

**NAME:** Thomas

**RANK:** Corporal

**ORGANIZATION:** 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

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

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime period letters written by Thomas. These are the only letters from Thomas 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. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**Thomas writes some friends in the United States:**

“nov 24 1945

berlin germany

sunday morning

8;oclock

this is thomas again just trying<sup>1/2</sup>to to type a letter. i am now in berlin and i dont like it very much. i know i have a long time yet before i will move to some oother place.so i might as well make the best of it. it took us about 8;hours to get here, after traveling 300miles in an open truck it really feels good to get bzy a warm fire. it just started snowing today. there is plenty of entertainment here such as movies and clubsanddances. but no matter what you do you still wish you were back home.but as for myself i hardly think of homefor i keep myself busy doing somethingallthe time tthey have a big gymnasiumn here ansd ipartipisate in some kind of sport. where ever you go around here you can see just why this country is so bad off , there is a great deal of black marketing going on . these peop these people here are on the verge of stavartion . i live in a big housev and i have the down stairs to my self. i have a big double bed and white sheets and a mattress made of feathers. ir really met a nice polish girl but i just got to know her and then i had to go i think some day i will take her back to the states with me for i reallzy klove b that girl and she loves me. that justw what is what is wrong with this army they move about too much. we are getting a lot of new men in this outfit n aadnd i have to teach them all I know .

i know you are going to noticre this letter is a little messy for i have been carrying it aro around in my pocket

well i will sign off for now

sincerely

thomas.”

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**Thomas writes the same friends again in the United States:**

[Dec 14 1945]

“This is Thomas again trying to write a few lines to let you know how things are getting along over here. Well all I am doing now days is pulling guard once every three days. It is not very cold although the snow is on the ground. The people here are really going to freeze here this winter for the army got all the coal. once in a while we find one or two persons lying on the street frozen to death. The people really dont have much to eat and they really have a black market going here. ciggarettes sell for 15.00 a pack and cand 5.00 a bar. But I do not deal with these people for I dislike just about all of them for they are the ones that brought me over here. and another bad thing is that these women go with GI's but for myself I try not to be tempted for I am trying my best to stick to my Religion. For I know that is I follow my Religion I will be much happier. For those who don't later in their life will Regret it. I like to have fun speaking with the people and all but I really try to keep away from trouble. For if people would realize that this world would not be in such bad condition if people would stick to their faith in god and follow that faith by learning about the right way of life and the time which comes after your life is finished whether you will go up above or down below. Well I am no Chaplain in preaching like this but I am just trying to explain why this world is a troubled world. It is beyond me why I have to knock these people around but I guess they will have to learn sometime that we aim to teach them the American way of Life.

Well thats all for now

Thomas”

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- Thomas made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 70s.
  - **For visual context, this link connects to original wartime period footage in the public domain that covers the above time period and location (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/ADC-5609>
  - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Thomas' wartime organization, the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (reader discretion advised):**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th\\_Infantry\\_Division\\_%28United\\_States%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th_Infantry_Division_%28United_States%29)