-I- Feb-19-1945
"-Mon-
Somewhere
in France

Dearest Mom, Dad and Family,

Well I'm settled in our new position now and glad of it. This place is a lot better then the old position, we have no mud here as yet but if we do have some I'm sure it won't be as bad as the other place. I stayed behind again today to load up the hay and all the other junk we have, it was noon before a truck came to pick up the stuff - we had it all set so as soon as the truck came we loaded up and away we went. We got here in time to get a little to eat and as soon as we finished eating we put up the tents and got everything settled - the gun pit is all done and the dugout is all set up. I'm glad we came ahead yesterday to work on our gun pits and to have everything set before we moved our stuff, it rained a little yesterday and we all thought sure that it would rain today - it looked like it this morning but in a few hours it all cleared up and finally turned into a swell day. We are ~~on~~ on the midnight shift right now but it's alright for me, we had the other shift off so we had plenty of time to wash up, I took a bath, shaved and changed a few clothes. then went to bed - I sure did sleep, didn't remember a thing ~~then~~ till I was called to go on duty at midnight - we hated to get up.

I'm having my teeth fixed tomorrow and boy I dread it- wait till he starts drilling on them - Ouch! I've got to take my tooth brush and mess it so it looks like I'm going to be there all day - fooey. We had some potatoes a little while ago and they sure did taste good- fryed them ourselves - ha, ha, they were still good even if we did cook them. I sure could go for a package right now - too bad you can't buy that salami I sure wanted some, when I get home I'll eat the stuff till I hurt, in the meanwhile Mom send me a box of Sanders Chocolate. It's 3:A.M now and we still have about five hours yet to go - I'm not too tired right now but I bet about 4:A.M I won't be able to keep my eyes open. We sure have a nice dugout now, it's a lot bigger than the last one and we have more room to move around, and it's not too hot in here whenever someone starts fooling around the stove. I hope we have another nice day tomorrow - I hate to see it start raining because once it's starts it will rain for three months straight. I didn't get any mail tonight nor did anyone else - maybe tomorrow will bring lots of letters - I hope - I'm all caught up on my writing so I better get some letters soon so I can write. I'll close for now so Buona Notte tutti and May God bless all of you always -

Love & Kisses -

III

Feb-20-1945

-TUES-

Ive been back in the city about one hour now, I came from the dentist. I had two teeth filled and Im sure glad the job is done - I sure dread those dentists even though itś not their fault, all those tools are enough for me, ha ha, I left this morning at 8:30 A.M and didnt get back till 4:30 P.M - there were five of us and we had to wait on one another, thatś why it took so long. I was on the midnight shift last night and now Im on duty till midnight, I havnt been to bed yet and wont be till after midnight. Itś raining right now and itś one of those slow steady rains that will probably last for months now that it started - I sure hope it dont rain too darn long, Im praying for good weather so we can end this lousy mess and come home. I got two letters tonight, one from Carls brother George and one from Marion - I may answer them tonight Im not sure though - Im thinking of laying on a couple of beds and going to sleep, if I can. Now you can forget about those pictures I was going to send - they are no good - I didnt get them back but I heard today they have been burned up. I hope it stops raining soon but by its looks Im afraid itś not going to stop for some time. Ill close for now till later Buona Notte tutti and God bless all of you always -

- Love & Kisses -

IV

Feb-21-1945
-Wed-

I was on duty all day today and now Jim on the midnight shift. This morning we fixed up our dugout- it rained last night and our roof leaked all night so this morning we took off the roof and fixed it all over- we won't know if it leaks till the next time it rains which Jim sure won't be long from now- This afternoon I cleaned my rifle and I do mean I cleaned it I had a gallon can of gas which I used to clean my mess kit and rifle- I had everything apart- I started at 1-P.M and it was 3-30 P.M by the time I had it all done- it looks good now but in a few days it will be pretty dirty. When we got off duty I eat then washed and at seven P.M I went to the show- I can't spell the name of the picture But I can say it was very good- it was 10:30 P.M by the time the show ended so by the time I got back to the bivy it was too late to go to bed so I came right on duty- I didn't get any sleep so as soon as I write this letter Jim going to lay on these bags and try to sleep. It was a cloudy day but otherwise it was O.K. I got a letter from Reno tonight that I will answer tonight or tomorrow- whenever I feel like writing. I'll close for now. Mom because I haven't any more to say right now- be good and write soon. God bless all of you and take good care of yourselves always

