

Germany  
16 April 1945

Dear little sweetheart -

The first thing I want to tell you today is that I love you and think you are the sweetest wife in the world - and the second is that you are the smartest wife a man could have.

(You should see the place I'm staying in - it's an old castle and has a mill to make flour on one side. It's really up to date and is a swell lay out. I wish we could stay for awhile - your husband is getting to be quite a character - we had to clear some woods on our way to take this town and our first action took place when we ran into some Germans hiding in the woods - we opened fire and kept right on firing as we walked toward them - one of them got up and walked toward us with his hands up - they passed him on to my section to hold until we took the next town - I looked at him and blinked - "Say," I asked the interpreter - "ask this guy how old he is." He was just fifteen years old - a few minutes later two more got up and they were fourteen - a little later another got up and he was fifteen - he was wounded so badly we couldn't take him with us so the Aid man patched him up and we let him go on the road to the first aid jeep - could find

I am and stand on through the woods. I took the prisoners  
along with me and they were put in the back of the trucks  
as young or made me think of Betty Sue - they were afraid  
of it as they had killed some of our men and thought we  
were going to shoot them - we were afraid on through the  
woods we gathered more prisoners, that were older though  
our group of prisoners got so big I had to move them down on  
the road and put them up - we were doing that, with  
should come riding a night down the road but a German man  
he said he was going to the next town that we were going  
to attack to the hospital - we had to put him in the column of  
prisoners and take him with us - a little later a couple of  
guys in civilian clothes came walking down the road - they  
were added to our collection - a few more men down the road  
we added a couple of women to our group - a little later  
we picked up another woman and a group of men as she  
was in the group of men with civilian clothes as she  
about handling - they were afraid enough but not to  
take a chance as a lot of our men have been shot by  
German airplanes and it is better to be safe than sorry. They  
the time we got to our destination we had a helluva  
collection - we had German air force men, German soldiers,  
men, German fighting men, and down it I don't think the birds were  
Civilians, women, and down it I don't think the birds were

3 German boy scouts. We took them along with us and when the town was taken we took them to the "P.W. Cage" ~~the~~ as its called - the women were released and the civilians that could identify themselves were released also. The women were placed staff of your husband as I wasn't fooling when I stuck them in with our prisoners. ~~In the first place~~ They didn't have any business out there in the first place and knew we were coming by all the shooting we were doing, and another reason is that everytime I feel like feeling sorry for these folks I think about the men I've seen with arms and legs blown off and bodies of men killed by them. Then I say to myself <sup>if it wasn't for them and</sup> the Germans that voted and sanctioned the war when they were winning I would be home with my little wife where I belong.

The guys we like to get are the S.S. boys - you remember they were the special army that Hitler created and they were told they were supermen. That's the gang that burned Lydie and killed everybody in it. That's the same gang that killed about a thousand <sup>poles</sup> ~~poles~~ and Russians near a town we were in recently. A lot of the men went out to see it and said the bones are still in the lime pit and you can see hands and feet sticking out. Most of the S.S. Troops we catch isn't seem much like so.

The other day a section  
 of my company had to march to the S. S. Troop and they shot  
 them all through the head. Out of the men some ran and played  
 dead until we could get some help up and put them back.  
 When we catch those "kards" I have to almost threaten  
 to shoot our own men to keep them from leaving their lines

Yours truly  
 John Smith

These Germans brought Russians and Poles back to Germany  
 with them and "banned them out" as made - gave labor and  
 used them for all kinds of work. Some of our men speak their  
 "Hunby" language and they really tell some pretty stories - as  
 about ten poles and Russians working for them - they quit their  
 their clothes and feed them and in turn they have to work for  
 them - one girl they saw a horse mail told us she had  
 been brought from Russia three years ago and the men they  
 they worked for were really mean and her husband and the  
 other girls every chance he got - she said he kept a big  
 whip in the barn, and she kept some of the men out and chose  
 them - she said he made them go get the milk and  
 take it to the cellar - he must have been down there  
 he down late, she said, she and the other two girls would  
 to air on a bench in the cellar for a couple of hours with

nothing on but then down until he came down to help them.

He had a piece of rope to tie them up with and when he came down he would make him take off his shoes and tie his hands and pull the rope over the beam in the cell until he had more over his head than he had in his hands.

He told us that in January we were nearly unconscious - the pilot's log

one of our pilots decided on their farm and the pilot's log was broken - this guy - who was the "bureaucratic" or manager of the village - kicked him to death. We found him and put him under a cover - something must have been his my

a little as he looked a little "miserable" when I was from. They all the Germans are mean to their fellow help and frequently they don't help him to work with their German bosses and

seem contented to stay. I guess they are mostly "goons" we are going to have a big problem with the Russians in

about when we overran the prison camp - they are probably people they had the Germans as - they just gave and go to work on them right and left. At other days when we returned

around them and Russian they were killing their civilian women

right on the streets and ~~the~~ radio were all around every

They told us they wouldn't do anything to them then they did to the Russians, when they would smile - both Germans

must have been pretty rough when they had the day. The

National prisoners are being sent to the new camp as we have got them they have that in as many

6  
Now here and last was home and place. Ted was brown  
marker else they do when they get a little drunk. One of the  
German prisoners told me that when he was fighting on the  
Russian front the Russian soldiers would break up on them - as  
they were in their fat like and there were on them - as  
was so cold they would just die. He said he was  
glad he was captured by Americans so the Russians were  
mean. We must have got a reputation for being mean to a  
degree. They tell the Chinese we are "Chicago gangster". We lost the part

mean in the house for a year and might spend the  
night - something we had to put the down - then  
we give the Chinese 15 or twenty minutes to clear out. There  
was some rough down in it? Well - is a sort of being mean  
or sleeping on the ground in the rain - then when I start to  
feel sorry for them I think about the dead bodies of  
the men of my company and the police letters from  
their wives and mothers trying to find out the details

I of their death - "Kid" - this is a rough life and I'm  
so glad my little wife is in America.

Dear - I love you so much - One do wish the war would  
end so I could come home to you ~~and I could~~  
~~and I could~~ and I'll have to spoil you

too.

Do you think Everett or Fay would like to have one of these  
German Pistols? They are cute - and all have snappy cases - I  
can get them a couple if they want them but it will be sort  
of hard getting them back as they don't want us to send pistols  
home - some of the "birds" in the rear like to grab them. After  
the war I don't ever want to see a gun again but they  
might like to shoot them. Let me know and I'll see  
what I can do. I'll send some of the officers these knives  
sometime soon - they are real snappy and will make nice  
little operas - I could send a lot of junk if we would  
get a little time to wrap them up.

8/ I haven't heard from you for a couple of days so  
I guess my mail got "screwed up" when I changed  
Companies again. Making take care of your sweet self  
And don't forget your little husband sure does love you.  
Did I shock you in the letter I wrote yesterday? write me  
and let me know -

lot of love honey  
your little husband

P.S. you are an angel - "angel wings"