



Letters Written by:

Tracy Hollis Ashley Jr.

1942 ~ 1945

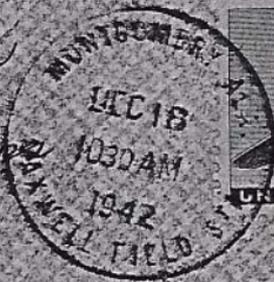
World War II

European Front





Put Tracy W. Ashley Jr.
4th Weather Squadron
Maxwell Field, Ala.
U. S. Army Air Corps



Air Mail

Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy W. Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York

Thursday Night
December 18, 1942

Dear All,

I am sorry I didn't write last night but we had our squadron party. It was a lovely party, we had a chicken dinner at 7. We all had girls. I had a lovely girl named Meriam Whitstone. She wasn't beautiful but very nice. She goes to Headington College as do most of the girls there. We sang songs, had a floor show, orchestra and danced. It cost the squadron \$250. but where they got it is beyond me. I didn't pay anything. My girl was very sweet, short and cute. The party lasted until 1:00 AM. It was really swell and I wish I could talk to you about it.

This sure is a small world. We have two new Lieutenants at our station (Metro. Cadets). One of them is from Birmingham. He is married and they sat at my table. I hadn't seen his wife until last night. When I saw her I was surprised. Remember that pretty Betty Carver that went to normal. Don Sullivan took her out. Well she has a sister named Ginny. I met her at Clio/Dance. She was a friend of Dotty Knowlton. Well she's (Ginny Carver) is her wife. We had quite a chat.

The clipping you wrote about meteorology interested me a week ago. I heard about

⑤ it and asked about it. It seems we fellows already in weather can't get out of it to go to school. We are hard up for weathermen and so we had to get all our education in the army weather service. Maybe I'll come out O.K. anyway. We sent two men to Atlantic City today. We think they are going to Africa. By the way Atlantic City is a port of embarkation. I wonder if Ross Bartlett is going over seas?

I received lovely Christmas cards from grandma, Lucille and Glyn and Mom and Dad. Your card was beautiful. I have received cards from queer places. Dr. Pierce, and Jennie Wofjko. Miss Hoag. All the old cranks at Normal are sending me cards.

I received cards from - [↑] Linda Ed and Adrijane Brewer, Louie Robertson, ~~Heron~~ and Hattie S., Mrs Winnie, Mrs Merrick (she goes to our church I guess but I can't place her. I guess I told about the others).

Tomorrow night I am invited to a Turkey supper in town. One of the girls who works in the Regional Control Office (this is headquarters for the 4th Weather Squadron. I don't know her very well but she is very nice looking. I met her a couple of times on business at office. She typed up some of my records which I had to dictate - concerning birth, place, year etc. It's a free supper

2 anyway. We have lots of girls around the field. It's almost like a city. It isn't much like an army camp with so many skirts around.

Well I passed that exam I had Tuesday and did well to. I got 92 and the Lieutenant said it was good. I will now be getting my rating the first of January. It sure has seemed like a long time to me to wait to get my recognition considering the work I had to do. Well at least I am on the road to success. It sort of like another Christmas present.

Speaking of Christmas presents you speak of sending little. It looks to me like a lot. I thought my radio was my Christmas.

Thanks for your letter dad. I am thrilled to hear that you have the house all paid for. It certainly must make you proud dad it does me. You've worked long and hard for it.

I'll be home before long to help you make repairs and modernize. Don't worry about marriage girls are all alike silly and schemers. Your corner cupboard must be swell dad. Lucille will be very pleased with it. I know you'll have to make mom some.

Thanks for lovely card grams. You take care of yourself. Love to all
(over) Tracy Jr.

P.S. Tell Lucille I am sorry I haven't written but I've been very busy. My correspondence seems to be piling up on me. Tell her I appreciate her letters very much and enjoy every word of them.

I can't even write Christmas cards to all those faculty members who sent me cards. I plan to visit the school and thank them all personally when I get my furlough. Thank you and everybody for letters. I will try to correspond better.

Well I'm rambling on. Don't worry I am swell. Haven't felt better in my life.



Tree knocking on wood
his head.

Goodnite everybody

P.P.S. I am glad you can find something you like to buy with ~~the~~ the money I sent for Christmas. I bet the house looks swell. I can picture how it is arranged.

nite
H

WAR & NAVY

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DEPARTMENTS

V-MAIL SERVICE

CHURCH STREET
ANNEX

AUG 16

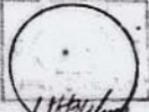
12:30 PM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

7943

*PRINT THE COMPLETE ADDRESS IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL BELOW, AND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. USE TYPEWRITER, DARK INK OR PENCIL. WRITE PLAINLY. VERY SMALL WRITING IS NOT SUITABLE.

No.

3322^{1/4}



CENSORS STAMP

Mrs Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U.S.A.

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley
SENDER'S NAME

21st Weather Squadron
SENDER'S ADDRESS

HPO 638
90 Postmaster, New York

August 8, 1943
DATE

In England

Dear Mom and Dad, ^{720 1st} 11 AUG 1943

I haven't heard from you in two days but yesterday I received a letter from Luille containing the two pictures. They are very nice and I was glad to receive them.

Last night I went into town for the first time since I have been here. The shops and stores look something like American stores. Windows are dressed like home. The streets are narrow and have narrow sidewalks. One sees few civilian cars, mostly bicycles. I came back just about dark at eleven o'clock. I went down to a park where men were bowling on the grass. There is a Red Cross here where we can go and eat (no restaurants), play pool or ping pong, darts etc. We each are to get a twenty-four hour pass once a week. We are busy every day except that day, even Sunday. Love

V-MAIL

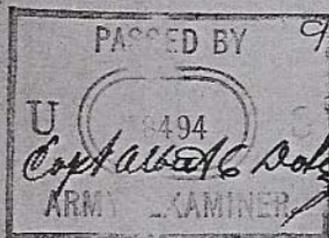
Tracy

Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
1/6 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Air Mail

Mr. Tracy H. Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U. S. A.



Saturday Night
October 16, 1943
In England

Dear Mom and Dad,

Tonight I am back at my [redacted] after spending two very pleasant days in London. I had quite a bit of mail when I returned so I will devote this letter to answering questions and discussing things etc. I will write another letter telling you about my trip. I think I have all your letters in front of me but may have burned one or two by mistake.

Letter # 31 Sept 20. You say you had received no token but I know you had now. I am glad you could visit the Cliv House. Mya Joan is a War. I wonder how she looks in a uniform. I read about the explosion in Norfolk. I am sorry she was hurt. Tony is probably 43. I remember hearing something is wrong with him. You should listen to the Army Band when you can. Quite often there is something about England. Don Worthy is doing all right as an announcer.

I guess you had not received my letter telling that I have moved. I am glad to hear your Band. Dave went over the

top.

Letter # 33 Sept 23 There are a lot of questions here that you should know by now but I will answer them anyway. 1 No 2 yes 3 no 4 not here 5 no here 6 Quite near 7 yes 8 not three just two. 9 yes 10 yes 11 no, 12 stay 13 yes 14 A + 1/2 B, 15 No 16 No 17 No can do - remember the censorer. 18 No, 19 yes 20 about A or less 21 No 22 No 23 No 24 No

I have opened Lucille's box. I wish I had had the camera yesterday in London but can use it next week. I am still doing that work I mentioned before.

Letter 34 Sept 24. Glad to hear you are still buying bonds. Was glad to hear June made the wedding o.k. I know you did a good job decorations. I know Mrs Clark is grateful for your assistance. I don't know June's parents at all and I had just seen him once or twice. I received Bonnie Johnson's letter, also Mrs Pearson and Mrs Spencer and Aunt Mable. So Jay is going into the navy. I guess he should go in all right if they would take Charles Munson.

Letter # 35 I am glad you finally received some of my letters. It was nice of Mr Kinney to have those letters sent down special. 1. yes 2. yes 3. no

Letter 36 Sept 26 I am glad dad could make the clam bake with

the other men. He has always had good sense about the aftermath of such things. I have seen enough of it in the army to last me a life time. They must have some new riding horses out at the farm if Lucille and Glyn are riding. It was nice Johnny Keator could get home. I guess he and Gladys will make a match some day. Is Ken and Nag are still going together. He will probably hang out at the Cleo House while he is home. I did not know Joan Ruff's father had died. That is terrible. He was a very old. I feel sorry for Mrs Ruff with the two girls. She was swell to me when I was at Cleo's home.

I was very glad to get your letter Dad. I am getting so I look forward to your Sunday letters. I wish you could find time to go pheasant hunting. I hope you can get a deer anyway. I guess you won't be able to see any football games this fall.

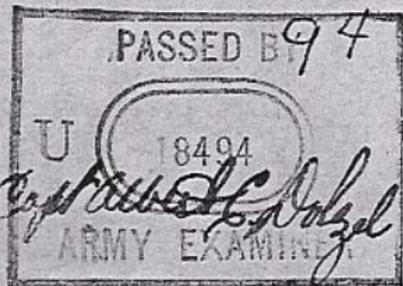
Letter # 37. I wonder why Joyce R. asked about Pat Dem. she knows I don't hear from her. I'll be watching for the Xmas books but I wish you wouldn't worry about Christmas. Love
Garry

Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
% Postmaster, New York City



Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.
Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U. S. A. ~~Army~~



Saturday Night
October 16, 1943

Dear Mom and Dad,

As you know I went to London Thursday and came back Friday night. I received a letter from Bill Bennett Monday and he said he wanted to meet me Thursday night at seven at the Noctya Red Cross Club. I didn't have those days off but one of the fellows was good enough to change shifts with me so I could make it. I arrived in London Tuesday afternoon and went straight to the Noctya Club and registered for a room. It wasn't much of a trip to London from here. Nothing much of interest to see. I arrived at Waterloo station and took the underground to Marble Arch. The underground is much better than our New York subways. The trains are clean and nice.

I ate dinner at the Red Cross and waited around for Bill. As it happened he no Dick Whiting showed up but I had a very good time. I inquired for Addie Postleman as soon as I got there but she wasn't working then. She came in about seven thirty and recognized me immediately. She also knew who I was

and I was quite surprised as we haven't seen each other for four or five years. She had to work so we didn't have much time then. It was Alabama state night and as I am from New York I didn't go into their party. After making sure that Bill wasn't going to make it I went out and wandered around a little but couldn't see much do to the black out.

I came back about ten thirty and met Addie. we had coffee and sandwiches in the snack bar and talked over old times for at least two hours. Then she showed me where I was to sleep.

Tuesday morning I got up about eight, ate in the club and took the underground to Piccadilly Circus. I spent the rest of the morning looking around at the sights and stores. I went into the service club at Rankine Corner but saw no one I knew. I visited Trafalgar Square, London Tower etc.

I went back at twelve thirty to the Moots as I was to meet Addie there for lunch. She had Friday off so it was swell. She had just purchased a mat of suspicious origin for five bob (shillings)

which is cheap enough. So we decided
to take him for a walk. After lunch
we walked over through Hyde Park
and up to Buckingham Palace. It is
a beautiful spot. It looks just as I
had seen it in pictures. We then went
down by the Serpentine and sat on a
bench and watched the ducks.

The dog is just a pup so I had
to carry him most of the way back.
It was very funny she and I with the
dog. While I was carrying him I passed
many officers - colonels etc and was
very embarrassed because I couldn't
salute. Addie got a big laugh out of
it. She took great delight in
showing me around.

We went back to the club after
six and ate dinner together. I left
London Friday night as I had to be
back at noon today and I didn't want
to take a chance and miss a train
and be late.

It was so much ^{fun} meeting Addie. She
is a lovely girl. She isn't exactly
beautiful but she is genuine, wholesome
and refined. It does one good to see

a girl like that as there are so many cheap girls around now. I wished I had opened Lucille's camera and had it with me.

The big thing is our reunion next Friday night. Addie has planned it and I guess it will be lovely. There will be Bill and I, Dick Whiting, Araynot, Ed Higgins and Addie anyway. Maybe Ross Bertlett. Addie is putting it in the Stars and Stripes so anyone may see it we don't know of. She is going to have a photographic for pictures etc for standard. I was sorry Bill didn't make it after writing me but I will see him next week. I will take my camera and have some pictures to send home.

London is just a big city like N. Y. but it has a different air about it. Sort of ancient and modern combined. One can see evidences of bombing everywhere but it is cleaned up fairly well. The little old cabs are funny. They have old horns that you squeeze like a bike horn. They go tooting and rumbly by. There is alot to tell but I have rather time nor space. I also must save some for when I get home.

Hope you are all o.k. Love
Tracy

Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
A.P.O. 638
% Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Ms. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
PASSED BY
U 18495 S
ARMY EXAMINER
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U.S.A.
C.C. Zippert
1st Lt

Thursday night
October 28, 1943

Dear Mom and Dad,

It is rather cold outside but nice and warm here in the tent. Gil and I collected a lot of chestnuts before dark and roasted them and now we are eating them. There are loads of chestnut trees around here. We have to fight the squirrels off to get them but we managed to get some. Sleeping in a tent isn't half bad if you have a pot-bellied stove to keep you warm.

I have been thinking about Christmas presents for you for some time now and decided this. Although I can buy some things over here to send home it is a problem. I could buy some nice expensive presents but I can't insure them. I will start buying some little souvenirs as keepsakes but during the Christmas rush they might get lost. What I want you to do is take my fifty dollar allotment for November and use it for Christmas. I want you to take thirty-five dollars and get yourselves each something or a present together. The other fifteen is for grandma, Lucille, Glyn and Corby.

I don't care how or what you use it but
use it as I say. By doing this I don't
have to worry about presents getting lost and
I might buy something over here which
you wouldn't like. I think this is the
best way. I want to get a few little
things from time to time but nothing
very expensive. If you think of anything
you have heard of over here that I
can get I will get it if possible. I
am going to buy some Christmas cards
and send them out. Sunday the eagle
smiles again. Yes I have \$50 more
in the bank. If the war lasts long
enough I'll be a millionaire but in
that case I want to be a pauper.

The leaves have all turned here
and the woods are very beautiful. It
reminds me so much of the woods around
home. I can just picture Dad and I
starting out with our guns. We surely
have a lot of good times ahead of us Dad.

I am glad your business is good.
Hope Nly's stores are going O.K. I
have received some nice letters from
Lucille but don't get time to write her
much. Hope you are all well.

Give my regards to grandma and neighbors
Love
Troy

Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqd.
A.P.O. 638
% Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York

PASSED BY
U 18495 S
ARMY EXAMINER

C. C. Zippert
1st Lt

Sunday Night
November 14, 1943

Dear Mom and Dad,

It has been another miserable day here. It is cold and raining out. It is quite comfortable here in the tent though. Murray came back tonight from his seven day furlough. He visited Scotland and had a good trip. I could have gone this next week but I want to wait until I have a bit of money so I can have a good time and buy some things.

I have eleven packages here now. I guess I will have some Christmas. I have one from the Sherrers, Carol & Edith, Aunt Mable three from Luntle and five from you and Dad. I keep mentioning it to you so you will know that your packages have arrived in good shape.

I have also been receiving your letters fairly well of late #48 #49, #50 #57 #58. I was glad to receive the letter from Ronnie

Walsh, Think of being in Iceland for twenty-six months! This is bad enough here in some respects but Iceland. The E.F.O. meaning England specifically is the best place for foreign service there is. I was very fortunate to come here.

