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Letter from Germany, April 5, 1945

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Air Mail

5 April 1945

Germany;
Dear Dad, Mother and Vernon;

I am sorry I haven't had a chance to write you oftener the last few weeks but, we have really been ~~at~~ on the go and it's most difficult to find time to write even a few lines.

Of course there isn't much news we can write that you don't know about all-ready since the newspapers must be full of the recent advances on the Western front. I suppose you are wondering quite often just where I could be at now that the thing is behind us. Of course that is information which I can't tell however I

can say that it is about a hundred miles past the Rhine.

Surely missed out on Easter this year, in fact I didn't even know it was Easter until a few days after. Of course services were out of the question but as I think back to what should have been Easter I know I won't forget it for on Easter night I passed through enemy lines twice and got as far as four miles behind their lines. We made it back okay with little trouble.

These last few days I have seen an almost endless line of liberated Poles, Russians, French, Belgian, Italian and Dutch slave laborers along the roads. All of them in their pitiful clothes and with all their worldly possessions

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lashed onto their
backs flooding
along the road back to the
rear - back to their home.
From them we get glad smiles
and joyous hand waving but
to the Germans we are the oppressors.

In our rapid advance of course
there are many of the enemy left
behind. Consequently every where we
go we are checking people for their
papers to see if they are civilians
or soldiers in civilian clothes.

Recently I ran across a Dutch
enforced laborer whose name
was De Vries - he was overjoyed
when I spoke Dutch to him
after first questioning him in
German. I surely got along with
him first rate - he was about
my age.

I guess you must be having
plenty of wet weather at home
now again. Was glad to get
your letter to hear Vera was
over the mumps. Jennie
wrote about one of her nieces passing
away and also that she was
sick, I hope she got over her
flu all right. Was she home for
Easter?

I am getting along okay but
a little tired. My last cold
kind of took me for a loss and
left me a little weak, but I
managed to stay on my feet.
Hope these few lines find you
all in good health and
congratulations on your anniversary.
Love your son,
Ralph