

SECTION TWO

ENGLAND

12-21-1943

Hi Folks,

Well, here's another letter, believe it or not. Please don't expect to hear from me too often but I'll try and average three or four a week. Like I told you in my other letter I can't write much but I feel fine and having a swell time.

The only thing that I can say is that I'm somewhere in England. I hope you all have a swell Christmas and a Happy New Year. Don't worry about me and I hope to be with you next year.

I hope you sent out my Christmas cards and pictures also my A.P.O. address.

Please keep in good contact with the Lindquists and keep me informed. Hope you get what I'm trying to say. Hope to hear from you real soon.

Please write every other day or so.

Love to all,
Teddy

12-31-1943

Friday New Year's Eve

Hi Folks, (Mom & Pop also Gerry)

Well, to start off with when you write to me use AIR MAIL and not V-Mail. The reason I say this is because you can't write much on one sheet. So you see I like nice long letters and I believe it takes about the same length of time to reach me as V-Mail. As you see I'm writing this letter with ordinary paper. By the way, please include stationery (lots of it) in the package I hope you can send. I mentioned other items in my V-Mail that I would like. Just add this with it. Thanks.

Now to tell you a little about myself and this country. To start off with I still have the boil on the back of my neck. It's coming along nicely but my neck is very sore and stiff. Don't worry about it because I have been on sick call each day for the past week. The doctor changes the dressing and tries to get some of the core out each time. Like I told you I had a boil back in the States. I had it lanced three hours before I stepped on board the ship. Each day on board I had to get the dressing changed and I believe there is hardly any scar

on my cheek at all. Well, that's about all on the boils. I don't know the cause of them but I hope I don't get anymore.

I had a swell time coming across but the food wasn't any too good. When we were out about five days we were all give a cloth bag which you use for toilet articles. It had a soap case, soap, a deck of cards, a pocket reading book, a booklet about England and its money system also the people and how we must behave. It's really very interesting. Also included was a pad, pencil and envelope. These were given by the Red Cross. It was a very good gift and we all liked it very much.

When we landed we boarded a train and for the first time in my Army career we ate Army K Rations. These were issued before we landed. The trains over here are also very nice. Each car is divided into compartments. There was four in ours including myself. All the people looked very glad to see us and waved and called us YANKS. Boy, I felt like I was on top of the world just like you see in the movies in the States. Before we left the station the Red Cross gave us doughnuts and coffee, reading material and gum. Oh, also American cigarettes. Oh, another which I forgot, the Red Cross gave us on board the ship was a carton of Camel cigarettes. So you see I have plenty to smoke. Speaking about smoking I have plenty of pipe tobacco (Relvalation) which I get from my weekly rations. Listed below is what I get for the week. It averages about 65¢ in U.S.A. money.

- 3 pks. tobacco (pipe) (Relvalation)
- 1 bar of soap
- 2 razor blades
- 5 pks. book matches
- 4 bars of American & English candy

So you see I get quite a bit for the week.

Now to get back to what the country and people are like. To tell you the truth I feel like I'm still back in the States instead of over here. It reminds me of some of our own states but this is where I'm at now. The towns are not very big. In fact, very small. There's not much doing either the towns average from anywhere from one to four miles from where I am. We get passes at night. They are only good for five hours and the fellows that get them only go down to the Inn and drink. So far I haven't touched a drop but the way the fellows describe the stuff I'm not interested in drinking. On Sunday passes are given out from 12 noon to 6 in the evening. These are the ones I'm interested in. It's daylight and usually very nice out and I go for a long walk to see the place and come back. We can't buy anything to eat in any town. In fact, we can't buy anything but drinks because food is rationed for civilians just like in the States. Boy, they really have blackouts over here. When you go out on a night pass you have to wear a white hanky on your coat.

We have shows (movies) every night. They change every two days. It doesn't cost a thing but the only catch is that it's old pictures. Last night I saw They Got Me Covered with Bob Hope. I saw this a long time ago in the States but it's good to see them over. The night before this we had a cowboy picture with Gene Autry. It stinks but its something different.

I can't say how long I'll be here in this place but I'll let you know if any change in my address. We seem to be having mail call each day (two each day). Its old back mail but it's mail from the States that's all that counts. Write regular please (AIR MAIL LETTERS NOT V-MAIL).

Well, that's about all. You should be up to date now. What has happened to since you last saw me? I hope you liked the telegram I sent. Just don't worry about me I explained everything when I was home, remember?

Will close now but please tell everybody to write me Air Mail. Thanks and hurry with the package if possible. Everything is fine including the food. We eat American made food by the way.

Love and kisses,
Your son,
Teddy

1-9-1944
Hi Folks,

Well, no mail so far. I can't understand it. I know you write regular. Oh, before I forget, I believe you have to show a request to send a package over here. Well, this is a request. Show it to the man in the Post Office.

Well, nothing new except I have K.P. my first time here. How's everything at home? Has anything new been added to the house? When you write I hope it's a big book.