Don't forget to take my November allotment for Christmas. I was surprised to hear from say she got to like those dogs. I wish Dad could get a herd dog for company until I get home. Then we could use him for hunting.

I haven't been doing much of anything writing. I expect to go someplace visiting tomorrow. I mentioned that we go into a village often at night to dance, movies etc.

I am in good health and feeling fine so don't worry. I hope you are all well. Thank grandma Ashley for her letter. Hope I hear from you tomorrow.

Love
Tracy

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V-MAIL SERVICE

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GRAND CENTRAL
ANNEX

No.



CCO - 10/11/44
CENSORSHIP STAMP

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U. S. A.

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
SENDER'S NAME

21st Weather Sqd.
SENDER'S ADDRESS

HPO 632
% Postmaster, NYC
November 25, 1943
DATE

20 NOV 1943

Dear Mom and Dad,

Just a note to let you know I am fine and that I had a nice Thanksgiving. I hope you all had a nice, happy Thanksgiving. I can look back tonight on all the happy Thanksgivings I had a grand old ninety-four. I can't remember a Thanksgiving (except last year of course) when we were not at home and we always had a good dinner too, Dad, Turkey usually. This year, neither grandma or I was at home but don't think we weren't thinking of you. I hope next year will be a happier Thanksgiving for all of us. I pray you are well and happy. All my love,
Tracy

V-MAIL

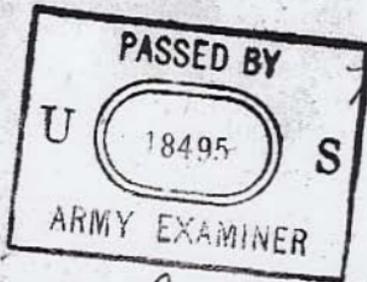
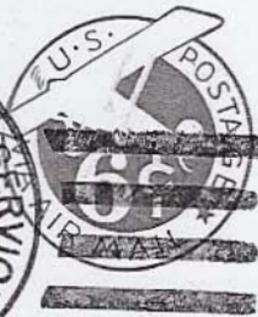
Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

U. S. N. 32471032

21st Weather Squadron

A. P. O. 638

c/o Postmaster, New York City



Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U. S. A.

John A. Foster

Friday Night
December 3, 1943

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am still here and just waiting to move. As I told you in my last letter I don't know when we will move. It may be a few days or weeks. There is nothing to worry about my moving. Of course you will be surprised I suppose when you find out where I am. I can tell you I will still be in the British Isles. In case it takes a day or two to get there don't worry about not hearing. The mail may be just a little slower than it is here.

I have been quite busy since we moved into here but haven't accomplished much. Today I took a drive to a city near here (on business). Tomorrow I am going on another little excursion. I expect to see some of England I have not seen before.

we aren't doing weather work while we are waiting but so far I haven't had much free time. I can't see anything in my tent at night & this Red Cross Club here is very nice. I can write and listen to the radio. I may not be able to write again tomorrow night as it may be late when I get back.

I have been getting a letter from you every day. Today I also received another Christmas box marked October 2nd. I have received letters ^{TF} #73, ~~#74~~, #75 and U-mail letters of Nov 21 (you & dad)

22

I surprised to learn Ken Jones is on his way overseas. They certainly are sending them over quickly. I am sorry to hear you've had a cold. ~~Mad~~ you must take care of yourself. I have heard of Ashleys over here many times but have not met any. I am glad ^{to} hear you sent some oranges. I will have to open all my Christmas boxes before we move I guess. It would be hard to carry the boxes! I am sorry your cold made you miss Church Sun Nov 21. Thanks for

sending me the bulleten. Am glad to see Patten is now
a corporal. Eating Thanksgiving out was a good idea.
It saved you all the work etc.

I was very sorry to hear you couldn't get out
deer hunting the 24th. Dad. Very tough luck. I hope
you could get out later in the week. Let me know
about it

It will be nice if you go up to Lucille and give
Corky. You were very right in your letter now. You
should help Cork to have a nice time. He is only a
little boy and Xmas means so much to him?
Grandma was always doing for others. I guess
when we get older we do realize what older
people have gone through - doing and giving with
a smile. It will seem very strange to me to
get back and not have grandma there. I left
before I really got to miss her. You were the
one to get the blunt of that. Don't think I
don't miss her in a different sense knowing she
won't be there to greet me. In another way I feel
she is near me and watching me. She is closer
now than before.

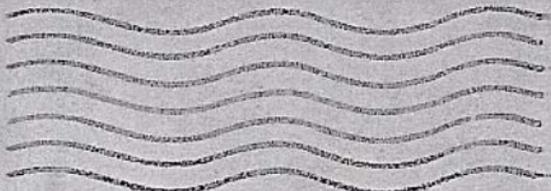
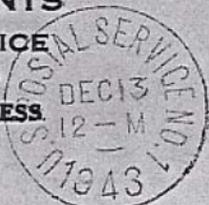
Don't forget my Nov. allotment for your Christmas.
I am well and happy. Please don't worry. Love
Tracy

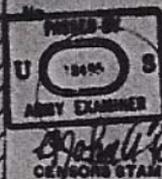
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Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U. S. A.

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley
SENDER'S NAME
21st Weather Sqd
SENDER'S ADDRESS
APO 438
40 Postmaster, N.Y.
December 1, 1945
DATE

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am writing this because I think you will get it sooner than the air mail letter I have just finished. I have written in the last two days as I have been quite busy. We moved into the place we were at last. I don't like it here too well but don't expect to stay here long. In case you should not hear from me for a while don't worry. I am going to mail just plain.

I will let you know where I am after I get there. I don't know when I am leaving here but you can't tell by my letters.

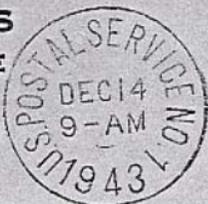
Don't worry it is a small, safe place.

You will be very surprised when you learn where it is. It is not the U. S. of course but it will be O.K. I guess

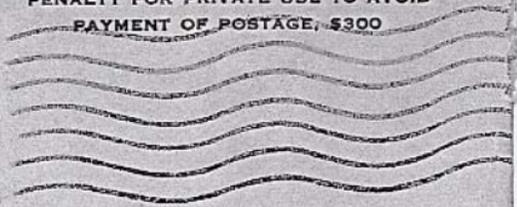
Love
Tracy

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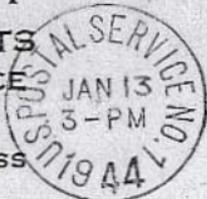


Letters Written by:
Tracy Hollis Ashley Jr.
1944
World War II
European Front



WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V.-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

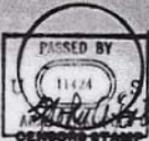


PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
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MAILED BY
Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U.S.A.

No. _____



Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr
 89 South Main Street
 Homer, New York
 U. S. A.

Sgt. Tracy H. Hubble Jr
 SENDERS NAME

21st Weather Squadron
 SENDERS ADDRESS

HPO 678
 96 Postmaster, N.Y.C.
 January 2, 1944
 DATE

JAN 4 1944

North Ireland

Dear Lucille, Glyn & Corky,

I was very sorry to learn that all of you have been suffering from grippe. In mine last letter she said you were all up except Corky. I do hope he is better. He must have been tough on you Glyn just before Christmas.

I do hope you all managed to have a nice Christmas in spite of everything. I especially hope you had a merry Christmas Corky. I hope you will write to me and tell me what Santa Claus brought you. Also, how is school coming.

Lucille, mother said she and all of you thought I should save the money I wanted for your Christmas. It is very nice of you all to think so, but I will be very disappointed if you do this. I want you to persuade mother that it is not nice of her not to use it. Please do this for me. I almost forget. Happy New Year

Love
 Trace

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS

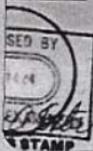
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VOIDED. USE TYPEWRITER, DARK INK OR PENCIL. WRITE PLAINLY. YES



Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker-J
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U. S. A.

No.



Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U. S. A.

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley
SENDER'S NAME
21st Weather Squadron
SENDER'S ADDRESS
AFPO 678
% Postmaster, N.Y.C.
January 16, 1944
DATE
Sunday, A.M.

JAN 16 1944

Dear Lucille, Alya & Corby

I know it has been some time since I have written to you so I thought I would drop you this note to let you know I am still here. It is a fairly quiet existence we spend here, an occasional movie, and very rarely a trip to Beliefs.

We here are just like everyone else but have just waiting for the expected invasion and the end of it all. We have all sorts of rumors as to the end of the Germans. Some say by Easter the next Christmas. I believe around August or September. What do you think? The Russians of course are doing a marvelous job.

How are you Corby and is school going alright? I wish I could see you in school I bet you are the prize pupil.

Love
Tracy

V-MAIL

AFTER FIVE DAYS, RETURN TO

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

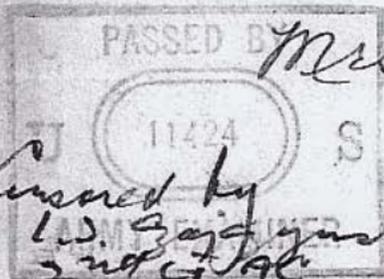
21st Weather Squadron

A. P. O. 638.

% Postmaster, New York City



VIA AIR MAIL



Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.

94 Greenbush Street

Cortland, New York

U. S. A.

Monday Night
February 8, 1944

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am sorry I didn't have time to write sooner but I have been very busy since I got back. One of the other fellows took off as soon as I got back so that left the station with only three men again.

I had a wonderful time on my furlough. I stayed in London all of the time except when I went to Staines to see the Waaf I went with when I was stationed near there.

I left here a week ago Saturday. I could have left Friday but I couldn't get a plane. I got a ride as far as Wales in a Lockheed twin engine transport. Besides a Colonel I was the only passenger. In Wales I went into the weather station and got a ride a flying Fortress down about thirty miles from London. I enjoyed the ride on the Fort very much. It was a beautiful sight looking down on England. The ground looks like a patch work quilt. I left here at near thirty but didn't get into London (King's Cross Station) until seven thirty P.M. I could get a train until after four however. Saturday night

Jerry gave me a hot welcome with a rail
raid. I got under cover, of course but saw
some of it and it was a good show. I just
went down to Piccadilly Circus and Rainbow Corner
bet. nite and went back to the Mootyn early.
Sunday morning I was up earlier and went
on one of the tours of London. In the
afternoon I went over to Hyde Park and listened
to the soap box orators.

I saw a couple of good plays in London.
Silver Bads and Seelie West a murder drama
and the Lisbon Story. Addie recommended
both plays to me. I also saw a few
good movies for whom the Bells toll, Guadacanal
Dairy, Sahara etc.

I visited Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum which
is quite good. She has wax figures of almost
every important figure in the world and the
costumes are very extravagant. I visit
the London Art Galleries, New Gardens
and the London Zoo. I guess the London Zoo
is the largest in the world. I went out with
Addie a couple of times but she keeps
pretty busy at the Red Cross.

I had a funny experience on the way to
London. At the field where I landed in the

fort I was going out the gate to go to town
to catch a train. I caught sight of a familiar
face and there was Luis Delesta from Cortland.

I wish I had time to write of all my
doings but I will tell you when I get home.
I couldn't catch a plane out of London
for N. I. so I took the train to Liverpool
Friday. I stayed in the Red Cross all
night and left Saturday morning in a C-47
Saturday morning. It was a beautiful trip.
We passed over the Isle of Man and a lot
of little islets. They looked like jewels
down there in the Irish Sea. I was
fortunate to be able to fly over to England
and back as it saved me a lot of valuable
time.

When I got back I had a lot of
mail. I won't try to go into the letters
tonight. I have to work tonight so
I will close this. I will try to get my
letters on the way regularly to you again.

I hope you didn't worry while I was
on furlough. I know I didn't go much into
detail but haven't time at least tonight
to tell you much.

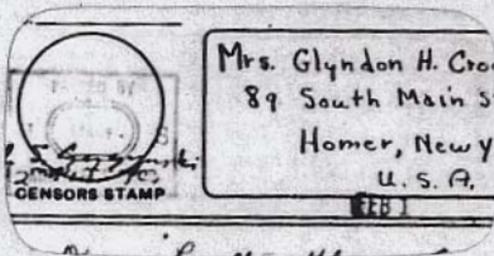
Love
Tracy Jr.

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



No.



Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr.
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U. S. A.

Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley

SENDER'S NAME

21st Weather Squadron

SENDER'S ADDRESS

APO 638

O/A Postmaster, NYC

February 15, 1949

DATE

Dear Lucille, Glyn & Corby;

71-1

Just a line to let you know I am thinking of all of you. I have meant to write you before, but just didn't seem to get to it. I am so glad you and Glyn could get down to New York for awhile. I know the change will have done both of you a world of good.

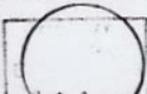
Things here are about the same. Every day seems like any other day and the only end in sight is the end of the war I guess. I hope it will all be over this year.

I thank you for your Valentine Corby. I did enjoy the Santa Claus you sent me for Christmas very much. I still had it on my shelf. How is school going these days? I hope you are having lots and lots. I don't suppose I will know you when I get home you will have grown so.

I guess I will love for now. I thank you so much for all of your sweet letters. I hope you are all happy.

V---MAIL

No.


 The Censor
 CENSORS STAMP

 Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr
 89 South Main Street
 Homer, New York
 U S A

JAN 21 1944

 # 32471022
 Sgt Tracy H. Ashby Jr
 SENDERS NAME

 42 Weather Squadron
 SENDERS ADDRESS

 PER 648
 70th Transportation B Co
 1st Army
 DATE

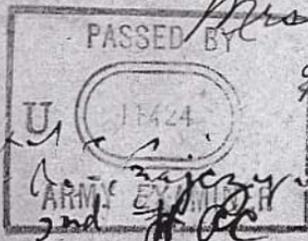
Dear Lucille, Glyn and Corby.

Yesterday I received three letters from you
 and I was very pleased to get them. I had
 been getting very little mail these last few weeks.
 I hope also that the new year will bring much
 happiness to all of us. I am glad you and Glyn came
 attend the 4th Int. Assoc. You must have had a real
 time at the parties too. I imagined that the dance
 would be very small this year. It was nice
 to see Bob Patton & Bob Clark and some of the fellows could
 get back for it. It looks as though Luciano
 will be going to be a big point with all the
 babies being born. It was certainly a surprise
 for Jack Stone to nominate Gordon Decton as
 American. It certainly is a small world. I'm glad
 Corby is turning out to be such a jolly fellow. What
 could you expect? You, Gordon is really some sight
 these days. You see so many uniforms the Belgians
 swarming with soldiers. Too mostly you be here. You
 remember mostly Day personally. I think for you better.
 I hope you are all well and Glyn particularly. I'm
 alright. I am fine and hoping to hear from you soon.
 Love
 Tracy

V-MAIL

Shamrock

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
A.P.O. 638
% Postmaster, New York City

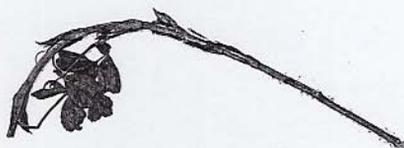


Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.
~~94 Greenbush Street~~ 89 S Main
~~Castland, New York~~ Homer
U.S.A. 60 Cooper NY

Tracy: →

The 4 leaf
clover was
still in the
envelope

mJ



Friday Morning
March 17, 1944
N. J.

