since I've heard from you. There isn't anything new here to write about anyway.

I bought myself a nice furlined jacket a few days ago from a guy in the air corps. I had to give him the only souvenir I had for it, but I think it is well worth it. It is starting to get plenty cold over here now. And I expect to be here all winter. Hardly a day goes by now without some snow.

Wad, I hate to tell you this but
the test came back again. I gave
the mail clerk dough for the stamps
but he must have forgotten to put
them on the tests. I'd have to
go up today and chew him out about
that.

Four hours a day here the electricity
goes out and we don't even have a
radio to amuse ourselves with to keep
from going crazy. I better quit bellyaching
though you'd think it's rough over here.
It isn't. It's so damn easy.

I would like to get a furlough
to Switzerland before I leave this
place. I suppose I'll have plenty
of time for that though.

What is wrong with Joe? Why
the devil don't he write. I imagine
he is pretty busy though. I know I
would be. However tell him to write
me. I have some questions to ask him.

The next letter I get from home
should be nice long one. It's been
so long since I've heard. Well so long.

Dave

PRATTENHOFEN
GERMANY

Dec. 1945

DEAR Folks,

Thanks a million for your letter. It was the first one in quite a while. I'm damn glad to hear from Joe, but his decision to go to John Hopkins comes as somewhat of a surprise to me. However it is a good idea.

I'm sorry to hear about Chris going to marry a German girl. It's probably just a rumor, but if it isn't maybe that explains why he is not writing me. If he is marrying a German girl I won't hold it against him. There are a few

pretty nice ones. I guess if he loves her
it makes little difference what nationality
she is. Really that should not be held
against her. Don't get the idea I have
any such fool notion in mind though.
There isn't anything like that that will
stop me from getting the education I'm
entitled to. Whether it is American or German.
I personally don't think there is a woman
that good. However the strange German girl
or English girl has better education and
better sense than the American girls I
can remember and they are much less
stuck-up about it. But I better shut
up or I will be disenchanted or spoiled.
and won't get any letters.

So everybody went hunting and
everybody but Dad got a rabbit. I & I

was along there probably would have been two of us who didn't get a rabbit. I'm like dad in that way. I never was any good with a rifle. Dad was probably worrying about Charles getting hurt or hurting somebody the whole trip anyway.

Thanks a lot Mom for doing my Xmas shopping for me. And thanks also for the Xmas card with Joe's picture. He looks much more mature than when I last saw him. He looks like a man now. Much more so than I did at nineteen.

Well, I haven't got anything more to talk about. so goodbye.

Love

Plattentoten
BAVARIA
Happy Birthday Jan. 2, 1946

Dear Joe,

How are tricks? I'm trying to figure out whether you are 19 or 20. Which is it. I think 20. How did your tests come out? I hope well.

There isn't, as usual, any particularly good news here. Just the same old grind. We had a good holiday. As good as can be expected in this place. I was in bed by 10 o'clock New Year's Eve. There was plenty of wine and beer but I'm getting fed up with that stuff. In fact I'm getting fed up with the whole set up.

Everytime I start writing
a letter I begin to bitch. This
is no good.

How did you bring the
New Year in? I suppose you
got drunk. I am afraid I've
quit that awful stuff for
a while. If I could get a
good one it wouldn't be
so bad.

I'm going to write
to Mom for my civilian
shoes. Remind her to send
them for me will you please.
I might as well dress well
if I am going to be here
for a while.

I am going to see
my C.O. about a signature

course in Mechanical drawing
Today. Maybe I can get
admitted to the school. I
don't know.

There is a new furlough
open now. I am going to
take advantage of it if I
possibly can. It is a
tour through Switzerland and
down to Rome and back. Should
be a lot of fun. Most
of my dough is going home
now but I think I can get
hold of enough for this.

Will go take it easy.
So long,

Dave

PLATTENHOFEN

BAVARIA

JAN. 2, 1946

Dear Folks,

Happy New Year. And may this year give you added strength in your pen arms. My morale is slowly but surely doing a nose dive. Two letters a month is no good. Maybe my letters always mail with accident in the mail though. It seems my letters always start mad and end with me begging your pardon for my bitching.

Did you folks get my letter asking you to mail a money order to a certain address?

The lady hasn't got the letter yet and I was just wondering if you had got my letter speaking of it yet. I know the mail systems over here are very bad and I'd hate to have these fellows thinking I'm trying to pull something over them. Please tell me if you haven't got the address and I'll send it again.

I suppose by the time I get out of debt I'll be in again anyway because there is a new furlough coming up and it's really a corker. It's a tour through Switzerland with a stay in one of the principal cities and on through to Rome, Italy where there is another

layover. It should be a very
educational tour and I don't
mean to miss it if it is
possible for me to go.

Say Mom. are my civilian
shoes still around? The ones
I left there to be half-soled.
I would appreciate it very
much if you could send
them to me as soon as possible. I
need some handkerchiefs, too. About
a half-dozen would be good. Just
take what ever they cost
out of my account. Oh yes.
Could you send me the
results of my tests and ~~the~~
~~balance of~~ tell me how much
I have in the bank at present.
Thanks.

So long folks.

Dave



PLATTENHOTEN,
BAVARIA
January 4th

Dear Folks,

I mailed a letter to
you yesterday, but I got
a letter in the meantime,
so being as I have all the
time in the world I
might as well answer
that letter. Don't worry
too much about that
~~letter~~ view of Westminster.
I am starting to get
high hopes of coming home
soon once again.

Some fellows in another
outfit I know with 45
points and over are
catching a boat Jan. 15th.
I have 48 so they ought
to be getting around to
me eventually.

I'm glad to hear
Reese Cindorf was down
to see you. I can rem-
ember him. I think he
is bald-headed and lives
at Havre de Grace. Right?

From what I hear

The States is having a
pretty rough winter but
Westminster seems to be
getting off on the light
end this year.

I hope his James
programs went off with
a bang. He is getting to
be a pretty busy girl.

