



AMERICAN RED CROSS

- 183 -

Rippstadt -
7 July, 1945

Flavence, darling:

It was scheduled for us to depart from Rippstadt to-morrow (Sunday) morning but we were advised to-day that the trip will not take place for several days yet. This gives us the opportunity to get more mail, and also to write more. To-day was a dull, uneventful day, but the sun began to shine just about mail call time. As a matter of fact it was a brilliant sun for me. I received your letters dated June 21st, 27th, and 28th, all wonderful letters full of love, news and current events. Also received a letter from Bob dated June 26th, a v-mail from Pinna, and a letter from my Belgian friends. Under separate cover I forwarded the latter letter to you, since I have already replied to it. You should find it interesting reading.

Bob wrote me a very lengthy letter relating all about his recent hospitalization and also the latest rumor that he may be shipped. I do hope he manages to get another break. His "Prostatitis" seems to have cleared up, after treatment, and his cough is better. The visit home was a transference to the facts, but his hurried exit left them with that empty feeling we knew so well. I know they will

was very evidently if he leaves for a theater of operations, but let us continue to hope for the best. Pincus in his letter is more optimistic than even about the Japs giving sooner than expected, and I fervently hope he's right.

Bob assured me that the folks were just fine, and that although man shed a few tears at his and Fran's hurried departure, both of them took this farewell in good style. While he was in the city he received the Hitler Youth knife I sent him. He seemed to be quite pleased with this souvenir. Incidentally I have 2 more such knives, in addition to having sent 3 or 4 to you. While at home an unusual incident occurred which Bob wrote me about, knowing I'd enjoy the humor involved. The evening on which they arrived in the city, Bob expressed a desire for pettrunian and canned beef. No doubt you know how difficult it is to buy this stuff, but pop said he could get it. So, they proceeded home to Ave. J, and pop and Bob walked in to Nathan and Pelansky's delicatessen. Pop asked for Mr. Pelansky, who inquired as to his wants. Thereupon pop showed him one of my pictures. "Why, Mr. Pelansky exclaimed, he's my Brother-mason". "We are good friends, and anything you want is okay". Thereupon pop and Bob purchased what they needed, and everyone was satisfied. This is one use I hardly expected my pictures to fill - that of red points in a delicatessen. However if that works - it's more pleasing to me -

My letters seem to be reaching you okay now, and I sure am pleased that they continue to inspire you, to say nothing of your interest in the enclosed snaps. I do wish those 6 Parkas



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surely to you would reach you, as they contain
some pretty nice souvenirs. However since
everything has reached you, I have every reason
to believe these will too. Be sure to list contents
of each package. There is nothing I need at present
so do not feel so badly about not forwarding me
any package. When, as, and if I do want something
I'll not hesitate to request same. The last package
I received from you contained vitamin pills and 3
quarter shirts - Were any others mailed after that?

Jim sure was lucky to get away from the
house before the chicken-pox broke out; but then
he's always been lucky, and also our good
luck. I suppose it's difficult preventing kids
from getting some of these illnesses, but you sure
can try to avoid them. Your description of his
cute ways, sayings, and actions keep me even
on the alert to remember that I have a
gaming son at home. Do you suppose he'll
like to play baseball and handball as I do?
I am looking forward to some recent photo
of you and him, as well as the others, but I
sure hope you get a close-up of him messed
up with an ice-cream cone. He must keep you
in an uproar with his antics. Of course he's
mischievous like all boys, so keep him well in
hand. We don't want him breaking windows -
yet.

I'm pleased you are not hanging around
the hotel too much. I don't know how much
room you have to accommodate week-end
guests, but I have written and will certainly

Continue to write to the folks to visit you
over week-ends. I don't suppose they would
find it possible to take a vacation for longer
than that. They need a little holiday often,
and visiting you and Jim in the quiet of
the country should be a good deal if there are
no arguments in the country. However you
assure me that all is serene this summer
so I guess it's unusual all around.

I do see Van and St. Butler occasionally,
but not nearly as much as I did in St. Paul.
You see I spend most of my time at battalion
headquarters, whereas most of the battalion is
usually spread out over a 100 miles of railroad
track. For instance now I am at Lippstadt, with
1/3 of Co A at Buren, 1/3 at BAD SASSENDORF,
and 1/3 at Maseburg. All the other companies
are also strung out. Accordingly I only see
them when I visit the different places or the
individuals visit me. The rating that Capt.
Asay's job calls for is CAPTAIN, so he finally
got it. The rating my job calls for is Cpl.,
so I have it. Every job in the army has a
rating attached to it for each unit. That's
why I'm still a Corporal. There are ways this
situation is by-passed, but you probably have
heard that I'd never kiss anybody is no fun
any thing - well, the army hasn't changed me
on this score.

The newspaper articles you enclosed in
your letters were interesting. There is no
doubt that people back home realize that
older men in the army are being pushed around,
now that the Nazis are defeated. If more men
are needed to defeat Japan there are plenty of
younger, healthier men to take the places of
older men who have surely done their share.



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With plenty of strikes now going on, many factories formerly utilized for war work now being reconverted to civilian goods it seems that many young men would lose their deferred status. Surely after 3 or 4 years of money making they would be prepared to do their share of duty to their country. Perhaps some cases, only a few of course, of favoritism would even be discovered. I'll never be able to understand how a drift head could send a 35 year old father of 4 or 5 children, and defer a 22 year old single fellow - but we have them in my outfit. Let us hope Ed Sullivan and Drew Pearson are accurate in their statements. We know this is our year but early assurance of a forthcoming discharge would be a most welcome bit of news. In any event do not send a key. I expect to find the door open, and everyone waiting for me. This will be a happy moment, and all those who share our trying moments are entitled to share that joy. However there is still time for such plans - eh what. You continue plying the night people with letters, and I know our break will come.

There was no show to night, so I waited for a while, and then wrote some letters. I always write your letter last, so that I can go to sleep with thoughts of you, my pretty sweetheart, uppermost in my mind. This endless waiting for the moment when I can once

Again tell you of my love and adoration is
ever so tiring. However we have seen it there
this far, and I know we have the courage and
fortitude to continue. I realize only too well
how difficult it is to write one's feelings and
desires, without ever giving vent to a physical
glossing. The Nazis said we were soft on this
account but let's continue to show them we
have the stuff. Love, liberty, and freedom that's
what we are fighting for, and now that the
enemy has been licked in this theatre I want
to return to you and ours. It will not take
long, darling. In the meantime have fun,
keep smiling, be of good cheer, and one of
these days you and Jim will have your first
week answered - and how.

I'm in excellent health and spirits,
your letters keep me so, and I hope I am
doing as much for you. I work until 5 P.M.
to-morrow, but that means nothing, since
there is little else to do. I have the camera
adjusted again, and will continue taking
more pictures. Will probably have to await
arrival at new station before getting them
developed.

Kiss Jim for me, and I'll kiss you
in mind with all my love and devotion.
My very best to everyone.

as ever,
George

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