

TO: MRS FLORENCE STOFF
41 LANDFIELD AVENUE
MONTICELLO
NEW YORK c/o BAKT

FROM

GIL GEO STOFF 42050100
CO A 735TH NY OFN BN
APO 350 5 POSTMASTER
NEW YORK

12 JULY 1945

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

- 188 -

ENROUTE TO NEW STATION.

FLORENCE, DEAREST:

THIS IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW TIMES THAT I KNOW WHERE I AM GOING AS A MEMBER OF THIS ARMY, AND REALLY ENJOYING THE THIP. HAVING SEEN WHAT ENGLAND, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND GERMANY HAVE TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND PICTURESQUE COUNTRYSIDE, I NOW MUST ADMIT THAT THE GERMANS HAVE THE MOST TO OFFER. WE HAVE BEEN COURSEING OUR WAY OVER HILLS AND INTO THE VALLIES LYING AMONG THEM, AND IT CAUSES ONE TO WONDER WHY THE NAZIS DID NOT THINK OF PRESERVING THEIR LAND MORE, RATHER THAN TAKE THE RISK OF HAVING SO BEAUTIFUL A COUNTRY MESSED UP BY WARPAKE. IT IS A SAD COMMENTARY THAT THE SCENERY IS MERELY A SETTING FOR DEVASTATED AND DESOLATED TOWNS AND CITIES.

MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF EVERYONE WE DEPARTED FROM LIEPSTADT ON SCHEDULE, 10.30 AM. THE WEATHER WAS GRAND, THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF DISPLACED PERSONS AT THE DEPOT WAITING FOR THEIR FREIGHT TRAIN TO FILL IN, BUT SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH THE ONLY ONES TO HAVE US GOOD-BYE WERE A FEW YOUNG CHILDREN WHO HAD RECEIVED GUM OR CANDY DURING OUR STAY THERE. AS A MATTER OF FACT ANY OTHER SEND-OFF WOULD HAVE SURPRISED US. SOLDIERS DO NOT FRATERNIZE WITH THE CIVILIANS AS EQUALS OTHER THAN TO DATE THE USUAL RIPP-RAFF THAT FOLLOWS AN ARMY AROUND. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH GERMANY HAS MORE OF THEM FOR LESS COST THAN ANY OTHER NATION I HAVE BEEN IN, INCLUDING THE STATES. SO MANY OF THEM ARE JUST WANDERING FROM PLACE TO PLACE AND WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO GET A PLACE TO SLEEP AND PERHAPS SOMETHING TO EAT OR SMOKE. LIFE FOR THE AVERAGE GERMAN IS REALLY HARD, AND I EXPECT IT WILL GET TOUGHEN AS TIME PASSES, BUT THEY HAVE EARNED EVERY BIT OF IT.

ALTHOUGH I AM WRITING THIS ENROUTE I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN IT WILL BE MAILED. IN ALL PROBABILITY YOU WILL RECEIVE ALL THE LETTERS I WRITE DURING THIS MOVEMENT AT THE SAME TIME. NATURALLY WITH NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT ADMIRE THE SCENERY, READ OR SLEEP, MY THOUGHTS ARE ALWAYS DIRECTED TO YOU AND JIMMY. I'LL PROBABLY NOT RECEIVE ANY MAIL FROM YOU FOR A WEEK OR MORE, AND OF COURSE I'LL BE WONDERING ABOUT YOU. I DO HOPE THAT YOU BOTH ARE IN YOUR USUAL EXCELLENT HEALTH AND SPIRITS, AND THAT THE WEATHER IS OF A MORE MODERATE TEMPERATURE THAN IT HAD BEEN RECENTLY.

THE FIRST BIG CITY WE PASSED THRU TO-DAY WAS CASSEL OR MORE OPEN SPILLED KASSEL. IT WAS EASY TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE ARMIES HAD PASSED THRU THERE RECENTLY. IN THE DISTANCE WAS KAISER WILHELM'S FAMOUS CASTLE ON THE TOP OF A HILL. ~~REMARKABLE~~. A MOST IMPOSING SIGHT IN THE SETTING SUN.

STAY WELL, SWEETHEART, KISS THE LITTLE FELLOW FOR ME, AND I WILL KISS YOU IN MIND. ONE OF THESE DAYS WE WILL BE MAKING TRIPS ALL TOGETHER. GIVE MY VERY BEST TO EVERYONE.

AS EVER,

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V---MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

