

Oflag 64,

July 10, 1944

Mr. Richard H. Torrence (thru. the American S.A.O.)
2211 Barnard Street,
Waco, Texas.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Torrence,

By means of the International Red Cross, I am sending these pictures that were taken at Dick's funeral in hopes that they in a small measure will give you comfort in the grief that his death has caused all of us. I have been closely associated with Dick all of his career since we mobilized and loved him no less than a brother. I tried the best I knew how to give him comfort in time of trouble that had been imposed upon him due to no fault of his own and I enjoyed beyond words his comradeship. He was one of the finest men I have ever known. In writing to you I think nothing more appropriate could be said than was once said by one of our famous men in a situation similar to the present one and I take the liberty to quote it:

"In the untimely loss of your noble son, our affliction here is scarcely less than your own. So much of promised usefulness to one's country, and of the bright hopes for one's self and friends, have rarely been so suddenly dashed as in his fall. In size, in years, and in youthful appearance a boy only, his power to command men was surpassingly great. This power, combined with a fine intellect, an indomitable energy, and a taste altogether military, constituted in him, as seemed to me, the best natural talent in that department I ever knew.

"What was conclusive of his good heart, he never forgot his parents. The honors he labored for so laudably, and for which in the sad end he so gallantly gave his life, he meant for them no less than for himself.

"In the hope that it may be no intrusion upon the sacredness of your sorrow, I have ventured to address you this tribute to the memory of my young friend and your brave and early fallen child.

"May God give you that consolation which is beyond all earthly powers."

I can say that the attributes above are without reservation when applied to Dick - I know you and your family only through him but by that knowledge alone my respect for each of you is no less than it was for him. To you Mrs. Torrence whom he called "Bess" there could be no greater love from a son by birth, and to the little girls an affection immeasurable. When the war is over, if I may be permitted to visit you, I shall give in detail a full account. You may be assured he was buried with the tenderness and care commensurable with our devotion to him. I have recently visited his grave and it is well cared for.

Sincerely your friend in a common affliction,

(Signed) Clarence M. Ferguson
Captain U. S. Army
P.O.W. #3074