

Italy
21 May 1945

Dear Sally and Lou, I suppose that it has been more or less just a case of neglect on my part, however even tho the war in this Theater is over there is not too much to write about. Mother wrote that she had talked to you and told you that Sid and I got together. You can bet that seeing him was quite a boost for me, I was so darn excited when he got in touch with me by phone that I hardly knew what I was doing or what I wanted to do. By fate alone I happened to be stationed near Florence, Italy with a couple of fellows from the outfit waiting for our vehicles to return and pick up supplies. This by the way was the first time that I had not moved completely with the outfit on a move. Sid happened to fly into Florence and made inquiry at the proper Headquarters and thru them he was able to phone the outfit. Another day and I would have missed him. After seeing him I managed to get as far north as Verona, close enough to see the foothills of the Alps, and then the war ended (Thank God). The thing moved too rapidly for the most of us to take an active part in the front lines during this last push, however we did earn another another Battle Participation star for the part that we played. Well we returned to our old location, near where Sid was temporary stationed when I met him, however when I went over to look him up he had moved up and to date I don't know his present location although I think he is in the near vicinity of Verona. Right now I am sweating out a letter from him and in addition I have made inquiry at any likely spots he may contact for his supplies, so if he happens to get into my vicinity (Pisa) I am certain that I will see him some more. -- For the first couple of letters I wrote after this part of the war ended I continued to pick my words forgetting that for the most part censorship had been more or less lifted, now I catching myself still picking sentences and trying to make my letters more difficult than ever to write. There is so much to say, but past history doesn't inspire me in the least. I suppose that one of these days the old bull will really fly. Right now we are all waiting on something definite concerning our future. I suppose you are familiar with the proposed point system so here is as much as I know ^{and} at the moment as far

I am concerned. My total count is 107, that is a lot in porportion to a lot of fellows overseas, however there are a lot of "Old Soldiers" in our organization married etc that carry a total of 115 to as high as 135, so that leaves me about 45 to 50th in line for rotation as an individual. Truthfully I would like to get home but when in the devil that will be possible goodness only knows, just hope it sometime in 1945 and in time for some of the fall hunting season, you know that I have missed about four seasons in a row and that is too many. I was happy to hear lthat you managed a trip back to Uniontown for a short visit, no doubt you felt as theoyou had been away fro twenty years, I know that I will feel like a stranger when I get back. --- I have had a litale tough luck with the Memo, nothing serious, but I have not been able to take an pickures. Here is the story so don't be frightened. I exposed all the cartridges that you had sent me, so I had one of the fellows load the extra with some 35mm ~~Le~~ had on hand. So happens that he took the spring from the inside of the cartridge and after exposing that particular roll I had another loaded, using the empty without the spring as the receiving cartridge. Well that did not work and I lost about everyshot I had taken . Right now I have three exposed cartridges and haven't had an opportunity to develop them, however I located an adjustable tank so in a few days I hope to have some empties and be ready for more pictures. Honestly I haven't had the time to do any printing or anything else. -- When Sid an I got together I had one of the boys in the outfit snap a shot with a camera he had picked up. I thought it would be a perfect shot, however his camera was out of adjustment. Enclosed is the only ~~print~~ shot that came out at all, at least it is a picture of the two of us even tho not too good. Oh, by the way, I noticed that the Memo was not working right the day I saw Sid, perhaps some that I took will come ok but I doubt it.

That is about the story up to the moment, hope the garden is coming the way you had planned, remember those fresh onions are not too good for the ulsers. Regards to anyone that you may see, keep well.. I'll let you know if chances of getting home are possible.

AS EVER,