- Love & Kisses -

V

Feb-22-1945
-Thurs-

I'm on duty again, the evening shift. I was going to go to the show tonight but I can't because the truck was full of guys - I slept most of the night on the ~~to-se~~ boss and as soon as morning came around I eat chow and went right to bed - it was about 10:A.M by the time I fell asleep and noon by the time I woke up. In the afternoon I washed and showed and then I washed all my clothes pants, shirt, jacket and sweater, by the time I finished it was chow time again. Frank came to relieve me at seven PM so I could go to the show, I got my riffe and took off but when I got to the truck it was so full I couldn't get on so I came right back to the dugout and told Frank to go to bed - I wanted to see the picture because it was supposed to be good but I guess I'll just forget about it, I'll see all the good pictures I want when I get home. I'm kinda glad in a way that I didn't go, for some reason I'm darn tired. I didn't get any mail tonight but I don't care because I don't feel like writing, I've got two letters to answer now but I've been too lazy to do it - I may answer them tonight but I doubt it. I hope the weather stays as nice as it has been these last few days - it was nice and sunny all day - I hope it's the same tomorrow. God bless all of you always - Love & Kisses -

XL Feb-23-1945

-Fri-

We pulled cards this morning to find out who was going to the stage show, I won - by pulling a king. it was 20 to 8 A.M. and the truck was suppose to leave at 8 A.M, well you can guess how I had to move around to get ready - I made it in plenty of time. Once we got to the town it was a half hour before we found the place - the show was given by French people - it was allright - music, singing, tricks and jokes - in all there were plenty of laughs for all of us.

It was noon by the time I got back to the bty, I changed shoes and clothes and then eat chow - when I was there eating I went back to the gun for the rest of the afternoon. We fired a few rounds of ammunition at the jet airplane germany sent around - he sure headed for home in a hurry - if he keeps coming back we'll knock him down - he stays up pretty high most of the time but some day he'll get pretty brave and come down within range and we'll knock his head off. We all went to a show this afternoon, it was just a short picture that the bty was suppose to see - it was pretty interesting I thought - it was about the German people and etc, It was over in a short time, the picture lasted about a half hour I'd say, when the film ended everyone took off for the bty but me, I was suppose to sweep the floor but it ended by someone else sweeping it.

Their were three of us walking back to the bby and since their was no rush we just took our time about walking through town - we looked here and there but didn't see anything new, when you seen one town you've seen them all. It wasn't long before show by the time we got back to the bby - so I waited and then eat and went to the tent, cut up some wood started a fire and heated some water to wash with. Their was a show again tonight but this time I went right to bed - it was seven P.M. when I went to bed and I sure did sleep. I didn't hear or remember a thing till they called me at midnight to go on duty - I'm on the midnight shift tonight. We had a inspection this morning and they found every thing albright so now maybe they will let us alone for awhile - they seem to love to pull inspections - I guess they haven't any thing to do so they go around bothering other guys. It was a beautiful day today and all day long - nice and sunny all day, I hope we have more days like this - I'm afraid it's going to start raining soon and it will be months before it stops - darn it. I said about all I had to say I take so I might as well close this letter for tonight - I'll be back tomorrow night so till then Buona notte tutti and God watch and bless over all of you - take care of yourselves

