

Letter #202 Rec'd April 30th Somewhere in Germany,
Wednesday - 11 April '45

My dear Alice

After a lapse of a couple of days, I received some mail and a package, today. Your V-mails, #98, and #99, and air-mails #101 + #102. Also received Frank Birchall's air-mail of April 1st, and Max's V-mail of March 27th. - The package, was yours, of Feb. 23rd. and it all arrived in good condition, and, at a time when it is most welcome. Haven't sampled, yet, but will when I finish writing. - Had some free time, this afternoon, and while I was waiting for the mail to come in, I fixed up some to go out. I made up four packages, and addressed them all to Birchall. Hope they all get there. One is a German gas-mask, complete in its carrying case. Another, has a couple of Hunt field caps, one summer and one winter; some shoulder and collar patches, and some Nazi insignia with the eagle and swastika. Another, has three bayonets and scabbards. One is all I wanted, but

it was just as easy, or easier to wrap a package with three, than with one. The fourth, has more shoulder patches and collar insignia, some Red Cross brassards, with Nazi stamps on them, and two bottles of perfume. I am looking for cap with a lot of stuff on it that will come somewhere close to fitting Tommy, I had one, but I laid down for a minute, and some other souvenir hunting G.I., took the ornaments off it, so now it's not worth sending. Also have a canteen (Jug), but the mail arrived before I figured out how I could send it. It will take a pretty big box for a hat; maybe I can send both of them in the same box. That's the trouble with this souvenir business, when there's plenty of them around, there isn't the time or materials available; when they're available, there's nothing to send. One of these days the mail clerk, is going to ask for the money he has coming for the postage on my packages, and it will probably be plenty, as I haven't paid

for any of them, yet. I shouldn't have any trouble though, as I was paid recently, and haven't had a chance to spend anything, since I went to Brussels. My present capital, is approximately 450 marks (\$45.00). I've played poker twice, and each time, I won. - Today's package, I noticed, had a deck of cards, which we needed. Will see if I can run my 450 marks up to a thousand or more, whenever we get the chance to play. - Letter #98 - No, I wasn't in Holland because of a cold. I can't write about why, as the censor would frown at that. Don't send any gum, we get plenty of it here. The same goes for pineapple. - #99 - I thought John Leide had married someone else, too, but his letter referred to Eileen, so, that must be right. - #101 - Regarding the flat. I would much rather you give it up, than put yourself back in bed trying to maintain it. I surely wouldn't appreciate your being back in a plaster cast. The flat isn't that important. I would much rather return and find you

well, at your mothers, than sick in bed at the
flat. Don't misunderstand me, (I usually use the
wrong words, when I try to put something like
this over), I appreciate what you're trying to do,
but I also know you, and your nature that
won't permit you to give up when you're licked.
You do what you want to do, but remember that
I am coming home to you, and not the flat.
Don't pay too big a price for it. I have told you
before, that I would be more at ease, if you
were with your mother. I don't like your being
alone, and working too. — #102 mention Gorman,
and your wanting to move when I get back. The
above paragraph, is your authority to do that any
time, and the sooner you do, the better I'll like it.
That's about all for this time I guess. Will drop
a note to my mother, and try to answer
my other letters. Hoping that this finds you
okay, and that this thing winds up, soon.
Missing you an awful lot, and loving you
more, I remain,

As ever,

Johnny

P.S. Give my regards to the gang. J.