

15 May

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Dear Mother;

I am still here in Italy, in the hospital, feeling fine, getting out in the sun every after-noon, catching up on some reading and at the same time getting well. As a matter of fact I think I will be out in about two weeks. I improved greatly this last week and the doc is confident. There is some blood test or other and my count was once thirty-three now it is down to thirteen and when it gets about eight and other things being ok I will be able to leave. Rest, a fat-free diet is the only cure. Its a strange disease, Hepatitis, and there has been quite a lot of it around. They don't know exactly how it is caught or started. Several of our people have had it and now are ok. The only thing wrong is that I had to get it just when things were breaking and I could only lie down and hear it over the radio. But then I guess that is just as well.

I suppose you are interested in the future. While I cannot say definitely, I think I will be home within three months, perhaps longer, perhaps much sooner. Whether I will stay in the Army in the states until Japan is down, whether I will get out of the Army, or whether I will go to the Pacific I cannot say. I don't know. There is however little chance that I will go directly there from here. You must understand though that everything can change on a minutes. It might turn out that I would stay here in Europe for a time and then come home for good. I doubt it though as it is most probable that whatever I do, I will come home first, even if it is to come back here later. Although the much publicized point system does not apply directly to officers and particularly to our organization, it is a factor of consideration and I have ninety two points. However in any case, aside from this little set-back, I am healthy and sound and for that we have much to be thankful for. Its been a grim struggle and is now half way finished. If I make the last half as well as the first I will consider myself lucky.

We are now allowed to tell you where we are and were. You probably know that I landed in Oran, went from there to Tunis, then back to Algiers, from there to Bari, Italy, then up the land to Florence. In the last city I made my headquarters but travelled up along the Fifth Army front when it was facing the so-called Gothic line in the rugged Appenines. About a month ago I left Florence and came back to Cecina, a town south of Leghorn. Now I am in a hospital right on the coast a few miles south of Cecina. Soon I hope to be in America.

I cannot go into detail as to what I did. In the first place it would be to involved and possibly misleading, secondly I cannot say for security reasons everything. However you might be interested in reading "Two Yanks Make an Army" in May 'American Magazine'. It will throw a little light on the subject.

Love to all,

*Jack*



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