



8-17-44

Dearest Pumpkin Eater,

We'll, we are finally at our operational unit somewhere in Italy. It is a very nice post. Better in some ways than many in the U.S. By the time you get this, I will have had one or maybe two missions. - They are all pretty much milk runs from here I guess. Most of the tough places have been knocked out. Bombs are exceptionally low here, & from 50% to 90% of the crews of ships that go down are back by way of friendly peoples. - Censorship is quite lax here; consequently I'll be able to tell you about many missions I have flown, & even name targets, so long as I don't accompany them with dates of mission.

- We should be through here in 6 months or less. - 68 missions in the quota - the 58 Mission men are the ones we are replacing, not what I had expected.

- You know Italy gets very muddy in the fall, so many of the crews have built stone houses, or had Italian laborers build them. They are very nice, with fireplaces & other gadgets of American ingenuity. - We have a tentative promise on one, but if it doesn't materialize we'll have to build. - Right now we are in a tent. - The houses cost \$80⁰⁰ to \$150⁰⁰. Usually only one room. - Wish you could see how nice they are. - Of course when we leave here the European war may be over, & we wouldn't be able to sell our house to some new officers, but it would still be worth it. - These storms blow up in about 5 minutes & if you aren't careful or around to stake down your tent, everything is liable to be ruined. -

It's really wonderful what the men have made here with practically nothing. - Lumber is almost nil here. - They have utilized almost every part from wrecked planes for everything from electric lights to indoor washbaths with running water. -

We went into a small village nearby today, to buy a lamp & wash basin & a few other necessities, & they had a red



cross officers club - We stopped in for a cup of coffee, & I asked one of the Italian waiters if he knew where Gigli is. - He said he is in Rome & sings over the radio. - He also said Tito Schipa is there on the radio - If I ever get to Rome (and there's a good chance that I may, I'm going to make every effort to see them - especially Gigli. -

I'd like to describe an Italian town to you, but I've got some other things to say, & I don't want this to get too big to go our mail. -

I'm beginning to think it was for the best for me to go through M.T.U. as fast as I did, 'cause I'm in an almost the last opportunity of to fight the Germans, and you know I'd rather it be Germans than Japs. - Also, in another 6 months it should be all over, & my overseas duty will be done. - And now bombing is about as safe as it will be any time

during the war. —

— By the way, there never has been a case in our group where a German has strafed a parachuting crew member. — In fact they have an unwritten agreement that if a plane is so badly shot up that the men have to bail out, they lower the landing gear, & the enemy will not fire a shot at the plane until 10 men (entire crew) have bailed out.

— Now you know all about everything here, How about Home, — I still haven't received a letter of any type from home yet. — Tell the ~~lads~~ I'll write to them tomorrow mite.

And tell me all about everything — what you are doing, & everyone else. —

Take care of yourself & Keep Happy!

I 'spect I'll write again tomorrow —

I do love you, you know — Very much!

See you soon.

A M H A.

Paul.



Loa Darling,

Today is Sunday. It's 0900 A.M. here which means that it is 0200 in Wisconsin, and you are probably peacefully sleeping. It's rather pretty here this morning, the country is not awfully unlike the states, and the weather is very similar to Wisconsin at this time of year. The Boy's houses are all white with red tile roofs; many have little porches with vines growing up them, shrubbery; and fireplaces inside. It's very peaceful here this morning. Wish I had some mail from home!

We have completed our day of ground school + our lectures + checks + what have you, so we will undoubtedly go out with the next mission that goes. - Some of our targets are Ploesti, Munich, + Vienna. - I suspect that I may be, but so far I'm not afraid in the slightest. - You know I'm coming back + I know it too, so what's there to worry about? - You've got to have faith though.

Jones and I are going to Church after a while, I don't know what I'll do after

That. -

Have you written to Mrs Jones yet?
If she is anything like her Husband
you'll like her very much. ~~very~~
I'm sure glad I got such a good pilot.

