

Germany }
Apr. 9, 1945

Dear Mother & Dad:

Well, we are still rolling along like "Ol' Man River." The Krauts are going to have to do a lot better than they have been doing if they expect to stop us. You asked what organization I am in. Well I am with Patton's 3rd Army, and, if you want to follow my progress, just watch the farthest points of the 3rd Army's advance. We were so far out in front at one stage of our trip through Germany that we lost radio contact and they had to send Thunderbolts (P47's) out to find us.

Yesterday, I experienced something that I shall never forget. Our outfit captured a town which contained a concentration camp for Polish and Russian prisoners. It was one of the most morbid and gruesome places I have ever seen. The place contained 30,000 prisoners. It was completely surrounded by 2 barbed wire fences about 10 ft. high. In between each fence was coils of barbed wire making it all but impossible to escape. At regular intervals there were towers from which the guards

could watch the camp. We entered the main gate and examined the first cell block. It was a long low one-story building with about 24 cells, 12 on each side of a long corridor through the middle. The cells were filthy holes. From what I gather they each contained about 6 or 8 men. There were filthy sacks filled with straw thrown on the floor. These were their beds. There were no toilet facilities except a bucket in each cell. The stench in there was so great we couldn't stand it. We retreated to the fresh air. We continued on through the camp until we came to what appeared to be the central courtyard. Then for the first time I saw with my own eye Nazi brutality. There in the courtyard were 28 or 30 bodies laying right where they had been machine gunned when the Nazis left. It was easy to see that they had all been starved for they were all emaciated. One was an American pilot. We learned later that these had been the crippled and sick from the hospital ward. The Nazis found it inconvenient to evacuate them so they simply herded the

into the courtyard and shot them. We continued on and accidentally stumbled on a shed that contained about 50 more naked bodies stacked up in a neat pile like a cord of wood. These bodies had been efficiently dusted with lye.

Nearby I stood a deep lime pit with catwalks over and around it. It was apparently their intention to dispose of the bodies in the lime pit. That sight was enough for our weak stomachs so we left "plus vite." These things I have seen with my own eyes. I didn't read it in a magazine. I saw it I have tried to set it down here in words so that you will get an idea what we are up against. However words can't describe all the horror I saw.

Well, so much for the war. I received a nice Easter card from Mrs. Sullivan. John is still in Nebraska. His Mother Ally is somewhere in the Philippines.

About my pay. I sent it home last month. You should have received it by now. If not, I still have the receipt. It amounted to a little over a hundred dollars. However you mustn't expect to receive my pay

regularly every month. You will
only be able to receive it when
I get paid and circumstances
don't allow that to be very
regular. However, if I don't get
it this month I get twice as
much next month, so it all
works out.

Oh yes! I am proud to say that
our Division was awarded the
precedential Citation. We are the
second complete Army Division in
history to receive it. It was
given to us for our work in
the drive through Germany.
Boy! I'll have ribbons all over
me when I get home.

Well, I guess that is all
for now. Please send me a
box of foodstuffs if you
get a chance. Oh yes! Please
send me some air mail stamps.
Well, so long for now.

Your Loving Son
"Eddy"