Dear Mom and Dad

Yesterday was a very happy day for me. My CO and I drove to a town not too far distant and visited a linen factory. We were shown all through the factory by a guide and it was most interesting. We didn't see any flax but we saw the coarse linen fibres which are made into thread. The most interesting part was the looms where they weave make the pieces. Some of the work was really beautiful. We saw where the cards are made (punched out) which are the patterns for the designs. It was quite embarrassing at times to go through because the girls were whistling and hollering at us. - Very annoying. With the war their output of linen goods

have decreased and they are now making some cotton goods. Some of the hand-painted designs are exquisite. We couldn't buy anything at the factory. We could order something and send the money to the New York office and they send it to you from there. It is a matter of ~~about~~ ^{six to eight} weeks however.

I was also happy today because when I got back I had some letters from home.

Feb 16 #113

" 19 # 116

I have never been to Eire (S. Ireland) as we were not allowed to. Struter than ever now too. I have visited Queens University and I saw the Antim Mts. yesterday on my trip. We passed through Antrim. It was a beautiful day and the scenery was beautiful. 1. No
2 No 3 No 4. OK. 5 yes 6 yes 7 no
8 yes

A letter from Lucille written Feb. 21 and two U mails from you Feb 22nd & 24th. I am glad Dr Lewis arrived

safely in England. Maybe I will have
a chance to see him sometime. As
the Kelley boy says it is very beautiful
here when the sun does shine. The
grass is very green and little flowers
are out.

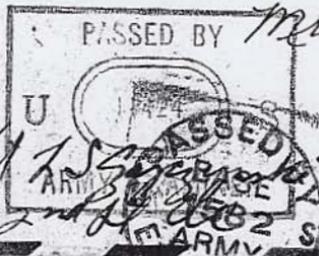
I almost forgot the important good
news. yesterday I heard by orders
from headquarters that I have been
promoted to staff sergeant. effective
March 1st. It takes quite a while for
mail to reach here from England and
that is why I just received word. It
made me very happy after being a
back sergeant for a year. I guess
they finally recognized Takiat etc. (haha)

well I will close for now. I am
putting a little spray of shamrock
in which I bought yesterday. Today
being St. Patrick's Day you know.
Love,

Tracy Jr.

His Father's Death

S/Sgt. Tracy A. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
A. P. O. 638
% Postmaster, New York City



Mrs. Tracy Dollis Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street

Cortland, New York
U. S. A.

89 S Main
Homer
NY

Monday Night
March 20, 1944
N. I.

Dear Mom,

Tonight I am probably the saddest young man that ever lived! I was shocked horribly and now I feel just numb all over. This afternoon I typed you a letter, little knowing about what had taken place at home. When I finished work I went over to the mail room to see if I had any mail. I had two letters - a V mail from Lucille written February 24. and your letter of the 29th. I was very happy to get some mail and read Lucille's letter first which was very cheerful and said nothing of Dad being sick. Then I opened your letter and was stunned. I have tried to think that I was dreaming and had a nightmare. I took a walk through the fields and back still in a daze. One of the fellows kindly

offered to work for me tonight but I finally went to work myself as I couldn't stand just sitting here. I feel so helpless and far away from it all.

Mom I appreciate your writing me yourself and not sending me a cable. It was a little easier this way and also spared me a few weeks of untold misery.

I have sat here for sometime now asking myself why and God why but can find no answer. It is the same question that many have asked many times. We people here on earth know so little when it comes to the important things but God must have a reason.

This war has caused untold deaths in this old world and I feel in a way that it is in part responsible for grandpa's and Dads death. I hope not but I feel that they worried about me and it helped to run them down. If in some way I might have shirked my duty to country and home these things might not have happened. It is strange sometimes how the people who always try to do things

duty and the right thing are often made to suffer most. I think in the last few years I did retain some of grandma's fine teachings though and believe that God does know best.

I know mother dear that you and Lucille did everything that was humanly possible but it doesn't prevent my wishing that I could have been there to do something. You see in both the case of grandma and now Dad that I was ignorant of their sickness. True I knew grandma was ill but I did not know the seriousness of it. Dad's going away was such a blow. I tried not to talk about grandma in my letters because I thought it best. Now mother we will have both of them in our hearts and memories.

We all loved Dad. Everyone that knew him couldn't help but love him. He was such a fine husband and father and everyone knew it. As you know he was more than a father to me he was my best friend. He left me a heritage

to be proud of. He was all a boy could ask for in a father, and sacrificed many times for me to have things. He also taught me to love the outdoors and nature. If I ever have the opportunity I hope I can be just a quarter of the man and father he was.

We all loved him so and I know he loved us and would do anything for us. I am sure he knew how much we all loved him. I am so sorry it happened just at the time I was ready to do things for him. He had few good times or vacations. Many a night I have sat here and planned the things we would do when I got back.

I don't feel very braung tonight mother but I have been trying to think. I don't know how much money I have in bank but you are to use it as you see fit. Tomorrow I will see about the dependency allotment. I don't know how much it is or much about it. I do know I pay some and the government pays some. Outside

of this I will have money to send home as always. The other allotment of \$35 I wrote about will be cancelled but it will be some amount. I think you should try to get rid of the car. When I get home we'll get a new one.

Under no circumstances let go of the house. We will be able to keep it very easily and when I get back we want to live in Dads house. Don't worry mom we will get along just fine and have some good times too. I hope you can go to Aunt Mables for awhile and then come back. You might get Louise or Nina or somebody to stay with you but this is just a suggestion. I wish there were some way I could get back just for a few days at least but this is the army you know. Don't worry about me I will be fine. You take care of yourself. If you get a cold or anything get in bed immediately. As I told you I am not up to you and my talk probably is incoherent. Please though.

do not worry. We two can get along swell. It won't be too long before I will come marching home and we will have Dad's house for the two of us and talk over old days. We will take some lovely trips and see the things we've always wanted.

I know the funeral was nice, and simple as Dad would wish. I imagine he had lots of flowers. It still seems like a dream. You are the one I feel sorry for as you are there and have to go through it. I am here miles away and it doesn't seem so real to me as you. Already there seems to be a great emptiness in me as though something had gone.

I hope you will write me more particulars. Especially what Dad said and everything. I know he is up there with grandma and maybe she is making him pieces again. I like to think she is anyway. I can bear it alright mom dear and you do. Have faith and courage. This old world is in an awful mess and sometime I think Dad is better off with no worries,

He can see us all and knows what we are doing.

Mother promise me you will take care of yourself. I want you there at 94 when I get back. We will carry on for Dads sake and have fun like he would want.

There is so much that could be said but you just can't say it. you must realize how I feel as I do you. There is little use in talking more now.

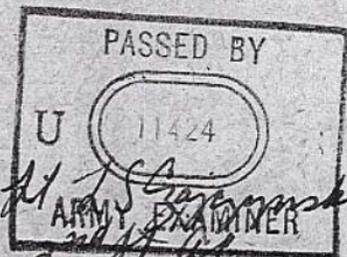
The main thing from now on is you and me—so take care of yourself. Tell Lucille I am very sorry for her and only wish I were there to help too.

I am glad I was able to help what little I did. I hope it was all that was needed. you must not worry about money or anything. I repeat again use it as you see fit. I am sure my allotment will be about enough to keep things going till I get back. Please don't worry Mom and please take care of yourself. God Bless you. all my love,
Tracy Jr.

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st. Weather Squadron
APO 638
o/o Postmaster, New York City



Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.
~~94 Greenbush Street~~
~~Cortland, New York~~
U S A



89 S Main
Homer NY

Wednesday Afternoon
March 22, 1944
N. I.

Dear Mom,

As you can probly^{ly} tell by the typewriting I am over at the station at present. I was not able to see about the allotment yesterday so I went over the first thing this morning. I made out the papers and it is to take affect April first. It isn't much but I know it will help some. It is called a clas B allotment and I pay \$22 and the government pays \$28 making a total of \$50.

I had to decrease my savings allotment which i had written you was increased to \$75 per month. It is now \$50 like it always was which makes a total of \$100. they told me you might get the checks for April and May at the same time instead of getting the April one at the end of April. This leaves me \$36.50 after my insurance money is taken out. I will send you money orders along as I am able to save.

I hope this will be enough for you to carry on with untill I am able to get home. We will make out fine now don t you worry.

I have not received any more mail since that letter telling me about Dad's passing away. It is still hard for me to believe it. Infact it seems like a dream- a bad dream. I wish I could just get home for a few hours and talk with you but we still have a tremendous job to do before we all can come home.

I am sure Lucille and Glyn will see that you are alright as best they can until I can get there. I AM sure Aunt Mable will want you to stay with her until you feel like coming home again. I think it best that you do get away for awhile

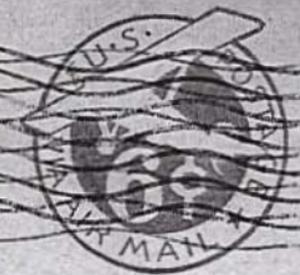
There is little more I can say about it. You now^{now} feel as I do you. There is nothing we can do now except be happy in knowing that Dad is Happy and enjoying a much earned rest.

I wish I could have done more for him and I had such nice plans for the three of us after the war. We, however, must carry on as he would have wanted us to and have the good times he would have wanted us to have, He was such a good sport about everything and did so much for everybody. He hardly ever thought of himself but always me or little Corky. Building things for us and doing everything to make our lives more happy. I can't bear it Mom, dear, but I must for your sake as you must for mine. After I get home we shall have much to talk about and much to be thankful for. Please mom, don't worry and for goodness sake watch your health.

All my love,

Tracy Jr.

Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
U. S. A. A.
A. P. O. 638
% Postmaster, New York City



PASSED BY
H. L. J. Gajjar
2nd LTAC

Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.
~~94 Greenbush Street~~
~~Cottland, New York~~
U. S. A.
89 1/2 Main
Hobner N.Y.
400 Coker

Tuesday Afternoon
March 21, 1944
N. I.

Dear Mom,

Today is a very gloomy ~~and~~ day here as it has been cloudy all day. I feel very low myself maybe that helps to make the day so sad. I just awoke from a short nap. I worked this morning from five-thirty until eleven-thirty and I didn't get much sleep last night I just had to work and try to keep my mind occupied or else I'll go crazy I guess. I feel as though everything had gone out of my life. Nothing interests me. The war seems unreal and of no account. Before the war news was my whole existence hoping the end would come soon.

I am still asking and wondering but can find no answer. The answer rests with God - he must know best dear. If one can't believe in Him one can't believe anything. You wonder why does all this have to happen to us while other people go blissfully along unmindful of wars and tragedies. Sorrows like these come to

thousands of peoples daily and we have been fortunate to have have been spared so long. Dad was not old but it was nice we could have him with us as long as we did. I was unfortunate in not being home these last two years but he has built up so many fine memories for me for always. He always called me June and I can here him calling me now. I guess there is no use in talking about things we both know. I only hope he had everything possible. I don't think but what you and Luella would let him go without a thing though.

Now Mom please don't worry about me at all. Please! you know the type of work I do and where I am so you have nothing to worry about. I am going over this afternoon when I finish this and see about the allotment. I can't find out from any of the fellows just how much it is. I will find out and let you know all about it. With my increase in pay it should be somewhere over a hundred dollars a month. you are not to worry over money at all. use it as you need it and see fit. you must get along alright until I can get home. When

I do what times we two will have. I will get a nice job in Cortland or near there and live at 94 as always. We'll sit before the fire and talk of Dad & Grandma and enjoy ourselves just thinking of them. We will take some trips on my vacations and have wonderful times together.

My old brain is still not functioning properly if it ever did. I can't seem to think of any brilliant ideas until I get back. It would be nice if you could get someone and stay at 94 you would have to hire someone to shovel and take care of fire. I think it best that you visit Aunt Table and stay with Lurllie for awhile at least.

The main thing is for you to take care of yourself. I don't know what I would do if anything happened to you. Please do not worry. You must be strong and look forward to my return. We will then have many good times together. Please write and tell me everything you are doing. I feel so helpless and far away.

Love
Tracy

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley, Jr.

21 st. Weather Squadron

A P O 696

o/o Postmaster, New York City



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley Sr.

o/o Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr.

89 South Main Street

Homer, New York

James D. McLuigg
15+L+AC

U. S. A.

Tuesday Night
April 4, 1944
North Ireland

Dear Mom,

I am now down at the station as you can probably tell. I work only until midnight tonight I slept most of the day today as I worked quite late last night. It has been another miserable day here again today and it looked for awhile this evening as though it were going to clear up but I guess it won't. I had a V mail letter from Lucille today, also a box from you mailed some time ago no doubt. I haven't had a chance to open it as yet. I was very glad to get some mail from home as I haven't had any for some time. Lucille's letter didn't tell me much of what you have been doing these past few weeks. I am very anxious for a letter from you telling me all you have done. As you know by my letters I have done very little except work. I am thankful that I have my work to keep me busy. WE are working rather hard and long hours at present. I like my work as you know and that helps you ~~know~~ know.

Mom I sure hope you are well and trying to be cheerful. The main thing is not to let yourself get in a rut. Try to take an interest in all the things you are in and keep busy. You must relax however and get plenty of rest.

It is now eight o'clock and is plenty light and will be light until well after ten. It sure seems strange to have it light for so long.

I haven't been paid as yet for last month but you should get my fifty dollar allotment just the same. You need not worry about a thing. I don't know how much money I have in the bank but if I have enough I wish you would pick out a nice suitable stone for Dad's grave. Something simple but nice. It is something I want done as soon as possible.

I wish I had something interesting to write about Mom but I don't lead a very interesting life here. Mostly work. Of course there are some things I can't write about as I know you realize. Even that however isn't very much or very interesting. I have not heard any war news in the last couple of days so I can't even write about that. WE don't seem to be getting anywhere as far as I can see. We don't know everything of course and I presume everything is going according to some grand strategy or other.

I didn't have a chance to write to you last night or I should say this morning as I was quite busy. I try to get a letter of everyday at least. It is quite hard though to find something to write about. I wish the mail was coming through more regularly and quicker. The letter I received today was written almost a month ago. It isn't the latest news is it? Lucille didn't tell me anything either. I am hoping for a nice letter from you soon telling me what you have been doing.

I wonder what kind of weather you are having at home now. I suppose you are getting April showers as per usual. I could stand them OK if I could only be there. It is swell I suppose to travel around and see the world but as for me I'll take the good old U.S.A. I suppose the main difference is that in this case we have to stay here and can't pack up and come home when we want to.

I can't imagine 94 without anyone living in it. Just before I get back you must open it up again and be there when I get there. Yes it will be a lonesome old place but we will liven it up won't we. It is a beautiful home and I couldn't imagine living any where else. I can hardly wait to get home and fix it all up homey as Dad always kept it.

I will have to close now mother dear. There is work to be done. I hope you are well and feeling fine. Take care of your health. I am fine.

All my love,

Tracy Jr

S/Sgt. Tracy A. Ashley Jr.

32471032

21st Weather Squadron

A.P.O. 696

% Postmaster, New York City



VIA AIR MAIL

PASSED BY
U 13456 S
ARMY EXAMINER

James McInerney
1st Lt AC

Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U.S.A.

Thursday Night
April 27, 1944
N. J.

