

NAME: Chester

RANK: Private First Class

ORGANIZATION: 4th Infantry Division

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: European Theater of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime letters written by Chester. These are the only letters from Chester in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts aside from an edited derogatory term for Germans for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Chester writes his mother in the United States:

“April 6, 1945

Somewhere in Germany

I haven't had an opportunity to write to you for awhile. This letter is being written on 'J _ rr _ ' paper – the only thing I could pick up. My pen is getting pretty bad. It's like writing with an old, rusty nail. I had four letters yesterday...

...I haven't had much chance to write of late and what time I did have I tried to rest. I've been getting your mail pretty well and can't figure out why you haven't had any from me. I enjoy your air mail letters much more than V-mail because you can say so much more. However, all mail is appreciated very much.

How was your Easter parade? Today I had my first opportunity to ~~write~~ read about the Easter Parade on 5th Ave. in New York. I wish I had been one of the servicemen who took part in it. I presume that Church Services were as beautiful as ever on Easter Sunday this year...

...It'll be a great day when I can sit down to one of your swell Sunday dinners again, Mom. I won't know what to do with all the utensils, however. I'm so accustomed to having everything thrown together in a mess gear and eating it with a spoon or eating it out of the can that a plate with silverware and dessert dishes would be a novelty. I think I'll give my bed to the dog for awhile and take her place on the floor. I probably wouldn't be able to sleep in a bed with clean sheets, pillow case etc. Oh well. I guess I don't have to worry about that for quite some time yet.

This is my last sheet of paper, Mom, so I'll have to sign off. Give my regards and love to...Dad...and everyone. Until the next time I remain,

Your ever loving son,

Chester”

Chester writes his father in the United States after being wounded:

“May 10, 1945

...Don't worry about me because I'll be alright. I'm thankful to God that it's over in Europe. You always said that you and your buddies should have let Germany get a taste of war's ravages in 1918. Well, Dad, the sons of those men have accomplished it. Any town or city that tried to hold out or stop our armies was battered to a blazing heap of rubble and ruin. We entered one town where a sniper opened up in a building. Our tanks merely knocked that stone building flat to the ground. I reckon the Russians did a job on Berlin too from all reports...

...Give my best regards to everyone, Dad,

Your loving son,

Chester”

- Chester made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period (viewer discretion advised):**
https://archive.org/details/1945-03-26_Allies_Drive_Across_Rhine_To_Victory
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Chester's wartime organization, the 4th Infantry Division (reader discretion advised):**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Infantry_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Infantry_Division_(United_States))