- Love & Kisses -

VIII

Feb-24-1945

Sat

Hi! Folks, here I am again with the latest news of the day, which isn't much. I was on the midnight shift last night and it went by fairly fast because I fell asleep and didn't wake up till 6:30 A.M. I waited till 7 A.M. then I went down to the tents to wake up the other crew so they could eat and release us - as soon as they got up I went to eat, when I got back to the tent I built a fire then went to bed - it was noon by the time I woke up so I got out of bed went to eat then went to the gun to release the other boys so they could eat. In the afternoon I washed and shaved then layed down again - I got up when the mail came in to read the letters I got - I got about five letters from Joan, a V-mail from Alma and a letter from Elaine, I've got plenty of writing to do now but I'm in no rush because I don't feel like writing. I'm on duty now writing to you, I've got till midnight to write letters if I want to but I doubt very much if I will. It rained a little this morning and it was kinda cold but in the afternoon it cleared up and got a little warmer - it's getting cloudy now so I'm ready to bet that by morning it will be raining - I sure hope I lose that bet - if only this weather would stay nice for the next few months - I'm sure if the weather was with us this war would end in a big hurry.

We got the radio at noon time and we will have it for a while, sure seems funny to have a radio - it's been a long time since we have heard one - the news was just on and it sounds pretty good, there's some good music on now, listening to good music kind of makes us lonesome - how much we are doing without over here people at home will never know - it's the littlest things we seem to miss the most - if only this war would end - of course I'm lonesome for home but who isn't - I'm not losing any sleep over it because I know it won't do any good to worry about it, but I can hope, wish and pray that this mess ends soon so we can go home to the people we love. Glen said you sent me a package - thank you sweet heart I'll let you know when it gets here. I should answer the rest of these letters tonight so they won't pile up on me - well we'll see how I feel about it later on. I haven't much more to write about so I guess it's about time I closed for tonight. Say hello to everyone at home for me, write and tell me what's going on at home - any news is alright with - news about home is what I mean. Take good care of yourselves always and Mary - God watch and bless our all of you always - Buena Noche Tuti.

- Love & Kisses -

X

Feb - 25 - 1945

- Sun -

This day brings to a end another letter and a week - I doubt if this letter has been very interesting but it's the best I could - to have something to write about things must happen. I was on duty all day so don't expect anything interesting. The radio stoped playing last night and this morning I changed the wires but that didn't help much so I left it go till we cleaned the gun, when the gun was clean I took the radio to the C.P. and had them fix it - that was about 11 A.M, I left it there and went to eat, about 1 P.M we got the radio back, it's been playing good ever since. When I got off duty at night I went to the tent started a fire then went to show - came back with water, heated it then washed, I was going to go to the show but their wasn't any so I went to bed - 7 P.M - it was midnight when they called me so now I'm on duty - it's 1:15 A.M & I'm writing and listening to some good music at the same time - it sure is swell to hear some music - I sure am enjoying it a lot. It's been a swell day but by the looks of the sky tonight I'd say it's going to rain, and before morning. I got a letter from Clara & Jerry tonight, all is fine with them they say - I've answered all my letters so I will answer Clara's tonight, I hope these letters are getting to you and I hope you still like them. I hope everyone at home is feeling fine and every thing going along swell. I'm feeling swell myself and all is going O.K. Say Hello to all for me, take good care of your selves always and God bless all of you.

Buona Notte tutti - Love & Kisses

Good Nite Sweet ♡ -

- Julie -

XX X XX

-I-

Feb-26-1945
-Nov-
"France"

