

Dear Mom.

Am typing this in one of the areas of another group - have no typewriter so have borrowed this. Its a rather nasty night to be out - I came back to the rear today to take care of some business that I had to take care of. Its grand to come back like this once in a while - a chance not everyone has, and feel rather guilty when I do it.

I suppose the casualty announcements are trickling in at home and many of our friends have been hurt. Its been a tough battle - much tougher than in Italy although we still are pushing the Jerries back inch by inch - and its been a bloody path all the way. As I read the home papers, I always think the the home papers paint up the stories rather optimistically as if the Germans were just being thrown back - and were on the run. I have not as yet seen the German army disorganized as to run in a rout. Every inch we fought for through mud, and dust and snow and hell have been fought for and won with much shedding of blood. I often wonder why they don't paint up war as it really is instead of giving it just a glamorous propaganda angle.

Here's hoping that the war will end soon but then one never can tell. I received your letter today - and many pkgs from friends all over. Receive the bars that you sent me but the bars that Hank sent me are not here as yet. They cost a lot since they are civilian make and since its made of sterling silver. I won't need any bars now for the rest of the war. By the way, the censor cut out a part of your letter - the second such since leaving home. You mentioned somebody's friend from Berkely passing through - and it was snipped right out. So far though the censors have been rather good about cutting things out.

I sent you a check for two hundred dollars in this morning letter. Hope you get it ok. - Its been snowing here lately and if it were not for the war - I would say it was beautiful but C'est la guerre and never too comfortable.

Thanks for mailing me the dictionary - I have not received it as yet but when it comes it will be very handy. I have a French dictionary. They were very ~~slow~~ difficult to find hereabouts but one of my newly made friends in Southern France gave me their dictionary. And then too the words come back to me slowly so that I can converse enough to say - "You're very kind - thank you for the kind invitation" - as I have been getting along rather famously with these dinner invitations. I was invited over for a Armistice Day dinner and Champagne which I enjoyed very much by one of the families around here. Daddy gets along some way - goodwill ambassador from the Hawaiian Tourist bureau so to speak.

Babe sent me some canned food - a can of chicken, a can of lobsters and a can of tuna. So tonight I got myself some steak from the regular rations, and went over to a friends home - made a salad of lettuce (in this season) and had a lobster salad plus a piece of steak, a cup of coffee and fruitcake. It was quite on the alright side. Please thank Babe for the wonderful can of lobsters. I ate the chicken the other night although its never good just by itself and am saving the tuna for some happy occasion, Alice sent me some things - believe it was a box of cookies - that was appreciated too



and a pkge from Pattie and Tommy. Please write them a letter of thanks for me. The church also sent me a pen - please thank Hor ce for me and ~~He~~ sent me a checker set. Please give him my thanks.

I wonder where I will be this Christmas - and why. We had another Memorial Service for the men the other day - in dreary weather and snow. It was very impressive and I could ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> keep my tears back when I began to ~~read~~ the names of our men. As usual the news reel men and others were all over the field taking pictures so you probably will see pictures of the memorial somewhere. The news reel men have been quite active around our group - the other day there was a newspaper full of things about us - in the army Beach Head news. The whole paper was devoted to our boys - and praising us as the fightingest group in the United States army. We deserve the praise I know for compared with other outfits we are by far the best - (not only our opinion). Probably the news have given out the story of how our group saved a whole battalion of soldiers lost and surrounded. The men we saved cried with joy when our men came through but it cost us quite a bit to effect the rescue.

The Germans are getting younger or older but at the same time more fanatical. Their fighting is getting meaner and meaner and more than often forget such a thing as the Geneva convention - however tit for tat -

This war won't be over for a long while as yet, I know. However things may break - and if it does, it will finish all of a sudden like. I hope it does -

I can't think of anything as terrible and horrible as war. From the papers I notice that Italy is having a tough time with the establishment of a government - think it will go communistic and there will be chaos for a while. I think of my Roman friends and their fear of chaos. Yet they have no wheres to go - they were real nice people. But Italy had a cleaning house coming to them - and hope that a better life comes out of it all although if you saw the Italian countryside and the ruins, it would take a heck of a long time to fix it up again.

Our guns are booming outside - but just outside and no guns coming in. For the time being I feel rather safe - but tomorrow I go up to the front again ~~to the front~~ but it is rather an easy front so I feel rather easy about it.

Take care of yourself mom and lets pray that this war will be over with vite - love to the kids.

love

*Don*