

April - 16 - 1945

"Germany"

-Mon-

Dearest Mom, Dad & family,

By rights this is Tues but we'll go back to Mon and tell what their is to tell. Mon - We got march order this morning - we knew we would. We packed our tent and bags last night and we slept in the other tent while the other crew was on duty - we went on the midnight shift and none of us got any sleep from midnight on. Our slack was packed on the truck so we had to stay with the other gun. 5 A.M they called us for show and told us to be ready to go by eight A.M, I was on H.P. so I went to the kitchen & started to work. We cleaned the pans and put every thing on the trailer, we got every thing packed then went looking for a seat to ride on during the convey. I found one on the cat a front seat too - at eight we took off - we went about two miles and our cat brake down - a 3 quarter picked me and another boy up and left the other men behind to pick up later with a truck. I had to ride on the remaining board - kinda chilly but otherwise it's riding there gave me a bird's eye view of all the

scenery - some was beautiful but a
lot of it was pretty awful. Towns
torn down, people leaving towns
with their belongings on their backs
or wherever they could carry them,
trucks along the roads all turned up,
the Germans are paying a high price
for what they caused - they ask for
it all and we'd give them all of it and
more - why I learn this time or never
we went through one town that is
really blasted up - nothing standing &
a few places still burning - people
staring at what we to be their homes
with wide eyes wondering how it could
happen to them - it's happened and
happening to all these towns they
laughed when they marched through
towns that they had torn down
but now that it is happening to
them they cry and ask for pity - how
can we pity such a country - all this
is happening because of one man,
hanging is too good for that scound
and the people with him - they had
a beautiful country at one time but
you should see it now, it's funny
the way things happen over here
we're killing the Germans and they
are killing our boys - here it's life for
life - kill or be killed but back home
people are treating the German prisoners
like they love them - give them good
food, parties and all other kinds of
entertainment - they seem to forget a

little while ago those same men killed
a lot of good American boys - among
those boys were probably a brother, son
father, cousin, probably from the same
family that are treating the Germans
so good - we can't even talk to these
people over here, nor do we care too,
but back home people are entertaining
the Germans while our boys are doing
all the fighting - they should have some
combat men back there to guard those boys
they wouldn't have a bit of trouble with
any of them. Well nuts with all this
let's get back to work. I took a few
pictures during the convoy and if they
come out O.K. I'll be able to give you a
better idea what I'm talking about. We
got to our new position pretty early so
everything was dug in and set up by night.
I was on H.P. so I didn't have to help dig
and when I finished H.P. I put the light
in the tent, dug a fox hole and went
right to bed and I sure did sleep, woke
up once when the crew came off duty
but fell right back to sleep and didn't
wake up till show this morning.

It was a beautiful day and all day
long - thought for awhile it would
rain but sure glad it didn't. I got four
letters last night - Jerry, Angie, Mabel, Elaine
and Clara's brother, George. I may answer
them tonight but I sure don't know
what I will say. I'll go on and write
about today when I'm on duty tonight - ha, ha, ha

I'm on the midnight now, it looks like a very long night. I had a heck of a headache last night and I took a good bath trying to get rid of it - it did go away for awhile - but soon came back - I sure had a time taking my bath, had to carry water a mile - from the kitchen to the power plant then back to the tent - I heated my water at the power plant because it's only takes about ten minutes to warm up. I took my bath but didn't shave, I'm waiting till tomorrow for that - after washing I played the victrola for a hour or so then we all went to bed - my head was really busting then and I had a hard time getting to sleep when I did fall asleep they called me up for duty - here I am and will be till morning. I got a letter from Rita and a package of comic books from Nancy - I've got about all my letters answered now - it's the first machine we got in a week - couldn't figure out what was the trouble - we should be getting plenty of mail now - we hope. I've got 15 minutes of guard to pull in a little while so I'll close for now. I'll be back tomorrow night with all I know - which isn't very darn much. I'm feeling fine and I sure hope it's the same with all of you at home - Buona Notte tutti and God bless all of you always - Love & kisses

