

Belgium
Jan 14, 1945

Dear Mother, Dad and all,

Air Mail
Well finally after one month, I received two of your letters and a Xmas card. I can't imagine why I hadn't heard from you, but I guess it's this damn mail system. It seems like every so often it gets all balled up for a month or so, just enough to make us gripe.

It hasn't snowed much in the last few days, in fact we have had fairly decent weather. Yesterday was the first time I have ever flown over snow; it seemed strange, but it was very pretty. Makes it a little harder to distinguish roads and railroads, but anything dark shows up fairly clear.

I can't understand why you haven't been receiving any of my bonds. I'll have to check up and see what is wrong. I just increased my bond allotment to \$50⁰⁰ starting this month. Are you getting my \$100 allotment every month? When you said that you weren't getting my bonds, I just wondered. Did you get the \$80 money order that I sent home? The dollars of it was for Dad and Ronnie and the other fifty was toward your Xmas presents. You said that you were going to pay off my income tax and that it was 64. You meant 32 dollars didn't you, cause I had already paid two payments before I left and you paid one in Sept. Don't worry any about my income tax this year, they haven't said anything about it and I can straighten it out when they do.

It was certainly a surprise to hear of Catherine Shipley's death. When I was over there on my leave, she was in the best of health.

It sure was nice that Frankie got home for Xmas. I guess he is really having quite a time. I can just imagine what it would be like after being away as long as he has been.

Air Mail
The paper has finally started to arrive. about every couple of days I get one or two. They are ~~all~~ all old ones that I have received so far but even they are better than none. Almost as good as a letter sometimes. Haven't received any more packages since I got the one with the toothpaste, comb, soap etc. We just got our candy ration, cigarettes too, and that was eight bars; I have two from missions in the last two days, so that should hold me for awhile. We got five packs of cigarettes and I have an unopened carton; I have been pretty lucky with cigarettes. Guess you have been reading about the fellows they caught in Paris stealing our cigarettes - all American soldiers too.

Say did you ever get that picture I sent home while I was in Sax? You never mentioned it and I just wondered if you ever got it. Guess we got out of Luxembourg in time; they weren't too far from us while we were there, but I guess they got a lot closer than that in this last big push.

Mother, the next time you send a box will you see if you can get some stationery something like this and send it? I really would appreciate it cause good stationery, or any that is half decent, is very hard to get over here. It won't be necessary to get envelopes cause I can get those as well as stamps, so it doesn't make much difference.

Well I guess that's about all for just now. Take good care of yourselves and tell everyone I said "Hello".

Love
Louis.