Dear Mom,

I didn't receive any mail today so I have little to write about. It has been cloudy all day but so far we have had no rain. So I guess it hasn't been a bad day after all. I've spent most of the day down at the weather station. I think I shall go to the movies tonight. It isn't a very good picture but it is something to do. The picture is Joe & Brown in "The Man on the Flying Trapeze". It is a very old picture but maybe I can get some laughs out of it.

I haven't had any letters since

you went back to Stoner but I trust
you got there O.K. I hope
you will write me about any problems
that arise. I am sure you
will be very well taken care of by
Lucille & Glyn until I get home.
If you have any questions about
property etc though please let
me know.

I have tomorrow off so I
may go to Belfast. There isn't
much to do there but it is
fun to look around the town
and go into some of the stores.
I received a very nice letter from
Paul McCann so I thought I would
send it on to you. He is a nice fellow
and a good friend. I hope he
can come and visit us after the
war. Keep happy and don't worry.
I feel fine. Say hello to the
Crocker Jrs for me. Love
Tracy

Friday, April 7, 1944

Dear Trace -

I was so glad to receive your letter today. That is - I was glad up to a certain announcement which stunned me. Your father died. What can I say? I can't state that I know how you must feel. No one can realize the grief in another's very great personal loss. It is much too profound, much too keen to be even shared. Any attempt to share it - no matter how sincere the intention, would be so inadequate. An outsider just can't sense what sorrow is felt at the physical separation from one so near and dear. But, Trace, I do want to extend deepest sympathy in your bereavement. I would like to have you know that I do feel a loss too. I'd been looking forward to meeting your dad. Because ① I'd heard so much about him from you and had seen evidences of his gestures toward you and for you while we were together at Maxwell

(2)

and (2) I like to consider us as pretty close friends (even though my negligence - especially in correspondence - during the past few months has been a pitifully poor representation of the esteem in which I hold you and our friendship). I'm sure that his great spirit will live on in you. And I'm equally sure that you will be an honor and a credit to the fine heritage that he left. My words seem so terribly insufficient. But please accept my sincerity. I know you'll carry on nobly and always be the comfort and source of pride your wonderful mother so richly deserves.

I'm very happy (and a bit envious) to note that you've picked up a rocker. I was going to add "finally" but that would be very improper. Actually I think you have done remarkably well. Virtually all of the "rocker" members I know have been in the business a lot longer than you have. Heartiest congratulations and keep up the fine work!

Sincerely Paul,
Hmm - maybe I'm in the wrong Wx fraternity.

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
32471032
21st. Weather Squadron
A.P.O. 696
% Postmaster, N. Y. C.



Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley Sr.
89 South Main Street
Domec, New York
U. S. A.

Thursday Night
May 18, 1944

~~N.J.~~

Hello Mom dear,

I am sorry I have neglected you the last couple of days but I have been quite busy. Don't think I haven't been thinking of you, however.

#6 April 26. Am glad to hear everyone thinks you look healthy. I wish I could see you. I hadn't heard Jere Sullivan was a prisoner. Do you mean he is missing. I am so sorry. April 27 th no number. So Lucille is helping Glyn out at the store. Bob Hamill will do right by us I am sure. I am so glad you have such a pleasant bedroom. It sure is nice to have a pleasant place. Anytime you get a chance to go anywhere C & E or A. M. go and enjoy life all you can. I wish Dad had done more of this. Of course I won't be anywhere near as handy around the house as Dad was but I will certainly try my best. I think you over rate me most of the time.

#7 April 28. Corby must be a lot of company for you. I wish I could see the little fellow. So Bob C. is a Copilot on a bomber. It is dangerous work but I think he loves flying. Questions 1, no 2 yes. I know Mrs. Clark will be glad to have you come there when you are down home.

Lucille's letter April 30. It was swell you were able to get to Cortland for church. It is nice. Glyn & Corby can get out feeding once in a while. How are the fish biting this year Glyn?

#8 May 1. Jane was pretty much on the ball about radiocesium. So she heard it on the radio. yes I guess it is quite important when given its chance. I can't get over Jere. I do hope they get word he is alright or at the most a prisoner. I wish you would forget about working. I wouldn't stand for it. I don't want anyone else living in our house so don't think of renting it. I want it just as Dad left it when I get home.

#9 May 4. I received this letter earlier and wrote you about it

I also received a U mail letter from you written May 2. "Lady in the Dark" is supposed to be a good picture but of course I haven't seen it.

The weather here has been fairly good for Ireland the past few days. It isn't hot but comfortable. Rather cold at night though. Most of our time is taken up with work these days as you probably realize. We will be busy all the time. In case a few days go by without mail don't worry. I'll try to keep the letters coming. You realize that the next few months are very important and will no doubt decide the outcome of the war.

I had a nice letter from Bill Bennett. He is recuperating from his operation. He writes Don Lewis visited him. I would like to see him. I also had a card from Adeline Bostman and

she said there was to be a
Portland reunion at Mootys Red Cross
Club on May 31st. I doubt if I shall
be there however.

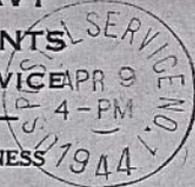
I must close for now. Take care
of yourself and have fun. Don't
worry I am fine. It won't be long
before I get home.

All my love dear,
Tracy Jr.

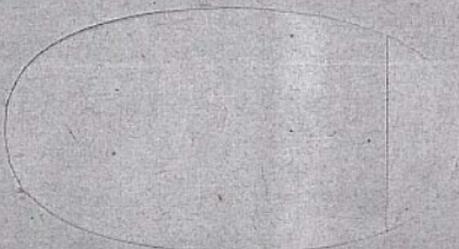
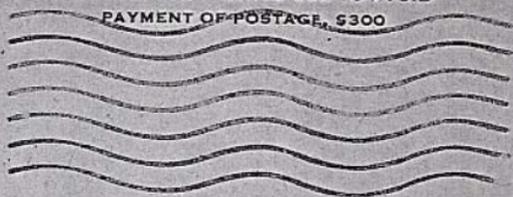
WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS

V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



No.



CENSORS STAMP

JFK

Mrs. Blyden H. Coombs
 89 South Main Street
 Homer, New York
 U.S.A.

MAR 29 1944

Alfred Tracy H. Oakley
 SENDERS NAME
 21 - 11th Ave. New York
 SENDERS ADDRESS
 A.P.C. 658
 1/2 Rocklands, N.Y.C.
 DATE

Dear Mom,

Monday Night
 March 27, 1944
 12:30

I didn't write at all yesterday as I was busy all day and I didn't feel like writing tonight. I didn't have anything I could write about. I tried to read a little but went to bed instead. I am very fortunate to have my work to keep my mind and body occupied. If I sit still very long I begin to get restless.

I don't know how to address your letters so I am sending them to Luelle until I hear I know she will be able to forward them to you. I presume that you are or were well and that I hope you are well and getting some rest you have been through a great strain and you must get some rest and take care of your self.

I myself feel O.K. and I am in good health. My word is interesting and I am getting along fine. The days go by but the end of the war seems no nearer. I imagine this summer will see heavy fighting and the end of the war next fall. Please stay well and don't worry.

Love,
 Tracy H.

V-MAIL

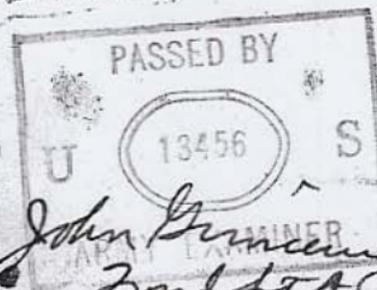
A/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

A. S. N. 32471032

21st. Weather Squadron

A. P. O. 696

% Postmaster, New York City



Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U. S. A.

Monday Night
May 29, 1944
England

Dear Mom,

Well here I am back in
merry Ole England again. I am not
at any of the places I have been
previously but not too far from
one place I was. Naturally I can't
tell you where I am but I
am in ~~the~~ England.

I am sorry I haven't written
in the last few days but you
can understand why. The trip
down was quite nice and we
saw many interesting sights. The
weather has been very hot here.
One presquies just sitting still. It
is as hot as anytime I remember
in England last summer.

It is a very beautiful place. It
is a quaint little town. I saw the date
on one house was 1569. Again I see
the thatched roofs and little cottages

so characteristic of England. I wished so much that you could have been with me on the trip. you get a very good picture of England. We are having a thunderstorm here now and I hope it cools off abt. I suppose it will be too cold after this. We have been very busy and will continue to be I suppose.

I received ~~one~~ letter from you today but there are a few in between. #15 Wed. May 17. I haven't received Lucille's letter telling me about your being -Hence mother at Thet. Phi. I wish you wouldn't do it but I can't do much about it. If you feel you want to do something I suppose this would be as nice as anything. The work isn't hard. But don't let the girls get you down. It will be fun for you in away watching the girls get ready to go to dances etc. When I come home you can introduce me to alot of nice girls. Can you just any time you want to? you do

③ what you think best mom dear,
I hope you will enjoy it if you do
take the position.

I think you are right about
having the roof shingled. It is
not too much money I think
and asphalt singles are good.

It is nice you can go down
to Binghamton for awhile. It
is always good to get away
for awhile.

I hope you are all well.
I am fine. Don't worry and
take care of yourself. Say
hello to the Crockers for me.

All my love,
Tracy Jr

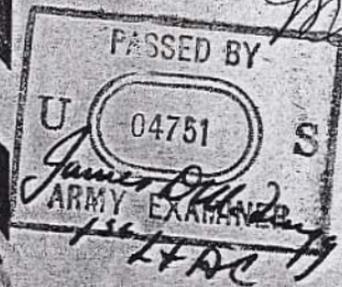
D Day

S/Sgt. Tracy W. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
A.P.O. 696
c/o Postmaster, N. Y. C.



~~D - Day~~

Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U.S.A.



~~June~~
July 6, 1944
Somewhere in Wales

Hello Mom dear,

I am very sorry I haven't been writing like I should want but honestly I have been very busy. If I could tell you all I am doing and what I have done you would understand. I know you will understand that I haven't been able to write although I think of you constantly.

We learned early this morning as no doubt you know at this time that the invasion has started. We all feel very much away from things where we are here. It will be a tough fight for awhile I am afraid but I pray that now it will all end quickly so all of us can get home again soon. I feel sorry for those boys over there

and only wish I might be able
to help them in some small way.
There will be alot of anxious people
at home today and I know you
are praying for a successful and
speedy victory. The news of the
invasion was just as much a
surprise to me as you at home. Of
course we all realized it must come
some or later. I hope the Germans
were surprised.

I have been ^{living} quite a rugged life myself
these past few days. It is a healthy
life though and I feel very fit. The food
is good too, I can't say too much
for the weather, however. I have received
a few letters while I have been out here.

#16 May 22 I am sorry to hear Conly was
in bed with a cold. I hope he is better
by now. I am very glad to hear you
have been out around with your friends.
This is what you need most.

It was nice of Don Shemer to offer to do our lawn for us. I am surprised to hear Reg Young is getting married. I thought he was too stingy to spend money on a girl.

#18 May 25 I am glad to hear 94 has a new roof. I think you are very wise to take the position at Theta Phi. Of course I want you to stop whenever you feel it is too much for you. It will be interesting and keep you occupied. I think you will enjoy the girls alot.

I wish I could tell you all I am doing and have been doing but I want to have something to tell you when I get home.

I hope it won't be long before we end this now so I can get home and we can live together at 94. We will have a lot of comfort in each other and enjoy ourselves. Please don't worry about

me and try to enjoy yourself
all you can. I received Luella's letter
of May 16. Thanks alot Lucille.
I'll try and write more when
I can get settled.

I think of you all the
time and pray you are all
well. I am fine.

all my love
Percy Jr

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
A. P. O. 696
% Postmaster, N. Y. C.



Mrs. Tracy Hollis Ashley
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York
U. S. A.

PASSED BY

U

29252

S

John Cunningham
2nd Lt AC

Tuesday
July 18, 1944
Somewhere

Hello Mom dearest,

I wish I ~~had~~ had more time to write to you than I do as I know how much you miss my letters when you don't receive them. I wish also that I had more to write about. So far we can not say anything about what is going on. It seems a little too much censorship at times but I guess it is all for our own good. I do want you to know there is nothing to worry about. I realize you will be anxious to know where I am etc.

It has been since I left the U.S. Sometimes it feels like a life time and at other times not so long. We have been very busy as so know and when one is busy the

time goes quickly. I have moved around
alot and that has helped to break
the monotony. I have seen quite a
bit in this year. It has
been a sad year for you at home
and for me over here. I am
sorry I can not be with you
but it is right that I should
be here. I will be home before
long anyway.

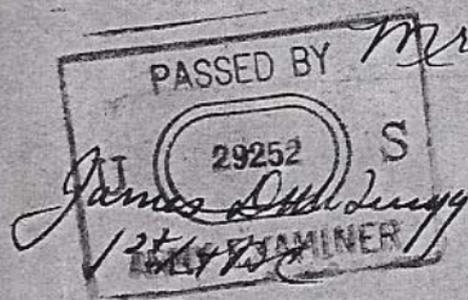
I haven't had any mail for
almost a month now so I don't
know much of what is going on
at home. I hope you are all
well. I am fine and there is
no need to worry at all. The
weather here is quite nice.

I hope you have a nice
birthday and please know that
I am thinking of you constantly
and looking forward to the
day when I can be with you.
We are doing fairly well and
the Russians are really driving.
Say hello to Crochers for
me.
your loving son,
Tracy Jr

Lt. Tracy W. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696
c/o Postmaster, N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL



Mrs. Tracy W. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Romer, New York
U.S.A.

Thursday Night
July 27, 1944
Somewhere

Mom dear,

How are you this evening? It is afternoon in Homer though I guess. Today has been cloudy but we have had no rain. Yesterday was a lovely day. It was really warm and I spent quite a bit of time sitting out in the sun. I did get some sun burn on my back. How is your weather at home? Nice I hope.

Today I received quite a few letters but most of them were old. One I received from Jane Abbott written April 14 & 17th. She had just gone to Hoboken with you to catch your train. I received your letter of April 23, '44. It had Mr. Sullivan's letter in it. It was very thoughtful of him to write. Letter from Lucille June 27th. I am sorry to hear about Mr. Sanders, June 29, 1944. I am glad you finally had some nice weather when you were in ~~the~~ Binghamton. July 3rd from you.

Am glad to hear you are back in 165mer o.k. It
was nice of Uncle Conrad & Aunt Ethel to drive you out.
It must have been some surprise to find Mary &
them. It must have been quite a reunion with
Barrett & Dick. I am so glad to hear Corby is
o.k. after the operation. 27 missions is quite a few
for Don Lewis. I hope he gets through safely. I am
sorry I couldn't see him. July 6 from Leullie. Mary
must have had a wonderful time with
you. She was doing something nice all of the
time. I don't see how you do so much
Leullie. I am glad my letters are getting through.
Your letters are coming through better now.

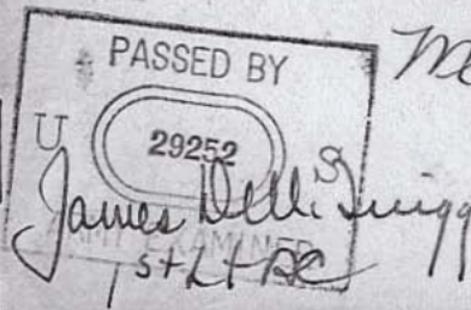
I wish I could make my letters more
interesting but at present it is impossible. I
can't tell you about things I see and do as
that would tell you where I am etc. It is
hard but you understand. I am well and
happy and waiting to get back. The war news
looks as though it may be soon. Tell
Andy Russell I would like to go on a trip with
him like he took in summer of 1938 when I got back.
I hope you are all well and happy. Please don't
worry about me.

