

30 April '45

Debbie,

I have seen today the full complete bestiality of what was one of the Nazi's horror concentration camps. I saw for myself, with my own eyes, the ungodly sight. Debbie, I hope that you will never see what I will see until I die.

Our Division overran a concentration camp located on the path of our advance. The last town I visited before this location was Landsburg in southern Germany. It has been several days since its capture when I visited it. The camp is located about 800 yards off a main road. It's not hidden or out of the way. The shacks resembled the OCS barracks, which you saw in Aberdeen – the tar paper ones. But for sleeping quarters the prisoners lived on the dirt floor with nothing but some dirty straw. But how can I describe the actual inhuman, unbelievable sights.

I saw dead men lying inside of the shacks. I saw them lying in the fields and on the ground. They were naked. How had they died? They were starved and tortured to death. They were skeletons with skin. Their hideous faces appalled me but I wandered about almost refusing to believe that I was not dreaming. I saw men with their arms broken into all shapes, men with arms and legs cut off, men with their throats slit, men with their heads cut off, men with their legs twisted and misshapen. I personally saw 50 or 60 of these creatures which once were human beings. There were some shacks that the Nazis had burned and I saw the charred bodies. When I had seen all my mind and stomach and heart could stand, I left. Others of the Company who explored the area found long ditches for graves, which were littered with dead bodies which had not even been filled with dirt.

What had these men done to warrant being tortured. These men had disagreed with the Nazis. They were political prisoners – Jews, Communists, liberals, devout Catholics – anyone who had disagreed with the Nazi political philosophy. I saw these mangled, misshapen starved bodies being carried to be buried by German civilians at the point of our soldiers' guns. These German bastards looked just like the corner delicatessen owner. But they are evil inside and their hands are bloody with the guts of humanity.

Don't ever let any sonofabitch tell you that the rape of Lidice, that the slaughter of 2,000,000 Jews in Poland, that the human furnaces, that the concentration camps you read about are lies. I have seen it with my own eyes. I have seen the depths of depravity to which so-called human beings – the Nazis – can fall. Debbie it is unbelievable but believe me, I have seen it.

I could expound on my observations going into details, but my pen cannot continue. I shall remember what I have seen – I shall never forget it. Whatever is done with the Nazis – leaders and followers – cannot repay them for what they have done.

My heart is heavy and sad. For the rest of my life I shall have impressed upon me the possibility of another Hitler and his gang of inhumanity. They must never be permitted to rise again.

We must also recognize the possibility of such individuals gaining control over our own country. The fascists of our own nation – the Coughlins and Smiths and Williams – are capable of the same inhumanities. The Nazis are not the exclusive possessors of warped minds. I will never tolerate the anti-Semite or fascist. He is dangerous and a potential torturer.

The war has a newer meaning to me – the extermination of Nazism must be accomplished and the recurrence of such a regime must be prevented... We are supposed to live in a civilized world but I have seen the barbarism and cannibalism of a so-called “civilized” nation. Their scientific achievements are dwarfed by their utter lack of --- I am lost for words.

All of Germany will soon be occupied. The Nazi regime will have been defeated but it is the peace to follow which will have to be won. Another Nazi regime or its counterpart must be prevented. And I shall do some serious thinking. I must find the solution. And when I do, I will do my utmost to see that it succeeds. And you must help me think and act.

Goodnight, Debbie. My heart is heavy. But the knowledge that we are eliminating this scourge on the earth – and quickly – fills me with joy. On the streets of this city I see free Poles, Russians, Jews, Catholics, Mongols, Blacks, French, et al. I am proud that I have played a part in their freedom.

Do not fear for my feelings or attitude. Despite all the horror I have seen, I am “glad” that I saw it. I no longer fear that we may do an injustice to the Germans. I feel very close to you Debbie. I am happy that you are safe. I feel almost that I have personally saved you and your mom and my folks and all our relatives from the Nazis because that would have been our fate also.

Good night sweet Debbie – my own darling wife,
Your own
Allie