



AMERICAN RED CROSS

24 October 1943
Sunday

Dear Sister & Brother,

Hello kids. How are you tonight? I hope that you are well and happy. I am as happy as can be expected under the circumstances, and am very well. I am busy as usual, and for tonight am duty clerk in the office. I have to sleep here even, so am using the machine to write to you and the rest of the family at home while I have a few moments. I have already written to Shirley, Mother & Dad, Mother & Dad C., Tom, and now am writing to you. I am getting sleepy and it is getting late, but I did want to write to you just to let you know that I am thinking of you as always.

I enjoyed Joe's letter very much, but was a little disappointed that my sister didn't write even a note to me after so long a time. I had had no letter from either of you since I was at Shenango, but I do realize that you might have written to me at one of my APO addresses and that I may still get a letter from you.

A few days ago I was in the Army six months. Looking back the time has gone by quite rapidly although an awful lot has happened to me in the last six months. It seems that it must have been years already since I was a happily married civilian with a sweet wife, a nice little apartment, and a cute little baby. I can only dream of the happy days past and relive my memories or else ~~XX~~ dream of happiness in the future.

At least I am doing my best and am living a clean life. I know that when this War is over I can go back to my wife, my baby, my family and my friends with an inner pride and a clear conscience. That is a lot more than a lot of soldiers can say. I get real satisfaction out of my prayers, and honestly believe that God will be with me when I need Him. I thank the good Lord for giving me the opportunity to be here in this office. I am really glad to gain the experience that I am getting, and I have made some friends here. I am getting mail from home again, and I am keeping busy. (next sheet)

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies" and "To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy" The Charter of The American National Red Cross. By Act of Congress January 5, 1905.

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This camp is far from the best, but at least I get good food, a place to sleep, am working and am keeping busy. I have very little spare time and do not have time to worry or to become lonesome & blue. I go to a lot of shows with buddies here in the office, but I get so much real pleasure from going to a show and forgetting all about the Army for a few hours that it is well worth the time. I really do thank the good Lord for giving me the opportunity to stay here and to work in this office. I am honestly glad that I missed my shipment. However, it may be a matter of only a few days until I may be assigned to another shipment and have to leave here. Anyway, I will have gained some very valuable experience in Army clerical work, and will have had a few weeks of almost happy Army life here. I have enjoyed my stay here in Co. B more than any of my Army life to date. A few months ago I would have thought this life here pretty bad and would have hated the camp, but am getting used to this sort of life now. This life here is far better than I may have to put up with very soon, anyway, so I can be very thankful that I am here at least for the present. Who knows where I would be if I had gone out with the shipment I was on?

Well, kids, that is about all I have to say tonight, but I will write again. Be good, God Bless you. I'll be thinking of you and praying for you. Lots of love.

Your brother,

FROM

Walter S. Hallup ASN 39570918

Co. D Replacement Pool

Camp Patrick Henry

Newport News, Virginia

Free

Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Van Straten

839 High Avenue

Redlands, California

Oct. 24, 1943

