



3151 S. I. A. M. Co.

Liaison Team 3  
APO 758 c/o PM  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

MUNICH, GERMANY  
MAY 11, 1945

DEAR "HAP".....

WELL, THE GREAT EVENT FINALLY HAPPENED AND IT IS WITH ~~XXX~~ LITE HEART THAT I WRITE TO YOU TONITE. NOT ONLY HAVE THE KRAUTS FINALLY BEEN LICKED---BUT GOOD---BUT I STAND A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE OF BECOMING A CIVILIAN THIS YEAR. BY VIRTUE OF THE POINT SYSTEM, ~~XX~~ I FIND MYSELF WITH 87 POINTS TO MY CREDIT AND POSSIBLY FIVE MORE, IF OUR SIXTH CAMPAIGN STAR WAS FINALLY AUTHORIZED. THERE IS STILL SOME DEBATE ON THAT SUBJECT. OF COURSE, I'LL FEEL A LOT BETTER WITH THAT EXTRA FIVE POINTS BUT EVEN AT THAT, THERE AREN'T TOO MANY GUYS THAT HAVE TOPPED THAT 85 MINIMUM. PERHAPS, AT LONG LAST, WE WILL GET OUR JUST REWARDS FOR OUR NUMEROUS MONTHS OF COMBAT. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I TOLD YOU BUT IT AMOUNTED TO 521 ACTUAL COMBAT DAYS WHICH MAY BE SOME SORT OF RECORD. ACTUALLY, I HAD ABOUT 30 MORE DAYS FOR THE 45TH WAS PULLED OUT AFTER THE CAPTURE OF ROME AND I PROCEEDED AS FAR NORTH IN ITALY, AS LEGHORN, WITH THE 1ST ARMD AND LATER THE 85TH DIVISION, BEFORE RETURNING TO THE 45TH FOR THE INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE.

I RECEIVED YOUR APRIL 20TH MISSIVE YESTERDAY SO WE STILL SEEM TO BE GETTING PRETTY FAIR SERVICE. I SURE AM GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU SO REGULARLY AND HOPE YOU STAY IN THAT GROOVE. NOW, WITH ~~ON~~ COMBAT TO CONTEND WITH, I MAY BE ABLE TO INCREASE YOUR MAIL CALL ALTHO' I STILL HAVE A LONG LIST OF CORRESSPONDENTS.

ACTUALLY THE WAR ENDED FOR US ON THE LAST DAY OF APRIL, WHEN WE COMPLETED THE CAPTURE OF MUNICH, AFTER TAKING NURMBERG THE WEEK PREVIOUS. WE WERE GIVEN THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF OCCUPYING THIS CITY AND WERE LUCKY ENUF TO BE STILL HERE WHEN THE KRAUTS SURRENDERED A FEW DAYS LATER.

WE ARE SET UP IN FINE SUBORBAN HOMES HAVING GIVEN THE FORMER OCCUPANTS NOTICE (10 MINUTES) TO VACATE. THIS DISTRICT IS A LOT LIKE SPARROWS POINT AND THE STREET INTERSECTING OURS IS A PARKWAY WITH A CANAL RUNNING DOWN THE CENTER AND LINED WITH TREES AND BENCHES. THE ELECTRICITY IS STILL PERCOLATING AND AMONG OTHER CONVENIENCES, WE HAVE AN ELECTRIC STOVE IN THE KITCHEN. EACH MAN HAS HIS PRIVATE ROOM WITH BED AND ALL THAT GOES WITH IT. WE REALLY NEED A MAID TO KEEP THE JOINT CLEAN FOR THERE ARE TEN ROOMS IN THE HOUSE. WE HAVE AN AWNINGED SUN TERRACE, AN IDEAL SPOT FOR POKER GAMES AND ALSO, A LAWN WHICH IS BADLY IN NEED OF A TRIMMING. SO, TOMORROW, WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO DIG OUT THE SICKLES AND LAWN-MOWER AND GIVE IT A TRIMMING. SWEET (?) MEMORIES OF FT. HOWARD.

OUR WORK HAS BEEN CUT TO A MINIMUM BUT WE STILL MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WITH ARMY. DUE TO OUR POLICY OF NON-FRATERNIZATION, OUR SPARE TIME IS UTILIZED MOSTLY IN LETTER-WRITING, POKER SESSIONS, ATHLETICS, MOVIES AND VISITS TO THE RED CROSS "COFFEE & DO-NUT" ROOM. CLOSE ORDER, REVEILLE, HIKES AND ALL THE OTHER GARRISON DUTIES ARE STILL IN STORE FOR US WHEN WE RETURN BACK TO SIAM HQ

THEY HAVE 13 TEAMS SIMILAR TO OURS, AND EIGHT PLATOONS OUT WITH THE VARIOUS DIVISIONS AND CORPS IN THE 7TH ARMY AND THOSE HQ MEN ARE GOING TO HAVE QUITE A TIME WHEN WE ALL START ROLLING IN FROM ALL PARTS OF GERMANY. I DON'T IMAGINE THEY ARE TOO EAGER TO HAVE US RETURN UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT. MEANWHILE, WE ARE CONTENT TO STAY WITH THE DIVISION WHERE WE ARE STILL FREE FROM C.S. I'M CERTAINLY GOING TO MISS THE "THUNDERBIRDS" BUT ALL THE OLD GUYS ~~XXX~~ WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE SO I MIGHT AS WELL SWEAT OUT MY CHANCES WITH SIAM.

