

11 June 1945

Dear Guth —

Got your letter today & thanks very much for writing. You mustn't feel badly about missing anything because we haven't done so much. After you left us in "Mourmelon" we went up into Germany on those "10 ton truck trailers" — remember those lousy trucks, Guth? But it wasn't so bad this ride — we weren't so crowded. But I'll never forget that terrible ride to Bastogne. We rode up to the "Ruhr Pocket" near Dusseldorf, Germany and sat on the Rhine & sent a few patrols over the river, but didn't get anyone hurt. Then we rode by train & truck after the big push into Germany down into Austria & I landed in "Berchtesgaden" — Hitler's old hangout — and "beaucoup" look! Plenty of pistols — everyone has lots of Lugers & P-38's — etc. But I'll be making you jealous. We would have all traded to be in your place. From Berchtesgaden we came down to this town in the

2/
Austrian mountains - a place called
Kaprun, Austria about 20 miles S. of
Berchtesgaden. Luz fell off a motorcycle
and hurt his arm - not seriously tho.
Sgt. Talbert didn't like being 1st sergeant
so I gave him the 2nd Platoon & Sgt.
Lynch (2nd Plab.) is 1st Sgt. now.
Sgt. Alley got drunk again & we had to
cust him. Lt. Lipton is on furlough in
England just now (I mean Scotland!) &
is very happy, I suppose. I'm "sweating out"
a furlough to England to see my wife &
baby. I will go soon, I guess. We
had lots of German vehicles here. - Mc
was driving a German "jeep" for me &
then we got an American jeep assigned &
he drove that. Sgt. "Indian" Powers was
on his way home to the States & the
truck overturned & he fractured his skull
& he is hospitalized somewhere. Sgt. Strohm
(3rd Plab.) is on his way home to the States
Sgt. "Chuck" Grant got in the way of a
bullet from a drunk American & his
head is not too good - he is in a German
hospital near here & is getting better.

3/ Cpl. Joint & Davenport are on furlough to England just now & Sgt. (Supply) Smith is in the Riviera, France. We get passes for the company to Nancy, France - but the trip is too rough & not enough to do there, they tell me. Sgt. Malarkey just came back from a long stretch in the hospital - Sgt. Rhinhardt just came from the Riviera - McGrath won't take a furlough - he is saving his money.

We put in those "Bronze Stars" for meritorious achievement for all 3 campaign men & you were put in, too. & I am positive they will go thru this time. So that will be five more points for you - I will send you a copy of the General orders when your name for 'Bronze Star' comes out on it - if you keep me informed of your address. I think we will also get a Battle star for Bastogne & perhaps one for Holland but all we are entitled to now is two. If we get the other (2) it will be 10 more points.

We are all "sweating out" coming home & the set-up seems to be that we will

4/
come home before going to the Pacific. We
hope so anyhow. If we do come home,
get in touch with us right away & I
will get you right back in the regiment.
And if you don't get a promotion when you
come back, it won't be because I didn't
try. You are a good soldier, Guth & I
I hope we see you soon.

I will send you any more "poop"
I get & I will notify you when your
Bronze Star comes thru. The best
of luck to you, Guth - 'so long' for
now.

Very truly yours,
Capt. Speirs

P.S. Clark is Armorer Artificer just
now - sent Burlingame back to his
platoon - he couldn't keep your
Kraut generator going! We have regular
electricity & hot water here in Austria.

By the way you can wear your "Presidential
Unit Citation" ribbon & an Oak Leaf
Cluster on it no matter what outfit
you are in - you earned it with the 101 4/13