Charlie, what class
Scout are you now? Still
a tenderfoot?

I'm glad to hear Joe
is working hard. I will

probably need some of his
spirit. I hope its a com-
municable disease. If I
harnessed with an industrious
man I usually am a
little infected with it. I'm
afraid I don't have much
character and have lost what
I did have.

One thing Joe has
to learn to do better and
that is writing. Unless he
is going to use a type-writer.

Dad if you start a
new war because they

they won't let me out of
the Army. That will be
one war with a good cause,
but I'm afraid you would
have to stand trial for
war crimes. You might beat
the rap.

What is the idea of
cutting out the Xmas money
I wanted you to have? That
was a dirty trick. If I
didn't want you people to
have it I wouldn't have
left you take it out.

Joe I'm glad you are
keeping the homefront in shape
one of these days I'm going
to come around for an in-
spection. I hope soon. I want
it to stay in the pink of
condition or you might be
confined or even court-martialed.

If you ever see Heagy again
Joe and she mentions me tell
her when she starts to write
maybe I'll answer her letters.

Now I could use an
overseas cap with medic
paid on it and that's back

they won't let me out of
the Army. That will be
one war with a good cause,
but I'm afraid you would
have to stand trial for
war crimes. You might beat
the rap.

What is the idea of
cutting out the Xmas money
I wanted you to have? That
was a dirty trick. If I
didn't want you people to
have it I wouldn't have
left you take it out.

shirt hanging in my closet. I
don't know why I waited
so long to ask for this stuff,
but it may yet get here in
time.

Well so long.

Dave

Pfaffenhofen,
Bavaria

Fri. Jan. 6

Dear folks,

This is Sunday. I honestly intended to go to church but it entirely slipped my mind. They have church in a theatre here anyway and it isn't much like church.

I beat everybody in the Medias at table tennis today and it has been over a year since I played any of it to speak of. Lucky don't you think?

Wednesday it will be exactly a year since I got on that boat in

New York. It has been one of the shortest and most eventful years of my life, but now it is starting to drag out. The last couple of months have been extremely long.

We have been remodeling our pro-station a bit. We have new beds in now with nice soft springs and I have painted my room almost up to the ceiling in maroon. It is very garish looking, but that is the only color they had to spare in the paintshop so I had to use it. It is cleaner looking than the old wall paper that was on it anyway.

I hope Joe is still doing fine with his studies. I am very interested in the outcome. Let me know the results of his tests as soon as you can, please.

Well the latest ~~is~~ rumor is that this regiment is moving up in the Augsburg vicinity. That perhaps is just a rumor and it maybe the straight dope. However, regardless which, my address won't change.

Will ~~write~~ so long for now.

Love

PTAFENHOJEN,
BAVARIA

HELLO JOHNNY,

How are you doing fellow? Not at sea yet are you? I wish I would go to sea once more. Just once more that will be plenty. Let on a boat at Le Harve and dock at New York. That will be prima as these Kraule say. That should be between March & May.

This place is kind of getting on my nerves now. About all I do is take in a movie every other night and listen to the radio all day and the nights I'm on duty. I write my few letters mainly because I get so

damn few myself. I haven't heard
from home for better than two weeks.
I guess they are pretty busy there.
Maybe it is just like here - nothing to
write about.

Will take it easy bud. I guess
I'll sign off.

So long,
Dave

— m

Geffenhofen.
Bavaria

WEDNESDAY JAN 9th

Dear folks,

Thanks a million for the letter.
It was one of the longest I've yet
received. Today is the first anni-
versary of my business career. A
year ago today I got on the boat.
I hope I don't celebrate the next
anniversary in the Army.

At last we leave Geffenhofen.
We are going to move to a small
town by the name of ~~or~~ Mooseburg
or something like that. There is a

large PW cage up there so the whole
battalion is going up there to pull
guard, of course, I won't be putting
any of it. The medics will just
be passing the time as usual.

I'm awfully glad you people
had a nice Xmas. I promise you
next Xmas I shall.

Well it seems the dissatisfaction in
the point system is more or less
universal. I heard over the radio
that men in my category would
be on the way home by the middle
of May at the latest. That seems
a long time to me though.

I can imagine ~~me~~ you that the
Catholic service Christmas night was
nice. Most of the fellows went to
Catholic mass over here in the civilian
church.

So it seems you had quite a nice
Christmas. You really had a load
of presents didn't you. You told me
you got saddlebags for your
bicycle and I didn't even know
you had a bicycle.

Charlie I'm going to learn to
play chess. So when I come home
I can beat you. ~~or~~ Don't blow the
house up with that chemistry outfit.

John must have had quite a trip.
I expect a long letter from him telling
me about it. From Fisco to Chi.
in a '30 Chevrolet. Whew.

The reason we are eating out of
China again and have waitresses and
have three clubs is that they want
to keep our morale up. They seem
to forget the easiest way to do that.
Just get us some replacements and
the problem would be solved. If
the big shot would just give us
a fair deal and live up to their
promises. They would gain a lot
of respect in our eyes. There would
be less need for stockades and

training in Military Courtesy, too. The
men here seem to realize, so far, that
demonstrations for demobilization here
would do the Germans more good
than us. And the average of us
except the fresh-from-the-states
troops have reason to dislike the fronts.

The draft boards seem to be
falling down on the job in getting
us replacements. If the Army would
come out of the rut and pay as good
as the ~~sea~~ Navy as they might
get a few enlistments. Another
thing that would help would be
eliminating the Prussian system
of sitting the damn officers up on

a pedestal like gods. A little of our democracy injected into the Army would go a long way. During actual fighting it was democratic enough. Plenty of brass was too lazy to dig a foxhole and were glad to jump into a G.I.'s when a plane came over.