NEITHER THE DIV OR SIAM KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THEM. THE BEST RUMOR ABOUT SIAM IS THAT THEY ARE TO BECOME A PROVISIONAL M.P. COMPANY. CAN YOU IMAGINE ME AN M.P.? STILL I GUESS EVEN THAT WOULD BE BETTER THAN MORE COMBAT IN THE PACIFIC. I'M NOT SO SURE I COULD STAND MUCH MORE. THESE PAST 22 MONTHS HAVE BEEN A TERRIFIC STRAIN AND I HAVE BEEN BREATHING AND SLEEPING A GREAT DEAL EASIER SINCE THE KRAUTS THREW IN THE TOWEE. A PERSON CAN'T REALIZE WHAT IT'S LIKE UNTIL HE'S BEEN THRU IT.

EN ROUTE TO MUNICH, WE LIBERATED THE NEARBY NOTORIOUS CONCENTRATION CAMP OF DACHAU. I ONLY WISH THAT EVERY PERSON IN THE WORLD COULD SEE WHAT WENT ON THERE AND IN SIMILAR CAMPS IN GERMANY AND THEN THEY WOULD GET A TRUE PICTURE OF THE BRUTALITY OF THE NAZIS. WE GUYS AREN'T THE TYPE TO SHRINK FROM THE SIGHT OF DEATH AFTER WHAT WE'VE GONE THRU BUT THE SIGHT OF HUNDREDS OF CORPSES PILED LIKE ~~XXXXX~~ FIRE WOOD AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ALL THESE AND MANY MORE DIED FROM COLD, STARVATION OR AN SS MAN'S BULLET IS ENUF TO MAKE ANY ONE'S BLOOD BOIL. INSIDE THE CAMP WERE THE POISON GAS CHAMBERS AND THE CREMATORIES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THOSE WHO WERE NO LONGER FIT TO WORK. ON A RAILROAD SIDING, FIFTY BOX CARS OF DEAD FOREIGN LABORERS SAT. THESE PEOPLE WERE NOTHING BUT SKIN AND BONES AND WERE STILL IN THE SAME POSITION AS THEY WERE WHEN THEY DIED.

I TOOK A FEW SNAPSHOTS WHICH WILL GIVE ONLY A SLIGHT HINT AS TO THE ACTUAL WORKINGS OF THESE CAMPS AND WILL SEND YOU A FEW SAMPLES. TAKE IT FROM ME, THE TALES OF GERMAN ATROCITIES ARE NOT MERE PROPAGANDA AND NO PUNISHMENT CAN BE TOO SEVERE FOR THEM. THE CIVILIANS PLEAD ~~XXXXX~~ INNOCENT OF ALL THESE GOINGS ON BUT THEY ARE DAMN LIARS. IT WAS TOO BIG A PROJECT TO BE KEPT BEHIND STONE WALLS. REST ASSURED, OUR LADS GAVE THE 300 SS GUARDS THEIR JUST REWARDS MOST OF THE CORPSES WERE RUSSIANS, JEWS AND POLES. THE SURVIVORS TOLD US THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN FED FOR 18 DAYS PRIOR TO OUR ARRIVAL. FROM THE WAY THEY GULPED DOWN THE RATIONS WE PROFFERED THEM, IT WAS PLAIN TO SEE THAT THEIR STATEMENTS WEREN'T LIES. IT'S ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE THAT ONE HUMAN BEING COULD TREAT ANOTHER SO CRUELLY BUT THE EVIDENCE IS THERE AND WE HAVE IT RECORDED FOR THE TIME WHEN "POOR GERMANY" ASKS FOR MERCY. IT'S WORSE YET WHEN YOU THINK OF HOW NICELY GERMAN PW'S ARE TREATED BACK IN THE STATES.

THE BASTARDS ACCEPTED THEIR DEFEAT IN ANYTHING BUT A GRACEFUL MANNER. THEY CLAIM THEY WERE LICKED BY OUR MASS QUANTITIES OF MATERIELL. PERSONALLY, METHINKS THE OLD DOGFACES HAD A LITTLE BIT TO DO WITH IT.

