

Letter #89 'Somewhere in France',
Tuesday 9 Jan 45

Dear Alice, Mother, & Gang,

It seems that the longer I am here, and the farther I get, into things, the less there is to write about. The main reason is, probably, because this area isn't so well equipped, with day-rooms, Red Cross Service Clubs, ^{etc.} as England was. A person with the lazy inclinations that I have, requires a little more time to function properly, under more rugged conditions.

Along with the lack of conveniences, there are also numerous

2.

Other constant reminders, of the fact, that, to coin a phrase, 'there's a war on'.

As none of my letters would be complete, without a 'bitch', about the mail situation, I will start out with that. It's been a month now since I have received any mail, at all. I expect also, that I will be getting mail direct, to this APO number before the mail from England reaches me. Whenever you change your address, over here, you have to start out corresponding, all over again. The only package

3.

I have received, was the Xmas package from Ma Anderson.

It reached me on Thanks-giving Day. From the last reports I had, there are at least eight more somewhere along the line. I'll keep my fingers crossed, and hope that they don't all arrive at the same time, as it would be impossible to carry that along, as we are loaded beyond capacity with essentials. It's general practice, to share what you have with your buddies, so nothing will be wasted. I've

shared in several other's packages, so I haven't missed out completely.

What do you think of the money I have sent home? I drew a partial pay the other day, 496 francs (French) which is what we receive for ten dollars. I sat in a poker game for a while today (I won about three bucks, for a change), and it was what might be call an international game. In the course of an hour, I handled an American dollar-bill, an English ten-shilling

note, German five & ten mark notes, and French, Belgian, and Luxembourg franc notes of various denominations. There are very few coins in circulation, and you can imagine what a card-game is like, with all those little bills. If you get a couple dollars worth of the small notes you can't shut your wallet. The new issue, 'invasion money', is smaller, in most cases, than the old. If you hold one of the old French notes up to the light, you can see figures, watermarked in the

paper. The new issue of coins, is made of aluminum, while the old are of brass, silver, nickel, or what-have-you. I never expected when I started saving coins, that I would wind up, chasing them down over here. That just goes to show you, how easy it is to get in trouble.

Under different circumstances, I think I would like this country, Belgium and Luxembourg especially. The country itself is nice, except right now, when it's so damned cold. The people, as a whole, seem

nice enough, and, in the
larger cities, there seems to
be little evidence of the fact
that there's a war on. Except,
of course, the areas that
were bombed, or shelled, or
otherwise ruined. The people
are dressed better, and seem
to enjoy life more here,
than they do in England.
This Paragraph is being written ~~in~~ in
Luxembourg. I moved again, since
I started this letter. I stopped writing
to see the show (it was very good,
too), and didn't get a chance to
continue this, until now. The show
had three guys, and four gals (oh boy!),
I don't know whether that kind of

stuff is good for a G.I.'s morale, or not. It's a welcome change, though.

I guess that will be about all for this time. Am enclosing a German twentymark note, which I just acquired. I have some more French coins, but I don't think there will be room in this letter, for them, so I will send them later. In closing, I wish to thank you for writing, even though your letters, haven't been reaching me, yet. They should, soon,

I remain, with love,

Johnny