I don't think, even in the States, things will ever come to a ^{pre}post-war normalcy. They have a better chance there and in the rest of America than in the rest of the world, though. The last big fortunes have been made in ~~America~~ the states as far as individuals go. Corporations control the markets. If I ever complete my education. I expect

to make my fortune in South America
were things are still in a crude state.
America has almost reached its potential.
Things are going to start on the decline
there after this post-war boom. It
will always be better than Europe, but
it doesn't have the future of Brazil or
Argentina.

Dad, I saw that movie, "Our
Vines Have Tender Tropes". I agree with
you it is one of the best movies
I've had the pleasure to see. It
restores your faith in human kindness
to some extent. There aren't many people
in the world like that. I wish
life was as simple as it was dep-
icted in that movie.

You asked how far we were
from Nuremberg and the War Crimes
Trials. Well I'm only about 70 miles
away, but you are just as close,
because the only contact I have with
it is the radio. It's all just a
waste of time anyway.

I'm authorized 2 battle stars
and entitled to one more. We are
credited with three in USFET anyway
I only have points for two though. One
is Western Germany, or Saar Valley, I'm
not sure of the name and the other
is Central Germany. We didn't get ~~off~~
anything for Austria where we had
our stiffest fighting.

I agree with you to a certain extent about Patton. He was America's best combat field commander. He was feared by the Germans. If he were not so impulsive his laurels would be more plentiful. I say the ETO's greatest man is still alive, General Eisenhower. His career is not so colorful and he is not feared by the Germans but he has their undying respect. He is the great co-ordinator. Out of six Allied Armies ~~the~~ made a machine to crush Germany but he is not a great man. His people are not wealthy like Pattons. He is just what he looks like. General Patton loves parades and

uniforms, but he is not loved by the
men who fought under him. & he is.
He also will go to bat for his men.
Patton liked his men as long as they
could stand up and fight for him. There
is a lot of difference between the two of
them. Patton was a soldier's soldier.
He a man's man.

Well, I'm about through raving.

So long.

Dave

Zoffenhofen
Bavaria

Jan. 14, 1946

Dear folks,

Thanks a million for your letter
of Dec. 31st. I got it today. That is
two weeks for airmail. I'm glad to
hear you all had a Happy New Year's Day.

I said we might move but it seems
it's still undecided. The medical officer
doesn't approve of the plumbing and
general living conditions of what is
supposed to be our new home. I per-
sonally liked the idea of a move.

Something new would help alleviate the

monotony of this place.

The kids will have to write and tell me about the party they are going to have.

There is a S.I. coming down to play chess with me this afternoon. He has a chessboard and knows how to play. I shall learn. When I come home perhaps I can give Charlie some competition. He seems to be quite good at it.

Thanks a lot for the picture of Westminster. I shall pin it up on the wall and hope it won't meet the same fate the other one did.

Joe, I'm sorry to hear you could only get into one fight New Years Eve. Personally I'd rather watch a good fight than get in one. I never have been in a fight that was really a fight. Another thing you shouldn't play such a hog with the women. You said there were about ten girls in town and you managed to get 8 of them? That is entirely too much for one man. Where the hell is your competition?

Joe I'm glad to hear your results in Math and Science. Wow! When I come home you are going

to have to teach me all you know
in that line. They are the most
important. You can easily brush up
on the other stuff if you know your
math. Everybody can get the other
junk, but you have to be a natur-
al with math & science. I hope
I can do as well.

Will folks, so long.

Be always,

Yours.

Raffenhofen,
Bavaria

Jan. 16 1946

Dear folks,

I hope everybody is feeling fine. I'm feeling wonderful. Sam. He lifted my morale last night quite a bit. He said I'd be home or on the way home by April 30th at the latest. That is the most sure news I've heard for quite a while. I don't think I'll be like Patterson does any way.

I've been skiing all afternoon. It's beacomp fun but, you take a

lot of hard spills along with the
fun. I've got wet feet and
knots all over my knees. Tucky
things skis. I think I'll have
quite a lot of fun learning and
plenty of time to learn. The German
are the best skiers in the world,
so I should have good teachers.

I also did some sliding
yesterday. They don't have any good
slides over here compared to the
slick slides we have in the states,
though

I'm going to buy a pair of skis
in Munich Friday, maybe I'll
get some leather for ski shoes then

too. If I get them I'll bring them
home with me when I come ~~home~~.

They will be a lot cheaper over here
in spite of inflation.

Well folks can't think of
anything to say. Here's hoping to
see you again.

Dave

Plattenhofen

GERMANY.

DEAR Folks,

Hello. I got your letter yesterday. The letters are getting few and far between, but of course, I don't write many any more myself.

We are having the seasons first snow here now. It started yesterday and has been going ever since. Very fine flakes but the ground is too warm and wet and none of it sticks.

I wrote Al last night & he has owing him a letter for quite some time. I'll repeat as I do in every letter. There

isn't a darn thing to write about.

I sunk \$40 in a watch the other day. One of the boys was shipping out and needed a little dough. I got stuck on the watch for it is about as constant as the weather. There isn't anything over here to spend money on. They only allow you to send a certain percentage of your dough home. They are trying to control the Black Market here. A man could make a small fortune in that racket here.

My buddy bought a radio from another G.I. and how

been trying to get tubes for it
for a ~~year~~ week. We finally
found a ferry that could fit it.
We are supposed to get it back
Monday. If it works it will help
break the monotony of this place.

Please don't expect me home
so soon. It will be March anyway.
I wasn't in the war long like
the veterans that get home first.

Well folks keep them flying.

Dave

PAFFENHOFEN,
GERMANY

Dear Folks,

How is everybody? I hope you are as well as I. There is not a darn thing to write about here. Except we are going on maneuvers in about a weeks time. They won't be long, but did you ever here of anything so 'chicken' as maneuvers after the war is already won. This is probably the only outfit in the ETO that is doing anything like that.

A couple of our boys buckled a few civilians on their tails, so this command punished the whole Btn. with a 7 o'clock curfew for soldiers. How do you like that? We are beginning already to wonder who ~~own~~ the war.

