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113

Christmas morning - 1  
Dec 25, 1943

To my Beloved Judy

This is probably the long awaited letter that you have been anxiously waiting to receive because I intend informing you a little more in detail of my doings.

Until now I haven't mentioned to you my whereabouts because I felt that there wasn't any need to alarm you but today for some unknown reason I decided to inform you because I feel that you have some idea and therefore telling you now may relieve your mind of the doubts.

Darling, since the day I started to write you from the 19th Replacement Battalion I was in Italy. From the day I entered the outfit I was in combat but I was in a good position, safe from the enemy. When going to my battery I was still going closer to the front line but I haven't any fear because of the branch of service I'm in and the type of work I'm doing.

I'm not trying to say that I'll come out of this without because war is horrible and someday, something may happen.



I can't predict what's going to happen the following day but dearest please don't worry as I feel that every thing will turn out for the best.

So far I haven't gone through any shelling or bombing but since my outfit has been in combat they have gone through <sup>over</sup> it a few times, ~~and~~

The reason why I've been writing you that I've been lucky to get into this outfit is because I have it much more comfortable than the boys in my old outfit.

For example I eat three hot meals a day. PX items are given to us almost daily and most important my living quarters is just as good as they were back in the states.

My buddy from my class back in the states and myself have been the only two fellows to be transferred from the Infantry to this outfit. Nine out of ten times it works just the opposite, just like the case of Aaron brother in law if you remember what Aaron stated.

By the time you receive this letter I doubt if I'll still be in combat because this outfit has been in for some time and they are due for a rest.

Instead of sending this letter air mail I decided to send it free

because it may take longer. 3  
By the time you receive this  
letter new development is likely  
may take place so for the  
letter so I'll send you a cablegram  
if possible. if not by my I mail  
letters you will know that all is well  
so sweetheart please don't worry to  
much.

I had to let out the information  
I just gave you, because I feel that  
you are old matured enough to  
understand the circumstances, and still  
I informed my brother the first day  
that I was in combat. I still haven't  
told my mother and honestly I don't  
know how to start writing to her  
telling her about it. I guess it's  
better that I let it ride, without  
letting her know.

The first day I set foot on Italian  
soil I could see the ruins and  
sufferings that the people have  
gone through. Building after building  
destroyed from the bombings. ~~But~~  
The large city I first entered was I  
right I'll never forget and I could  
just picture New York waterfront  
being in the same condition if  
us boys didn't come over here to  
but a step to fascism with and  
Germany.

In this ~~city~~ city and all small  
towns that I've seen seem the  
circumstances just cry for food.



Little kids running about  
 barefooted in the mud. Other civilians  
 limping on one foot, Judy I hope and  
 pray that you never have to witness  
 such a sight. Its very similar to the  
 picture I remember once seeing  
 when I believe the American Red Cross  
 was collecting funds for the people  
 of war torn Europe. The picture  
 show children from different  
 countries, without proper care  
 and shelter and clothing and food.  
 Never in my life did I ever expect  
 to see such sights with my own eyes.

The Fifth Army is slower moving  
 very slowly as you can read from the  
 paper but one the Germans  
 are driven out of the mountains  
 the path to Rome will be much  
 easier.

as I read on one jeep jeep the  
 driver has written.

AFRICA - NAPLES ROME - BERLIN AND HOME

I'm glad that I'm one of those  
 that's helping to put Germany right  
 where she belongs. & when the job  
 is done I guess I'll be on my  
 way home and I hope you  
 will still be around waiting  
 for me as darling every thing I  
 said in the past still goes.