I was off duty all day and half of my day
 was spent in bed. I went to bed this
 morning and slept till 10 A.M. - I got up and
 made a clothes line then I put all my
 blankets out to air. - they needed it too.
 In the afternoon I washed them shaved. it
 took three blades to take my whiskers
 off. the first two blades wouldn't cut but
 the third one took them right off. I
 took off all my clothes except my shorts
 and layed out in the sun getting a sun
 tan. I had the victrola so I layed there
 playing it for a couple of hours - three P.M.
 I got up and dressed then put all my
 blankets back on my bed - we had
 mail call while I was making my bed
 I got another package from Nancy - ink,
 candles, gum, pen points. I got everything
 I ask her to send me - she didn't waste
 any time in sending it either. I'm on duty
 now till midnight - as soon as I finish
 writing to you I'm going to write to Nancy
 and thank her for sending me these nice
 packages - good girl. all my little girls are
 good. I'm a uncle to a lot of nieces & nephews
 huh. Mom? My pictures haven't been developed
 yet but as soon as they are I'll send them
 to you - hope they turn out alright. It's
 been a swell day up till now, I'm afraid
 it's going to rain tonight because it got
 mighty cloudy all of a sudden - oh well it's
 got to rain some time - if it does I sure
 hope it's not that slow steady drizzle - was
 that kind of rain lasti for days - I'll
 close for now everyone - see till tomorrow
 I'd say Banana Natta Luti and God bless all
 of you always Love & kisses -

I was on duty all day again and I did nothing but clean the gun in the morning and by around in the afternoon. In the morning we cleaned up the gun and slack and had everything ready for inspection - we had an inspection in the morning but it didn't amount to much - he came, looked and went. We did a lot of talking this morning about the war news and what we were going to do and when we were going home - just stuff like that - any thing to pass time away. In the afternoon I worked on a box to put my records in - I had it all made in a couple of hours and painted - finishing that I layed down for awhile but got so lorn but I had to get up. A couple of boys from another outfit came over and we talked about this and that till chow time - they just pulled in a few days ago - few boys from Michigan but I didn't know them. We had chicken for supper and it was pretty good - our dinner isn't much to brag about, our big meal comes at supper time. After supper I washed up then made my bed but didn't go to sleep, instead I played volleyball till dark - then went to bed - now in on duty till morning - midnight shift. I'll be sending you some pictures in a few days - had a look at them today and they look pretty good - some thing is wrong with my camera because only eight pictures came out of two rolls. We glad when the other mess gets here. I got one letter from Marion tonight and by her letter every thing is fine. No class for now - so till tomorrow night I'll say - goodnight, warm Motta, Luti and God bless you all - Love & H. Reese

I received three v. mail from you a few ~~days~~ minutes ago and I sure was glad to hear from you, it's the first mail I got from you in over a week. I wasn't worried because I knew you were writing - the mail was slowed up because of the A.P.O. moving so much. It finally caught up with us but now we're moving again. I think we get march order in the morning. I'm sure glad you liked the flower's - I had Clara get them for you because I wanted it to be a surprise of some kind - I could of bought flower's through the army plan but remember what happened the last time I sent you flower's well this time I'm sure you got them on time. I'm receiving your package's now that the mail is coming in - every time I get a package I'll tell you about it. I hope you get all my letters - I write to you every day and mail you the letter at the end of each week - I write to you regular so you should be getting plenty of mail - they have no reason for holding it back because I'm sure I don't write any military news - I don't know any. I got a letter from Gertrude and she ask me to write and ask for some candy - I wrote to her before asking her to get me some herdays and she wrote back and said she got the candy all ready but she can't send them because she was cleaning her desk and she burned all her old letters and mine along with it. ha, ha, now she