I got an old letter from a couple of days ago. He was still a soldier then. I guess he is a civilian now. I ~~guess~~ ^{imagine} it would be best to write to his civilian address.

I've found out something. ~~Ree~~. It's going to cost me something to live here. I would sure be obliged if you would send me a monthly money order of ten dollars, ~~about there~~ and

them so they would get here about
the 20th of each month.

That ~~was~~ ~~the~~ allotment
was supposed to start for the
month of July. If it didn't please
let me know. I don't want them
to do me out of 50 dollars.

Well folks don't forget to
write.

Have

48 pts.

Plattendorf,
GERMANY

Dear Folks,

How is everybody? I hope you are as well as I. There is not a darn thing to write about here. Except we are going on maneuvers in about a weeks time. They won't be long, but did you ever here of anything so 'chicken' as maneuvers after the war is already over. This is probably the only outfit in the ETO that is doing anything like that.

A couple of our boys snatched a few civilians on their tails, so this command punished the whole Btn. with a 7 o'clock curfew for soldiers. How do you like that? We are beginning already to wonder who ~~own~~ the war.

I got an old letter from Al a couple of days ago. He was still a soldier then. I guess he is a civilian now. I ~~guess~~ imagine it would be best to write to his civilian address.

I've found out something. ~~How~~. It's going to cost me something to live here. I would sure be obliged if you would send me a monthly money order of ten dollars, ~~about that~~ and

them so they would get here about
the 20th of each month.

That ~~is~~ ~~the~~ allotment
was supposed to start for the
~~month~~ of July. If it didn't please
let me know. I don't want them
to do me out of 80 dollars.

Well folks don't forget to
write.

Have

48 pts.

Plattenhofen,
Germany,

Dear Folks,

Thanks a million for the letter. I also got one from John. The first in about a week.

You probably got one letter from me asking for some money very much. If it happens you do, please disregard it. I don't know what got into me when I asked for it. I don't need it.

I have finished all the rest except part of the drawing one. This is the only pencil I have and its about 2 inches long. Its not very good for

spat work. Its soft lead
and uncomfortable to use.

The very mention of that
seafood makes my mouth water
like Niagara Falls. When I come
home I wouldn't mind three
dozen fresh oysters. (raw) I
like crab and shrimp, too, and we
don't get any of that stuff here.

We get our iodine by eating
iodized salt. There will be a
lot of goiters in the Army of
occupation if they don't wize up.

About a month ago (speaking
of food) I saw beaucoup picture
in the Stars & Stripes of bananas
being shipped to us, but that was
the end of it. (Propaganda) Somebody

probably heard about them sending
sloop boats to take us home,
and sent a correspondent to
South America to have those
pictures passed.

By speaking of pictures, I
saw a good movie last night,
"Week End in the Woldorf." I
think I'll spend a week end
there to celebrate my parole
from the Army and debut in
the land of the FREE.

I should get home this
spring so I ought to have time
to get in shape for that
suggested Freshman (basic training).
I've decided that WMC is
the best for a beginning because

Dad, I'm going to need a lot of coaching and perhaps a good tip-kick to keep me on the ball.

However, I want to get a good job involving manual labor to get the IJ callous of my return first. I know a guy in Ohio that has a farm and lots of hay to pitch this summer.

John tells me he's seen quite a bit of the West Coast. I really envy him. I always wanted a station out there but couldn't manage it.

The damn Army wouldn't consult me about it though.

That letter (the long one) seems
to be getting around. I should
have charged royalties. John
was congratulating me upon
its length in his letter. That's
what I always said when
you got something to say, you
can say it. This one seems
to be getting a little loquacious,
too.

That picture you sent me
looks exactly like John. I
don't see why you say it looks
like me. Frankenstein is a
better comparison for me. I
could be his stand-in. Except
I'm too small.

Al has a nice job. He
gets around a little in it.

It's not to come." How you
gonna keep them down on
the farm?" After they've seen
Paris!"

I'm going to get mad at
Charlie and Sis if they don't
write me. Tell ~~them~~ em
they're going to need the practice
when M. Eaton starts asking
for themes. I sweated Friday
morning out plenty of times.
Tell ~~at~~ them they ought to
treat me better. The prodigal
son is coming ~~in~~ home and
maybe they'll want to take
part in the feast. And another
thing. I like to hear from them.
I'd write special letters to

both of them but its too long
between moods, besides unless
they write I won't know what
to talk to them about.

Well folks as the Heines
say, Good night Good sleep

Or as we poor inferiors
say,

So long
Dove

P.S. Did you actually stay with
it this far?

With the 60th Inf.
in Bavaria
January 27th

Hello Folks,

As you can see I'm writing on a typewriter for a change. I'm actually in the aid station now. I'm using the typewriter that belongs to the clerk. I haven't done this for a long time, so please forgive the errors.

Thanks a lot for your letter. It arrived day before yesterday. I have been pretty busy for the last few days so I just got down to answering it.

Well it looks like the big shots are finally wising up to the fact that the G.I.s mean business when they say they want out. They fixed me up so that I may be home very soon. The latest rumor is ~~xx~~ that I should be out of this outfit and on my way sometime in February. I am pretty certain that I will be home by Charlies birthday.

Please don't worry about me and the fraulien^s. None of them mean anything to me except to argue with about who won the war.

Sis it sounds like you had quite a party. I bet you had a wonderful time. How are you coming with the bicyce and roller skates?

Mom remember that address I sent you? The one I wanted (60) dollars sent to. They haven't got the ~~xxx~~ money yet. I thought the letter mentioni^{ng} it might have got lost in the mails so I will send it t^o you again.

Here is the address: Mrs. Zdenka Hofrichter
2236 S. Christian Ave.
~~ENIGMA~~ (23) Ill.
~~ENIGMA~~
Chicago

How are you getting along in High school Joe?
I imagine it seems a little different than it was when
you left isn't it? I don't think you could find a ~~x~~
much better English teacher than Mike Eaton. Is he
teaching you English? I sure would like to go to
school with you Joe why don't you go to Western
Maryland for two years with me. After that we can go
to some good school. Is civilian life easy to get
used to? It should be easy for me because I never
did get to be a soldier.

