

France  
3 Sept 44  
Sunday.

My Darling Wife,

Good morning, honey. Hope that you and Laura are well & ok. I am fine. Have been rather busy and worked until ten the last two nights. Also had too much rush work to do this morning, so could not feel free to take off to go to church. However the rush is over now & I have about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before noon chow time. I don't know when I can get a better opportunity to write so am taking advantage of the spare time.

A few nights ago about the time we quit work the local Frenchmen in the village where we are now located had a modern hair cutting & tar & feathering.  
(next sheet)

Maybe you have read of the way the Frenchmen are meting out punishment to traitors in their midst or to women who gave themselves to the Germans. Anyway, they cut off all of the hair of a woman known to have given themselves to the Germans.

The other night in this village we were able to see the whole affair conducted in the square in front of the city hall.

The villagers had only one girl here although most towns have several. They clipped off all her hair out in public and then shaved her head except right on top. After a little speech they took her inside the building and after some little time brought her out stripped to the waist, tarred & (next sheet)

feathered, and they marched her through the streets. They also had swastikas painted on both her cheeks and a large one on her head.

I never saw anything like it before, and don't care to see it again. She was a good looking girl before the barbaric treatment began but certainly a horrible mess when they finished with her.

Apparently she had caused the death of a young Frenchman by telling the Germans that the man had slapped her, the Germans killed the young man. And she had given herself to the Germans in sexual relationship.

(next sheet)

We were all curious about the hair clipping, etc. as we had heard so much about them in other towns. Of course, it is none of our business and is strictly a ~~French~~ means for the French to humiliate some of their offenders, and to mark the victims as Nazis.

Well, darling, I must sign off for now as it is almost time to resume work. Goodbye now, darling. I love you, Shirley. More later, honey.

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Hello again, honey. It looks like I won't have to work tonight so I may get a few letters written.

I don't know whether I told you or not, but we are sleeping in a building here in this town &  
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have both cots & mattresses. A few days before we arrived here the Germans had been using the same buildings and beds.

Anyway, we have been able to get a few night's good sleep on comfortable beds even if we do go back to sleeping on the ground again in a day or two.

I am very glad that Mother did deliver the bond and the box of candy to you on our anniversary. Wish I might have been there but since I could not I hope that you realized that my thoughts, my heart, my sincere love & prayers were with you then as every day.

Well, my darling, summer is about over judging from the occasional rains we are getting. It won't be long until we will  
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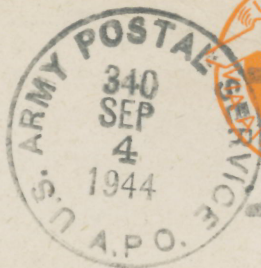
be getting lots of rain again. We have had rain nearly every night for an hour or two for the last two weeks now.

I have a nice letter from Mr. Rhudy and he sent me a card that The Co. is sending to all the former employees now in the service. It is a card stating that the "CEPCo" is proud to include among its employees with our Country's armed forces clg whose period of service in the business at time of leave on April 14, 1943 was 4 yrs and 7 mos.

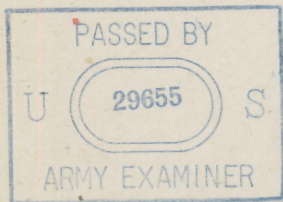
(signed) A. B. West  
President "

Honey, I believe I had better write to Rosemary, Mother, & Mr. Rhudy if I can get time now, so will say goodbye now, sweetheart. I love you, Shirley. Your loving husband,  
Cliff

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