wants me to send another letter asking for
the candy - I will as soon as I finish
writing to you - got to get that candy. he, he.
It's a beautiful day and now the sun
is just going down - this is really a swell
place we're at right now - everything is
green - so beautiful it's hard to tell there's
a war on - the front has pulled
away from us again so we have to
move again to catch up to them. We had
a plane over last night but he didn't
stay long after we got through firing at him,
he's probably be back tonight but we're
ready for the getdown skunk. I went to
the show this afternoon, it was a swell
picture but we didn't see all of it because
the damn thing broke down on the last
real - some thing breaks everytime I go to
a show - nut's with them - I'll wait till I
get home before I go to another show.

The news has been very good lately,
I hope that this lousy war ends soon.
we're all sick of the damn thing - of course
we want to finish the damn thing but it's
hard being away from home so damn long,
I'd like to see all of you again - it's
been a long time since I seen any of
you and I'm getting homesick - the longer
I'm away the worse it is - well this
damn war can't last forever - I hope not.
I hope you get the money I've sent
home - I've sent \$50 home just a few
weeks ago so let me know when
you get it. I'll close for now folks -
tell Pop not to worry about his grapes
they'll be alright - God watch and
bless over all of you always - take
good care of yourselves - Love & kisses
x x x

28
Sat. 21 - April 1945

We got march order this morning at 5:30 A.M. but it was 10: A.M. by the time we started moving. I rode in the front of the truck so I could see all the sights, and I seen plenty too. More towns were turn down - a few homes were still burning - along the roads were busted up trucks, cars, wagons, and a few germanis - you should of seen all the dead horses - I bet their was about ten or more dead horses lying along the road - sure is a sad sight. Two had a bunch of horses have to die because of a bunch of skunks - its been pretty hot over here so you can guess how the horses stunk - men were burying the horses as we rode by - good thing too. About half way to our new position it started to rain and it sure came down - it still hasn't stoped & this is really Sunday. When we got to our position four of us unloaded the bags and when we put up the tents - we could do that because our cat and gun ran out of gas along the road - we went right to work on the pit as soon as the gun came in - while we were digging it started raining cats & dogs - we got wet to the skin - we worked in the rain till dark, by that time we got the gun in the hole and the shack put up - we put the gas stove in and turned it on as high as it would go and everyone got around it to dry out their clothes - my crew went to the tent changed clothes and went to bed - I stayed in the shack all night I dried out my clothes then tried sleeping - I did sleep off & on - were sure lucky we didn't catch a good cold - we were really wet. Im all dry now but if I go outside I'd get all wet again. We'll probably finish the gun pit tomorrow - you know how I wouldn't trade all this experience off for any thing - its rough at times but Im learning a lot from all this - stuff that will come in handy when I get home - I needed all this to happen to teach me a lot of things - Ive learned everything dont come on a gold spoon - by, by, home & Hisses

what a day it has been - rain, snow, hail -
I bet we had an inch of snow today - it's
been some day - I sure hope it's not like this
at home because it would kill all the grapes
and fruit trees - we finished the gun just
just before it started to rain - in fact we
just got through and it started raining - we
didn't get wet this time because our shack was
up. then it started rain, snow, hail it
did that all day - now I'm on duty and it
cleared up but it won't be far long by
the look of the sky - just before we
moved there was a big ring around the
moon - we kinda knew then that we
were in for some bad weather - we
sure got it too - it may clear up by
tomorrow but I doubt it very much - I
will mix with it now, we're all settled
so let it rain, snow or whatever it wants
to do - I got two letters tonight, one from
you and the other from Marion - Mom -
how long will she be in the hospital?
I sure hope it's nothing serious and that she
will be better real soon - write and tell
me how she is getting along - make sure
she has the best of care - I'm sending money
home so use it if you need it, I'm glad
you received the money and watch it - I sure
miss my watch - be glad when I get it
back - it shouldn't be long before you
get the \$50 I sent home so expect it and
let me know when you get it - I'm
not keeping track of my money but I
want to make sure the money is
getting home - it has so far. I didn't
go to church again this Sunday, but don't
worry because there will be other Sundays
I'm closing this letter and I'm sending it
home tonight - hope you get it. Say hello to
everyone and take real good care of yourselves -
God bless all of you always - I'm feeling and
looking fine so don't worry about me. Love & kisses
I love all of you with all my heart - xxx Julia xxx