Well folks I better close. This is the last letter
I write on a type writer. I can't think on one.

So long,

Dave

AFRICA
SICILY
ENGLAND

GO DEVILS

FRANCE
BELGIUM
GERMANY

In Germany
Feb. 2nd

Dear Folks,

Thanks a billion for the letter. They are getting few and far between. That is O.K. though. I'm going to answer all you write. I'll probably be home pretty soon anyway and then I can quit writing for good.

This life is getting more monotonous all the time. We set around and play cards from dawn to dusk. Once in awhile there is a good movie. We are out in the country about half a mile from the nearest hick town. It is so large there isn't hard road in it except for the highway that passes through it. Thank you very much for the shoes. I should get them now in time to wear them on the boat. The handkerchiefs won't make much difference now I finally twisted them out of the supply Sgt.

I got a hold of a darn nice pair of Benutzer Binoculars. They are 7/50 power really a nice pair of glasses. I traded my Belgian P38 for them. That only leaves me with two pistols. One of them is a brand spanking new German P38 and the other is an old beat up .25cal Browning automatic. I am going to trade the .25 for something before I get on the boat. We are only allowed one pistol on the boat. In the meantime I can use it as a very good pocket pistol. Just in case there are any Krauts man enough to get me alone in the dark streets of this burg. There are plenty of them man enough but that pistol will cut them down to my size.

I got a letter from John at camp. He seems to have really enjoyed his liberty. I suppose I'll see him again before he gets what all sailors want, sea duty.

The rumors of these people setting up a monarchy in Bavaria falls good on my ears. Maybe it will break up the German state and go a little toward preventing future wars. The idea is gaining a lot of headway in here.

The United States of Europe is as Utopian as it is good from the rest of the world's point of view. Do you realize how many different languages are spoken over here? That is the greatest barrier of the idea. Besides the proud French and Germans would never cotton to a Russian Dominated country. The only possible way to bring this about would be for Russia to take these countries

by force and I imagine there are plenty of people in the United States and England who wouldn't like that idea a bit.

Glad to hear Jack got home. I imagine he is signing up for another hitch in the Navy. He seemed to like it a heck of a lot by his letters.

That bank balance sounds pretty good. With my mustering out pay and the rest of the paydays I have got coming I should be almost able to make my thousand dollar quota. That is what I had in mind. Then about four months work this ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{summer} will give me the necessary spending money for my first year in college. And I would have the thousand saved.

Tell Charlie if he wants to start a coin collection I will pick up a few coins over here. I am not going to bother with this aluminum money of the Germans but I have a few very old silver coins. Charlie might have the bad habit of letting things go unfinished but he still starts them anyway there he has me beat a long way. The idea is all I ever got.

Glad to hear my test arrived I am waiting anxiously for the outcome of them. I hope I have a good score. If I don't though they will probably show that engineering isn't the thing for me to try.

I wrote grandmother today and hope to get around to answering John's letter also. I am not going to do another letter in typing. Everytime I make a simple mistake I get mad enough to eat nails. And that is no good for my letter writing.

Well so long Folks,

Dave

8 Feb. 1946

Dear Folks,

I hope everybody is in as high hopes and good health as I am. According to all rumors etc. I am due to get out of here ahead of schedule. Which is just about the best news that could come to my ears. I am supposed to be in the states by the end of April according to Ike's schedule, but it looks to me like I might even get there some time in March. The 50 pointers left here yesterday. And I am in the next category. Here is hoping it won't be too long.

Thanks a million for the photos. The pictures of the house have a professional tang. Did you have them made or did you do them yourself? If they are homemade they are the best pictures taken by our family to date.

Sis is really growing up. She looks much bigger every time I see her.

As usual I am spending most of my time doing nothing. I am on C.Q. today. But that is just some more nothing. It is pityful the small amount of work we medics so in the Army. Well folks , so long.

Dave

AFRICA
SICILY
ENGLAND

GO DEVILS

FRANCE
BELGIUM
GERMANY

Germany,


Feb. 13

Dear Folks,

This will be my last letter from this outfit please don't write any more here. I am moving out to join the 66th Inf. Regt., which is due home by the end of March. I am enclosing a money order for one-hundred-twelve dollars. Please put this on my account. If you haven't already sent that box of stuff there will be no need to send it anymore. I had a letter from Joe today and two from John. John told me about his appendix hernia operation. There is no need for worry in that quater. The percentage is very high.

I can't tell you when I will be home but don't have any high hopes on it being soon. The army is very slow. I will telephone you when I get in New York. I will probably send you a wire when I get in France. Until you here from me again- so long.

Dave.



Germany,
February 13

Dear John,

How are you buddy? I'm fine. Thanks a million for the two letters. They both came at the same time. I hope this letter reaches you fine and dandy after recuperating from your operation. Does the navy give a recuperation furlough for hernia operations? They used to do that in the army before the war.

I am glad you like California so much. Although I am inclined to get slightly pissed off at those californians that are always bragging about their state, I am inclined to agree that they must be some right about it anyway. You seem to be getting around quite a bit for your shot ~~xxx~~ stay in the service. I hope you get to see more of it before you leave. Its going to cost money when you become a civilian.

I have heard a lot of people say that Santa Rose is the prettiest small town in the states. Is that true?

I can image you will start trying to make the pretty nurses the minute you come out of the ether. Remember your last operation? The minute I woke up I slugged that blonde nurse. That just goes to show my instinctive hate for females.

What is the name of this blonde~~xx~~ you know in Westminster? Maybe I know her.

By the way John, I have been waiting all through this letter to tell you the really good news from over here. I am finally on my way to the states. I leave from this outfit on my way to the states tomorrow. The tripwon't be nice however I am able to take almost anything for the pleasure of getting home once more. Don't write me anymor letters to this outfit. If I get a chance you may hear from me once more. While I am in this theater but I don't think I'll have much time they really keep a man busy on this shipping out business.

