

27 November 43

Dear Mama -

I'm listening to a GI radio - giving us one of Beethoven's symphonies. The radio is strictly GI - even to the color - olive drab - but to us it is a beautiful mahogany floor model. It is a product of Army Service Forces, the outfit Dorothy works for - and so is the broadcast we hear a product of ASF. There is absolutely no advertising, or commercial "plugs" - which improves the programs wonderfully. In my opinion the USO should turn all their funds, property, and anything else they may have of value, over to the ASF and cease operations.

2/

I have seen a total of two USO shows since leaving the States - either of them could be purchased, bag & baggage, for a very small sum. For my part, I'll side with the A.S.F. I notice in the County paper that you've got a big "USO drive" on. It may be OK - I know USO has its good points too, but I still think the money would be placed to a better advantage if it went for the purchase of bonds. Even then I cringe at the thought of so much of it going into the pockets of the millions of worthless Federal employees - such as OPA for an example. I wish Washington would wake up - even a war won't do it.

3/

Oh on the birth certificate - you needn't apologize - I am only grateful to you for doing it for me. There is plenty of time.

I remember Lee Newbie - I think he'll make you a good hand.

Glad to hear Dad is better - sure is good for him to be home. I knew him well enough to know that is what he always wanted. And I can certainly see his side of it now.

Oh, my goodness! I almost forgot to thank you for the nice gift you sent. I never have very much in it - don't need it. But I wear it - I can save the wallet you sent. It's too nice to get mashed up in a Gd pocket anyway. Bernice's package came today - I'll

4
write her tonight.

Bill Jones wrote me again and gave me Kenneth's address. I lost it, though, and would like to get it again if you have it. I haven't written to him in ages.

Your hopes were granted - we did have a nice Thanksgiving dinner. No printed menu this time, however, so here it is in my scrawl - Turkey, gravy, potatoes, dressing, cranberry sauce, peas, olives, celery, tomato + lettuce salad, fruit (pears, ^{tasty, tho!} raw, ml), nuts, mince pie, cookies, candy, ice cream, coffee. If you are scratching your head in perplexity as to my getting on the outside of all that - I didn't. But I certainly made a gallant effort. I didn't overlook a single

5/

item - I went back for a second helping of the pie which was really swell. For all this we are again thankful to ASF - the same sumptuous menu went to the boys on the front line in Italy, as well as all the other fighting fronts, right down to the last fox-hole. Where's the USO?

Perhaps I'm complaining too much - I think I'll close now and drop Bernice a note of thanks - Hoping all are well.

Lots of Love,
Bill

P.S. - We're living in huts now - shut in from the storm. No more tents.