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Air Mail

March 9, 1945
Germany

Dear Folks,

There may be a little repetition in this and the V-mail I wrote yesterday but I doubt if you'll receive them both at once so maybe you can bear to read it again. You can see that I received my package by the paper I am using. Enough other people will help me out on the using of it that I won't have to take care of it long. Having a box of stationery to use reminds me of being a garrison soldier. I couldn't use a folder of it a week but you needn't worry about an occasional one being wasted.

Just to be truthful about it I don't think there was a thing in the box from the home made fudge down to the funny papers that wasn't enjoyed. The candy and cookies were just too good to

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be true. It may sound as if I am stretching things but I have a cup of the hot chocolate beside me right now.

In the last ten days when I was actually unable to write I received letters from you dated Feb. 9, 12, and 26. I think there were at least a couple of others, too, but they got away from me somewhere.

No doubt Richard knows a little more about this future now than he did when I last heard. I sure am anxious to know how things turned out.

Thanks for the news and all the clippings of the sectional. I'll bet Jim got a big thrill out of seeing it. I told someone the other day that I would rather be sweating out a good basketball game than going

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through some of the exciting (if you can call them that) spots we were seeing.

I expect you have guessed from the news that things have been happening pretty fast for me the last few days. Well you guessed right.

I just came through the longest and perhaps hardest stretch of fighting of any so far. We actually spent a week, without ever seeing the inside of a building and then we didn't even stop when we came to a couple of little towns. I think it would take me a year to catch up on my sleep. Getting only one or two hours at night soon puts you behind. I'm not griping though. I really am glad to see things moving the way they are. In order to make gains it stands to reason that we have to keep pushing along.

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Well I sort of got lazy and didn't get this finished yesterday but maybe by waiting a day longer I'll be able to give you just a little more news. I guess the biggest reason why I didn't write more yesterday was because it was pay day. Since I am in Co. Hq. I usually have to help out on things like that. I spent almost all day making out forms for the fellows to send money home. I myself sent \$45 home but you can expect it when it arrives as it may take a good while. I am pretty sure you are receiving my bonds & \$20 allotments OK but I have never heard from the other I have sent. The first time I got paid I sent it myself by money order and this makes the second time I've sent it by govt. check. Let me know about these things. We got paid in German marks this time.

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altogether now I've been paid in marks, French francs, and Belgian francs. I also used Luxembourg francs in Luxembourg. Of course our govt prints all we use over here and stands back of it so it won't lose its value by inflation. The marks we use are known as "invasion marks" and are worth 104 apiece. Our French francs are worth 24 apiece and the Belgian and Luxembourg francs a small fraction of a cent more.

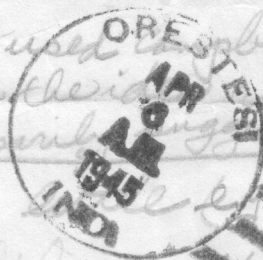
In addition to the letters I told you about yesterday I have found (stuck away in my pockets) letters of Feb 7, 14, 16 and 19, so you see I haven't done too bad recently.

I presume you really want me to ask for things to be sent or you would stop asking about it. As I have said so often it's hard to know what to ask for. Did you get the letter (it's been several weeks ago) in which

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I asked for a pocket knife and cheap fountain pen? You know how we feel about anything to eat. It's up to you and it really works well but I don't ask you every time to go to the trouble of packing the stuff in tin cans. But sometime when you are using cans I'd like for you to fill one can with good fresh popcorn. It wouldn't be a big fill-up but it sure would do me good. You don't have any idea how often I think of the endless hours I've spent munching pop corn. You also might fill a can with some of your Crocker-jack. Just as a further suggestion I often see in packages small cans and jars of stuff that you can find by just keeping your eyes open from grocers shelves. For instances jars of jelly, any kind of thing that can be eaten cold.

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I used Campbell's soup just to give
you the idea rather than even
boiled a can of Campbell's soup
or anything you might see. It doesn't
have to be anything special; in fact
plain things are even better. But
remember anything I mention is just
a suggestion. Be sure to use your
own judgment.

I still say that the Lord has been
most gracious to me. Out of forty that
started out together in our platoon there
are five of us left. And three of them
have been to the hospital and have
returned. He has been with me every
step of the way. You'd be surprised to
know how much easier it is to go
through difficult situations just trusting
in Him. Keep praying. Love.

Donald

P.S. I made a p.s. so you can use this
as a different request if you wish. If
you use 2½ size cans you might start
one with salty peanuts and finish it
with cookies. How about a can of marsh-
mallows? It might even be possible
to can up a piece of cake.

Pfc. Donald J. Jagger 35 893186
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Air Mail 

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PASSED BY

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