



104th INFANTRY DIVISION
A. P. O. " 104
c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

St. Valery, France
Cp. Lucky Strike
May 25, 1945

Dear Folks,

Well, here's the situation at present. I am at this camp in France along with forty thousand other RAMPs (repatriated allied military personnel) waiting my turn for shipment to the states. The officers here think we should be on our way in about a month.

This is a bit disappointing because I thought we were on our way to La Havre where where we would board a transport within a few days. I'll write often and let you know all that happens.

At present there is no address ^{at which} ~~that~~ you can write to me.

NOTHING IN HELL CAN STOP THE TIMBERWOLVES

Our living conditions now are in such contrast to what we had as prisoners of war that I seem to be in a dream, afraid to pinch myself for fear of waking up to a grim reality again. The food we are eating is marvelous - couldn't ask for any better. And best of all we do no work whatsoever. No K.P. - nothing at all. Who does it? German prisoners. Boy, does it do our hearts good to see them wait on us hand and foot - serve us chow - do our K.P. - police up the grounds - clean the latrines - everything. All we do is eat fine food see U.S.A. shows, movies & whatever else we please. As nice as it is though I am anxious to get home as soon as possible and be with you all again. From what I hear now we will

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get 45 day furloughs - marvelous!
When I arrive in the states
I'll be sent to Camp Beala,
the separation center for
Californians. There I will be
given a partial payment and
furlough papers. And then -
everything that I've been
planning and hoping for
during these past months.
With 45 days, I'll be able
to see the family in
Chicago too!!

Note the 104th stationery
This is how I got it. When
we left the Russian lines
and crossed the Mulde to
get to the Americans, what
outfit was waiting for us
but my own 104th division.
We were taken to Halle by
truck and in two days were
flown to France. I didn't
have an opportunity to visit
my own company again, but
I found out many things
that I wanted to know about
them. One major when I
told him that I was with

the 104th before greeted me warmly. He shook my hand and welcomed me back.

You must have a million questions to ask me and I am anxious to tell you all that happened. The experiences I've had can never be lived again except in memory. Many are so unusual and so far from the normal way of living as to be unbelievable. On the 23rd of April, the Russians liberated our camp, and from that day until I was in American hands I did something unusual every hour of the day. Norm and I roamed the country at times, taking what food we wanted from German civilians, eating & drinking with the Russians (and boy do they drink!) and having one hell of a good time. I want to tell you of some of the things we did. Your eyes will pop with awe

and you'll roll on the
floor with laughter.

At Rhein's Norm went
to the hospital with a touch
of pleurisy(?) but I expect
to see him here in a
few days. We have gone
when a lot together and have
become very close friends.

I'll have to quit now
as we are going to draw
more clothes - we are
getting class ~~A~~ clothes, shoes &
plenty of cigarettes (for those
who smoke). I hear it's
tough to get cigarettes in
the states now.

There is much that
I want to know about
what has gone on during
the months that I had no
contact with civilization
and I am all excited about
getting home again.

See you soon!! All my
love to the whole family
Hershey