

NAME: Roy

RANK: First Lieutenant

ORGANIZATION: Ninth Army

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: European Theater of Operations

- The following text is directly from an original wartime letter written by Roy. This is one of many letters from Roy in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following text is presented under public domain provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text aside from an edited ethnic slur about Jewish people for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Roy writes his parents in the United States:

"21 Feb. 45

Germany

Received 3 letters, 3 packages and a card of Personna Blades last nite. The letters were from you, Mom, Aunt Annie, and my gorgeous wife. The packages were: 2 from you and 1 from the same gorgeous wife...

...Your letter, Mom, was the 15 page deal written Jan. 14-15. It was very newsy and interesting. It took a long time arriving here because it was addressed to 'A' Co. You are right; no more mountains and snow for a long time after I return home, I'll be contented to sit around a nice warm fire and read or talk. We xx wore underwear, sheets, pillow slips, ladies slips and anything white that we could get a hold of during the 'Battle of the Bulge' where we were operating in the snow. It was good camouflage and several times we were able to sneak by German outposts or observation posts without being seen. Some of this camouflage was very comical and provided us with laughs at a time when we needed a little diversional thinking. Think I told you about the battle...(near St. Vith). We were successful in sneaking into the town without being seen and capturing over 50 prisoners without firing a shot, thanks to good camouflage and a few other things...

...The poinsettia bouquet sounded beautiful. I missed them this year together with a lot of other things and people.

I have received a letter a day from Bob for the past one and a half weeks. He really keeps me informed about Washington doings. He sends me clippings from papers and magazines about my outfit which I am glad to know about...

...Am not surprised that Hugh got bitter during his stay overseas. It's not hard to do, believe me. When we get back to the rear echelon periodically we become disgusted with the actions and attitude of many of the Americans there. K _ k _ s are a dime a dozen in these jobs and they gripe about everything from the food to their inadequate quarters and the inconveniences they are suffering. Then we read in the papers about the loose treatment and handling of PWs, strikes for higher wages or shorter hours, draft

dodgers, deferment or honorable discharge of athletes so they can play ball etc. It becomes increasingly harder to take that kind of stuff the longer you are here. However, I tell the men that there will always be some people who are not willing to do their part and the best thing for us to do is to do our job well regardless, so that we have nothing to be ashamed of. God will take care of the others. We do have plenty of laughs even at the most trying times and often even laugh at our own bad predicament and misery.

I certainly do enjoy your letters. I read them several times when I have time. Am missing a USO show to write, because I enjoy writing, it gives me a sort of feeling of nearness to you all. I also want you to know how much your letters mean; my morale jumps 100% at the site of even only one letter.

Don't know that there is any number to our particular invasion district. I understand that Germany is divided into parts for occupation; maybe that is what you were dreaming about, Mom.

Hope Dad is feeling O.K. now. Did he ever receive the picture I sent him for a birthday present? I thought about you, Mom, on your birthday. Hope you had a happy one.

Thanks for all the presents. The candy, fruit cheese and shrimp really hit the spot. Had some Belgian beer and cognac to go with the shrimp last nite and Cyril received a box of crackers from home so we had a nice little feast, and Bull xx Session. Met a new officer last nite from college. He partook of our food and drink and sat in our Bull Session.

Yes, Mom, I remember that little prayer Annie and I used to say at bedtime almost word for word. I will say it often.

I just discovered that I have your letter of Feb. 8 in my pocker, Mom...

...Think I told you I was near Malmedy from Dec. 17 to Jan. 13. Lost my personal items in the bombing of that city and missed the bombing xxxxxxxx myself by 15 minutes. Had just left our kitchen when a bomb made a dxirect hit on it. I watched the whole thing from a hill overlooking the city.

The maple sugar sounds very good. Am anxious to put my choppers down on it. If you can get candy bars by the box, I would appreciate your sending some to me, Hersheys, Baby Ruths, Walnettos, Snickers or any of the popular bars would be appreciated.

Too bad about Don. I think a lot of those boys are PWs and are receiving fair treatment. My speed, good health and athletic training account for my not being a PW myself. I ran about 100 yds. through one foot deep snow one night and dove through a thick hedgerow just like a fullback carrying the ball through the line to escape from about 15 German Paratroopers.

It is comparatively warm here now and the sun is shining. This sure seems good for a change.

Tell Aunt Annie that I received her letter of Feb. 6, and enjoyed it very much. The ice box cookies sure sounded good. Actual 'rest camp' periods are only of 24 hr. duration, usually. Pretty funny about her walking into the men's room. Cyril and I had a good laugh about that. Thank her also for the clipping.

Am thinking about you all and hoping you are all well and happy.

Love

Roy."

- Roy was killed in action later in the Second World War.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the above time period and Roy's organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/BPR-1155>
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers the bombing of Malmedy which Roy mentions in his letter (reader discretion advised):**
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malmedy>