

Fri Oct. 22, 1943

My Dearest-

Finally have time to write you. We have finished our trip at last. And here we are in No. Ireland.

It seems ages since I left the States. Gee but it's good to have reached here.

The country is very picturesque. Can't help feeling the age of this land. I've seen Belfast and other smaller towns.

Everything is more modern than I thought. Seems funny to see double-deck trolleys and buses.

By the way there were some Red Cross girls who served us with 2 doughnuts and a cup of coffee. It reminded me of the "Y" girls of the last war. The girl who served us comes from Long Island and was quite cute. She wore slacks and a jacket and darned if she didn't remind me of home.

Our new home is out in the country. The Irish are industrious and all the land seems to be cultivated. They have cows, horses, ducks, chickens etc. and could really pass for Vermont or New

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Hampshire.

We just took a little ~~to~~ hike thru the country side and it's nice.

Our barracks are the galvanized iron type that have those round tops. Our beds are boards laid across 2 small houses. The mattresses are ticks, which are bags filled with hay. We were issued 2 more blankets and I made a sleeping bag with the help of my shelter-half. It was very warm and not bad sleeping at all.

Still no mail from home but I'm hoping to get some soon. I wonder how you are, what you're doing. Did you get my mail? The government was supposed to send you a card telling of my safe arrival. Did you get it?

We eat well. The only big change is that we have brown Irish bread. It's quite heavy.

Saw some castles. Boy are they sturdy things. I hope to get time to do some sketching of them as soon as my sketch pads get here.

That's all for to-day. It's time to eat.

Regards to all.

As ever your
Hal

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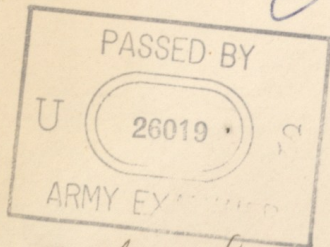
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