Mon - 23 - April - 1945

Dear Mom, Dad & Family,

This week started out raining and will probably end up the same way. It's cold enough to snow and every once in awhile it does. It's mostly rain though. It rained all morning so we couldn't clean the gun, so we wasted away the morning by reading & sleeping, in the afternoon the sun came out nice and bright and it looked like it was going to clear up so we started to clean the gun - I cleaned out the shock by shoveling out about two inches of mud - it started raining again when we were half way through with the gun so we had to wait till it stopped - it stopped as fast as it started so we finished cleaning the gun and shock - put plenty of oil on the gun to keep it from rusting. We finished up the afternoon by reading and talking, the other crew released us so we eat chow then washed up, our tent don't have a stove in it so we all went to the other tent and sat around the fire waiting for the mail to come in - the truck came in but there was no mail - we all went to bed then, in on the midnight shift right now - I don't have any letters to answer so I should be able to get some sleep. How's Alene getting along? I hope she's out of the hospital by the time you receive this letter. I'm going to write a V mail to Alene as soon as I finish writing to you. I'll be back tomorrow night with more dope about what I'm doing so until then I'll say Buona Notte tutti and Dad watch and bless over all of you always. Love & kisses

I'm on duty again and will be till
 midnight. We're sweating out another
 march order that will probably come
 tomorrow or the next day. We don't
 mind moving so much because it's one
 more step closer to home - one of these
 days this war will be over with - I sure
 hope it's real soon. The sun has been
 out most of the day but the air was
 kinda chilly. There's not much I can
 write about tonight because nothing
 of interest has happened. My pictures
 are just about done so when I get them
 I'll send them home to you - I hope
 you like them because it's the best
 I can do for now. No mail has come
 in yet tonight and I don't really expect
 any. I am hoping there will be some
 though. I wonder where we're moving
 tomorrow - well I won't know till
 after we move, boy, I hope it don't
 rain - we sure got wet on our last
 move. We had our teeth checked today
 and I have two to be filled - ouch!
 I've had a lot of work on my teeth
 lately - most of them are filled now.
 The war news sure sounds good,
 now, will be better later on - I'm
 doing my share of hoping and praying
 that this war ends soon - I'm sick of
 it and I know millions of other's are too.
 How's Alena getting along? I hope she's
 better and home by the time this day
 is over with - I'd close for now
 folks - so Buona Notte tutti and God
 bless all of you always - take good
 care of yourselves always - Love & Kisses

Wed - 25 - April - 1945

we moved this morning and it was
 pretty early when we got march order
 and it was a long dusty ride to our
 new position - my eyes are still full of dust
 and tin pretty dirty but we're all done with
 our pit and wire off tomorrow so I'll
 have plenty of time to wash up - I may even
 take a bath - we may move though before
 I can finish it - we sure don't stay in one
 place very long but I don't care because
 the more we move the closer to home
 we get. We seen more scenery on the
 convey and it was all nice to look at,
 why these people wanted war is beyond
 me - they had everything they needed now
 they have nothing - their homes are all
 blasted up, the towns all torn down,
 I seen some warst sights today but I
 don't care to write about it. I've seen
 things I'll never forget. We couldn't dig very
 deep because it was all rock - we sand
 bagged up from the ground - we have the
 pit done and the shack up and now tin
 on duty till morning - can't get all out of
 pulling duty - he, he. We still haven't got any
 mail but they say there's pretty around -
 sure hope we get some tomorrow. I'm glad
 we're all settled again but tin afraid it
 won't be long before we move again -
 the army's are moving ahead and fast
 so we have to move more often to
 keep up - this war will end soon but
 how soon I have no idea. I hope you
 are getting all my mail because tin
 writing regular to you - How's Alene?
 sure hope she's out of the hospital by
 now - I'll love for now but I'll
 be back tomorrow night - Bevo's
 Wotta love & God bless all of you - Love
 Hiss