Your loving son,
Craig Jr

S/Lt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Squadron
A.P.O. 696
% Postmaster, N. Y. C.



-AIR MAIL-



Mrs. Tracy Dollis Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homer, New York
U. S. A.

Friday Night
August 11, 1944
Somewhere in France

Mom dear,

I am sitting out-of-doors by our station, listening to the radio and writing to you. We have the hot parade on and it is very nice. I am very glad I can at least tell you where I am but I suppose you have known where I am. I have been here for some time as you know. I like France and the French people very much. The climate here is ideal, very warm and sunny. The people are very friendly to ~~of~~ us of course. We move around alot and I have seen quite a bit of the territory we have liberated so far. Some of the towns have been hit very badly and are a total ruin. I feel so sorry for the French people. We see them walking along the road with all of their possessions on their backs or searching among their ruined homes looking for something they can salvage. Overtimed we pass through a town the people run out to the road and wave, shout vive les americains and

② give the V sign. If we have to stop cider and wine bottles fly out and we must have a drink. The people are starving for cigarettes and bonbons which we give them. Some of the girls are very beautiful and sometimes kiss us which makes us very embarrassed. There are many orchards in this section and they make a lot of wine and cedar. Every farmhouse has two or three barrels of cedar. One place where we bivouaced there was an empty farmhouse with about a thousand gallons of cedar. We had all we wanted. We see some horrible sights too. The Germans are retreating very fast. All along the roads are wrecked tanks, cars & trucks with an occasional dead German lying in the ditch. Americans are dying here too. I am very fortunate to be where I am! The air force has done a marvelous job of bombing the retreating Germans and keeping them on the run. I am as safe here as in England. I have gone through a couple of bombings and a strafing attack but they didn't come close. The people are so friendly and grateful. Just now a farmer came with cedar for us. Most of them have suffered very much.

③ A lot of them have been in German prison camps or have relatives there. The Germans have taken all of the young men and some girls to Germany to work. I received two letters from you today July 18 & 23rd. I am sorry you hadn't been receiving my letters. I was very busy and couldn't write often. I'll be glad when school opens so you will have something to be interested in. So Ward Spencer is getting married. All the kids are doing it. ~~Must~~ Must be the war. I feel the same way that Ken Jones does about Cortland. I'll settle down there and get married in due time no doubt but there is no need to rush the thing. I want to get a good one and get settled first. Don't you worry about things like this.

I hope you are all well. I am fine and living a very exciting and healthful life here in France. I have had some wonderful experiences to tell you about when we get together again. Please don't worry. We're safer here than in England with flying bombs. I'll try to write as often as possible. All my love,
Tracy Jr.

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Weather Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696
% Postmaster, N.Y.C.



PASSED BY
James H. [unclear]
AP 54/4 PC
EXAMINER

U.S.A.

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homer, New York

August 23, 1944
France

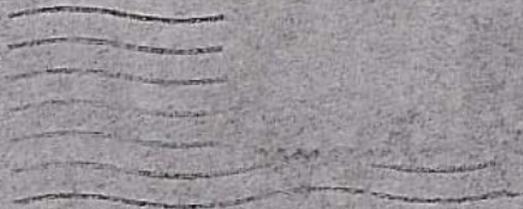
Hello Mom dear,

I am sitting out on the grass writing this. It is quite nice here today I am sitting out on the grass writing this (repeat) and it is warm. a few clouds in the sky however. we have had quite a bit of rain the past few days. Thanks for sending me those French-English phrases they will come in very handy I am sure. Yes I have seen hundreds of prisoners. Thank Blyn for sending me the bulletin on the U. Club. It is interesting to hear what the other fellows are doing. Yes sis I knew the O'Connor boy well also Zippy. I am wondering if you went to Tuckahoe. I received three letters today. One from you, U from sis and an

letter from Ward Spencer. I wish I
could sit down to one of those chicken
dinners you speak about in your letters.
I am sorry to hear about the
infantile paralysis scare as I know
how worried Lucille will be about
Corky. It is quite boring here. They
place the French towns off limits to
soldiers so they can't buy things &
cause inflation. There are no Red
Cross clubs etc. We have a few
books in our library but we all have
read most of them. No there is
no entertainment. I think it is nice
Lucille is going to have another baby.
I hope it is a girl. She would enjoy
having a little girl to doll up. also
a playmate for Corky. Ward's
letter was from home and he said he
saw you and ~~Corky~~^{Lucille} down at 94 working
on the lawn. I'll close for now. I
am fine and hope you all are.
Don't worry. All my love
Tracy R

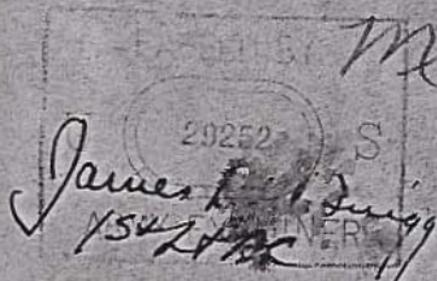
AFTER 5 DAYS, RETURN TO

S/Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
31st Weather Squadron
A. 696
% Westchester, N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
89 South main street
Homer, New York
U.S.A.



Monday P.M.
August 28, 1901
France

Hello Mom dear,

I just return from dinner (which consisted of me & ration) and thought I would drop you a line. It is cloudy here today and looks like rain. It rained last night. Life here has been rather quiet for the past few days. I wish you were here and could see all that I do. It is all very interesting. The different parts of France vary quite a bit as do the people. The people have accents like people home. One seems to understand the people as little and then more and it is hard to comprehend. Normandy is quite busy with many orchards and hedgerows. The house is all of stone. I have

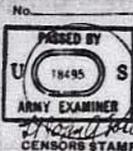
seen so far are made of stone. The
farms are all built in a square and
look like a little village. The French
people are very friendly and very poor.
The farmers have the most to eat
of course but that is pas beaucoup—
not much. Where we are now there are
many refugees from Paris and other
large cities who have come out to the
farms and smaller villages. There
are lots of little French children.
we built them a swing and
they play down here all day long.
we give them little things to eat
like bonbons or chocolate. They sing us
little French tunes and are very cute.
There is a French girl about twenty
two who lives in a farm house near
here who is a hairdresser. She is a refugee from
Paris. at three o'clock she is going
to cut my hair. First time I ever
had my hair cut by a girl. That
looking two. I hope I can get two
Paris sometime but it doesn't look

as though many Americans will be
allowed in at present.

I received the book you and Lucille
sent me. It was very nice. The paper was
very good. I like the cover. I like
the title. I like the author. I like
like that a very hard to get. I thank
Lucille for me. It was very thoughtful
of you. you do not need to send books
etc though as I can get those. The
cigarettes and tobacco will certainly be
sent. I received a letter from Lucille in the
day. I like Lucille. I may be there
in time for the new year. I
also had a letter from Lucille

able written July 18 from Hotel
Mehler Astor Park New Jersey
She said she enjoyed to share
and went to the movie about it
is nice only is an officer in
Judge advocate. As he is a lawyer
it is a good spot. She speaks of
seeing you soon and I hope you
are there by now. I am fine
and enjoy seeing so much of the
world. I will be glad to get back
to you and home again and it won't
be long now I am sure. The
news is very good. This life is
very exciting but boring and
monotonous at the same time if
you will. I hope you are well. It
won't be long now before school is
back in the very few years
homonow. It seems much longer
than that. Love
always
[Signature]

PRINT THE COMPLETE ADDRESS IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERS IN THE SPACE BELOW, AND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. USE TYPEWRITER, DARK INK OR PENCIL. WRITE PLAINLY. VERY SMALL WRITING IS NOT SUITABLE.



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley Sr.
94 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York
U. S. A.

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley
SENDER'S NAME
2nd Weather Squadron
SENDER'S ADDRESS
APO 638
40 Postmaster, N.Y.C.
December
DATE

UCC 1343

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just finished an Air Mail letter but am writing this in hopes that you will hear sooner. I have not moved as yet and of course don't know when it will be. It may be a few days or a couple of weeks but I told you in my last letter there was nothing for you to worry about. It is a place in the British Isles I have been quite busy since we came in here. I haven't had time to get my stuff in shape. There is no light in our tent I am at the Red Cross Club here which has nice meals and a snack bar. I stay here because I don't like the tent. Today took a little business trip to a city nearby. Tomorrow I am going on another little tour and I will see some parts of England which I have not seen before. I may not be back until evening so I may not get to write. I have received letters "70", "71", "72" also 1 letter from you and dad on 21 and 22 of Nov. Be sure and send my tax allotment for Christmas. Please don't worry about me. Tell Uncle Andy I am moving this father would be too. I am fine and happy. I hope to get into London once more but don't know if I shall make it. Say hello to the Coopers for me. I send you for the lovely Christmas card. I also received one from the Third Division will keep you informed of my movements. Tracy

V - MAIL



Letters Written by:
Tracy Hollis Ashley Jr.
1945
World War II
European Front



Jan 1, 1945
Hello Mom dear,

Well another year is here. This year should see all this suffering in Europe brought to an end. The war never hasn't changed much this past week but it has been in our favor I believe.

I spent a very different New Year's Eve last night. The people invited us into their kitchen about eight o'clock. We all sat around the kitchen table with candles for light as they have no electricity in this town. The woman served us cookies and hot wine. The wine was very good. It had sugar and cinnamon added to it and the four of us drank several cups of the hot wine.

A couple of girls from nearby dropped in to enliven the party. They were stocky peasant girls about twenty. The hot wine made us very sleepy and we were all in bed long before the new year!

Today I received two old letters from you. Now I am glad my ballot was one but I guess I didn't do much good. I am in the air but you are attached to the ground. I am. My type of work also helps other workers besides me. I do some work like Jimmy Walter does but I am in the air. I am in name only at present. If I could support me I should trust the Germans to be people. I am a very hard but they are not making Germans. Am surprised to learn Bob Lewis is still in England. I expected to learn that he was back home by now. you were wrong about that. I have been wrong about

Mountain View. I wrote and told you
in one of my letters the name of the
place. I was in at that time.

Nov 11. Yes Armenia. Big didn't mean
remain this year. It was me. of your
girls to stop at P.M. and bring you
the letter. I was very sad at learning
about Mr. Nichols being killed. He
always tried so hard to get ahead and
was a swell chap. Questions 1 yes 2, 5.

3 yes in a house (mattress underneath) 4 4 hrs

5 no 6 yes 7 no 8 yes, a long way 9 South 10 yes

11 Lines more forward 12 ~~no~~ ^{no} 13 probably

14 5-10 sometimes more or less 15 no 16 yes

17 yes

I wish I could tell you my whole
set-up but can't now of course. Some
day I hope to be able to tell
you all about everything. We will
have so much to talk about.

I hope you have had a swell
vacation. Watch your health
and take very good care of
yourself. I hope you are well
and happy. I hope Luella is
feeling good. Say hello to Buckles
for me and let it know how
I am thinking of them.

I am fine and no need to worry this
is one of the homiest spots I have
been in yet. It is really nice to be in
a home. The people are very nice.
Close for now I guess

all my love,
Tracy Jr.

10 January 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

I haven't written much, but I mail letters of late so I am not sure what letters etc I have acknowledged. I received the box with Life magazines and box of candy. Thank you so much. I received two Christmas cards from you, one from Connie Clark, Jane Abbott and one from Corky with the Christmas program. I would love to have seen him. I received the V letter with Biblical quotations from Thanksgiving to Christmas but I was after Christmas ^{27th} Nov 29. Sorry to hear Mr. Sanders is so bad. I would like to see the movie "Since you Went Away". Was glad to read Aunt Mable's letter. I won't have much chance of seeing Henry Abbott if he is in the 9th Army. I wonder where he was at time of German breakthrough? A letter from Luella written Nov 30 Dec 21st from you. It was very nice of Don Lewis and his wife to call on you. He is lucky

(2) to get home but he may be sent out again who knows where. I am sorry I couldn't see him in Ireland or England. yes I have stars for my overseas ribbon so far two but possibly more. I read in Stars & Stripes about Germans hiding in the mine. you are right about where I am. yes we have plenty of food. I am glad to hear you are treated o.k. in prisoner of war camp. I am saving a little money in a soldiers saving fund over here. We get 4% interest and can't take the money out except in emergency. We get the money when we are discharged.

Dec 22. The news is much better now than it was when you wrote. The Germans are very treacherous but that won't win for them. I think we have the situation in hand and their attack may work for our benefit. you are right about my location. I am glad to hear you received so many lovely cards. you are right about my work. General Patch is in charge of seventh army. I am glad to hear your room is nice, warm & cozy.

③ You must make a lovely house mother
I envy those girls. I hope you will soon
be mother 94. We will have so much
fun fixing it up. Today is Dads
birthday. I wish he were here to
celebrate. Sometimes I feel very bad
because I couldn't be home with
him last year.

We have it fairly good now. I
am still living with a family. It is
warm and comfortable and we have
plenty to eat. The people are very
nice to us. They go out of their way
for us. I have been hunting around
here and got three rabbits. The
woman cooked them for us and invited
us all in to eat. They call it *hasenpfeffer*
(stewed rabbit). There are deer in the
woods around here too and I would like
to get one but I guess the artillery
has scared them away. It is a
quiet little village nestled among
wooded hills. It looks like a

(4)
picture of a Swiss or Bavarian village,
most of the villages look alike. They
all have the church steeples with
cloche which rings away the hours.

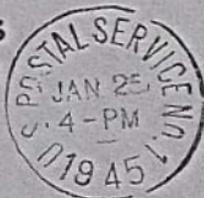
I feel guilty sometimes when I think
of the job the boys did where the
Germans broke through. Their stand
was heroic. The American soldier
really lived up to his reputation there.
Even the bloody lines (British) said
so. It isn't exactly quiet here either
but the Germans can't get anyway.

So you see I am very well so
don't worry. Please take care of
yourself and watch your health.
Please say hello to Crockers for me
and tell her I will try to write.

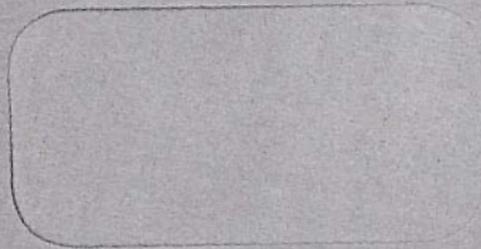
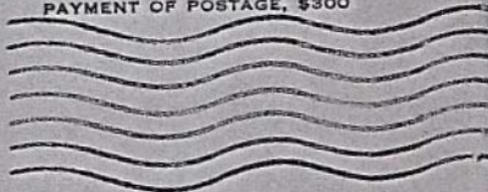
All my love,
Tracy Jr.

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
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10 Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

FROM

S/Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Uthaber Sqdn
A.P.O. 626 1/2 Postmaster, N.Y.C.

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

Hello Mom dear,

Here I am again on a V letter to say hello and let you know I am thinking of you as always. Things are about the same here. The war news is getting better but it will take some time for us to get enough strength to break through I suppose.