8 Feb. 1946

Dear Folks,

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SICILY
ENGLAND

GO DEVILS

FRANCE
BELGIUM
GERMANY

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I am glad you like California so much. Although I am inclined to get slightly pissed off at those californians that are always bragging about their state, I am inclined to agree that they must be some right about it anyway. You seem to be getting around quite a bit for your shot ~~xxx~~ stay in the service. I hope you get to see more of it before you leave. Its going to cost money when you become a civilian.

I have heard a lot of people say that Santa Rose is the prettiest small town in the states. Is that true?

I can image you will start trying to make the pretty nurses the minute you come out of the ether. Remember your last operation? The minute I woke up I slugged that blonde nurse. That just goes to show my instinctive hate for females.

What is the name of this blonde~~xx~~ you know in Westminster? Maybe I know her.

By the way John, I have been waiting all through this letter to tell you the really good news from over here. I am finally on my way to the states. I leave from this outfit on my way to the states tomorrow. The tripwon't be nice however I am able to take almost anything for the pleasure of getting home once more. Don't write me anymor letters to this outfit. If I get a chance you may hear from me once more. While I am in this theater but I don't think I'll have much time they really keep a man busy on this shipping out business.

Germany,
February 19
Till we meet again goodluck and goodhealth.

So long,

Dave

Dear John,
How are you today? I'm fine. Thanks a million for the two letters. They both came at the same time. I hope this letter reaches you fine and dandy after recuperating from your operation. Does the navy give a recuperation allowance for certain operations? They used to do that in the army before the war.

I am glad you like California so much. Although I am inclined to get slightly biased off at those californians that are always bragging about their state, I am inclined to agree that they must be some right about it anyway. You seem to be getting around quite a bit for your shot kix stay in the service. I hope you get to see more of it before you leave. Its going to cost money when you become a civilian.

I have heard a lot of people say that Santa Rosa is the prettiest small town in the states. Is that true? I can image you will start trying to make the pretty nurses the minute you come out of the ether. Remember your last operation? The minute I woke up I imagined that blonde nurse. That just goes to show my inactive state for females.

What is the name of this blonde you know in Germany? Maybe I know her. By the way John, I have been waiting all through this letter to tell you the really good news from over here. I am finally on my way to the states. I leave from this outfit on my way to the states tomorrow. The trip won't be nice however I am able to take almost anything for the pleasure of getting home once more. Don't write me anymore letters to this outfit. If I get a chance you may hear from me once more. While I am in this theater but I don't think I'll have much time really keep a man busy on this shipping out business.

(1)

Germany
August 1st

Dear Folks,

I guess you've been wondering what happened to me. I hope you're all well and happy.

Well, I've been put in occupational forces. I expect to be over here for another year at least.

As you can see by my address I'm in another division. The old sixty-fifth was deactivated.

I was on furlough about 24 days traveling and all that and when I got back the division

(2)
was in the conviction of
making up. I'm still
not sure where I'll be,
but I know I'll be in
this Regiment. I think
that should explain why
I haven't written up till
now.

I enjoyed my furlough
immensely although traveling
on the slow dirty trains
was not altogether to my
liking. However I had the
luck to get a plane back
from London to Paris. This
shortened my traveling time
a great deal.

I didn't go much to
see the sights. Mostly to
get away.

I'll describe my trip

as well as I can remember it.

We left Linz, Austria at seven o'clock in the morning and traveled by trucks some 150 miles to Munich, Germany. Munich next to Saarbrücken is the most nearly obliterated town I've seen in Germany. The bombers did most of it. The town was the birthplace of the Nazi party so our airforce was determined to wipe it off the map.

There was a service club sponsored by the U.S.O. in one of the few houses left standing. We ate there in a huge dining

(40)
room draped with German
silk parachutes. We were
employing German civilian
waiters and had a fine
piece band to give us
music while we ate. We
left Munich about 2 o'clock
in the morning in a
German coach.

The trip from ~~Paris~~
to Munich to Paris was
more or less uneventful. We
slept until we reached Stras-
burg and had breakfast there
in the railroad station. After
that we just sat and watch-
ed the beautiful German land-
scape roll by. Occasionally we
would come to a town which
was reduced to rubble by our
bombers and artillery.

(5)

When we reached France however it was a different story. There was very little bomb damage visible. Every now and then you would see a few of our tanks knocked out by German mines and men picked up by the salvage crews.

We got off the train in Paris at Le Gare d'Est and ate breakfast there at a R.T.O. travelers mess. Surrounded by French girls, pretty and otherwise. We waited at the station for a bus to Le Gare de St. Nazaire where we arrived there we were told that we had a twelve hour layover until the train left for Le Harve. There were five of us then in the group. We all five of us got a

(6)

room in the Grand Hotel du
Calvados. We chomped up there and
went out to a French ~~club~~
cafe and had lunch. We were
treated like millionaires there, though
I still suspect it was because
since we were served for meat.
We had meat, spuds, ~~the~~ peas, and
some tasty salads plus a bottle
of white wine as beverage. It
cost me some 12 dollars for
the three of us. The wine
was the cheapest thing on the
check. However I'd sold my
watch and ~~had~~ borrowed
money and was determined
to have a good time. When
I came back I'd spent two-
hundred dollars and owed
fifty. It was money wasted
I know, but well wasted.

(1)

We left Paris at 9:30 that night. I didn't think much of it. Paris is just a town of, high prices, cheap women, and black market. I saw more of it on the trip back, but I'll come to that later.

By this time I had more or less attached myself to two guys that I spent most of my furlough with. A staff sergeant from Detroit who's wife owned quite a bit of Chrysler stock and a guy from New Hampshire who had spent a year in England before. They were both more or less army politicians (Big Time Operators).

We got to Le Havre the next morning. We had to wait

8

till next morning for a boat
so, we were issued new cloth-
es, all the decorations we were
authorized and lacked only a
meat PX ration.