Dearest Mom, Dad & Family,

Here I am again Folks starting a new letter and also a new week. I'm on duty again till midnight but I'm used to it now so I don't mind it a bit, I've got plenty of writing to do tonight so the time should go by fairly fast. I slept most of the morning so there's nothing to write about there- in the afternoon I washed and shaved, then having nothing else to do I walked around talking to some of the boys- about 3:P.M I went back to the tent and layed down, about 3:30 P.M our mail came in and I got two letter's and a very nice Valentine from Bevo, the letter's were from Nancy and Thelma Mahoney- Elaine's youngest sista- I'll answer their letter's tonight while I'm on duty and have plenty of time to write. We got our P.X a little while after reading our mail- Beer, candy and some other stuff- I'm eating some of it now and pretty soon I'm going to drink my beer, or maybe I'll save my beer and trade it off for candy- don't like to drink and I'm plenty glad of it- I've seen what drinking does to people and I've seen what people do when they drink- other people can drink and do what they like as for me I'll do what I like. We still have the radio and it sure is swell, the music is swell- I just sit here and listen all I want- going to be quite in here when the radio is given to the other guys, by the time we get it again this war should be over- I sure hope so. It's been a pretty cloudy day and it looked

like it was going to rain any minute.
I didn't go to church yesterday because I was on duty but I'll be able to go next Sunday - every other Sunday I'm off duty and able to go to church. Mom have you been getting all my money? they asked me the other day if I wanted to make out a allotment to you - I told them I send all my money home if I don't have any use for it - there's nothing over here I want to buy so most of the time I send my money home - I don't have any allotment made out because in case I need the money I'll have it and I won't have to send all the way home for it - and if I don't need the money I sent it to you - I draw about $57, send $50 home and keep the rest - it's more then enough because there is no place over here to spend it - at least nothing I care to spend it on. They asked me about the allotment because they thought I was drawing too much money and spending it foolishly - they wanted me to save it - I told them you were getting the money to do with it what you liked - so in all I'm not making out any allotment - in case I ever start spending too darn much I'll have a allotment made out to you - till then we'll let it ride as it is. I just drank my beer and eat a candy bar - darn good too - too bad we don't get P.X more often. I think it's about time to close for tonight - I've said all there is to say so till tomorrow night - Buona Notte tutti and God bless and watch over all of you. Send some pictures soon - Be good -

- Love & Kisses -

III

Feb - 27 - 1945
- Tues -

I'm on the midnight shift right now and boy did I have a time getting out of bed to get here, I was so darn tired I could hardly open my eyes. I was on duty all day and this morning we cleaned the gun and got every thing in shape for the inspection we are always expecting. In the afternoon I stayed at the tent to wash, shave and change clothes so I could look half way good to get my Good Conduct Medal - I told Alene that I didn't get one, but then I didn't not till today at 1:30 P.M - as soon as I got my medal I changed clothes again went back to the gun and went back to work again. I painted rust spots on the gun and all the shovels & picks, I got two letter's while doing that - one v mail from Alene and a letter from Helene Kaye - it was chow by the time I finished painting and reading my mail so I went to eat - after chow I washed and brushed my teeth then having nothing else to do I went to see the 1st Sgt to see about a show - no show anywhere - I fooled around the other tents awhile found a book to read then went to bed - I sat on the bed awhile singing a few song's I knew, got tired of it and jumped in bed - now I'm on duty - It was a nice day, little cloudy but no rain and that's what matter's. Tomorrow we are suppose to have a big inspection - I'm sure we will pass it without any trouble. I'll close for now Folk's. Buona Notte tuti and May God bless all of you.

Love & Kisses always

IV

Feb-28-1945
-Wed-

Another night has come around and so it's time to add another day's happening in your day by day letter. I was on the midnight shift last night, I stayed awake all night so I could be tired enough to sleep when I got off duty - well when I got off duty I eat and then went right to bed - I tossed and rolled but I couldn't sleep but I did lay there till 11:00 A.M. then I got up to be ready for chow. The inspection was called off today, why I don't know or care - after noon chow I took all my blankets outside to air, fixed my bed, and repacked my bag - it was supper time by the time I was finished. I'm on duty now till midnight and so far the time has been going by pretty fast. I got plenty of mail today but I answered most of it before I started writing to you. I got a letter from Louis new wife - I don't believe I'll answer her letter as yet. It sure was a swell day, the sun came out in the morning and it stayed out all day long - it was like a spring day at home - kinda made most of us lonesome for home. The radio is still playing, day and night, it sure is swell to have something to listen to all day and night - I sure am enjoying this radio too. I hope it's another nice day tomorrow. I'll close for now so till tomorrow night I'll be saying Buona Notte tutti and may God bless and watch over all of You - Be Good