I wonder how things are going with you. I suppose you are all settled back up at Theta Phi. The longest stretch always seemed to be between New years and Easter. I hope you can enjoy yourself and have some good times. I worry over your catching colds etc so be very careful. Give my regards to Lealle, My & Corby. Don will and no need to worry.

all my love,
Tracy Jr

January 12, 1945
Tracy

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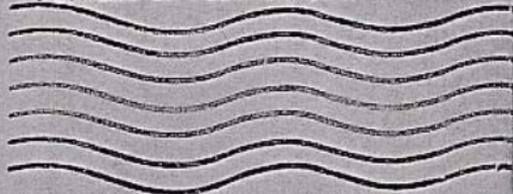
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 O-52449-5

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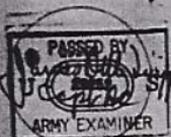


TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

SA
2/3
AL

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(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
2nd Weather Sqdn
APO 646 1/2 Postmaster, NYC.

(Sender's complete address above)



January 14, 1944
Drence

Hello Mom dear,

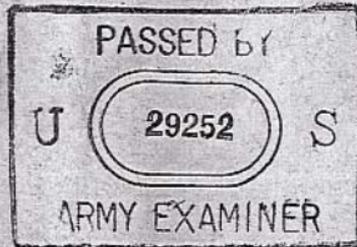
Today has been a lousy day without much to do. The weather is quite cold and there is snow but we keep comfortable. I had read all of the stories in the magazine you sent me. One of the boys received a can of pop corn from home so we popped it over the stove. It was fun and very good. The woman here gave us butter so we had plenty of butter and salt on it. We have a radio in our room which the people gave us so we can listen to all the good programs and get the news. The news is getting better but it is a very tough fight. The Germans are starting their winter offensive and I am sure early summer will see the end of this war here. I hope you are well. Say hello to Crocker for me. I am fine.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696 70 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

John Prineas
STC/A

Tuesday P. M.
January 16, 1945
France

Hello Mom Dear,

I will probably have to write this letter in installments as I doubt if I will be able to finish it at one sitting. Yesterday I received quite a few letters and a Christmas box from Glyn.

November 16 a letter from Lucille. She told about Glyn's trip to New York and what you too did. Mostly old news though. Nov 17 from you. Well do I remember those ten week tests. I know how the kids look forward to vacations. I am glad you have no problems with your girls. We suppose to get thirty day furloughs after eighteen months but whether we will get them or not is another thing. I suppose Fay and Mary are happily married now. I am glad for them. I wonder why you didn't receive the parachute material. I have more I can send. Nov 19. It was nice of the girl with the car to take you riding. She is lucky to have a car at school. I don't know Walter Brooke or have I heard of his outfit. The article on veterans going to school over here was interesting. I had heard something about it. It would be nice if one had to stay here for awhile after the war was over.
Nov. 21. You really wrote this letter early. To be better

I heard at W. C. A. sounds interesting. She was
right about feet. Most Yukon outfits have a pet of some
kind. Some have dogs from Africa, Italy etc who
came all the way to Grand with them. I guess they
wanted to get this thing over with right away but
it couldn't be done. I can't remember John Bochart
maybe if I saw him I would remember him. It sure
would be a treat to be served in bed.

Nov. 24 It sounds as though you had a very
nice Thanksgiving. It seems funny talking about
Thanksgiving now. It was nice of the Littles to
inquire about me. It sounds like the Normal is
really going to expand with new building, etc.

I received a letter from Helen Clark written Dec. 5.
She told about her trip to Washington and
about the Littles asking for my address. I received
a lovely Christmas card from Luella, Glyn &
Corky.

I also received a lovely card from one your
girls Betty J. Fowler. She wrote I was probably in
the dark as to who she was but that she
was a sophomore at Theta Phi. She also said
she knew Ruth Butler well. Thank her for
me and tell her it was swell of her to send me
a card. I am looking forward to meeting her when
I get home.

Dec. 11 A letter from you. I am glad Luella
had a nice birthday. My letter of Nov 29

reached you in good time) you are right about where you think I might be.

I also received the Reader Digest, Coronet and clippings. Leulle sent two letters of just clippings. I received a lovely Christmas box from Glyn with a flashlight, pipe, tobacco etc. I have wanted a pipe for some time. The flashlight sure will come in very useful also. We do have electric lights in our house as we have a generator. The people no doubt are glad to have us as we give them electricity while we're here.

Please don't worry about me. I have plenty to eat and live very comfortably. The fighting is not too close here so we feel quite safe. It is a very quiet little town and quite primitive in its ways. It is really just a bunch of farms nestled together. The barns are built right on to the house. The people farm the land around the town. It is quite hilly with many deep woods. It reminds me of home but it is even more mountainous than around home.

I see so many things when he travels around I had so much to tell you about England and Ireland but now they seem so far away I can

ably remember them! I will have so much to
tell you about when I get home.

I see the Russians are starting their winter
offensive. I sure hope we can get this over with soon
now. We have driven the Germans back in Belgium
maybe we can start an offensive now.

I hope you are well. Watch your health
very carefully. If you get a little cold doctor for
it right away. I hope Lucille is feeling well. Please
give them all my regards and tell them I shall
surely visit them in a day or so.

I forgot to mention it is Jan. 17 in the morning. I
stopped writing to go to supper yesterday (Roast
pork, potato & gravy). I then worked and again
this morning. It is now ten o'clock. I will
stop so I can get it in the mail.

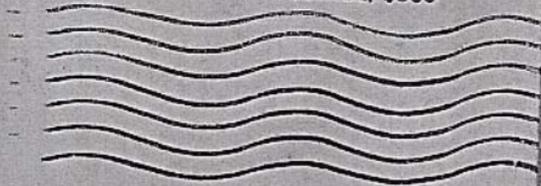
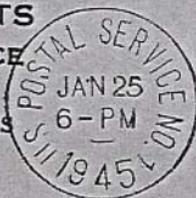
All my love,
Tracy J.

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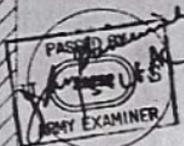


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right, the typewriter, don't hit, or don't punch. Print or small writing is a

TO Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

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(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO Mrs Tracy H Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

S/Sgt Tracy H Ashley-F
31st Waco Sqds APO 696
% Postmaster N.Y.C.

(Sender's complete address above)

January 15, 1945
Tracy

Hello Mom dear,

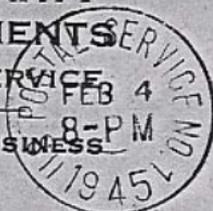
Received quite a few letters, cards and a package from Alpa today. I won't go into the letters now as I will wait until I can write an air mail. Most of the letters were all. Alpa's package had flashlight, pipes, candy gum, tobacco etc. I was a lovely box and I shall write to him. I also received the envelope with Ronald's report, Contact and stories.

This is just a note to let you know everything is O.K. and I am thinking of you. The weather is below freezing but I am comfortable inside. It does get cold working outside which we must do. The news remains the same. Don't see how the Germans keep it up. The surely will crash ^{surely they'll be} _{at my hand} to Crokers.
Tracy Jr.

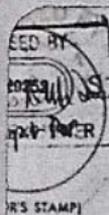
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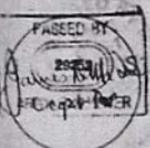


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Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York

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(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

S/Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
AI Weather Sqdn
A.P.O. 696 Postmaster, NYC

(Sender's complete address above)

Tuesday
January 23, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Just a short note to say hello and let you know I am thinking of you. The weather is fairly cold but not bad. We have had a lot of snow but it hasn't snowed much of late. The weather could be much worse and I am lucky to be living in a warm house.

The war news from the Central front is very good. It looks now as though we can see the end of the war. I don't like to get too optimistic but it sure looks as though the Germans are really in a bad way. I sure hope it will end in a few months. I hope you are well and enjoying yourself. I am fine and don't worry. Take care of your health. Love
Tracy Jr.

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V-MAIL

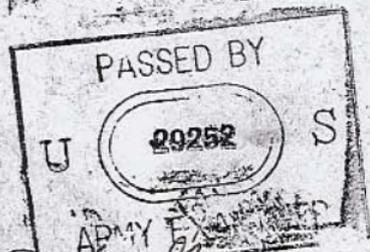
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S/ Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696 % Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York



John H. Hume
1ST Lt AC

Sunday Night
January 21, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

It's me again saying hello and hoping you are well and comfortable. We have been having quite a bit of snow of late and it is several inches deep. It does make things look much prettier around here though.

Yesterday evening I received some more mail which I was very happy to receive your letters. Dec 26. I am so sorry you worried so much about me when the Germans broke through in Belgium. I hoped you had had the idea that I was not in that section. I think you have a pretty good idea of where I am. You must never worry about me. I will be O.K. at all times. If the Germans should ever break through where I am (extremely doubtful) I will be pulled back immediately. Don't worry about girl spies etc. I haven't seen a good looking girl here since I left interior France. All honestly, father. I am so glad you had such a lovely Christmas dinner over at the farm. I wish I could have been with you.

Maybe next year huh. We will surely pray it is.
I have no doubt but what the war here will
be finished but I may have to stay here
awhile (just an idea - no fact) It would be
better than the Pacific anyway! It was nice
Louella could have the Crochers over the day
after for turkey. I thought of you very much and
very often Christmas too. It was nice of her to
send you a gift. I hope you had a lovely Christmas.
I wish it were more however. you shoulda' been
so much it is bad for you.

Dec. 29. I am so sorry that my mail wasn't
reaching you, especially with bad news at the
front. I am not in Germany. I think I
received most of my Christmas books. I
think I have explained as much as possible
about my work and your idea is right. Stop
worrying about eyes etc. I am careful. very
quiet etc.

Dec 31. It was ^{very} nice of you to spend New
years Eve writing to me. I wrote how I spent
New Years. you speak of Reas boy being near
Calogac way then mention you think I am in the
W - sector. you are pretty close on your guess
How did you do it? I have French coins but
we can't send them home. Also Irish & English.

Bastogne will go down in history as an example
of American bravery. I told you I am in
the air force in name only. We refer to it
laughingly as our old outfit. Was sorry

to hear, they say I knew him quite well. I
could rather not have a furlough than to spend
a few months in states and then go out to the Pacific!
I enjoyed Lunell's New Year's Eve letter very much. It
sounds as though the U. Club dance wasn't too
great a success.

I also received a lovely letter from Lucille
written Dec. 27. I also received the envelopes
with Dec. Readers Digest, clippings etc. I enjoy
the cute little stories you clip out of the
magazines. I also received a box from Mr.
and Mrs. Munson. It had a lovely fruit-cake,
box of candy, Cottland Standards, Cottland Democrat
and thoughtful expressions Mrs. Munson must
have saved and put together. I plan to write
them right away.

☞ The Russians, sure are going to town
with their winter offensive. I hope they
smash right through to Berlin. The news
on our front is favorable too. The Germans
keep attacking but are stopped. They are
only trying themselves out and it will make it
easier for us when we start our final
offensive.

I am well and there is no need to
worry. I hope you are well. Watch
your health very carefully. If you feel

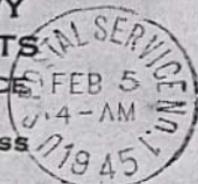
Don't get a doctor.

Say hello to Luella, Bly & Corby for
me. I hope they are all well.

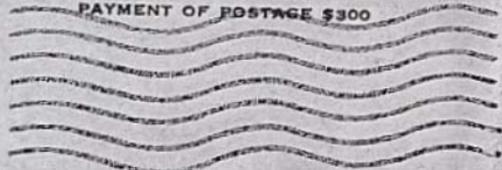
All my love,

Wm. J. F.

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PAID BY
MY EXAMINER

TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

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John
PASSED BY
ST. LOUIS
ARMY EXAMINER

TO Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York

FROM

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr
#6 3247632
21st Weather Sqdn
A.P.O. 696² Postmaster NMG

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

Wednesday A.M.
0600 Jan. 24, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

I am up early for work so decided to drop you a line to say good morning and let you know I am thinking of you. The wind has been blowing with a driving snow. It has stopped at present, however. I can't help feeling that lucky I am to have a nice warm place to sleep and hot food to eat. It really is very hard on the boys up front fighting in weather like this. This is the type of weather the Russians like though I guess they really are doing very well with their winter offensive. I hope we don't get too optimistic but it sure looks good for us. I hope you are well. Watch your health I am fine. Say hello to Crocker for me. *all my love Tracy H.*

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TO: Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York

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FROM

TO: Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr
2nd Weather Squadron
APO 644 8, Baltimore, N.Y.C.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

January 30, 1945
Trance

Hello Mom dear,

I thought I would drop you a line and say hello even though I haven't much to write about. Things here are going the same. We do our work and later to the war zone anatomy. The Russians are still making good progress and may reach Berlin. I hope we can start a major offensive now and catch the Germans in a trap. I have had no letters. We seem to get our mail together once a week now. It isn't a bad idea though I can look forward to mail day well when I hope that the war will be over. I hope soon. I might get a seven day furlough sometime as there is talk about it. Love,
Tracy Jr.

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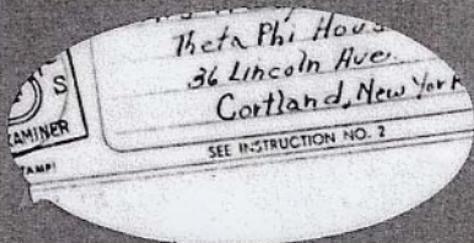
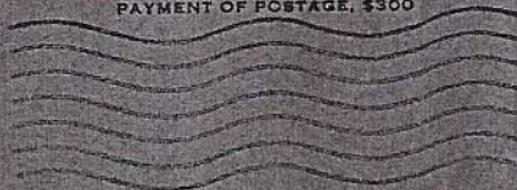
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(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

FROM

SSgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21 1st Weather Sqdn
DPO 696 2 Postmaster NYO

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 7

(Sender's complete address above)

January 23, 1945
France.

Hello Mom dear,

We are really getting some winter weather around here now. It snows about every day but the snow is not too deep thank heaven. It doesn't get below zero but it goes way below freezing. We are fortunate to be living in houses where we can keep warm and dry at least. I haven't received any mail in several days but I expect some tonight as we have some mail coming to us tonight. We have to go get it present we seem to be getting mail about once a week. I hope my mail is reaching you in good time. The war news continues good. I hope the Russians and keep going right on to Berlin. The German losses have been terrific. They can't stand such losses much longer. I am fine so no need to worry. I hope you are fine. My love to Crocker farm.

all my love,
Tracy Jr

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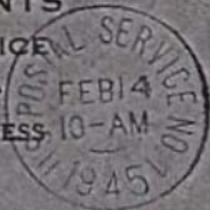
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V...-MAIL

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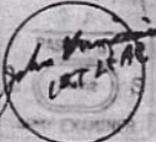
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FROM

TO: Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Weather Sqdn
A.P.O. 6262 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

January 31, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Well today is the last day of the month. The time really speeds by, but it seems like a very long time since I left the States. I figure I ought to get home by the time I have been over here two years. I hate most folks. Time really means nothing out here because we have nothing to look forward to. If we knew when we would get home, we could cross off the days one by one until it was time to pack up. The Russians are still going and are only eighty miles from Berlin. Who knows it may all be over soon. I hope you are well and comfortable. I'll be so glad when I can get home and be with you. I don't know what keeps those Germans going. Take care of yourself and don't worry. It won't be much longer. I am well. Say hello to Crochess for me. All my love,
Tracy Jr

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

MAIL

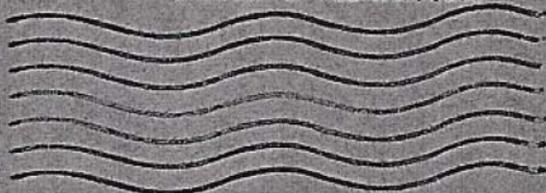
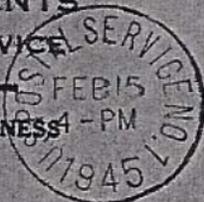
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS

V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



Print in plain letters in the space below, and your name in
typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Bold or small writing is

10. Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

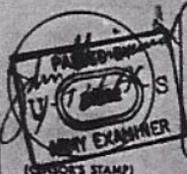
FROM

\$5.00

30

10

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Paint or small writing is not suitable for photography.