We left Le Havre next
morning on a Channel steamer,
the Duke of Wight, on which
we were pretty crowded. It
was a British boat and not
very clean compared to our
boats.

We docked at 3:30 in
Southampton and waited about
an hour before we could dis-
embark. Finally a passenger
train pulled into the wharf
and we got on board. The
English trains are much better
than any of those on the
continent, but still aren't as
good as those at home.

(9)
It took us about 4 hours
from S.H. to London. We
got off the train in Piccadilly
Circus and got a subway to
a town named Watford, a suburb
to London. I spent about
half of my time there and
the other half in London and
how bus side away. Making
quite a few trips to London
at intervals.

To tell you what I
did in England would be
impossible. I visited a
few points in England got one
of my buddies married and
had generally a very fast time.
I got in one fight and landed
in a hospital, but I wasn't hurt
but just skinned up a little.

I saw the tower of London,
New Gardens. The London Zoo,

and Bokeram Wood, ⁽¹⁰⁾ ~~is~~ one of
the oldest tripping sites in
England, on which there is
now one of the British movie
companies.

We had nine days originally
on our furlough but we got
a three day extension by doing
a little brown noising and just
as that ended they celebrated
V-J day so we got another 48
hour extension.

We didn't go to London
V-J day, but in the town
we were in there was a
big celebration. There were
bonfires in every street corner
with street dancing and plenty
of drinks. I went to bed early
not in the festive mood and
pretty near the worse for wear
by that time.

(11)
~~From~~ Jim and I had
plane reservations on a C-47
the next morning so we went
out to the Bowington airport
and took off at 7:45. We
arrived in Paris and hours
and a half later. The day
was a perfect day for flying
and that was the longest
trip I had taken by air, so
I was all eyes.

It was really nice
watching the landscape
unfold just like a small
scale map below you. And
the Channel was even prettier
watching the ships sailing along
leaving a white wake on
the greenish blue of the Channel
waters. Occasionally our wing would
disappear in a cloud bank.

(12)
The air would get bumpy
but pretty soon we were
out in the clear white
sunlight again.

We landed at Orly
Field near Paris and hired
a ride to downtown Paris
and found a Hotel - I've
forgotten the name of it
already.

On the truck ride down
I saw the Eiffel tower, the
Arch of Triumph, and the
Cathedral of Notre Dame. The
moment we got off the truck
we were stopped by French
Black Marketeers. They wanted
to buy our English money and
anything else they could from
us.

We were both almost broke

(2)
so we cooperated with them
to some extent.

That night we went to
the famous Folies Bergere and
watched the show. We found
our way home after being
stopped a hundred times by
prostitutes and Black Marketeers.

My budlie got two dolls
at the Folies for souvenirs
and gave me one of them.
I have it in my suitcase
now.

The next day we got up
at eleven and went in
search of a friend of my friends
who had been in Paris for
about a year. He took care
of us from then on.

That afternoon we went
and saw Radio City's famous
rockettes at a theatre near

Rainbow Corner. ⁽¹⁴⁾

After that we went out to Versailles with this friend of my friends to visit a girl and family whom he knew. We saw the Palace of the French kings there and were grandly entertained by the people we were visiting. We met for the first time some nice French people. Up to that time I had a very poor opinion of the French people. Now that poor opinion is only in regard to Parisians.

Versailles

We dined in ~~Paris~~ with these friends. We drank red wine with sugar in it and after the meal we had cognac.

The next day we were both broke and tired of Paris

(10)

so we decided to leave
at 7:30 that night on the
Munich train.

This friend of my
friends was working in
R.T.O. and had some influence
with the train officials so
we got a compartment to
ourselves. We traveled in
style from Paris to Munich.

The next day we got
the news that our division
was broken up so we got
a ride to Wessenberg, Germany
where div. Hq. had moved to.
A day or so later I found
the remnants of my Bn.
living in the Closter of St.
Josephs, a nunnery that
closed during the war and
became a V. Bomb factory.
No mail could be sent from

(16)
there so I had to wait till
I reached here to write.

I'm now in the 60th
Regt., Ninth (to Devil) Div.
Otherwise I'm still casual...
unassigned to any company
or Bn.

I hope this letter makes
up in a way for not having
written for so long.

Had your aptitude test
interested me a lot. I'd
sure like to take them.
I sure don't think much
of medicine though Pop. I've
been thinking a heck of a
lot about that stuff especially
since I came overseas. I've
been beating my brains out think-
ing about it.

I'm going to try like
hell to make either an architect

3
now he was wrong. He has a
chance to prove his teaching
ability on Charles as he is
extra bright and is interested
in being high in his class.
Here is David's new address

P.F.C. David H. Myers

33 564094

Med Det. 60th Inf

A.P.O #9 c/o P.M.

New York, N.Y.

Bye now Love from
Mom

or a structural ^(?) engineer. I
expect first though to get
a refresher in high school
math and science.

I'm going to use the
Army G. I. Bill of Rights for
the college. I'd like to go
to U of M to start with and
later to a Technical School.
I expect to save enough
in the Army for the first
years expenses and to work
every summer after that. Poss-
ibly on a farm. I already
talked to a buddy of mine
who assured me a good job
on his place in Ohio. It's
hard work but clean living
that is what I want.

Don't forget to send
the test. I don't see
very good prospects here

(28)
for education but perhaps
later things will be more
settled.

I haven't got the box
with the films yet but I'm
biting my nails waiting.

Love.

Dove.

(23)
Dear John,

I wanted you to read
David's letter so I will
just write a note on the back.
Please send this letter back
as I want to keep it. I haven't
found your navy book yet.
Do you know where it is?
It is cold + rainy to-day.

