

May 24th, 1945

Dear Mom and Dad:

I haven't written again in several days so here is an air-mail to make up for my neglect. We are kept very busy on Guard duty, inspections, and a little entertainment. Not allowed to use this typewriter during the hours from 8 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon, so that is also a limiting factor.

Now that censorship has all but been lifted I wonder what you want me to tell you. I can give you a brief summary of all events. Wonder if that is what you want to hear. Well here goes.

Left home on November 20th 1943 and we docked in Scotland. At a small place called Greenock, or something like that. The trip over only took a little more than five and a half days. We were on the Queen Elizabeth and made the trip unescorted. Off the boat and on to a train and to Litchfield, England. I had been a little sick on the way over and couldn't shake it so the morning after arriving I went on sick call and was admitted to the hospital. I stayed one week. During that time my orders came and all of us were to report to the 2nd Armored Division. But by being sick I had missed the shipment and my name was recinded from that order. I messed around at Litchfield and then later on to two other depots in Southern England and finally was assigned about April 1st to this outfit. It was new and we didn't think we would see combat very soon. However after maneuvers and firing on Exmoor Range we were turned over to an artillery outfit at Salisbury plains. We experimented with using Artillery methods on our mortars. We learned fast and about June 15th went to Plymouth, and the next day was on the boat on our way to France. However there was a bad storm brewing, and we were on the boat nine days before we finally landed in France on D plus 21, June 27th. We went to an area and got organized and first went into action for the crossing of the Vire River. We really did a swell job there and immediately were in demand. The company suffered a few casualties there, and all of us were pretty low on moral. One of the boys that lived in the same hut as I did in England was killed. We were in several other positions and one night there was a strong German counter attach preceded by an hours artillery barrage. We thought every shell would come right in to our fox hole. At that time we dug one men holes, later on learned the value of company and started using two men fox holes. Anyway we finally came up when the barrage lifted



and lay along the hedge row with our rifles. Fortunately the attack was repulsed before the Germans got that far. It was a real scare tho. During the following week we couldn't fire much since there was a shortage of our type ammo and we had to save for the breakthrough. You know pretty well about that. On July 24th the attack was to come at noon. The first planes came over and dropped bombs on us instead of the Germans and that plus bad weather cancelled the push. The next day the push came off and again we were bombed by our own planes. The company did suffer casualties but none in our platoon. One bomb landed with 30 yards of me, killing a full Colonel and four others. The horror of all that I could never describe, nor do I care to try. The next day on foot we went to our next position. I guess Jane told you about that and how I lost three men in my squad. That was definitely the worst day I have ever been through. We went to the rear the next day and took it easy until we started following the forward elements. We were never close to the front. About Sept. 1st we were at Meulan near Paris. Our trucks were used to haul Infantry and we stayed there. Finally we took off, were in position twice in Belgium but did not fire a round and then on September 16th, just crossed the German border and set up where we could see the Siegfried line. That was another hot position. Until about October 20th we were moved from one place to another behind the great wall. Wherever our armies were pushing thro the Siegfried we would go there and support that unit. Always between Geilenkirchen, Heerlen, and as far south as Aachen. Those were busy days. Then that weeks rest at the monestray in Simpelveld, Holland, and then back into combat on the push that sent American troops up to the Roer River. It was when we were in Koslar, opposite Jullich, firing on the Sports Plaza that one of the youngest fellows in the Company and a good friend of mine was killed. Oh I forgot to mention October 20th when we were near Aachen in a town called Wurslen, one of our fighters had a hang fire and the bomb landed in the yard of a house we were using. That is when Art Samuels was killed and another Jewish boy lost an eye. Arts mother doesn't know how he was killed and she will never know it was one of our own planes. There is no reason for her to know that! When the Germans made there breakthrough we went South to Lammersdorf on the Northern hinge of the Buldge. We are now sweating out if we were in the area defined as the Ardennes or not. The rumor is that Lammersdorf is the line and we just made it and will get three stars for Germany instead of one. That would give me 82 points. Still not enough, darn it! I know that I have been recommended for a bronze star but the indications are that will not come through. It sure would be wonderful if we got those three stars