PAGE THREE

I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT THEY HAVE LOST THEIR WAR AIMS BUT IT WILL STILL BE ONE HELLUVA LONG TIME BEFORE THEY START "HEILING" ANOTHER PAPER-HANGER. MUNICH, A CITY ALMOST AS LARGE AS BALTIMORE, IS A MASS OF ~~XXXX~~ RUINS AND NO DOUBT, EVERY LARGE CITY IN GERMANY PRESENTS A SIMILAR APPEARANCE. OUR BOMBERS DONE THEIR JOB WELL AND YOU CAN REST ASSURED JAPAN IS GETTING THE SAME TREATMENT. IT IS A GOOD THING THAT THE WAR CAME HOME, FINALLY, TO THE GERMANS. THEY LIVED A FINE LIFE OFF OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF EUROPE BUT NOW THE TABLES ARE TURNED.

JAPAN SEEMS PRETTY PISSED-OFFED BY HER PARTNER-IN-CRIME'S SURRENDER AND I'M SURE THE END IN THE PACIFIC WILL COME A WHOLE LOT SOONER THAN YOU ALL EXPECT, AS SOON AS THE TRANSFER OF FORCES IS MADE. I AM WILLING TO BET THAT SHE WON'T LAST THRU '46 SO YOU CAN DISPENSE WITH THAT "GOLDEN GATE IN '48 SLOGAN. WE HAD TREMENDOUS FORCES OVER HERE AND SOON JAPAN WILL FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THEM IN THE SAME MANNER THAT THE KRAUTS DID.

THE NEWS OF THE SURRENDER WAS RECEIVED QUIETLY FOR, WE, BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, REALIZE THAT ONLY HALF THE BATTLE IS WON. WE WERE TIPPED OFF AHEAD OF TIME, NATURALLY, BUT THAT MADE LITTLE DIFFERENCE. NATURALLY, WE WERE HAPPY AT THE TURN OF AFFAIRS BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OUTFIT IN THE PACIFIC CAN SAY THAT WE OLD MEN OF THE 45TH HAVE NOT DONE OUR SHARE.

THE CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN BEHAVING THEMSELVES AND SEEM TO BE MORE CONDESCENDING THAN ANYTHING. OUR "DON'T BE A FRATER-NAZI" POLICY PISSES THEM OFF. THEY ASK US "ARE WE TOO GOOD TO ASSOCIATE WITH THEM?" AND THE NATURAL ANSWER OF "JA, JA." SLAYS THEM. THE GALS ARE REALLY SUPER THO' EVEN MORE LIKE OUR OWN AMERICAN BEAUTIES THAN THE FRENCH BABES. THEY TOO SEEK OUR FRIENDSHIP BUT FOR THE MOST PART, THEY GET THE COLD SHOULDER. MOSTLY BECAUSE OF THE STIFF FINE OF ASSOCIATING WITH A MEMBER OF THE "SUPER RACE."

SOME RELIEF IS OFFERED BY THE MANY FRENCH, POLISH AND RUSSIANS GALS WHO WERE BROUGHT HERE TO WORK IN THE WAR PLANTS. RIGHT NOW, I'M TRYING OUT A RUSSIAN BABE. THOSE PHRASES I LEARNED DURING THE TIME I WENT WITH "JEENY" ARE REALLY COMING IN HANDY, NOW. MOST OF THE SLAVIC GALS ARE THE "PEASANT" TYPE BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF CHARMERS TOO. AFTER RUNNING THE GAMUT OF NATIONS THO', I GUESS I'LL STILL TAKE A CHICK FROM THE GOOD OLD U.S.A. FOR LASTING QUALITY.

WE WERE ALL STUNNED BY THE DEATHS OF F.D.R. AND GOOD OLD ERNIE PYLE. AT LEAST, THE PRES WENT OUT KNOWING THAT WE HAD LICKED THE KRAUTS EVEN IF THE PAPERS HADN'T BEEN SIGNED. ERNIE WAS A GOOD SOLDIER AND WENT OUT LIKE ONE. NO DOUBT HE EXPECTED IT OTHERWISE HE WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN UP THAT PACIFIC ASSIGNMENT. HE HAD HIS BELLYFUL WHEN HE LEFT THE ETO BUT I GUESS HE DIDN'T WANT TO ABANDON THE FITING LADS.

NO NEW REPORTS OF HEN'S MISSIONS AS OF APRIL 30 BUT HE MOVED TO ITALY, POSSIBLY, AROUND RIMINI. BILL VON PARIS HEADED FOR HOME ON ROTATION. LT. RACE MADE CAPT. AND I'M SENDING YOU SOMETHING YOU MIGHT USE FOR BARS WHEN YOUR BRASS WEARS OFF. FANCY, TOO! ALSO, THE PROMISED PIX. NO MORE IN THE NOODLE TO FILL ANOTHER PAGE SO I'LL SIGN OFF NOW WITH THE USUSAL "SO LONG" AND

BEST OF LUCK, 