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Sept 17, 1945
Sunday

My Beloved Judy,

The unbelievable has happened. Darling, I'll now in the process of returning to the STATES and H-O-M-E on a furlough. Here is the story. First I didn't write you last night because we were traveling all day and did not reach our destination until late yesterday evening. To all our amazement we learned that the outfit that we now are in is scheduled to roll tomorrow morning to the assemble area located near Rheims France and remain there until the 28th of this month. Then we are to ship out to a POE, hop on a ship and sail to the States. It probable take a few more days to get to the POE and another few days until we embark on a boat plus a day or two more until the ship sails. Therefore if I arrive in the States a month from now that will be very quick time.

There is much confusion here today cause the men were suppose to be here a week ago to prepare the preliminary processing, consequently that's all being done today and everyone is extremely busy. Thus far we filled out cards to notify our correspondence not to write any more letters cause honey I probable won't receive any more of your letters while over here. Each of us were only given two V mail forms so I sent one to you and the other to Mike. I would like for you to notify Mom.

This is the biggest surprise of my life as none of us figured that we would so quickly ship out to a assembly area. Starting tomorrow morning we will be on the road for three days, than we are suppose to be in camp St. Louis.

I was really sweating out this shipment cause early in the morning the fellow that I was suppose to replace returned but still I had to go along for the ride. One or two men from other units did not show up and since my name was on the top of the supermunerals I was selected to go. Gosh but I really was sweating that one out. The outfit that I'm returning to the States with is the 291 Field Artillery Observation. Approximately 150 men from the 1st armored division was on this shipment. All of the 69 point men plus a few 68 point men. All the men with the required 80 point that's including the added 8 are to go directly to a separation center but the other men like myself having a few less than 80 points will get a furlough. I feel that after I had my furlough the points will be lowered to 75 therefore I might be a civilian before Christmas.

I won't be able to write you for the next three days darling but then I realize that it won't be long that I'll have to write you cause we will be together. Now that you won't hear from me you don't have to worry.

I'll be seeing you soon sweetheart and then you can tell me all that you otherwise would have written. I love you my love with all my heart and will always love you. Ben