I just made a fire in the furnace.
A hurricane from Florida up
to 6,000,000 damage ~~there~~ in Georgia.
Some of the 4th Div. are in Japan
but the ones that were in China.
He may end up there before he gets home
as he only has 67 points. We had

2
a letter from each of you.
boys this past wk. Mary Ellen
had a letter from you + David.
Grandma had a letter from you.
Your dad was there Sat. (of ^{Grand} ^{mom})
Alfred + Mary Ellen were here
for dinner Sunday but Alfred
had the headache from too much
liquor and hunting in the
room Sat. Charles took his bathing
suit + gym. shoes to day for
Physical Ed. They have a returned
war veteran as teacher and he
Charles is thrilled. I am using
a different method with Charles
I am sending him to dad in
the library to study and insisting
on him helping Charles as he
should have done with you + David
and Alfred instead of being an
absentee. Rather. I think he realizes

3
now he was wrong. He has a
chance to prove his teaching
ability on Charles as he is
extra bright and is interested
in being high in his class.
Here is David's new address

P.F.C. David H. Myers

33 564094

Med Det. 60th Inf

A.P.O #9 c/o P.M.

New York, N.Y.

Bye now Love from
Mom

Plattenhofen,
GERMANY

Nov. 9th

DEAR John,

How is the Navy? Mother said you were going to try to contact Joe when he came stateside. Good luck in that venture and if you see him, say hello to him for me. I quit writing Joe because I think he'll be coming home soon. He hasn't written me for quite a while I think for the same reason. I think you are a little optimistic in your ideas on getting out so quick, but here's hoping you are right.

There isn't much news
here in FATHERHOFFEN, so this
will probably be a short letter.

I spend the greatest
part of my time doing nothing.
We have a Pf.'s club here but
it gets tiresome as hell going
out and getting drunk every other
night. I don't do much of that.

You can hardly spend a dime
over here and can only send
so much home. I bought a
cheapened watch for \$40 the
other day. I got stung as
usual. I never was much of
a business man.

My buddy bought a radio
to help break up the monotony.

After trying it he had a hell
of a time getting tubes for it. We
finally found a man who could
make it work with different
tubes, so I guess we'll have a
little music here on Monday.

We are having our first snow-
fall of the season now. It started
yesterday and has been snowing
ever since. It rained first though
and the snow is having a hell
of a time sticking. All there is
on the ground now is slush.
If it freezes tonight though I
guess it may start sticking.

Well Johnny, I apologize for
forgetting your birthday. I just
thought of it when I was dating

your letter. Hates me though
always absentminded. Happy birthday
anyway.

Yours

Dave,

Plattenhofen,

BAVARIA

Dec. 7

HAPPY Birthday
"Mom"

Dear Folks,

Although news is as scarce as
and truth I'm going to do my best
to write a letter.

It has been snowing off and
on for a week here now, but the
weather is still pretty warm and
the snow is having a hard time
sticking. If it ever does I have
a promise from a friend of mine
to teach me how to ski. I always
have wanted to learn and here is
my chance.

Yesterday was a big day here in Germany. St. Nicolas came around to all the kids. I think he spanks all the bad ones and takes the other's Xmas orders. St. Nicolas is dressed different over here though. Two of them go around together. They both wear a mantle similar to the ones worn by C. priests and a high peaked hat. The one dressed in black takes care of the bad kids and the one in white and gold is the good one. I don't suppose this Xmas will be a very good one for these kids over here though.

I guess the mails are messed up again. I haven't got a letter for over a week. I probably have one now though at the aid station.

A red cross club is opening up in town here Sunday. I don't suppose though there will be much to it though. I haven't got to high an opinion of that organization I'm afraid.

Will folks take it easy and
Morn, Many Happy Returns of the Day.

So long,
Dave

Mattenhofen,
BAVARIA

Hello Junior,

You don't mind that name
do you? It seems that's what
POE calls you so I'll use it for
a change. That little saucy calls
me squirt.

Thanks a million for your
two letters. I see you're doing
quite a bit of traveling in Calif.
You might as well take advantage
of your fortunes. There is a
lot to see out there anyway. So

these natives tell me. That is
what I hate. A Californian talking
about Calif. It's different hearing
from somebody else about it though.

They turn the lights out
in this town for an hour and
a half here in town in the
morning. They claim they are
piping electricity to Austria. So
I'm trying to write this letter
in semi-darkness. However I guess
that won't improve my poor hand-
writing.

I had heard somewhere that
San Jose was one of the prettiest

small towns in the world or
maybe it was Santa Rosa.

How were the sequoia trees?
Very impressive I imagine. I'd
like to see some of that stuff. Have
you been to any of the other Nation-
al Parks?

I'm sorry to hear that it
rained all the time you were going.
There is nothing like rain to make
things miserable.

Thanks for the radio parts offer,
but I'm afraid American parts wouldn't
fit this Heine contraption we have.

So long John. MERRY XMAS!

DAVE.

Co. C' 261st Inf.
Feb. 20th

Dear Folks,

How is everybody there at home? I'm mighty fine myself, except that I ate too much dinner. I've been lying on the bed trying to ship it off without any luck.

We got our P. R. rations yesterday but there wasn't much to them. I sure will be glad when you get my letters, so you can see how short we are over here on candy. I got two packs of a week and that

cans, etc. three times daily, and turn in a sanitary report daily to Btr. Our Co. kitchen was the best in the Btr. today. The Btr. Surgeon inspected it. I'm mighty glad it was good, because I've been turning in an Excellent rating for it every day.

I'm getting kind of tired of this place now. We've been here long enough for it to be getting I.T.

By your letters you still haven't gotten any of my mail. I've only gotten about 6 letters in two months from home. Something's wrong somewhere.

My Reach's Digest hasn't come yet.

I didn't get any stamps for this letter,
so in the mean time I got a letter
from you.

I'm darn glad to hear Joe
is in the States. I sure wish
he'd write to me. There is a
little business I would like to talk
over with him.

I'd like to have Joe as a
classmate. It would provide the
necessary competition and companion-
ship. We should be able to do
pretty good together.

Well so long again. Write soon.

Dave



MYERS

