

May 28, 1945

Dear Gertrude;

This is the hardest thing that ever had to do in my life, but am sure that you understand. First of all there are no words which will make it easier for you, your mother and dad, so am going to make a complete copy of the letter that received from my husband this morning, which was dated on May 15, and written in Northern France, where he is awaiting to be processed prior to being sent home.

The letter reads as follows;

Things are going a bit slow up here so while I'm waiting to be processed yet, here are some facts that I know you are anxious to find out. I was k shot down on February 28, over the Brenner Pass in Northern Italy. We made it back over the Alps before we bailed out. I landed near a town named Belluno, after a chase I was captured and taken to the town of Bolzano. (No. Italy) From there we rode up the Brenner Pass by truck to Innsbruck, Germany, later to Munich, Augsburg and Frankfurt where I was interrogated. Then I went to a camp at Wetzlar for a few days and than to Nurnberg where the permanent camp was, than the Yanks got started so Jerry marched us to Moosberg, - 90 Miles away. This was North East of Munich about 40 miles there we were liberated on April 29th by the 3rd Army-Pattons. That's the story in a nutshell, without the grim details. The tail gunner in the ship I went down with died in my arms in a pool of blood. We have to go and see his folks in Covington, Ky.. I know his name but Jerry wouldn't let me take one of his dog tags. ~~Jerry~~ Just got the name of the tag. No doubt his folks only know him as "missing in action" Well dear that's about it, till I get home, and tell you the other details. I still hope to be in the states by June 1st or close to it, so hold on.

So there it is my dear, and wish that did not have to give you the horrid news, but knowing how anxious you folks are to find out just what is the truth, thought it over carefully and decided to write immediately. Gertrude, please do not grief too much as he died one of the bravest men, and God in His power always does what is best for us. It may sound so useless to say this, but nothing else will help, just wish that it had never happened. Called Mrs. Horan this morning asked her advise also and she thought it best for you to find out quickly, since the waiting period is so much harder. She still has not heard directly from her son, nor has Mrs. Cohen. Soon as my husband comes home we shall make some arrangements to get out and see you folks since that is what he wants, and than he will be able to tell you so much more. Please write and give me your phone number if you have one and than we shall be able to call you soon as he gets here. In the meantime wish that there was something we could do for you, but words are so meaningless, so my dear am just going to pray for all of you and ask God to give you strength in this time of distress.

Here is our phone number Lafayette 9018, feel free to call and you may reverse the charges if you care, but do not worry as my husband and I shall be out there to visit you and let him give your folks the other things about what happened.

Am so sorry but cannot say more, so please forgive me for being the bearer of bad news, and please feel free to write and let me know soon as possible, if there is something we can do.

Sincerely,

*Harriet*