

**NAME:** Richard

**RANK:** Second Lieutenant

**ORGANIZATION:** 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE:** European Theater of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime letters written by Richard. These are two of many letters from Richard in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts aside from edited profanity for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**Richard writes his family in the United States:**

“Paris, France  
30 January 1945

I'm laying on my side as I write here on my bed. It's nice and warm – cold outside they say. What I have seen of Paris – I have seen from the window of the hospital. This building was used for a college – built in U-shape Its huge. The Eiffel Tower can be seen from one point. What I will see of Paris I guess I have seen from here now as I will be sent, I hear, to a convalescent hospital and then back up front again. Have a bed to sleep on and clean sheets between. Im so use to a German cellar, smoke, dirty as a pig all the time or foxhole life. Cold as billy h \_\_ l up front. I'm so hungry all the time. Seems like all I do is eat, eat, eat. Have oranges here. Food is good.

Officer I knew back in States...is stationed here...He is a good, clean fellow. He has a good job here in ETOUSA. Had he been with his old outfit up front in December, hard telling now where he would be. They were wiped out in the break-thru. Thats fate. Just like Uncle...that time. Taken the train he was going on originally – he would have been in that train wreck.

The war news looks good but dont be too optomistic. Unconditional surrender. Russians may get to Berlin but even so there is a lot more of Germany to take. Under present set-up, looks like every single foot of German soil and a fight to the last German is the story. There is still a long ways to go...

...No mail for some time and won't be until I get back to the outfit. Last letter I wrote you was around 20 January Much will happen between now and when I hear from you again...

...Anxious to hear from you all. I'm getting along O.K. Still kicking. All you can ask for...

...God Bless and Keep you all.

All my love to the darlings –

Your son – Richard”

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**Richard writes his family again in the United States:**

“Somewhere in France  
19 February 1945

...Don't write every day because I don't always feel like it. Takes me a whole evening to scribble a few lines. Well I am getting along O.K. Food is good. Good care. Captain said this morning that there will be planes in soon so I guess I'll be moving on to England one of these days. Two weeks yesterday I arrived here. Weather has not been good fog – rain most every day. May be several days or a week or so. There are patients with a higher priority than mine. I'm in no hurry. We have a good clean place to sleep, good food and you can't ask for anything better – except home. There are two German PP's – They are assistant ward boys. I don't know what the second 'P' means. 'Prisoner with Privileges' but that can't be right. I am only guessing as I don't know. I came from the Paris Evacuation Hospital to here by train.

I am getting along alright. No need for you to worry at all. There is only one thing I should not have said and that was what I was sent back for. Combat fatigue covers a lot of ground. Psycho-neurosis. I'm nervous, high strung like you Mother. The worry I have had PLUS what I have been thru aint too much but more than I could take. Worry has been my biggest enemy. Hope you have not said much to any one else – better you say nothing at all to anyone. You know how people like to talk and how the story grows and grows. What's the home town gossip now? I have had no mail since I left the unit and I don't expect any until I get back My mail will be traveling around the country until I get settled down again.

The war news from the Pacific has the lime light for the present moment. I've been expecting to hear anyday of the whole west wall moving. It will one of these days. The Russians are moving along. The tendency for people is to get too over – optimistic. Still a long old war – any way you look at it...

...I'm glad I could get home in July to see all of you...

...I'll say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you again Dad. I'm getting along O.K. Don't worry about me.

God Bless and keep you all.

All my love,  
Richard”

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- Richard made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
  - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the kind of combat fatigue which Richard experienced (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/FB-184>
  - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Richard's wartime organization, the 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (reader discretion advised):**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/102nd\\_Infantry\\_Division\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/102nd_Infantry_Division_(United_States))