

Belgium
Dec 13, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad & all,

For the first time, I got one of your letters today in less than two weeks. It was one that you had mailed on Dec 1. I sure wish they would all get over here that soon. From what you wrote, I guess mine are getting home a lot sooner than they were.

Haven't heard from Bill in over a week. If the rumor that I heard is true, he is moving up near here. In fact it's only about ten miles away. That will be alright if he does.

Got a letter from Queenie today and he said that Bub has a N.Y. A.P.O., so I guess he is over here somewhere. Queenie said to tell you all "Hello".

Bought another bond today, so I guess you will be getting it within the next six months. The sixth bond drive is on, and I had a little extra money, so I made the purchase. Ten dollars of the sixty in the money order, is for Ronnie and Dad. I'm sorry I'm so late in sending it. The other fifty can go towards the X mas gifts. If I'm lucky enough to collect my debts on payday, I should have some more on the way. Got in a pretty good poker game on payday and got lucky. Still have about \$150 standing out.

Day before yesterday I got a package from Shelia and Edna and one from Dorcas and Joe. They were the first ones I have received and they really were welcome. While I think of it, whenever you send a package, don't send cookies or anything like that. I like them alright, but they get so broken up

that there is very little left. Oh yes, put some Karo syrup in the next package. That is, if you can still get it. That sure would go good on our pan cakes.

How do you like this paper? One of my buddies got it when he was in Paris. I didn't care too much for the blue, but it is a lot better than none.

Louise wrote and told me about Dad Lowry. He was a P.W. for a long time, then he escaped. I guess he was really glad to get back.

Dad, maybe I should get up a box and send you some cigarettes. From what Mother tells me, and from what I read in the Star & Stripe, there must really be a shortage. We got our rations yesterday, one carton, and I got another fellows rations, so now I have two cartons on hand again. When there was such a shortage over here, I used up most of the ones I had on stock before.

Say Pap, when are you going to take a day off? Every time Mother writes, she tells me you are working seven days a week. About time you took a day or so off, isn't it?

Glenn, I don't know what to say about you going into the navy. Suit yourself though, but whatever branch you enter, try to get into the easiest, softest work you can. You don't have to handle a gun to be in a war. Since I have been over here, I've seen a lot of things that a fellow can do without being in the shooting. Someone has to do that non-combatant work, so if you go in, try to get it.

The last time I heard from Russ, he and his wife were getting along just swell. She was some of these women but, I'm damn glad I'm not married, or even supposedly going steady while I'm over here. I think a lot of these fellows, not all of them of course, made a big mistake when they got married before they came overseas. The girls can wait just as well single as married. In fact that would be a good test; don't plan on marrying them till you get back and if they are still waiting when you get back, OK, if not, good riddance. There are too many good ones to waste time on the fickle type.

As far as I know, Mrs. Roll is living alone. I got a very nice letter from her a few weeks ago, and she was still living in the same place, but she didn't say whether anyone was staying with her or not.

Well, I guess that's about all for now. Take good care of yourselves and tell everyone I said, "Hello". "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Love,
Louis.