

Somewhere in Luxembourg
Oct 10, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad, & All,

Got a big surprise yesterday when I went to the mail tent and found two letters. One from you and one from Mel. They were both mailed on the 25th Sept. They really got over here pretty quick. I sure wish they would all get over here that fast. Before I forget it, our A. P. O. has been changed to 151.

I haven't told you about our home yet, have I? It really is alright. We are staying in a monastery that the Germans had used as a school or something. It's a beautiful building although it is cluttered up a bit with trash right now. We don't have it all cleaned up just yet but we will shortly. There are three of us in our room. Two would be just right but we have to crowd a little, so we don't mind. Besides, the two fellows I'm with are good boys and it gives us a little more company. We have a big locker for the three of us, hot and cold running water and tables and chairs. One of the boys, Miller, and I have a double decker bed and Harvey Mohr, the other one, has a single. They were pretty lucky and found unsprung mattresses. I have a regular mattress on the slats. It's a little bit softer than the floor, but heck you can't have everything. Just outside our door in the hall, there is a bathroom, tub and all. Needless to say, it is usually pretty well occupied all the time.

I bet Gil sure was glad to get home. He was gone just about two years, wasn't he? If he is still home when you get this letter, tell him I said "Hello." Jimmy sure must have had quite a time with that ram. I bet he steers clear of it from now on. I can just hear the whining at home when you try to get him up in the morning. Just wait till it really gets cold. You said I was about as big as Jim when I started to school. I'm sure glad he doesn't have to go up the zig zag like I did. Remember when it was icy how I used to get stuck about half way up. I just

Stopped to think of that and it really seems funny
Mother, I can remember one morning I got stuck
almost at the top and you came out on the porch
and yelled to me to quit poking around get to school
at the time I was on all fours trying my damndest to
make the top. It wasn't funny then but it sure is now.
I don't remember whether I made it or not.

We all had a big laugh discussing long underwear
the other night. Most of us wear them and it reminded us
of when we wore them when we were little. Of course I
didn't wear them long, but I can well remember. We all
agreed that when they were clean, ~~when~~ you could hardly
get your foot through the leg, but with each passing day
the legs stretched a little more. Finally on Saturday
when it came time to change, you could wrap them around
your leg twice and you had a knot in your stocking big
enough to choke a horse. They haven't changed a bit, either.

Speaking of the dog and cat, we have a pretty red
cocker spaniel and a monkey. Of course there are
always a lot of other dogs around, but the spaniel and the
monkey are the pets. The dog's name is Rusty and he won't
have a thing to do with anyone but the fellow that owns
him. That is, unless you have something to eat. The
monkey's name is Mustang and he really is a dandy. The
two get along very well, surprising as it may seem.
Every time they get together they play like two puppies.
It's getting a little too cold now, so the monkey is
in the mess tent most of the time, as it is always pretty
warm there.

Well, it's getting pretty late and that's about
all I can think of now, so I will close. Take good
care of yourselves and tell everyone I said "Hello"

Love,

Joan.

P.S. I have written quite a few letters, I don't know
why you haven't received more than one. Maybe you
will get them in the next year or so. Anyhow I
hope you get them soon.