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Letter from Somewhere in France, July 10, 1944

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10 July 1944
Somewhere in France

Dear folks;

It is very early on Monday morning in fact it is around one o'clock but since I am harassing the enemy by firing I will also take the time to write you a few lines.

Yesterday didn't seem a bit like Sunday since we didn't have any services. We were going to have a service but the rain put a stop to that. This rainy weather really is bad at the front.

Was very glad to get the letter from you folks yesterday telling all about Dads trip East. Certainly was nice you got to see New York and Niagara Falls. Did you cross the line to Canada too? Last year I saw the falls from the Canadian side. I noticed by your letters that they held up several of our letters out here just before D Day

Made it a little better for the home folks since that way there wouldn't be quite such a long space between letters as the times we were unable to write. It's a good thing you didn't know what was going on or you might have been quite worried.

I suppose you are wondering how we have been eating up here - well for combat it's just grand. We have been getting a "five" in one ration which feeds five men for one day. They have everything in this ration - toilet paper, soap, butter, breakfast food, canned bacon or canned sausage or canned chipped ham & eggs for breakfast; cheese & crackers & coffee for dinner, and for supper there is either dehydrated beef or canned beef or beans or corn or peas. Of course it's all canned but we can heat it and it tastes darn good. They even have a can of jam in each ration. The bread is a sort of hard cracker but even occasionally we get fresh bread and boy is that ever a luxury. So you see they are really feeding us well - I could go on.

for some fresh eggs though.

Today my German knowledge came in very handy. One of my men captured a prisoner so I searched him and questioned him in German. This prisoner was about 40 yrs old and a Pole. His wife was killed and his children were in captivity and he was forced to soldier for food for his children at least so I was told — it was almost like speaking Dutch to somebody back home. This man certainly was glad to be captured.

As you will notice by my address I am now in A Btry I was transferred over here the other day...

Certainly sounds as though you had some rough weather back home with all the tornadoes, just close for tonight — Praying that these few lines may find you all in good health as it leaves me
I remain
Your loving
Son
Ralph