

APO 980

7 May 44

Dear Mama—

Best wishes to you on Mothers Day - I hope this isn't too late for that. No man can ever hope to pay in full the debt he owes his mother - but he can at least pay his respects and express his gratefulness. And if he keeps in mind all these things she has taught him when alone in the world he'll always get along with people. A guy who grows up in a large family under such able leadership as yours develops a pretty good sense of cooperation and fair play. Just being your son is something I may well be proud of.

If I can conduct my life so that I am deserving of you, then I have nothing to worry about. And you might tell Dad that his firm disciplinary actions during my early childhood have been a great help during my stay in the Army. Some people are prone to think such discipline is dictatorship - or un-democratic. These people have forgotten that such is necessary to match and overpower a people who have been subjected to a much more powerful form of regimentation than we will ever know.

So you've moved back to the farm again. I wouldn't just come right out and accuse

you of being restless but you have me wondering. Maybe you can see it through - maybe it will be worthwhile - I don't know how, though. Keep me posted on your progress.

I played basketball last night so I'm a little sore and stiff today. I've been playing ~~to~~ volleyball most every day, but it isn't nearly as strenuous as basketball. Sure makes me feel lots better to get some real exercise. I'll be glad when the day comes when I can do some swimming.

If you can get a copy of the historical edition of the County paper I'd like to have one. Get the editor to mail one - I have a subscription. I'm not sure you are

permitted to mail it.

How's my allotment doing? Does it come through on time? Let me know soon how the situation is - I may have to cut it down some. (Due to circumstances beyond my control) Don't worry about it - it's really nothing much - I'll tell you all about it some day.

I was awarded the Good Conduct Medal last week - for over a year's service, with a clean slate. I have over two years of course - but one year is enough to make you eligible for the medal. And I've been lucky too, in never having lost a single day on account of sickness. But that wouldn't make me ineligible.

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Take good care of yourself and write again as soon as you can. I must write to Jewell and Bernice. I heard from Billy yesterday - he's doing OK. Johnny and Russell just won't write.

Love to all,
Bill