

2-20-45

Dear Folks,

It has been several days since I've written so there has probably been quite a gap between my letters. I hope you haven't worried because I've been safe and well as a boy in rug. That is as safe as a small town boy like me can be in the city of London. Tommy, Johnny, and I went together and we really had quite a time. We couldn't get a hotel room on account of crowded conditions and had to be content with a room (6 beds) at the American Red Cross. It was a bed with sheets, a mattress, and a pillow. I could hardly sleep the first night, not being used to such scanty things.

We got up Sunday morning, rather late, but it was still morning, and started out to see the sights. I think we saw most everything except No. 10 Downing St. Buckingham Palace was the biggest disappointment of the lot. We saw Big Ben, The London Bridge, The London Tower, Picadilly Circus, and Westminster Abbey. Oh yes, The House of Commons, and the House of Lords and every other place of Historical interest including the part of London that was leveled by bombs. A good portion of London hasn't been hurt very badly but other portions are ruined. If at any time you should start to feel sorry for ~~I~~ Germans because of the

Damage we are doing to their
towns, take my word for it and don't.
I know that I never gave it much
thought until I got over here at
close quarters, now I can think about
it all I want to and never feel
sorry for them. I also met a rather
nice girl. Women definitely are
not hard to meet but those that
I wouldn't be ashamed to ~~be~~
seen on the street with are. This
one name is Ray and she is in the
A. T. S. She is ~~so~~ awfully cute, for
an English girl, and I intend to
write to her. That is I intend
to ~~to~~ write one and thank ~~of~~ her
for the sheets she is going to send
me. She can buy them and I can't.

Ha, clever aren't I? That reminds me, I guess the Castellanos have moved back by now. Tell them welcome home, and handy for me.

The best part of my leave was coming home, I never thought I'd call this place home, and finding a stack of mail. There were about five each from Mama and Amy, and from Brother and one from Marcia. She got my address from Tommy, who had written to Audie. She just had to thank me for the lovely bracelet whether I wrote to her or not. You can tell that one to Iris. All of the mail still had my old address so I still can't say which is faster V or Air, however so far V mail is

running just a little bit a-
head. Mama, in case you are wondering,
your letters have gotten as far as
Seymour knowing the light all
night to keep his guinea pig warm,
Papa promising to go fishing as soon
as he gets his hooks caught up
and your sending Papa's parts to the
obscene without emptying his pockets.
I'm ~~as~~ anxiously awaiting the
second chapter to all of these
installments. I think I've already
answered all of the questions in previous
letters before they were asked except one.
No, I didn't ~~do~~ or have it gotten any
mail that was written to me during my
brief stay at Topeka. The rest of
them I can't answer until I
get back

(over)

I intended to stop on that last
page but since I ran out of paper
too soon^{so} I'll have to do it on
the back side of the sheet.

That is about all for to-night so,
all my love,

Joe