It won't be long before we will have been
married 2 years. - As soon as I can pick
up something to send to you, I shall, but it
won't arrive on our anniversary - In fact,
hard telling when it will arrive. ÷ ÷

Does it seem like you've been married 2 years?
Gee but I love you! - Take care of yourself,
Mae forget; cause I'll be wanting you to be
well + healthy + happy when I come home. -

- By the way, if ever I should be reported
missing in action, don't worry, 'cause from 50 to
95% of the men who go down come back.
takes anywhere from a week to 6 months, depending
on circumstances. - You can tell the
folks whatever you think they should know of what
I have told you about combat. -

- Do keep yourself happy, I want; If
I know you are happy, I shall be.

Love

I am



8-21-44

Dear Folke

I suppose you know that I am with the fifteenth air force somewhere in Italy. - Our quota is 50 missions which will probably take around 6 months. It's all pretty much of a milk run here, because of our air superiority and our fighter cover. - There is a squadron of colored boys flying P-51s over here that are the last word in fighter pilots - We have no white squadrons that begin to compare with them. (So they tell me) Fuel is about the only thing at all that we have to worry about, & that's not so bad. - Some of our targets are Florentia, Munich, Vienna, Bucharest, Friedrichshafen, etc.

The living conditions here are excellent. we have fresh eggs every morning - fresh tomatoes real often, some chops & chicken - and it's all well prepared. Whenever we don't fly we are free to go & do what we want so long as we meet our schedules. - So I have been to town once or twice -

The towns here are pretty bad, about the
smelliest places I've seen - makes you
appreciate the living standards of America. -

- The Yugoslav Partisans have a rest camp
near here, and one of the boys from over there
was visiting our post yesterday, - He has 48
Germans to his credit & is at the rest camp
for the second time - He is about 14 years old.
Peto's men seem to be one of our best allies.

— Well, I haven't gotten a letter from
home yet, but sure ~~hope~~ something materializes
soon, - I'd like to know what to write
about.

Take care of yourselves, & for Peter's
sake don't worry, cause there is absolutely
nothing to worry about. - just have faith
that I'm coming back, & I'll be there before
you realise I've left.

Love
Paul.



8-28-44

Dearest.

I'm sorry I didn't get to write to you yesterday, but it just couldn't be helped. — By the way, the mail situation is on the blink again. It's three days since I got a letter & that was sent from Nevada on the twelfth. So I still have no idea yet of what you are doing. I do wish I knew. It's so long since I have seen you. — I love you ~~now~~ forget!

Did you know your husband is going to get the "purple heart" (of course you didn't.) — But, anyway, he has been recommended for it so I expect he'll get it. The purple heart, you know is for men wounded in combat. —

I know; you want me to explain. Well, you see, it was this way. — Returning from one of our missions, we had some trouble with our ship & had to bail out. So I hurt my knee a little when I landed. Sometime I'll tell you all about what a parachute jump is like — I'll tell you right now it's much easier & more fun than you'd believe. — Except the landing — I said in my last letter that I was going

to write to both our folks - Well, I haven't,
as I won't tonight, but maybe tomorrow. - you use
your own judgement about who you tell about that
bail out. I'm not telling anyone but you.
I only have 43 missions left, by the way.

I think I'll go to sleep now; I'm pretty tired.
Keep yourself happy, my Darling & Don't worry
'cause your husband will be home before
you know it. All my Love

Paul.

St Paul J Fergat - 02060263
760th Sqdn 46th Bomb group
APO # 320 P.M.
New York, N.Y.



Mrs Paul Fergat

~~607 Violet Blvd~~

~~Kenosha, Wisconsin~~

~~24 S. A.~~

760 N. Main

Oshkosh Wis

Aug 28
Censored by
Paul J Fergat
2nd Lt A.C.

8-29-44

Dearest, Pumpkin eater,

Am I mad toute. my crew is flying tomorrow and I can't go on account of my knee. It's nothing serious, just a little slip, but they won't let me go. That means my crew will have one mission more than I will. I don't like that cause then I'll have to fly a mission with another crew before I finish. - Oh well, I guess I'll just have to take it.

