

Germany
July 6, 1945

Dear Mother + Dad:

Well, I won a new fountain pen today, so I thought that I would try it out. I did not exactly win it. I won the right to purchase it. Our PX ration this month contained one fountain pen for our platoon. We drew to see who would buy it and I won. It is a very good pen, an Oversharp. The price tag on it said \$12.50 but I only had to pay \$5.65. It is the only time I ever won anything worthwhile.

Yesterday was Independence Day. We celebrated the occasion by staging a parade to impress the Germans in the pouring rain. First of all we had a revue in a field with mud up to our ankles. Some two-bit general passed out a couple of bronze stars and then we paraded through town. None of the Germans seemed very much impressed however. I guess they just figured that we didn't know enough to get in out of the rain.

We finally got a little entertainment the other day. Glen Miller's AEF Band played in a town near here and we rode over to hear it. It was really great. The band was directed by Ray McKeely who used to have his own band back home.

They really put on a great show, playing all our old favorites and most of the latest songs which we heard for the first time. The whole thing lasted about one hour and a quarter. In that time, I was home.

Jack Benny is playing all this week in Gitsberg which is about a 2 hour ride from here. One lucky man is allowed to go each day from our outfit. That really burns me up. Our vehicles are sitting around all day doing nothing. All that they would have to do is fill one up each day and drive to Gitsberg. At the end of the week everyone would have seen the show, but no we send one man per day. Can you figure it out?

There is still no news about redeployment. The division is definitely occupation. However, we still don't know if they are going to shift the men in it around or not.

Please send a package. I could use some razor blades (if you can get them) and how about some of those Pocket Books. There should be some new ones out that I haven't read. And of course food of any kind.

Your Loving Son
Doy

P.S. I sent \$100 home pay day.