I can't think of anything else to write.

Give my best regards to all at home, Aunt Elsie, Uncle Fred and Johnny also next store.

Your son,
Teddy

1-11-1944
Hi Mom, Pope and Sis,

I'll start this letter now but I don't know when I'll mail it. Now to start off with don't worry about me if you don't hear from me regular. I don't know when and how much time I'll have for myself to keep up my letter writing so please don't expect to hear from me every other day. Let everybody know that I can't write regular. I received a Christmas card from Marion Koenig yesterday (Jan. 10, 1944). This is the only mail I received in the last week and a half.

Now I really have a big surprise in store for you. Well, there is a fellow with me now with the name MANIFOLD OMAN. The officers thought that he was my brother and started to keep us together. I think that is the reason I haven't received any mail. They seem to have my mail together with this other fellow named OMAN. I got some mail regular but it was this other OMAN. He is also classified as a carpenter. Boy, have they balled up. I hope they have the mail fixed up so I can get some of your mail. Well, I hope you understand what I tried to explain. Oh, he is also a Swede.

Now another thing I can't write much on but I'm at a different place but I can't say what I'm doing. Just don't worry. I'm in good hands.

Please hurry with that package as soon as possible that I requested. I'll close now. Let Mildred know about me. Thanks.

Best regards to all at home.

Your son,
Teddy

1-20-1944

Dear Mom, Pop and Sis,

Well, here I am again. The only thing new is my address.

Pvt. T. R. Oman 32890383
A.P.O. 635
91 Station Com. Sq. Det. F
c/o Postmaster, New York City
New York

I can't say what I'm doing or where I am but one thing about what I'm doing, I like it very much. I work regular hours and also have time off every now and then. I believe this is the best break I ever had since I entered into the Army.

Let everybody know my new address. It's very important. In other words, let them know my address as soon as possible. I should receive mail in about a week so now I have something to look forward to. Before I forget, what is the date of Mildred's birthday?

Enclosed is a Army poem that I got quite a kick out of.

Well, I'll close now but just write as usual. The other OMAN is right with me. We sleep and work together. By sleeping I mean in the same hut.

Best regards to all at home and don't forget about the new address.

Your son,
Ted

Story of a Pilot Who Doesn't Fly

There they go again, those Thunderbolts,
Those are the ships I know how to fly,
Those are my pals taking off in the blue,
I wish them luck, for here I die.

There were 30 of us, of whom 27 are dead,
Yet they keep me here on the ground all day
When I could be up there getting revenge,
Don't they know I've a debt to repay?
We were all buddies, from the first day we met,
We ate, drank, and fought side by side,
Danced with our women, and loved the same ones,
They won't return but still I can't fly.
They took my heart when they took my wings,
I guess you can call it just one of those things,
But I want to be up there for Sammy and Joe,
But I'm grounded, forever, I guess you know.
The other two go up for all the rest,
And even though I'm not the best
I could be up there, they need me I know,
So please let me fly, put my heart at rest.
I did nothing wrong, why don't they admit,
Just give me a gun, and send me right in,
I'll fight on the ground till this Red Tape gets thin,
And I'm given my wings all over again.

Lt. William R. Kaulta

1-23-1944
Sunday
Hello Folks,

Well, another day and another letter. I'm now at a different place again. I'm fine and doing something I like very much. I have quite a lot of freedom too. I can have four 24 hour passes a month or one 48 hour and two 24 hour passes a month. Of course I can get a six hour pass every night. So you see I'm doing fine and have time enough to see England and do different things.

We have a swell Red Cross club where I'm at now and boy they're swell to all the fellows. When I don't go to town I usually go over to the Red Cross club and do different things. We also can buy something to eat so you see I have a little of something before I get to bed. We have plenty of reading material such as Life, the Army weekly Yank, etc.

Well, I guess that's about all for today but please hurry with that package if possible. Thanks.

Best regards to all at home. Don't forget to let everybody know my new address.

Your son,
Teddy

2-2-1944
Hello Folks,

Well, here I am again nothing much to write at all. I haven't receive any other mail since I got those letters the other day. I'm still working regular and have a swell boss over me. He's a Sgt. and reminds me a little of Pop. In plain English he doesn't give a damn for anyone.

The fellow I brought home (my buddy) isn't with me. I'm with a entire new gang of new fellows. He's working at a different place than I am. I believe I get the best of the deal between us both.

I'll close now but please write regular but you will any how. How's Baldwin?

Your son,
Teddy

2-8-1944
Hi Folks,

HURRAY! I received 24 letters today. Received your Dec. 30, Jan. 3, 6 and 15 letters also two from Gerry, Jan. 14 and 15, a Valentine and two letters from Bertha, three letters from Mildred and they sound pretty good. She wants a request from me to send me a birthday package. Two letters from S2/c William Hayse also cards from Minnie, Bydyk, Mildred, the Murchecks, Rosemarie Minnie's friend and from Van Wyck Church. So you see my mail is starting to catch up with me now. Everything is fine over here. I just hope to receive those packages soon.

