

COPY

June 19, 1944

Dear Dad & Cis:

Well, here I am in Germany. I really get around. Hope you got the two short messages and telegram I've sent. Was captured May 29th. We made an attack on a hill, and it was successful until a Mark 6 tank had to butt in and ruin everything. I was off to the left of the hill when it rolled up, and the last I saw of my company, it was heating a hasty retreat. All my platoon got away except two boys and myself, and one of them was wounded, so there was nothing to do except stay. We lay hidden there for a time right under their noses. At dark it would have been too easy to get away, except for the wounded guy, so there was nothing to do except surrender and get him to a doctor. So that was it. Two Germans helped us carry him.

Then I went from one place to another that night and to four different camps in Italy before coming to Germany. We were all surprised at the courtesy with which we were treated most of the time. I had a long talk with one German officer. He says Germany will fight to the very end. The surprising thing to me was how few German officers there are, and they are surprised at how one can come up so easily from the ranks in our army.

We went thru the Brenner Pass in 40 & 8 box cars with straw in them. The Tyrol was breathtakingly beautiful. Arrived here June 10th. Am now at a semi-permanent camp with mostly English officers. We (Americans) expect to be shipped to permanent camp soon.

Getting plenty to eat due to Red Cross - get parcel every week and fifty cigarettes a week, which are used as a medium of exchange. The main trouble is getting exercise. Very little room, and weather is rainy and cold now, but we play volley ball, soft ball, rugby, etc. and get to take a two hour walk twice a week. On Saturday night the orchestra (quite good) plays and we have songs. Also the English officers are in process of putting on "Pygmalion". Also, I'm drinking tea four times a day. One of my best friends is an English Captain whose sister went to school in High Wycombe. We get only the German news here. Please write Jena MacAuslane, 44 Benjamin Rd., High Wycombe, England and have Cis send her some soap, cosmetics, etc. You will only get about three or four communiques a month from me. Send me Luckies and lots of them and chocolates. Hope I get a chance to spend some time in Paris after Armistice. Don't worry about me. I'm in fine health. Hope you've been saving strawberry preserves.

See you soon, I hope.

Lots of love to all,

R. C.