It's raining again and it has been raining
off and on all afternoon - it rains then stops
as fast as it starts. I washed clothes this
morning after I took a good bath - now I'm
ready to move again which I'm afraid
will be in the new couple of days - but
it's likely to be tomorrow - hope not
because my clothes aren't dry yet - ha, ha,
I slept a little in the afternoon - about
3 P.M. the red cross girls came around
with some dough nuts and coffee - was
pretty good too. I'm on duty now and
will be till midnight and I haven't
a darned thing to do. We didn't get any
mail again tonight - last night a few
boys got some packages and a few
letters - I don't know what the heck
is holding our mail up but whatever
it is I wish they would hurry up and

get it fixed so we can have some
mail once in awhile. It stopped
raining now and the sun is out
shining as bright as ever - I'll bet
you a million dollars that if we were
to move tomorrow it would rain
all day and as soon as our tents were
up it would stop - we hardly ever put
our tents up before the sun is dry
in and set up - I don't mind getting
wet as long as my other stuff is
kept dry. I guess I'll read a book for
awhile since there's nothing else to do.
I hope the next letter I get from you
says that Alvin is better and at home.
Well now I'll close for now
because I have nothing else to write
about - take care of yourselves and
God bless all of you always -
Bernona Hottel - love & kisses -

Fri - 27 - April - 1945

I'm on duty again - the midnight shift. I haven't very much to do to pass the time away, I've got a book here but I'm not interested in reading tonight. I was on duty all day today and I didn't do darn thing that was interesting. We cleaned the gun in the morning then we read some books till dinner time, in the afternoon we made a ball diamond and played ball till supper - our team lost the game. Had a good time while it lasted. As soon as we eat we got some water and washed - as soon as I washed I went right to bed - I must of been tired because I fell right asleep and didn't wake up till they called me for guard - I'm on duty now and will be till morning. It was a fair day - the sun was out but it still was chilly. In the afternoon it rained but not for long. We still didn't get any mail - what the trouble is I couldn't say. I only wish our mail would get here so we could find out how things are at home - I know I've got some mail coming and when it gets here it will be all in one bunch - I wish I had more to write about but doggone it their just any thing to write about - I don't feel much like writing tonight any way. I'll close for now so Buona Notte tutti and God bless all of you always - take good care of yourself - Love & kisses x x x every one

Still nothing to write about because it's
the same old story - I'm on duty now and
will be till midnight - we still haven't
got any mail and we won't be getting
any for some time yet - It sure seems
like a long time since I got any mail -
I hope everything at home is alright
make sure you write often - I know
it's not your fault because I'm not
getting any letters - things are moving
so fast over here I guess they haven't
got time to sort the mail - we'll get
it some day and it will come all in one
bunch - as long as the mail gets
here I don't care if it's in bunches or not -
It's raining again and a little
while ago it was snowing - it
really got colder all of a sudden -
We are moving tomorrow morning
so when I'll be able to write again
I don't know but I'm sure it won't be
more than a few days - till we get
settled again. This war can't last
much longer the way the things
look over here - Germans are walking
into the city and giving up - they
know the fight is lost for them
and they all want to give up -
I guess that's all I have time to
write about for now - we got
work to do - we leave kinda early
tomorrow morning and they say it's
a long ride to our new position -
Berona Matte tute and God bless &
keep all of you always - Love & Hisses xx

