AMBERG, Germany 18 May 1945 Friday

Dear Mother & Dad.

Now it can be told that I am in Amberg, Germany. Censorship restrictions on locations of units and places where we have been have now been lifted. In view of this fact, I am enclosing two listings showing the route of advance covered by the 38th MRU in France and Germany, and my trip to Paris.

Now it can be told that I was through the Argonne Forest and Metz and many other places where Dad spent time during the last war. As you can see from the lists, most of our time was spent at Thionville. I was at Thionville the longest that I have been at any one place in the Army. (Nearly four months).

I left the States from New York City in January 1944. We got on the boat on 17 January and sailed on the 18th. We docked in Cardiff, Wales on my birthday and got off the boat on the 30th. We went from Cardiff, Wales to Cheltenham, Gloucestershire by train. I was in the hospital outside of Cheltenham from Feb. 8th to 18th. On March 20th I went to Bristol, England with nine other men and one Officer for duty with another machine records unit for a period of two weeks. On April 2nd those of us who had been at Bristol and the rest of the unit moved to Marlborough. On June 13th we moved about five or six miles to a camp between Marlborough and Swindon, England, where we stayed until July 20th. (The pictures I sent you . from England were taken in Swindon). On July 20th we left Camp Ogbourne St George (outside Swindon) and went to Southhampton. We left from the port at Southhampton on July 22nd and disembarked on the beach in France on the 25th and 26th of July. I landed in France on the 26th even though most of the unit landed on the night of the 25th. I was with one of the vehicles that did not land until the next morning as I was assistant driver for that vehicle.

The trip through France and Germany is pretty well covered on the sheets I am enclosing. There is no mention on the sheets of bombings at St Martin-De-Landelle from August 5th to 8th nor of another air XXX raid when we were at Sculge Le-Bruant and the Jerries bombed Laval. After that we had no more sign of air raids or of German planes until we were stationed at Thionville. During the breakthrough north of Thionville last fall under Von Rundstedt we were bothered nightly for weeks by "bedcheck Charlie." One night I got dressed and undressed four times getting up to take cover and later going back to bed. The anti-aircraft really shook the ground and put up everything they had. Sometimes one could hardly hear himself think. No bombs were dropped near us, though. A few planes were shot down. It is quite an experience, but I do not care for a repeat performance.

Amberg, Germany -- our present location -- is East of Nurnberg and slightly South. You will notice on the listing of towns we went through on our last move that we went through Weimar. The concentration camp Buchenwald is located outside Weimar, and I visited that camp while we were located at Gotha. I wrote to you

about visiting two concentration camps, or possibly that was in one of the letters I asked Shirley to show you. Sometimes it is easier to write the whole story to Shirley and have her pass the letter on to you and her folks. Does she ever bring such letters up to you or do you see them? Usually, I write to you some of the same things that I write to Shirley, though, so if you read her letters there would be a great deal of repetition. Anyway, the second camp that 1 visited was the Buchenwald Concentration Camp that has received so much publicity as a horror camp. Take it from me the stories are TRUE. I saw things there that one could not expect to ever see on Earth. It is hardly believable that a race of people that can produce the civilization we saw in the cities and on the farms we passed through and where we are now could also perform such atrocities. "Atrocities" -- what a pretty word for starving humans to death or torturing them in every way imaginable. Frisoners in the camps 1 visited were forced to live in buildings that would not have made decent stables and made to sleep in box-like bins or shelves with six men to a bex about five feet wide. 1500 men slept room where the Army would have guartered 40 men.

Well, that is about all for tonight. Write as often as you can. Haven't had a letter from you in several days.

Lots of love, and may God bless you both.

Your loving son,

Clifton

18 May 45