

Sandbach, Germany
Sunday, July 15, 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

At last the mail has been coming around a little better. I got three letters from you all yesterday and three to-day. I also got one from Rivers, I now know where he is, about 150 miles from here so I don't think that I will be able to see him anytime soon. I also got one letter from Bob and one from Marion and about 15 from Doris. Your letters were dated the 1, 20, 26, and 28 of June and July 3rd and 5th. The letter of July 5th is the latest that I have from anybody so far.

Well here it is another Sunday and it has been a miserable one. It sure has been hot here to-day, I have been laying around here all afternoon with a pair of fatigue pants on and that is all and I have still been sweating down. I had intended to write several letters to-day but it has been so hot that I think this one will be all that I will get out, I have been intending to write you all for a couple of days and didn't want another day pass without getting it done. I was going swimming this afternoon but I had loaned Bud Merson my trunks and he has gone down to the firing range with his battery so I will have to wait a couple of days until he comes back. Haven't been doing much of anything, there have been some movies that we could go to but it has been so hot that I just haven't felt like sitting in a hot movie; they don't know what air condition is over here. I did play a couple of games of ping pong this afternoon but that only got me hotter. All of the boys that went swimming this afternoon got a nice sun burn so I maybe better off for not going.

Mom you said that you were glad that I didn't have to go through another invasion like I went through on D-day, I am glad that you think so, I may not have to, I wish that I knew that though. I think that I write you all of the news about what is going on over here as it happens. But just the same you all are still asking questions and I will try and put you straight. We are now in the seventh army. The seventh army is at present an Occupying army but the 474 is not doing any occupying and we won't. As I said when the war first ended, we are going to the Pacific. I still don't know when and I still don't know whether we will go direct or by way of the states. As I have told you right a long, the outfit is losing a lot of men and getting in a lot of new ones. That is because we are losing all men with over eighty five pts. Now it is my opinion that we are still a part of the First Army but as yet there is no transportation for us so we have been put in these different armies for rations and paper work. Don't get excited if the APO changes, that doesn't mean too much. That should help you out a little, if there is anything else that I can help you out on let me know.

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Glad that you had a nice time down south, wish I could have been along too, I could sure use a vacation away from this damn army.

Well I guess this will be all for this time, I'll write again soon.

Love to you both,

Smith Jr.