I'll close now and hope to catch up on my mail. Oh, also got a letter from Hoffman.

Love to all,
Teddy

2-9-1944
Hi Mom, Pop & Sis,

I'll just continue this letter from the one I wrote yesterday. You mentioned in your letter about fixing up my rooms upstairs. Well, how about fixing up that kitchenette? I haven't received any papers so far but the fellows over here do receive them. Please keep in good contact with the Lindquists. Also I feel very bad that Pop didn't go with you to the Lindquists. So please Pop, keep up my social life for me. Please promise.

When you send my package don't forget the picture of the family. I also got two letters from Willie Hayse. He is going to be a gunner and is expecting to leave the States soon.

Well, I'll close now. I didn't receive any mail today. In fact, I didn't expect any. Don't worry about me.

Love,
Teddy

2-15-1944

Dear Mom, Pop & Sis,

I didn't write you for the last two days. Please excuse me. I had a two day pass and me and another fellow visited one of these English homes. We met this fellow around the place I'm at now. His name is Stan Thomson. We stayed that the American Red Cross for the first night and spent the next night at his house. We had a swell time because this Englishman is just like the average working man back home. He even went out of his way to entertain us. He's a swell fellow and we appreciated everything he did for us. He invited us out to his house again. He has a son eight years of age and just lost one a little while back. His wife is expecting another one in about six months so me and my buddy (not Charlie) bough some baby clothes. You need coupons to buy clothes over here. So we had to buy the things that wasn't rationed. We also bought a toy for his son. He didn't (the father) like the idea of us spending our money on them but what good is money if you can't spend it? We met his family and mother-in-law and sister-in-law. The sister-in-law isn't bad on the eyes either. She's 18 and reminds me a lot of the girls back home. Don't worry about me. I have my girl back home and have something to look forward to.

The other fellow I spoke about is from Texas and is married and has a son. You know I pick out pretty good fellows to go around with so don't worry about me. When I come home I'll be an all together different son. I mean to the good (better). I'm learning a lot about different things I never dreamed about. Believe me this Army life gave me a different slant on life. Well, in four days I'll be 20 years old and boy I wish this war would end soon so I could go back to civilian life and prove I'm a different type of a fellow.

Boy, this is some letter. I guess I'm in just one of those moods. I haven't received any mail from you since I received that package you sent to Salt Lake City.

I'll finish this letter after we have our mail call. Until later. I'll close temporarily.

Well, here I am again. Received a birthday card and note from Aunt Elsie and Uncle Fred & Johnny. In the note she thinks I'm 21 so please thank them and explain they will have to wait for an answer. Please thank them for the card.

I'll close now. I hope you enjoyed my letter.

Best regards to all at home. No newspaper so far.

Your son,
Teddy

2/16/1944

Hi Folks,

Well, I received your pile of funny sheets today dated Jan. 30. I can't understand why you didn't use my new address. I also got a Pretty Girl from Kay Flood. As I write this letter to you all the fellows around me are reading the funnies. Nothing new except I wanted to tell you before that I'm in the Eighth Air Force. I wasn't sure if I could mention it before.

Oh, please send my civilian shoes, candy, my lighter and a new pen. The one I'm using now is going bad now. I'm having a lot of trouble with this one.

I'll close now. Best regards to all.

Your son,
Teddy

2/18/1944

Dear Sis,

Hello Sis, how are you? I'm fine and doing the Same Old Stuff. How's everything at home? I received a few of your letters and couldn't write before so I'll write now. Please excuse me but I have been very busy answering other mail. I didn't forget you. In fact, I brought a package of 12 post cards of Manchester, England. I don't know when I'll send them so please be patient.

I'll close now but please write soon.

Your brother,
Teddy

2/21/1944

Hello Family,

To start off with I received your Feb. 3 letter (V-Mail). I also received a birthday card from Helen Walton and a letter from Inez, also a newspaper (Mirror) from Mildred. Well, that's all the mail I received for the day.

Nothing new over here just SOS. I still don't feel right about my allotment being stopped. I feel fine and I'm planning to visit that Limey family again in about a week and a half or two.

Well, I guess that's about all for today. As you see I haven't said anything so I guess you will have to make up for it in your letters.

Best regards to all at home.

Your son,
Teddy

2/23/1944

Hi Mom, Pop & Sis,

Well, I finally received a letter from you addressed to my present address. It was dated Feb. 8 (Tues.). You made a good guess when you put 91 Station Comp. Sq. Det. F. I'm glad to hear Gerry enjoyed the cablegram I sent. I haven't received any packages so far or Long Island Presses.

Please send a load of Air Mail envelopes and Air Mail stationery. Don't forget a load of it. Also my civilian shoes, military ties (3) 1 khaki 2 black. Received a dollar from Sally and Billie for my birthday.

Best regards to all at home. The Gay Nineties on radio now in our barrack.

Your son,
Teddy