well we moved today, I stayed behind again - to guard some trailer's - we stayed all night and it was some night. I was ready to leave with the rest of the boys but I heard they wanted someone to stay behind so I stayed with two other boys. It sure was cold snow, rain, hail or anything else you wanted - we were pretty high up and we got all the wind, there was no hills around us to break the wind - it would snow then the sun would come out and ten minutes later it would hail or rain - it's been doing that now for two or more days - sure is changeable weather we are having. We had a good fire and plenty of blankets so we were alright. There were lots of german's running around trying to give up - sure are lots of them giving up - we got about nine of them in our battery and took them to a P.W. camp - by the way they are giving up this war should be over in less then another month - I sure hope it is. We seen three Swifs going across the field so we took our rifles and went after them - we thought they stopped in a barn but when we got to the barn they were gone, maybe we were lucky they were

The germans are all in these woods too
afraid to come out and give up - when
they get hungry enough they'll be out -
they have nothing left to fight for - &
one time they had a beautiful country
and cities - now every thing is bustled
up - mostly the towns, its their own
fault so I have no pity at all for
them - they laughed when they thought
they were winning this war - but now
they are crying because the war is
lost for them - they know now what
its like to be bombed out of their
cities and homes - too bad - oh yeah!
I can just picture how they would be
treated if they would ever get
to the U.S.A. - these people are no good.
we were talking to some men today
that were taken from Holland by the
germans - the germans took them away six
months ago to make them work on
the railroads & etc. - they are going home
tomorrow and are they happy - they
don't really expect to see their homes
because the germans were burning
them up - they want to see their
wives & kids and their families - I sure
wish those men luck - you should
see all the refugees over here - they are
bre snow and they are headed for
home - sure are happy to see the
americans. Well Mom & Dad I'll close for
now so be good and write often - God
bless all of you always - I hope alone is
home by now. Be one state Love & kisses
titi - take care of yourselves xx + Julie xxx

Mon - 30 - April - 1945
"Somewhere in Germany"

Dearest Mom, Dad & Family,
I'm back in the city now and
on duty till midnight. The trucks
come back to get us about noon
today and we got to the city
about five o'clock - just in time for
chow and were we hungry and
cold, mostly cold - it was a long
ride about 97 miles - they say longest
ride we took in a long time - the
front lines are really moving ahead
this darn war should be over in
a few weeks - by the way things
look around here - the Germans are
giving us by the thousands - they
have thrown down their arms and are
walking up and down the streets
waiting for someone to pick them
up and take them to a P.W. camp
we haven't time to even fool with
them, it's the ones who still want
to fight that we're after and we'll
get all of them too before very long.
You should see the refugees walking
the streets & going home - are they happy,
can't blame them either. I got a package
from you today - candy & pop - thank
sweetheart - our mail is coming in now
so I'll be getting all your packages soon
I'll let you know each time I receive a
package from you. Got three letters to
our men tonight so I'll close for now
Bevonne Matthe. tute. Love, Hessel x x x.

May - 1 - Tues - 1945
It's the beginning of a new month and I hope this month brings news that this lousy war is over with - a lot happened last month so let's see what this month has in store for us - the best I hope.

I just finished writing a V-mail to Alvin, I didn't say much because there isn't very much to say. I'm hoping that everyone at home is in the best of health and that everything is going along fine - I haven't been getting any mail lately so I don't know how things are at home - I'm not really worried because I know all of you are writing and that the mail will come in soon - things are moving pretty fast over here now that's probably why we aren't getting our mail so regular any more, as soon as this lousy mess is over with every thing will be alright again.

It's still snowing over here and it's kinda chilly, not really cold until evening, this weather won't be like this very long - at least that's what everyone thinks - I hope it's not - it will be cold for sometime because just ahead of us you can see mountains full of snow - we're getting closer to them all the time - probably be on top of one of them on our next move. I got a letter from Miss Fisher last night but I've already answered it - it was only a V-mail but for now it was the best I could do, she told me about the fire, I'm glad it wasn't very serious. I go on duty at midnight so I'm writing to you now so I can answer a few other letters when I get on duty. I've already washed and as soon as it gets dark I'm going to bed - I'm sure I can sleep too.

