

May 4 1943

Dear Mother -

At last I am writing to you with a fair degree of certainty the news which you perhaps have already guessed and <sup>for</sup> which I have been preparing for these past weeks. I am at present on a train just leaving Pittsburg bound for some point I believe on the East coast. Last Sunday night we were alerted and today we left Shavango. as yet I don't know where we are going nor how long I will remain in this country. However my eventual destination will be overseas. What part I have no idea nor do I know what I will be doing.

Most of the boys from Aberdeen are with me and the whole business has so far proceeded with no great discomfort. You must know by now that eventually my restless nature would get the best of me and I would be unable to sit back and let the war go by. When I volunteered in 1940 I did so because I believed I would like the Army and also because I believed a job would have to be done. I miscalculated in the time however and came home after a year. I gave civilian life a try



but after Pearl Harbor couldn't make a go of it.  
after spending a year in New York I realized that  
only actual military work was cut out for me  
and I applied for O.C.S. Now I find myself  
on the way to the other side. Don't feel sorry  
for me as it is what I want. you mustn't feel  
sorry for yourself either as eventually many  
more will go. you will have to look at the  
whole thing in a broad way. I have been away  
before and I have been to Europe before. Everything  
turned out all right then and they will again.

There isn't much more I can say. I don't  
know much more. Perhaps I will be able to  
call you before I leave. - perhaps even see you.  
But I did want to write so that if you  
didn't receive any letters for several weeks  
you would understand.

My address as far as I know is -  
3rd St. W.F. Bachelder, 01554852  
A.P.O. 8913

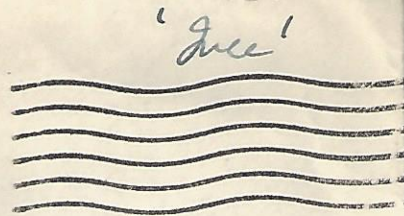
70 Portman New York, N.Y.

Love,

Fred.



D. W. Z. Baskelde  
APO 8913  
Sp Portmouth  
New York City



Mrs. W. Z. Baskelde  
2 Harvard St.  
Waltham,  
Mass.