I have done nothing all day but eat + sleep - It's a hard life. Did I tell you that we have good meals here? - And if those 90 day blunders back in the states could see the way everyone treats everyone else here, they'd hide their faces in shame. And in spite of the difference, there is twice the discipline + 3 times the respect for superiors -

- Speaking of discipline, maybe you think I didn't appreciate it when I looked down at the ground 300 ft below and Jones said "Bail Out" - I was the first one to go from the Bomb Bay, and you can believe me, there wasn't any time to question orders or wonder if you dared do it. You just jumped and that's all there was to it. ~~It~~ Everything is very clear up there, it surprised me. You don't have a falling sensation, it's almost like you're suspended up there. - You watch the ship to make sure you're clear, then you Pull.

my chute didn't snap open immediately so I reached down (I had a chest pack) and pulled it open - Whup! Now it seemed even more like I was suspended, - and of course I was, but I mean it seemed even less like I was losing altitude. - I called to a couple of the fellows that came out after me, & they called back. - By the time the ship had crashed about 2 miles down, I could see the trees coming up pretty rapidly and when it seemed I was about 30 ft in the air - Bang there I was on my back on the ground. I thought at first that I had broken both legs, but I rubbed them a little & soon felt pretty good. Two of the fellows landed about 50 yds from me and the rest from me to two miles ahead & behind. - The rest was just a matter of getting back to the base.

- You don't by any chance still love your husband do you, Mrs. Targot? - Imagine running off to Italy and leaving you, like that. He sure must be a heel.

Say, a week from tomorrow is our second anniversary - We sure are old married people aren't we? - And I love you more now than I ever have. - Maybe you think your old husband doesn't miss you.

See you soon Darling, so keep your chin up & be happy. All my love Always.

P.S. please send me a lot of pictures of you! I love you, Paul

6, September.

Dearest Darling.

Another day, another dollar.

Say, if you sent for that Parker pen, & it comes, you keep it!

You'll need a pen for school, & I have this eversharp which is all I need.

Honey, who is this fellow you are taking your vocal lessons from? Tell me whatever you know about him, came I never heard of him before. Is he supposed to be good? & if so, who recommended him? If he isn't good, find another. — You may have said something about him between the 18th & 29th of August, if so, I have yet to get the letter.

I sure am curious to know

What subjects you are taking. I expect
some music, but I don't know what
else. - I guess you had better tell
me if you already haven't.

Oh yes, only 39 more missions.
see how fast they go?

I've got 2 boxes of Kleenex, don't
you wish you had them? or maybe
you have plenty now. - We can
get all we need at the officers
P.S. in town. In fact, we can
get most anything we need there.

Most all luxuries are rationed
over here, but you can get enough.
you are allowed 3 cokes a week, (I've
only taken 2 since I've been here) about
4 candy bars, 2 packages of gum + a box
of hard candy. - also cigarettes + beer
but I don't know how much of them,
since I never take mine.

That is all on the post, then you are
allowed so many points per week
at the officers P.F. so you get about
all the candy, gum & peanuts you want.

I bought a cotton blaki outfit,
6 pairs Sox & a couple of towels &
wash clothes the other day.

Well Darling, more tomorrow.
See you soon, Pinkie. Keep yourself
happy & remember your husband
is praying for your health & happiness
every nite.

I love you & miss you so, sweetheart.
I nite.

Paul.

Paul Stergot 0-2060263
Lt Lgln 460 Bomb Group
#520 P.M.
New York, N.Y.



Mrs Paul Stergot
760 N Main St
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Sept. 6

Paul Stergot
2nd Lt A.C.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte



Mrs LOA M FERGOT

760 N. MAIN STREET

Empfangsort: Oshkosh, Wisconsin
town

Land: U.S.A.
country

Gebührenfrei!

Landesteil WINNEBAGO
(Provinz usw.)
county

Dulag-Luft Germany

Date Jan. 5, 1945

(No. of Camp only; as may be directed by the Commandant
of the Camp.)

I have been taken prisoner of war in Germany. I am in good
health — ~~still in Germany~~ (cancel accordingly).

We will be transported from here to another Camp within the
next few days. Please don't write until I give new address.

Kindest regards

Christian Name and Surname:

Paul L. Fergot

Rank:

2nd LT

Detachment:

(No further details. — Clear legible writing.)

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Mit Luftpost
Postkarte
Par Avion

An
Taxe perçue: *10*

WEEK durch:
10



MR + MRS KENNAN HUTCHINS

Gebührenfrei

Absender:

Vor- und Zuname:

Paul H. FERGOT

Gefangenennummer: *7296*

Lage: *Stalag Luft 1*

Stalag Luft 1
Stalag Luft 1

Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort:

Neenah, Wisconsin

Straße:

607 Nicolet Blvd

Land:

U.S.A.

Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum: 28 JANUARY, 1945

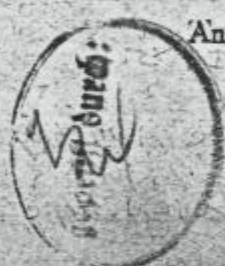
Dear folks, I didnt really expect to be writing to you from here, but here I am; - A prisoner of War. I Truly hope that things have gone as usual at home, and that all have trusted me to be alright. I have been and am now in good health. I'd like very much for you to write me. I believe our incoming mail is not limited. Take care of yourselves and love. Paul

MARCH 19, 1945

Mit Luftpost
Par Avion

Taxe par avion: 40 Pf.

Kriegsgefangenenpost



An Mrs. LEO M. FERROT

Empfangsort: Oshkosh, WISCONSIN

Straße: 760 N. MAIN ST.

Kreis:

Land: U.S. OF AMERICA

Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Gebührenfrei

Deutschland (Allemagne)

Lager-Bezeichnung: X-Stamm-lager Luft 1

Gefangenennummer: 7296

Vor- und Zuname: LT PAUL FERROT

Absender:

My DEAREST - IT SEEMS AGES SINCE I HAVE HEARD
FROM HOME. I CERTAINLY HOPE ~~AND PRAY~~
THAT EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT THERE. THERE IS
SO LITTLE TO WRITE ABOUT HERE. JUST EATING -
SLEEPING - READING - PLAYING CARDS, E.T.C. IT'S
BEGINNING TO GET ON MY NERVES. I'D GIVE ANYTHING
TO HEAR FROM HOME, BUT DON'T DARE TO EVEN HOPE
FOR ANYTHING FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF MONTHS.
HONEY, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU AGAIN, IF YOU FEEL
WHEN YOU GET THIS THAT IT IS PRACTICAL, TO SEND
WHATEVER PARENTS THE RED CROSS WANTS; AND
IF YOU SEND A FOOD PARCEL TO INCLUDE PLenty OF
CHOCOLATE AND ALL THINGS AS CONDENSED AS POSSIBLE -
SUCH AS - BICQUICK - BUCKWHEAT - PANCAKE FLOUR - JAMS - NUTS
FRUIT CAKE, E.T.C. PERHAPS SOME DRIED FRUITS. - USE
YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT ABOUT IT ALL, AS I HOPE
YOU ARE DOING ABOUT EVERYTHING AT HOME. - YOU

MUST TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY,
DARLING. KEEP EVERYTHING GOING AS USUAL AND
SOON WE'LL ALL BE TOGETHER AGAIN. WRITE TO
HOWIE + JANET + GORDON + BILL FOR ME AND
TELL THE GALS I'LL WRITE TO THEM AGAIN AS SOON
AS I CAN. MISSING YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW
DEAREST, I AM STILL YOUR LOVER + HUSBAND - PAUL

From:

To:

MRS LEOA M. FERGAT
760 N. MAIN ST
OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN
U. S. A.

LT Paul L. FERGAT
0-2660263 -760 N. MAIN ST
OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

[CENSOR'S STAMP]

See Instruction No. 4

(Sender's complete address above)

Darling,

I guess you know I've been merely existing for the past 9 or 10 months; and I'm just beginning to think about living again. - A man can't live you know with half of him is over 4000 miles away. Oh Honey, the closer it gets the harder it is to wait! I may have you meet me in New York, but don't know yet how long I'll be there or if they'll let me travel on my own from there. - I'll let you know as soon as I do.

I've been thinking of Sarge I want you to say for me; hope you've been keeping your lessons up. also want to spend a few days at some cottage with you, second Honey moon! Pumpkin, we're going to enjoy every second that I'm home, so you'd better start resting up right now. It's gonna be a big celebration. - If only all the home news is good. everybody well, etc.

I Love you very much, more Apple juice, and am counting the minutes til our first meeting. - I only hope I haven't changed in any way, but if I have, I hope it's for the better. -

I'll see you then,

all My Love always
Paul.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?