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July, 7, 1943

Dear Mom & Pop

I got your Happy Birthday V-mail and it was nice, I didn't know they had that kind of stuff on V-mail, but I guess they think of everything, I got the one alone sent to, it was another nice one. Well Mom I don't know what I'm going to write about since nothing new ever happens here, all I can write is the same old thing.

Today is the 7th of July, I guess I'll shoot my rifle just to make a little noise. Two days later, on the 9th I'll be 21 years old, today I am a man, but I'm afraid it's just in my mind I guess I'm still Mom's little boy. Well, now that I'm a man

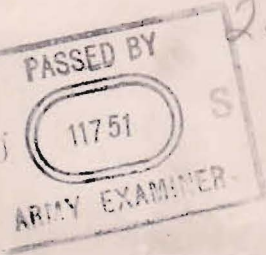
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more, you can stop worrying about me because I'll be able to take care of myself, and I think I'm doing a pretty good job of it, I think if you could see me for awhile, you would believe me, no-one takes care of you in the army, you take care of yourself, the army can make it good or bad for you, either way you want it, so far my nose has been pretty clean (and it's a big one at that), if I could tell you about what we're doing I'd have a lot to write about, but what ever I say about this place or our job here might be censored, so I won't say a thing. All I want you to know is that I'm alright and that you have nothing to worry about, we get plenty of everything and I never felt better, so stop your worrying about me, I know you are doing some worrying and there's no way of stopping you, except keep telling you in my letters that I'm alright and you'll have to believe that, till you can see me for yourself then you'll know I'm fine and always have been, Alene said the weather home is getting nice, it won't be long before it's pretty hot, so watch out for that sun, I guess you got most of the stuff planted by now, just make sure you & Pa don't work too damn

hard, let those brother-in-law of mine  
do the work, when I get home we  
can plow up more land but still  
then let it go, You know Mom they  
got some nice farms over here and  
they take good care of them, they  
have a bush of a lot of grapes and I  
mean they know how to take care  
of them, clean as a whistle, lot of  
French & Arabs & Italians and all they  
drink is Vinco, some of them say  
water is for fish, H&H maybe it is  
but I'll still stick to water, they can  
have their vino's, Mom has Elaine  
ever been over to the house yet - No  
I knew she wasn't and I know she won't  
come but then that's her business.

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if she want to come over it's up  
to her, if she don't I won't beg her,  
I would like very much for you  
two to know each other and still  
maybe someday you will, who can tell.

I've been getting letters from Elaine  
pretty steady now for six months &  
it's nice hearing from her, I guess I won't  
get tired of them either. Mom when are  
you going to send me some snapshots  
pictures of yourself and the rest of the  
family, I'd like to have some, it's been  
a long time since I've seen any of you  
so I would like to have some pictures, send  
some as soon as you can. How's Pa  
go to work, still have the old model  
A. or does he use my car or does he still

take the bus, I hope he takes the  
bus its a lot better and not so much  
trouble, say, how is my car getting along,  
getting enough gas & oil to keep it going  
or is it in the garage waiting for me  
to come home and burn up the rubber.

Well Mom, you and pop take it  
easy, leave the work for some one  
else and dont worry about me, Im o.k.

Say hello to everyone and tell  
them to write and dont forget to  
write yourself, I'll write at least once  
a week, there no sense of my writing  
more because you'd get them all at one  
time anyway and besides there nothing  
to say. Give my love to all and tell  
Pop - Today I am a man - love & kisses  
Julie