- Love & Kisses -

V March - 1 - 1945
- Thurs -

Im on guard, or rather duty, again - Im on the midnight shift tonight - I didn't get any sleep this time because I went to the show. We left at 6:40 P.M and the show was to start at 7:00 P.M but the machine wasn't working so it was 8: P.M by the time they got it fixed and the picture started, they had two pictures tonight and both of them were very good - I don't remember the names but the pictures were new ones. We just got back to the Bty about 11:30 P.M so I just had time to get my writing bot, raincoat & boots - yes its raining again - its the beginning and when it will stop I don't know - they say when it starts to rain in the Spring it lasts for months - but it any way. I was on duty all day and all I did in the morning was clean the gun and some other junk, in the afternoon I got bayed and listen to the radio till it was show time. I got two letters tonight, Angie & Joan. I was going to go right to bed when I got off duty but as soon as I washed I felt better so I went to the show, now Im on duty and all tired out, as soon as I finish writing Im going to lay down and try to sleep - my bed is a ammunition box but but I'll sleep pretty good because Im use to it now. The weather is changing now, I sure hate to see this rain come because it will slow every thing up. I hope these other months go by as fast as Feb did - I hope these summer months come soon and bring the end of this mess with them. Buona Notte to ti and God bless all of you always -

- Love & Kisses -

VI

March. 2 - 1945

- Fri -

I only have a half hour before I go on Duty guard so I'll try and tell what all I did today. I did fall asleep last night on the ammunition boys and this morning when I got into bed I couldn't sleep a wink. I was off duty today - this morning I tried sleeping but couldn't because I wasn't sleepy - in the afternoon we had to pass a gas test, my gas mask is alright - as soon as I had mine tested I relieved one of the other boys so they could test theirs, it was 2:P.M by the time I got back to the tent, the water was hot by the time I got there so I washed and showed and changed clothes, I gave my clothes to a French boy where Mom is going to wash them. After supper I took a good bath - it was a little chilly but I sure feel great now - all cleaned up and no where to go. I'm on Duty guard tonight, go on at 7:30 P.M & don't get off till 10:30 P.M - we pull guard at the Kitchen. It was a cold day today, in fact about 5:P.M it snowed, came down pretty heavy for awhile but soon stoped - I sure hope the weather don't take a turn for the worse, last night it rained, today it snowed - don't know what it will do tomorrow. We sent home $50 today so don't forget to let me know when you received the money. I'll close for now so till later Bruna Nalle take and God bless all of you always.

- Love & Kisses -

VII

March - 3 - 1945

- Sat -

I was on duty all day today and here is all I did. This morning I cleaned out the dugout while the rest of the gang was out cleaning the gun, it was about 10:00 A.M by the time we were all through, about 10:30 A.M the Red Cross came around with more doughnuts so I went to get them for the gun crew - I got a gallon can & a box and then got enough doughnuts and coffee for six men, I then carried it all back to the gun where we eat and drank in peace - it was good and I'm sure glad they came around because the chow we got at noon wasn't so good - I had a slice of bread and some chocolate pudding. In the afternoon I sat around listening to the radio, tomorrow is our last day with the radio, gun #4 gets it for the coming week - boy I sure will miss the darn thing - I sure have enjoyed the music. When we got off duty we all washed up, eat chow and then went to town - their was supposed to be a dance at 8:P.M and a show at 7:P.M - we went to the show and after the show we went looking for the dance hall - we found it but their was no dance because the lights were all out in the town - so I went back to the Btry - it was only nine o'clock so I went right to bed, I slept right up till the time when they called us to go on duty - midnight I'm on duty now and will be till morning - I just had some coffee, pancakes & potatoes - it was stuff left over from chow - it tasted pretty good even at this hour - 2:30 A.M

