

JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 1943

EVENT

GERMANY: IN THE FIRST USAAF ATTACK AGAINST A TARGET ON GERMAN SOIL, 55 B-17s AND B-24s ATTACK THE WILHELMSHAVEN U BOAT BASE AND PORT WITH MORE THAN 120 TONS OF BOMBS. GAF FIGHTERS DAMAGE 32 B-17s AND NINE B-24s.

MEDITERRANEAN: 12<sup>TH</sup> BOMBER COMMAND B-25s ATTACK TWO AXIS DESTROYERS AT SEA OFF ALGERIA'S NORTHERN COAST.

JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 1943

EVENT

TUNISIA: 12<sup>TH</sup> BOMBER COMMAND B-17s AND B-25s AND B-24s ATTACK THE PORT, SHIPPING AND MARSHALLING YARDS AT SFAX. ONE B-26 AND ONE P-38 ARE DOWNED BY GAF FIGHTERS, BUT BOMBER GUNNERS CLAIM 5 ENEMY FIGHTERS.

14<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER GROUP IS WITHDRAWN FROM COMBAT TO GIVE OVERSTRESSED PILOTS TIME TO REST AND RECUPERATE. THEY WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL MAY, 1943.

THURSDAY MORNING, JAN 28<sup>TH</sup>, '43

"MY DARLING MOTHER,

HOWDY AGAIN MOM SUSIE.....

I GOT SOME MAIL LAST NIGHT. THERE WAS YOUR LETTER OF JAN. 1ST COMPLETE WITH STAMPS, TWO LETTERS FROM IOLA AND ONE FROM DEC. I WAS OF COURSE, AWFULLY GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU, AS I ALWAYS AM.

WE WERE TOLD THIS A.M. THAT GEN. ARNOLD (3 STAR GENERAL AND CHIEF OF THE AIR CORPS) WAS EXPECTED IN TODAY AND WE SHOULD ALL CLEAN UNIFORMS IN HIS HONOR. OF COURSE, THIS IS A LAUGH, BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY LAUNDRY DONE FOR TWO AND A HALF MONTHS. I'M AFRAID THAT WE ARE GOING TO APPEAR TO BE PRETTY RAUNCHY, BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS HOLE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE HAD FOR DINNER A NIGHT OR TWO AGO? YOU COULD NEVER GUESS, SO I'D BETTER TELL YOU. WE HAD STEWED GAZELLE! SOME OF THE FELLOWS WENT OUT AND MANAGED TO KNOCK OFF THIRTY THREE OF THEM. WE DIVIDED THESE UP BETWEEN TWO SQUADRONS, SO THERE WASN'T VERY MUCH FOR EACH MAN, BUT AT LEAST IT WAS TASTY AND DIFFERENT.

ACCORDING TO SHORTY, HER ALEXANDREIT RING WITH THOSE FINALLY CAME THROUGH, SO MAYBE YOU CAN BEGIN TO EXPECT THE PERFUME TO SHOW UP BEFORE TOO LONG.

I'M SORRY THAT I SOMETIMES WRITE THOSE BLUE NOTES! I MUST THINK OF YOU AND IOLA ONCE IN AWHILE INSTEAD OF ALWAYS MYSELF. PLEASE FORGIVE ME, I'LL TRY NOT TO GROUCH AND COMPLAIN SO DOGGONE MUCH IN THE FUTURE. I REALIZE THAT IT DOES ME NO GOOD AND BOTHERS YOU, BUT I STILL INSIST ON DOING IT. THERE IS AN OLD ARMY SAYING THAT IF A MAN DOESN'T GRUMBLE AND MOAN, HE ISN'T HAPPY. HOWEVER I'LL MEND MY WAYS.

I'M AFRAID I WILL SEEM QUITE A BIT OLDER, BUT I MAY REGAIN MY LOST YOUTH WHEN I GET BACK TO MY BOYHOOD HAUNTS. I REALLY IMAGINE THAT WE WILL NOTICE CHANGES IN EACH OTHER, BUT AFTER ALL, THAT IS ONLY NATURAL.

I AM GETTING RATHER RECONCILED TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE AS DIRTY AS HOGS. IT DOES HELP TO KNOW WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.

WHAT'S THE DEAL ABOUT NO STEAKS? WE COULD BUY THEM OVER HERE IF WE WERE SOMEWHERE NEAR A TOWN OR CITY. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO PULL MY RANK, COMPLETE WITH ONE EACH SAD, SAD STORY ON