

Belgium  
Feb 27, 1945

Dear Mother, Dad & all,

Finally finished packing the box I was going to send home. I still have to fix it up a little, but I have all the stuff in it - and that isn't too much. There are a few little gadgets I have picked up here and there, a bottle of perfume, some dirty summer clothes, some socks that I can't use, coins, trinkets, a German bayonet, a few parts from a buzz bomb and the lining from my trench coat. I think there might be enough material to make June a nice shirt. Use your own judgement and make the best of it. Oh yes, I think my air medal is in the box too.

The war in our sector has been pretty much in our favor since the start of the big push. The boys are really moving along. I just hope we can keep going and get it over soon.

The weather was bad today so we took a truck and went into a nearby town to see a movie. We saw part of it and left so we just wandered about town. I had been there before but never in the day time. It had some of the most beautiful old buildings I believe I have ever seen and almost all of them were badly scarred by the war. It's a shame to see such places all broken up the way they are. Some of them it probably took centuries to build but only minutes or hours to destroy. Some of the other buildings are just piles of rubble but the people are busy building them up again. Most all of the buildings in this section of town have most of their windows blown out. If it weren't for



the people on the street it would look like the town is vacated.

Speaking of war damages, you have probably read in the news of Lunenburg and Fitchburg. They were two towns for which we fought very hard. I don't know how you would picture the towns in your mind whenever you read that they have been levelled, but I never fully realized just what it meant until I had seen what had been done to these two. When we first started flying over them they were all very intact and real hotspots - towns to be avoided, but now they are levelled and it means just what it says. They are both just piles of stone and rubble, very few walls even standing. Had someone told me that buildings could be smashed into nothing as they were I wouldn't have believed them. I'll try to get some pictures of them and save them for you.

Well there is very little else to write about so I will close. Take good care of yourself and tell everyone I said "hello".

Love  
John