

1/ Africa
Nov 27, 1942

Hello Go,

Some stationary, huh!
This is all we can buy
here, and I'm just about
out. Funny how fast it
disappears when there is
nowhere you can replenish
your supply.

There is a lot I have
to tell you, but first I must
ask you if you received my
other two letters. If so my
letter might make sense,
if not I don't know.

Before I tell you
about the so called "dark
continent" I'm going to put
in one more slight request

2/

That is that you send me
a ^{year's} subscription of the "Rocky
Mountain News." We are all
dying for a look at some
good old American newspa-
pers. If you can have them
send their back numbers
beginning with Oct. 20, and
including all their numbers
between said date, and the
date of the subscription, do so.
Very few of us have
subscriptions to papers.
Not one of us of the Rock
Mountain Region receive
any. So this will be
greatly appreciated by us
all! You pay out of my allotment
Note, the new address!
Now about Africa. There

really isn't much we are able to say. We haven't been allowed into town until yesterday. There isn't much there. Everything is rationed, but if you can buy, ~~many~~^many of the things are quite cheap. The towns are blacked out every night so everything closes up after dark. There is nothing doing ^{at all} after dark.

The rate of exchange is 75 French Francs for a dollar. Beer, wine sells for 2 francs a glass. But ~~their~~ beer is very flat, ~~their~~ wine very different. However many of the boys manage to

4/ to get quite inebriated.

The people here have not seen candy for over two years. Sugar is a real luxury. Gasoline is a thing of the past. Vehicles use charcoal burners. Usually you see a car with a trailer attached, ~~the~~ on the trailer is a contraption that looks like an upright water tank; this is used for the burning of charcoal. It usually takes some five minutes of cranking to prime the things, then you are lucky if it starts. These cars (most of them buses) are very slow, and carry passengers on the roof. I suppose ~~these~~ ^{these}

5/
passengers are second class
for most of them are natives.

Speaking of natives
here you have the height
of poverty, filth, ill nourishment
and ignorance. Their intelligence,
I believe in many cases, is
hardly any higher than
that of an animal.

For an example,
while the fight was still
on, we were dug in
fox holes, wishing we had
dug them fifteen feet deep,
— the lead from machine
guns and tanks whistling
all around — we wondering
when one would land in
our fox hole, — yet they
had the nerve and ignorance
to walk straight up ~~without~~

6/ to our fox holes (without so much as even flinching a little) and ask us for cigarettes, chewing gum and candy. In the thick of the fight they would walk from fox hole to fox hole begging. Yet very few of them were wounded. If one of us had so much as even stood up we would have been hit sure.

The day the Armistice was signed we were eating canned rations, the cans are quite full so that there is some that spills over, when we would walk away from that spot they would pounce

7 on it and eat it right
from the ground dirt and
all.

When in town kids
pester you something terrible
asking for chewing gum,
candy and even cigarettes.
Both French and Arab kids
alike follow a fellow around.
I feel sorry for them, but
there is nothing we can do.
We too get very little

The people seem to
like American cigarettes much
better than their own. They
will give almost anything
for a package of cigarettes,
a little sugar or candy.
But we are not permitted
to sell them anything. For

8/
They would then use money
they need for bare necessities
to buy, what to us is
nothing, yet to them ~~are~~^{is} a
great luxury, such as the
before mentioned sweets and
cigarettes.

We are not permitted
in any of the cafes, again
because of the ration.

Their French Bread is very
good. It is made of rye, but
again there, we are not to
buy it. But we all manage
to get a loaf now and then.
It is made with a real
hard crust, not needing any
wrapping at all. The loaves
look like so many cigars.

Concerning the little

2/ battle there isn't much to
tell unless it be orally.
I will say this, we have
never seen a more beautiful
sight than that Monday
morning when our tanks
came into battle (we held
fifteen tanks ^{Monday afternoon} with nothing
but infantry men and three
antitank guns) also never
a more beautiful sight
than our planes circling
overhead bombing and
strafing the enemy. When
you read in the papers
about bombing tanks and
strafing troops, don't think
they are talking through
their hats, they ^(planes) are really
accurate and I don't.

10/
mean maybe.

So, there will be no Christmas present from me this year. There is nothing here to buy.

However next year it will be an extra large present.

Please send me the paper and a couple of magazines. The only reading material we have is a small brief war ^(spelling?) 'communiqué' put out by battalion.

We haven't had hardly any ~~much~~ mail. The latest letters we received ~~was~~ ^{were} postmarked Oct. 15. None were from you. So let's have some letters. Long ones too.

11

We were engaged
in the taking of [redacted]
[redacted] & vicinity.

Now we are stationed
in the field. How long
we will be here no one
knows or dares to guess.

The character of the
land itself reminds a
person of Wyoming or
Northeastern Colorado. From a
distance the vegetation can
easily be mistaken for the
few sage brush clumps, and
cactus you find in Wyo.
& Colo.

I think this will
be all for now. Send
the paper soon as possible.
Tell Lucille "Hello" and

12/
not to give up hope I
will write her a letter one
of these days. In the
meantime you might
tell her how boring my
letters are. You might tell
her too, that I'm still alive.

Surprising what nice
homes these pup tents make
after all, when you get
used to them, and when
a person knows there is
nothing better available.
We lived a whole week
without them, Mi! we were
really glad to catch up with
them.

We had a lot of turkey
for Thanksgiving. The first real
meal we've had.

We have been getting "B" rations. Nothing but canned stuff. We get no bread, nothing but hard tack. Which really isn't so bad, sort of tastes & looks like an extra hard graham cracker, only not quite so sweet.

Many of us would give a dollar or more for a loaf of good old American bread.

That is all for now. You probably will not get any more mail before Christmas so here is wishing you the merriest of Christmas's

14/
I'll try to write once
a week.

Your brother
Gito.

New address

~~for~~

Co "A" 60th C.T.

A.P.O. #9

40 Postmaster

New York, N.Y.

I've read the
letter over. Surprising how
much different it sounds
after you've written it, than
you thought it would while
writing it. I think though with
a little imagination you will
know what I'm trying to put across.

J. J. Hernandez
Co. 60th C.T.
A.P.O. # 9
To Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

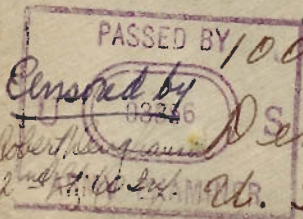
Free



Miss Josephine Hernandez

1000 Sherman

apt 203



Denver, Colorado

U.S.A.