Our mail hasn't ~~been~~ come in yet but I doubt if there will be any - we had a big inspection today, and they say every thing passed so now maybe they'll stay away for awhile - they should move in with us then they wouldn't have to drive so far to inspect us - Ho, ho, Beona Nolle - Love & Kisses

111

Wed - 2 - May - 45

Not a thing to write about tonight - I get off duty in a half hour so I have just enough time to write to you. I stayed up all night last night and read a book - I was planning on sleeping all morning but it turned out that I didn't sleep a wink, I did lay in bed all morning just resting and thinking about every thing. I got out of bed at 11 A.M. and washed and shaved, finishing that I went to chow and then released the other boys so they could eat. Later on in the afternoon I read a book till 4 P.M. then I went down to the barn & looked at all the cows and horses - this German farmer sure has every thing - swell stock, home and land - this war didn't bother him any - not by the looks of things any way I won't be sending any money home this month - if I should change my mind I'll let you know about it. We still haven't received any mail and by the looks of things we won't be getting any for some time yet - I don't have any idea why our mail can't get here - sure hope it gets here soon. I'm pretty sleepy right now and when I get to bed I'll sure sleep - I got to be in bed by eight o'clock nowadays - night as well go to bed because there's nothing else to do around here - It's still snowing, this morning we had at least three inches of snow - some weather how'dd'ose? sure wish I could get some mail from home, Beona Hottel - Love & kisses

May - 3 - Thurs - 1945

Hi! Sweet Q, here I am again but what to write about I don't know. I did receive five letters and a swell package from you - it had the solomi solomi, cookies, soap, fruit cake & candy in it - all in swell shape - thank's a million Mom for sending it - the letters were from Elaine, Clara, Rosalie, Frankie and Ben, Clara said Elaine was feeling fine and that everyone else was feeling jake - Ben didn't have a thing to write about but he feels swell too - Elaine & the rest are all swell. I didn't get any mail from you but I'm not worried because I'll probably hear from you tomorrow, it seems like our mail is coming in now - sure hope it keeps on coming in till I get all my old mail.

It's pretty cold around here, but today was the first time it hasn't snowed in a week - it sure is changeable weather we're having lately - wish the old sun would come out soon and warm up this old cold world and the people on it. I won't be sending any money home this month so don't be expecting any.

I sure have plenty of writing to do these next few days - my hardest job will be finding some thing to write about. I'll answer them some how - I'm glad I got Clara's letter telling me that Elaine is alright, sure hope she's home by the time this letter gets there - I'll close for now - Bruno's note tells you. God bless all of you - Love & kisses -

kinda glad we turned them in - our new
job will make time go by faster because
it will be something new - will get
regular sleeping hours and stay a heck of
a lot cleaner - I believe it will be a
lot better than what we were doing -
pull a lot of guard I guess but we
are expecting that so nuts with it. This
war will be over soon so they have to
do some thing with us - I'm not expecting
to come home yet even though they are
sending two men home a month - the men
going home are so old and married with
kids - I'd be home some days, don't worry,
when, though is hard to say. It's raining
out right now and it looks like it's going
to rain all week - sure hope it don't,
rain, hail, snow, we have any kind of
weather you want. We eat the solomi
and it sure was swell - nothing like
good old solomi is there folks - he, he, he,
I moved into the other tent today - swell
bunch of boys over here, we have plenty
of laughs - I think I'd like it here a
lot better - sure hope so any way.
I still have two letters to answer and
I'm going right to work on them as
soon as I finish writing to you.