and I got the bronze star, that would give me enough points to be eligible for a discharge. That is too good to be true and there are so many ifs that I don't even figure on it, in fact am wondering if we will be a part of the Army of Occupation or go to the Pacific via the States. Back to Lammersdorf, we stayed there about a month, and then went North to Linnick to support a drive that went thro the Siegfried line and took 94 pill boxes. The opposition was very light there. Next around the middle of February we went back to Koslar and supported the crossing of the Roer River. We went across ourselves the next day and ran a rat race for a few days trying to keep up with the Infantry. It really was tough. Finally we got pulled back and rested almost three weeks in a little town in Germany called Karken. Then up on the line at Wallach to support the crossing of the Rhine. The first day there as we were setting our guns up, March 20th, a mortar shell landed near us and killed another boy in my squad. After they crossed there we moved up the River a little and fired into a pocket, a few days later crossed the River and set up a rear area. We started to follow the Drive and got 260 kilometers from Berlin on the Autobahn when we were turned around and went back and helped wipe out the Ruhr pocket. Again we moved often as opposition was not too strong. Finally we went on up and crossed the Elbe River. We sat there waiting to meet the Russians until the war ended. We pulled out in the morning and the Russians were due in that afternoon. Now we are acting as Military government waiting to see what the future holds for us. This is the British sector so we really expect to move soon, only when, where and why are unknown!

Stopped and ate chow. Hamburgers and dehydrated potatoes. If I never see any dehydrated food again it will be too soon. The only possible exception is the soup. That is good.

Your letter of Easter Sunday just arrived a day or two ago mom. What service! I have lots of more recent letters from you that I shall answer now, tho! Honestly I find it hard to believe that I am 25 now. I know that is a strange statement but it is very true. Many thanks for all the swell wishes and packages. I certainly was well treated! So Jane blew out the birthday candles for me. All at Once?

Dad in your letter of May 8th you said that Bud is on his way to the Pacific. I am sorry to hear that but of course it had to be expected. I am sure he will dock in California first, and call home. From all we hear things in the Pacific are going well so maybe that will be over fairly soon too. We know that the Jap Navy is not very affective so Bud's job shouldn't be too difficult. Hope that is true, anyway.

Your cable gram and one from Jane arrived the day before yesterday,



the 21st. You know when you sent it so know how long it took to reach me. I really don't think cables are worth sending unless there is something very important. Anyway I enjoyed receiveing the cable. Many thanks.

Sorry to hear about Eva Lipshie. I know you were pretty fond of the Lipshies so that must have been real bad news for you.

Sorry to hear Uncle Julius was sick. Glad though that he is getting along fine. My kindest regards to him the next time you see him.

You are right dad we are more organized now and have been living at the same place for quite some time. That in itself is a pleasure!

Your March Journal arrived and certainly is swell dad. That is the best issue I have ever seen, both from volume and contents standpoint. I am sure that you are very proud of it!

Thanks for the money orders dad. There is a possibility that I might get a pass one of these days and If I do you can be sure that money will really be appreciated. Many thanks dad. And as for your not spending any money on Jane that is a lot of bunk. You can't fool me. How about all the ten dollar bills you give her, and then shows, etc. Admit it old man. You just like to be generous. Many thanks for that pop, but please let Jane pay for her own clothes except perhaps on a real special occasion.

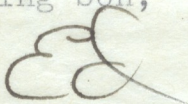
Hope Hohnny is right and that his Uncle Ed will be coming to see him soon. I honestly don't know what to think. So the best thing to do is just sit tight. Perhaps Myrus was right and I'll have to be patient until August. I can be, but will admit I am eager to get home once again.

Glad Peddie accepted the Grodnick boy. Had two copies of the Chronicle lately and a letter from Don Rich. That is one place I would like to visit if I am home next fall. Say for the Peddie Blair game.

Well this is a pretty lengthy letter and now I want to try and write Jane a half way decent letter. I'll close now but will try to write again in a few days.

Best regards to Mrs. Kandel, and of course to Urs and Allan. Lots of love to you both from

Your Loving Son,



Dad, next time you see Jane please give her a big hug and a kiss from me!