TO: Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
316 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

FROM

151st Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqdn
P.O. 496 90 Postmaster, N.Y.C.

(Sender's complete address above)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

Saturday
February 3, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Just a line to say hello. The weather has turned quite mild here and all of our snow is melting away. We will have mud instead of snow. It really isn't healthy weather for this time of year. I would rather have the clean white snow. The war news is still good but the war still goes on. If the Germans had the winter out it will be a miracle. I hope we can get rolling on this front. I haven't received any mail of course since last Saturday but I hope to get some tonight. I think I told you we get mail every day now. I hope you are feeling well. I am fine we've been here over a month now. Don't worry everything is O.K.

All my love,
Tracy H.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

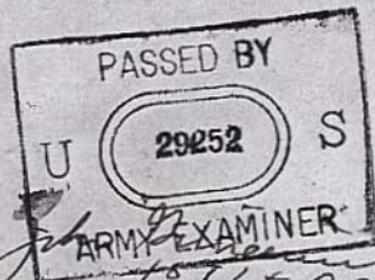


HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr
32471032
21st Weather Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696 To Postmaster, N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

Wednesday
February 7, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Today is a dreary dark day again. The weather is warmer though but everything looks dirty. There is very little to do here. We spend alot of time reading when we aren't working. Of course we are all talking about the end of the war. I guess it is on everyone's minds these days! The Russians are still going fairly well and we are threatening to breakthrough in the West. I surely hope we can get it over with soon now!

I won't get anymore mail until next Saturday so I have no news to talk about. I had a chance to go into Lunerville on business yesterday. It was the first time I have been out of the little burg. It was a rough trip as the roads are very bad. It certainly

look a lot nicer now than when we were
there. Lots of people on the streets and
stores open etc. I wish we could get put
in some nice big town or get a furlough
or something. We've been stuck out in
the woods for many months now. Maybe
when the war ~~opens~~ ends we will
get a break.

I hope you are feeling well. I am
fine. I hope you can have some good
times occasionally. I hope you can get down
to New York over Easter and have some
good times. There isn't much to do at
home except see a movie. Say hello
to the Crochers for me. Tell Lucille
I am thinking of her and hope she
is feeling well. I am anxious to
hear any news.

All my love,
Tracy H.

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS

V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

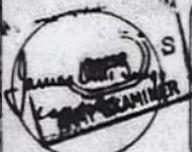
RECEIVED
SERVICEMEN
20
4-PM
1945

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

TO: Mrs Tracy H Ashby
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

SCANNING



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs Tracy H Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

S/Sgt Tracy H Ashley Jr
21st Weather Sqdn
APO 696 2 Postmaster, N.Y.C.

(Sender's complete address above)

Monday P.M.
February 5, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Today we received some more mail as one of the fellows returned from Headquarters I received several letters including two from you. Jan 7 now you could get a ride to Church me dinner. I have written to everyone except Mr. Johnson as I have not received his box maybe they thought it not because of the class. I have received many of the envelopes you sent to the Brown Office was a surprise but they are new on the offensive all along the line you were right about the part of this country you spoke of. An Army is made up of many divisions you weatherman should get a rest too but now as for Jan 10. I guess Tom Barrett isn't near the fighting the way he talked I had a letter from Bob Vincent today on many more left around undisturbed so we must be careful. I am fine but the weather is lousy. Watch your health. I write Louie an air mail tonight. We are now on offensive again and hope we can get on.

All my love,
Tracy H.

NAME AND GRADE OF SENDER

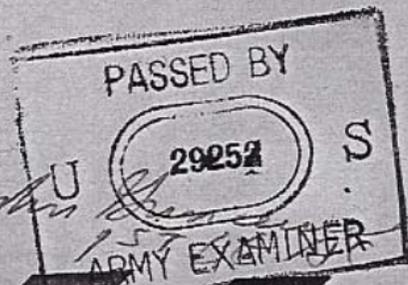
NAME AND GRADE OF SENDER

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Weather Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696, % Postmaster, N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York



Sunday Afternoon

February 4, 1945

France

Hello Mom dear,

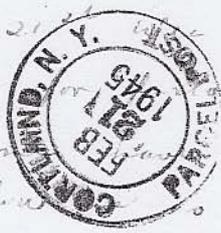
Today is a very miserable one indeed. It is raining and dark. I am fortunate to have this house to live in. I would hate to be living out in a tent or a foxhole etc. in this weather! Last night we received mail and I was very lucky in receiving quite a bit. I guess I will go over the letters first.

Dec. 17 you just arrived in Stomox for vacation. It was nice of your girls to give you a present! you'd better get use to staying up late because when I get home you will have to. As your girls are smoking pipes. I can't see it. I am glad you have a nice coat. You will do work for air force and other too. I have told you this many times now. The 9th Air Force is very large and has many bases all over France, Belgium etc. I have

written we are living in a house with our own
folding cots! We get cooked meals, from rations
at a regular mess but it isn't too good. Yes we
camouflage our equipment. Dec. 31. Sorry my mail
doesn't reach you in good times but you must
expect that now. It was nice the gang of boys
got a write up in the Cosmopolitan. I will be
looking for it. Jan 3. Letter from Luelle. Jan 4
from Mom. Glad you received my 2 letters of Dec. 17.
You know now I have received almost all of yours.
Besides, Oh! Jan. Mrs. Johnson never came! So you
know the boy left home who was at St. Lo. That's
where we made our break through and started
rolling across France. I was right near St. Lo
when the big battle was fought. I am glad
I have saved some money at home. I have
saved \$100 which I have in soldiers savings over.
Some of this is out of what I get payed here each
month. I will get this with my discharge unless
I get a few lumps and need it in emergency. Lynn
Beck must be going to the dogs. His girl's parents
must be smart. Jan 5 U. from Luelle. He was
anxious about Germans around Strasbourg. He
stamped them out. He was busy with them.

P.F. Salas, received Voluntary Contri. from you, Corby & Lin.

I am in same place as Donald Pease but have not seen him. If you want to send anything send me some canned soups, meats, fish etc. They probably take points though. The boys in the original bunch of six who came over will all be eligible for combat points about the same time. I don't see why we use ration for a full month. I had you too with letters know if and when we can leave Jan 15. from Leville.



I also received Christmas Cards from Doc Sawyer, Reg Young & wife and the Spencers.

I also received two Christmas boxes. One from you and one from Corby. Yours contained fudge (very delicious) sporting magazines, soap, tobacco etc. Corby's a nice smelly soap, body & toilet articles, water etc. It was very nice to receive them. I guess I must have received almost everything of the box. I am very fortunate. Watch your health and don't worry. Give love to Crocker for me. All my love to you & Lin.

2
-but so there is no need to worry. Jan 6. Glad
-you received my letters up to Dec. 25. not had
time for the last one. We cannot mention
any towns until we are twenty-five miles
away so therefore I can't mention much. We
were in smaller big town. I wrote you about
sleeping in German barracks. We moved
beyond that and then moved back near
there again. I didn't spend Christmas in
a railroad station as we moved just before
Christmas. If you know I usually move
East everytime you can have heartily follow
me there. There may be better than ours (I
can't say) but they haven't many left. It
was one of the German girl to walk down
to 94 and about etc. anyone would love
the. I miss them to persons to see. She
must have wondered about them. I hope
you can get down to know you to over Carter.
It will be good for you. Just love & life
& you & Luella. Jan 6th Letter from Luella.
Jan 12. It's nice Luella is having another room.

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

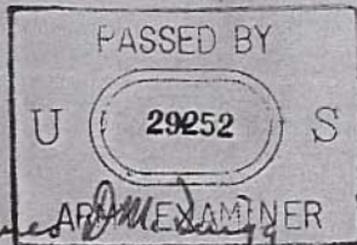
32471032

21st Weather Sqdn.

a. P. O. 696 7/2 Postmaster, N. Y. C.



VIA AIR MAIL



James M. [Signature]
Capt RC

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley

Theta Phi House

36 Lincoln Ave.

Cortland, New York

Sunday P.M.
February 11, 1944
France

Hello Mom dear,

Here it is another Sunday and a week has passed. The weeks really slip by rather quickly. I am well. be glad when spring comes as the weather is quite miserable! It rains just about every day. I am glad it isn't too cold though.

Last night I received some mail which made me very happy. I received two boxes with two packages of cigarettes in each and some gum in one. Also an envelope with 5 the Week and a newspaper. I received two letters from you. Jan 24. you really have had a lot of snow this year. It will be nice when Luella's house is finished and she can get some rest. I suppose the new baby ^{may} ~~will~~ have arrived by the time you get

this. We eat with a regular outfit but where we are now we have to travel quite a ways for meals. They have doctors etc. I still have a uniform yes. no blouse but wool pants & shirts. We turned our blouses and overcoats in last summer. We got an overcoat back this fall. If I come home or after war I'll get new clothes I hope as they are getting worse. We do wear fatigue clothes but O.D.'s are warmer. We wear combat jackets most of time. The one like my ski jacket only green with a hood. We send our clothes to laundry and do some ourselves. The laundry does a poor job - just a simple wash unit. We carry our things around in duffel bag. I have quite a few souvenirs but haven't sent them for fear you wouldn't get them. German helmet, hat, dog tag, rifle etc. alot of new babies around and new young married crowd.

Jan 28. Too bad about old Komer Academy. It must have been some fire. I bet

(2)

Corky is elated over no school for awhile. Don't
worry about 94. If any plaster is cracked we will
get it fixed tout-de-suite. We have to expect a few
things to be done when we come in again. It
should have occupied my last winter - I hope. I
didn't see Shirley by her bed a baby. It was nice
! Helen Clark to take them in. She really is
a well neighbor. You really had some night
with four bills etc. It was nice. Gordon Puster can
get home after. He deserves it after two years in Pacific.

I did receive two letters from Lucille, a couple
up of Mr. Puster, a Christmas card from the school
and a letter from St. Peter's - one of the nice
letters. The Puster she writes. I think her first
letter was the Christmas card

The war news is good but I guess it will
be a couple of months at least before we can
finish it. The Germans can't get on

your sweet.

I am well and comfortable. I hope you are
doing well and can get out and have some
rest times! Don't worry and take care of yourself.

all my love,
Mama M.

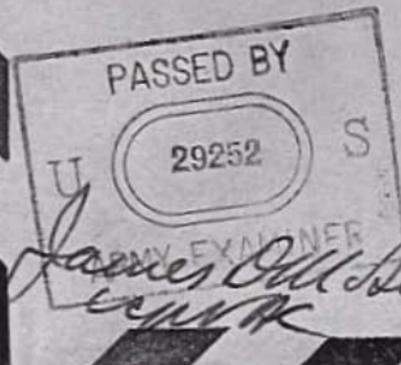
P.S. I want you to take some of my money
to get Lucille and the baby a present.

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqdn.
9. P. O. 696 70 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Sigma Phi
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York



Friday
February 16, 1945
France

Dear Mom,

yesterday was a lovely day and it is beautiful again this morning. It is real spring weather and I sure have the fever. If we could get more weather like this it sure would help to get the war over with. It is a relief to have some nice weather after so much rain. Things look quite green around here now. I don't suppose this weather will last but it is nice while it is here!

Last night I received some mail and was very happy to get it. I received six letters from you and one from Lucille Jan 15. The 9th Air Force is very big and covers the old western front from North to South. There are many groups. I am officially in the 7th

air force and wear that patch but actually
I am in the ground forces. I am with the
IV Corps ^{my} of the 7th Army. As I told you for awhile
I was with General Patton's 3rd Army. your mail
is coming through much better now. I hope mine
is. Jan 16. 1 East 2 near 3 no 4 no 5 have been
6 no 7 yes 8 no 9 yes 10 no 11 no 12 no 13 no

14 Depends 15 no 16 yes 17 yes 18 equal 19 yes
I will tell you about England, Ireland etc when
I get home. Jan 18 I certainly don't envy you
your weather. Such a horrible winter you've
had. Is the Victory restaurant has moved. I
won't know the old home town when I get
home. where is Patters store now? It was
out of Luck to hire a boy to shovel the walk
it is too bad Ray Kelley did. & keep it clean.

Jan 21 The Coster boy seems very young to be
married. I haven't seen Don Reese but he
must be near me. Jan 22. As you know
now I must have received all of my boxes.

It was nice Bill Nichols was made a Lieutenant
I am still living with the family.

Feb. 2. Fairly good time. I can't get over your
horrible weather. It certainly is unusual even
for us. I hope you can keep all of your
girls in the house. Sorry to hear about Jimmy
Mr. McDonald's mother. He is over here too sorry to
hear Louis Rens was wounded. I hope it isn't
serious. I hope I can get to see Paris again
too. I didn't have time to see much when I
was there before. There are a lot of soldiers
there now I guess.

We keep doing our work and sweating out
the war end. The news this morning is
all about a huge carrier task force bombing
Japan. The news in the Pacific is good.
We have certainly come a long way out there.
Once we finish the Germans off it should be

take too long out there.

I must close for now. I am well and
no need to worry. Take care of yourself.

all my love,
Tracy Jr.

15th Signal
Cops

42nd division (rainbow)

Anti-tank Co.

232nd infantry

7th Army.

S/Lgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

324 71 032

21st Weather Sqdn.

9. P. O. 696 7/8 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley

Theta Phi

36 Lincoln Ave.

Cortland, New York

PASSED BY

James D. Quinn
Capt. R. C. Quinn
EXAMINER

Sunday Night
February 18, 1945
France

Hells Mom dear,

Today hasn't been so good as it has drizzled on and off day. I guess we can't expect too good weather this time of year and should be glad that it isn't worse. This has been quite a mild winter expect for a few weeks of snow.

We are still here living with this family and it is very nice but I will be glad to get moving again. We keep busy with our regular work and working around our trucks etc. We have painted our van all over and one of the boys has painted a little caricature on the side. It is fun working around our trucks and keeping busy. I forgot to tell you

we have some French colonial troops (Moroccans) in our town. They are very colorful with their turbans but also very fierce looking. I don't envy any Germans they go after.

23 Tonight I received ^{some} more mail. Jan mostly old news. I am sorry my package never arrived. I have many souvenirs to send but I want you to be sure to receive them.

Jan 29. Glad to learn you have been receiving some of my letters in good time. We are still here of course with lights, radio etc only we don't listen to radio much. We listen to news once or twice a day.

It must have been severe to close stores and schools for half day. It is nice Lulle can go to farms because of paint smell. I wish it were 94 she was going to go to school. It is too bad some of your girls need cheering up. Many people have burdens to bear that others don't see. I am thankful I have such a lonely home life to grow up in. It will be very sad when I return but I am

thankful for the swell times I did have, Maryon Lowman wrote me a very nice letter which I also received. She spoke about going down to our house with you, and how cute she thought it was. Tell her I enjoyed receiving her letter very much. I will try to write her a line.