The gang has gone to the show tonight
and there are only two of us left here,
I'm writing and the other is drinking
a case of beer we got in the P.K. the
other day - we got four cases - five still
got two cases left - drink them the first
time I want a drink and there's no
water around. Well myon & Dad I'll close
for now and go to work on my
other letter - God bless all of you
always - Buona notte tutti and take
the best of care of yourselves -
Love & kisses xxx

Fri - 4 - May 95

Hi Ma, how's Pa? I still haven't received
any mail from you, tonight I thought
sure I would get a letter from you
but when the mail came in the
only letter I got was from Eddie & Mad.
they still are happy and every thing is
going along swell with them. Eddie's Mom
has been real sick. she had a ~~stroke~~
stroke and has to stay in bed for a
long time - I can guess how bad Ed
feels about it. I sure hope she's up and
around before long - in case you go see
her tell her I said hello and sure hope
she's on her feet in no time. I wish I
could get more news about Alene - sure
hope every thing is alright with her -
make her take things easy - if you
need any money use mine, every damn
penny of it if need be - I sure hope
you are getting all my letters, I've been
writing every day to you and've written
10 mails to you & Alene to make sure
you are hearing from me. I'm feeling
fine and every thing up to date is swell.
No duty on the gun anymore - this war
will be over in a matter of days so we
turned in our big guns today. What I
mean we went out of action, when we
turn in our guns I don't know but I do
think it will be soon. They have a
different job for us to do now but
as yet we have no idea what it will
be - let you know later. We did this
once before but plans were changed and
we got our guns back - now we turned
them in again - I believe our job will
be guards, P.P.'s or some thing - I'm

We got march order this morning. We're
settled in our new position but we will be
here only a day or so. We turn our guns
in a few days then we take over a
stockade full of german prisoners that we
are to guard till we are relieved - we
may have the job a month, year or ten
years, who knows - surely not us Pvt's.
It's raining today and probably will be
raining tomorrow. It's busy weather we're
having over here. The news is getting
better every day. V.E. day is expected any
day now, so the radio said - it looks
like it too, Germans are giving up right
and left. damn it any way this lousy
war can't last much longer - sure hope not.
I doubt very much if we get any
mail tonight - wish we would. I'd like
to get a letter from you. We got one more
letter to write but I think I'll let it go
till tomorrow - I'm on guard tonight
at 11 P.M. for one hour - we have our
guns to guard till we turn them in,
we have to clean the guns up before
we turn them in - sure hope we turn
them in for sure this time - we did
this once before but we got the damned
things back again - this too will be a good
change and time will be going by a lot
faster now because everything that
will be new and kinda interesting for
awhile - any way I'm willing to give
it a try. How's everyone at home? I
sure hope things are in the best of
shape. I sure do miss all of you -
maybe some year we'll get to come
home - hope so any way - Buona Notte
Titi & Ted - Bless all of you - Love & Kisses

another week has gone by and so ends
another letter. We put our guns in a big
building today where they will stay till
they are turned in to the right outfit.
I believe it's the last time we'll ever
deal with these guns. I hope so. We
always had our guns to worry about
they came before we did - now we
have just ourselves to worry about,
which is pretty, I believe we'll
move tomorrow some time to start
on our new job - hope it keeps
us busy till they send me home,
I wish I had an idea when I would
get home - anyway I'll be one of the
last ones home, you can count on
that. It's been a fair day - I thought
for awhile it would rain but it
held off - maybe it will rain tomorrow.
There was no mail again tonight
and when we will get some I don't
know - sure hope it's soon. I'm
going to bed in a little while because
I'm kinda tired - I was on guard last
night and lost a few hours sleep - and
that too - bad though - tek, tek. I have
one more letter to write yet but
right now I don't feel much like
writing. I sure hope Alene is up &
home by the time you receive this
letter - make her take things easy.
I'll close for now folks - take
good care of yourselves and God
bless & watch over all of you
always - Buona notte tutti - I'm in
the - out of health. Love & kisses Julie
I'll always be writing. xxx