Well

The day was kinda cold, it snowed once or twice today but it soon stoped - this is sure changable weather - one day it rains, next it snows and what the next will bring I couldn't even guess - all I hope is that it will be a swell day with plenty of sunshine. I'm still wishing for this war to end soon - not that I will be home when Germany is beaten because I'm sure I will see action in the Pacific before I come home, the sooner the Germans are beaten the sooner we can go to the Pacific and knock the pants off the Japs - then we may be able to come home - sometimes I don't think they want us to come home too soon - your little baby will be a big man by the time he gets home - Mom - ha, ha, ha, Yesterday, today and tomarrow I yam a man - ha, ha Don't you or Dad dare worry about me because if I can't take care of myself now I never will be able to - once you leave home your on your own - and I've been away 27 months so I should be pretty good at it by now - huh? I'm off duty tomarrow so in the morning I'm going to the church - I can go every other Sunday, so tomarrow is my chance - I could go every Sunday but I'd have to have some one take my place while I was gone - I don't like to ask one of the other boys because if they're on duty they can't do it, if their off duty they are sleeping - so I go every other Sunday. Well Goodnight my love, God bless all of you and take good care of yourselves always - Buona Notte tati

- Love & Hugs -

March - 4 - 1943

- Sun -

Another week is coming to a end and so is another one of your day by day letters. I like to write this way to you and Pop and I sure hope you like them as much. I'll tell you later on in this letter what I did today but right now I'm just going to write, just any thing that comes into my mind. How is Pop coming along at work? I hope he's not working too hard - I'm glad to hear that his hand is all healed up good - be careful Pop I don't want you to get hurt, same goes for you Mom, take good care of yourselves always. I hope Alene send's those pictures soon I can hardly wait to see them - I had four rolls of film's burned up in a fire at the army P.X - I sure wanted them, I'm sure they would of been swell pictures - well what's done is done - I've got more film's and I'll take more pictures soon - it's easy to take the pictures the job is getting them developed - these town's have nothing to develop film's with because they're too small - the larger town's probably have the stuff but we are never near a big town - well anyway when I do get some pictures you will be the first one to get them, so don't worry Sweet ♡. It was about 4:30 A.M when I layed down on the boys and went to sleep - it was 6:30 A.M when I woke up, as soon as I did I went right to the tent then to the kitchen to eat I had to go hear a lecture at 7: A.M - it was 7:30 by the time the truck came around and it was about 8:30 when the lecture started.

X

I can't tell you what the lecture was all about but I can say it had prety to do with the Germans. I wanted to go to church this morning at 10:A.M, so instead of going to bed I went to the lecture to kill time - I didn't get back from the lecture till 10:30 A.M so I didn't go to church today - if it's not duty that keeps me from church it's always something else. I was prety cold when I got back so I started a fire in the stove to get warm and to heat water to wash with. As soon as dinner was over and everyone had eaten I went to the tent where I washed and shaved then right to bed I went. Mom, I cut my mustache off when I shaved - I tried a long time to grow one but it was a flop. I was always being teased about it - I don't mind being teased and I didn't cut it off because of that, I cut it off because the darn thing wouldn't grow, I'm just not the man Dad is - when he was my age he had a beauty - I guess I'll have to wait till I grow older - but Ma? ha, ha, ha, I've got to shave every other day so you would think I could grow a swell mustache - I can't though - one side is black the other side white - ha, ha, ha, It's prety cold today and it snowed again - some weather this country has. Mom, I'm sending all my letters free because it gets there as soon as a airmail does. Say hello to everyone for me and as for the rest of my swell family take good care of yourselves and God watch and bless all of you always. Another week is gone now - a new week is coming bringing this war closer to a end - I'll write again soon - Love & Kisses -Julie-

Buono Notte tutti

XXX