I also received a box from you. It was choiced full of wonderful Mrs Bari and ten packages of eggs. Also some gum. Each time I get mail I say to myself I can't get anymore packages but they keep coming. I certainly have had a lovely Christmas thanks to your forethought. I'll be so glad when I can get home and see you again. I hope when I get home it won't be on a rotation but to stay. It does seem like a very long time since I last saw home. A few boys have been over

longer than I thought. Bill Bennett, Bob
Clark etc.

Well I guess I will close for now.
I don't have much news. The Germans
are still holding on. I guess the
whole masculine population will be
killed off before they surrender.

Thanks loads for your lovely letters
and the last box. Say hello to Lucille
for me.

all my love,
Gracy J.

S/Sgt. Tracy N. Ashley Jr.

32471032

21st Weather Sqdn.

a. P. O. 696 % Postmaster, N. Y. C.



VIA AIR MAIL

PASSED BY

29252

S

James Ollie King
Capt. AC

Mrs. Tracy N. Ashley
Theta Phi House

36 Lincoln Ave.

Cortland, New York

Tuesday P. M.
February 20, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Have a little free time before chow so thought I would drop you a line! This morning I thought it was going to be a nice day as the sun was trying to shine but it didn't break out so it has been a cloudy day. No rain as yet but it will probably rain before long! I hope you have had some let-up from your terrible weather. Every letter I receive tells of more snow. I bet you will be very glad to see spring come again! Our weather is like spring weather home - not very cold and no snow!

I told you we have been doing spring cleaning here with our equipment. Cleaning, painting etc. I wish we could get moving again. We have been here a long time. It has been a nice place to spend the worse part of the winter! The people in our house have been very nice to us! It has made our stay here much more pleasant. They have a son who was forced into German Army and fought in Russia. He came home on furlough when the Americans were near here, so he went over to our lines and surrendered. He then joined the French army. He is now fighting with them. Quite a mix-up. It

will be tough on him if the Germans catch him.
He writes the people he was coming home on furlough
so they are all excited.

I am enclosing a snapshot of part of our outfit in
one of the little French towns. We were the first
Americans in this town and we were received very
cordially. I am one of the fellows in the back of
the truck. All of our vehicles are not in the
picture. This all of equipment is symbol for
9th Air Force. The cloth over the head is for
airplanes to identify us. It isn't a good picture,
and there were many better such scenes as this
as we came across ~~France~~ ^{France}. I wish I could
have had many pictures.

Well the war still goes on. The Germans are
putting up very stiff resistance - but I am sure
they can't hold up much longer. They are being
bombed heavily. I hear casualties must be terrific.
They really are fanatical. Everyone seems to
think I am missing the war.

I am with you and will be with you
as long as I can. I hope you will be able
to see me soon.

Love,
Bill

Bill

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

32471032

21st Weather Sgdn.

a. P. O. 696 70 Postmaster, N. Y. C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley

Theta Phi House

36 Lincoln Ave.

Cortland, New York

PASSED BY

20252

James M. Deigg
C. M. F. R. C.

Friday Night

February 23, 1945

France

Hello Mom dear,

We really have had some nice weather the past few days! It really is spring weather. It has given our air forces a good chance to get in some good work! Tonight we can hear them going over!

If this weather would only keep up for a while I think we could get this war over with much sooner. I sure wish we could get moving again. We have been here - too long! We are advancing again but not fast enough. The news is good though and most people seem to think it can't last too much longer.

Last night I received some more mail which I was very

me of that I'll try to see to ~~everything~~ ^{everything}
but I don't see how they could
expect you to do it. It must be nice
to see 94 lighted again but sad not to
be in it. I hope they stay long enough
so you can keep it open until I can
get home. It will be nice for you
this summer if lights, gas, water & phone
are in. I hope they don't hurt anything
or touch anything. I hoped to move
in just as Dad left it. I hope
the guns etc are O.K. I suppose
everything will be O.K. you won't
have to worry about heat, water etc
now. We can use the money as you
say for any repairs that are needed.
Don't worry we will be able to swing 94
very easily it is fortunate to have it.

Feb 7. Glad you are receiving my
mail O.K. I am glad lumber house
looks so nice. I hope your rucking
goes very well. I know it is ~~on~~

(2) glad to receive. I received your letters of Feb 4 and Feb 7.

Feb 4. So this winter is worse than the storm of 1888. I remember Dad always telling about it. It was swell of Lucille to remember your anniversary. I guess I am not very good at remembering such things. I hope I can make some of these things up after I get back.

I hope rushing goes well with you. At first I didn't like the idea of anyone renting our house. I can think of anyone else living in it. I guess the people must be O.K. and I am sure Mr. Crocker wouldn't have asked you to rent it if the people weren't alright. I wish they had rented it earlier in the winter so that it could have been heated. I think \$50 a month is good but they are getting a nice furnished house. It was

strain on your girls. I think it would
be nice to go down to Aunt Tabber
over Easter. It is a swell time
of year to go down to New York.

Well I must close for now.

I hope you are well and enjoying
yourself as much as possible. I
hope Lucille is feeling well. Say
hello for me and tell her and
I will try to write her soon.

I am fine so don't worry. I'll be
glad when the war is over and
can get home.

All my love,
Tracy Jr

DAYS, RETURN TO

Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

132

Leather Sqdn
96. 70 Postmaster, N. Y. C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

POSTED BY
Mr. Duigg

Monday Night
February 26, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

I am sitting in the cuisine (kitchen) of our house listening to the radio and writing to you. The people here have gone to bed but they don't mind if we stay up and listen to radio. It is about ten o'clock. I am staying up as I go to work about eleven. I will work until about two thirty or three. I want to get up early in the morning about eight as I am going fox hunting with the town forester in the morning. The job of forester here is quite a position - a professional job. He is a college man and speaks English. His country around here is a

1
baby. I am sure everything will
go fine. I know you all will
be very proud. I wish I might
be there but am sure I will
get home before the baby
is too old.

I have also thought alot about
Dad and Grandma. I am sure
they are watching, all and will
be very proud of the new baby.
I wish they both could be with
us. It certainly is a funny old
world. It is hard to find answers
to all that goes on. I have seen
so many dead young boys and so
much destruction, sorrow and
so many pitiful things. I surely will
be glad to get home and lead a
natural life again. We must
make every moment happiness when

paradise for hunters.

The weather here is marvelous for this time of year. Our air forces certainly have been taking advantage of the weather. There certainly was a big raid on Berlin today. The first and ninth armies are driving ahead. I hope they can capture Cologne and go on. This may be the beginning of the end.

I surely hope we and the Russians can get going together. We keep thinking the war is almost over and yet it keeps going. I am sure though that this summer will surely see it over. Even the most fanatical Germans can't keep going much longer.

I have been thinking of you at home very much of late. I guess I have just been over here too long. I am anxiously awaiting news of Luella and the new

I get home. Life is so short and there is so much sorrow. It doesn't pay not to enjoy every moment that we can.

I hope everything is going well at 94. I am sure the people will like it very much. They are fortunate to find such a nice house. It is very handy for work too. They know when I get home they must vacate. I hope they don't harm anything. We will really fix it up lovely when I get back!

I hope you are well and having some happiness. I am fine and there is no need to worry. Let me know all the news.

All my Love
Tracy Jr.

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

S/dy Gracy H. Ashley Jr

21st West 42nd St

9 P.O. 69 to % Postmaster

POSTAL SERVICE
436
MAR
4
1943
A.P.O.



VIA AIR MAIL

PASSED BY
U 29252 S
MAR 4 1943
NEW YORK

Mrs. Gracy H. Ashley
White Plains
36 Lincoln Ave
Roseland, New York

John W. ...
7-10-43

Wednesday
February 28, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Well today is the last day of February and another month has rolled by. I'll be glad to see spring and summer come but I can't complain about our weather. If this weather will only hold up we can go a long ways towards getting this war over with. The news is all good but the Germans are still fighting. I don't know how or why they keep fighting. They certainly have nothing to gain by keeping up the fight except to cause more hatred.

the people will not harm the house in anyway. I hope they move out in the summer. We can use the few months rent for repairs on the house and be that much ahead. It would seem funny to me should I come home to find someone else living in it.

I am anxiously awaiting news of Lucille. I hope everything is fine and she has an easy time of it. I am sure everything will be nice and you will have a cute little granddaughter.

I hope I can get home before the baby is too old. I expect we will get some nice son and I will have some--

against themselves if possible.

I haven't received any mail of late so have little to write about. We are still in the same place here. I guess we have found a home. I would like to get moving again myself. This is an awful place to have to stay in. It wouldn't have been so bad if it had been a nice large town.

I wonder how things are going at 94. I imagine the people like it very much. They are very fortunate. I guess it is just as well to have it occupied as to be left empty and cold - especially if you know

nothing more of interest to say
about all we do here as our
work, ride to school, read and
listen to radio. Occasionally I take
walks in woods etc for exercise
and to pass my free time. It is
too bad so much time of a young
man must be wasted out here
when he could be making some-
thing of himself.

Well I'll close for tonight
I hope you are well. Say hello
to Crookers and wish them the
best. I am fine.

All My Love
Tracy Jr.

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

S/Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr

32477032

1st Weather Sqdn

9 P.O. 696 % Postmaster, N.Y.C.

436
MAR
6
1945
A.P.C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York

PAID BY
U.S. ARMY EXAMINER
29252

John [unclear]

Saturday P.M.

March 3, 1945

France

Hello Mom dear,

It has turned quite cold last night and today. We had a few snow flurries yesterday afternoon. Today it has been cloudy with the sun breaking through at times. One of the fellows received some jelly in a box so as it was cold we made it last night. The woman gave us some cream so we made whipped cream with chocolate bars ground up in it. The woman made us some cookies to go with it. Very good.

We received some mail last night. I received one letter from you, one from W and Spencer

and if he is home. So Mildred
Warfield is engaged to Paul Wilcox. She
seems young but I guess she is Gene
Patterson's age. Paul always seemed like
a well bred to me. What do you
think he will do after war. I see
only has a high school education
doesn't he. Sure will be a lot
of babies around when I get home.
Those fellows who have been discharged
and are up at school certainly have had
a break. They are getting a head
start on the rest of us. So Jimmy
Stevens is engaged - my my all the
young fellows are doing it.

I am thinking of Lucille very
much and am sure everything
will be fine. I know you will
write me all the news as soon
as possible. Don't forget about
getting something for Lucille & the

(5)

and several Co. Mrs. I also received
Florence Johnson's box. I hadn't
written her before because I thought
her box might come as some of the
Christmas boxes have been coming
through very late. I shall write to
her as soon as I finish writing to
you. Your letter was written Feb.
17. I am glad you get an occasional
letter in about ten days. I guess
my chances of getting a furlough are
practically nil at present. I suspect
the war will be over before I
get a break of any kind. Maybe
it is a good thing that Margie
Lawman left if the rest of the
girls can't seem to get along with
her. You mention not hearing anything
more of Ronney. I can't figure who
you mean unless it is Ronney
Walsh. Is he home? The last I
heard he was in England. It is

baby.

The war news is good.
The 1st & 9th armies are driving
up north and soon no doubt
will have Cologne and Düsseldorf.
The Germans are still in
there itching and we may have
to overrun all of Germany before
they are finished. I imagine there
are alot of Germans who would
like to quite but can't. I
wish this thing would end so
we could get home and live a
normal life.

I hope you are well and
the Crochets too. Say hello to
them for me. I will try to write
Lucille soon. I work from ten until
two tonight. I am fine - don't
worry.

All my love,
Tracy H.

AFTER 3 DAYS RETURN TO

Sgt Tracy T Ashley Jr

21st Weather Sqdn

A. P. O. 696 To Postmaster, N. Y. C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs Tracy T Ashley

White Pl

36 Lincoln Ave

Corland, New York

PASSED BY

20252

ARMY EXAMINED

March 6, 1945

France

Hello Mom dear,

Today has been cold and rainy again. I guess my thoughts of spring were premature? It hasn't been bad weather though so I shouldn't complain!

This afternoon we received some mail which no need to tell you was a present surprise! I received five letters. Three from you, one letter from Lucille and a letter from Aunt Edith. Lucille's letter was written Feb. 16. She told about the sleigh ride Corky had for his birthday party and about her house being torn up. Aunt Edith's

certainly pledged alot of girls. Rushing
and pledging is no concern of yours Mom
and though of course you are interested
there is no need to worry about it.
I think your house did well. I
imagine Chis got all of the Cortland
girls. It was nice of Ronny Walsh to
come call on you. It is too bad I
never got to see him. I didn't realize
he was so close behind me in France.
He sure is lucky to be home but
he had been over seas a very long
time. I don't blame him for being so
happy at being back. I have never
seen the Pease boy. I may some day though.

Feb. 19. Glad you could go up to Leaville
for lunch and attend a movie. We
can see movies but we must ride
in the cold along ways and then it
may be an old picture or the thing
breaks down several times. I would
rather stay in and read or something.
Please don't worry so much about
yourself and what the future holds.

letter was written Feb 15. She didn't have much to say talked about the war ending, weather. Says Dick is still in Alabama. Says they are training a lot of Wars there now but doesn't know if that will affect Dick or not. She mentions something about Andy going back in planes with only his one eye. Is he going to fly again? Write me about it.

Your letter Feb 14. Glad you are receiving my mail O.K. I am sure the people won't hurt the house. I am sorry his car won't fit in the garage. So you are having lots of opportunities to rent or sell the house. I don't want to do either unless I should have a very good job outside of Cortland. I would rather live right there. I am glad you only lost the one girl really. That isn't bad at all. A.D. certainly is blossoming out. When I was in school Mr. King was all the rage - at least for Phys Ed. They

you know grandma would scold you
for not having faith. Don't worry every-
thing will be fine when I get home. If
some day I find a girl I want to marry
I will bring her home to live with
us.

Feb. 20. Don't worry about shopping
for my birthday things don't mean
much over here. I'll be happy if
the war will only end. I wrote you I
had received Mrs. Johnson's box and have
written to her. Sorry to hear she is in
the hospital. I heard about furloughs
in New France but don't expect to get
any. They tell me men doing my kind
of work can't be spared. I bet you
looked swell at the Theta Chi dinner.
Damn I could have seen you!

I am awaiting anxiously to hear
all the baby. I am glad Luella can
have good care and see a girl at home.
I know you will write all the news
as soon as possible. I am still here
and am fine. Don't worry. Take
good care of yourself. all my love,
Tracy Jr.

A/ Sgt Tracy H Ashley Jr

32471032

21st W 44th St

9 P.O. 696 70 Postmaster N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs Tracy H Ashley
54th St

36 Lincoln Ave

Cortland, New York



Friday Night
March 9, 1945
France

Hi Mom dear,

I haven't written for a couple of days and have no reason, unless it was because I had nothing to write about and still haven't but am writing just to say hello and let you know I am thinking of you as always.

The big news today is that the Americans are across the Rhine. That is really good news. I hope we can make a last final drive. The Russians are starting their final offensive for Berlin. I hope we can finish it off this spring so I can get home this summer. It would be wonderful wouldn't it.

maybe we are here just to hold
this sector. It sure looks
that way.

Our weather hasn't been good
these last few days, rain and cloudy.
It is typical spring weather at home
though but I don't suppose
you will get yours for awhile
yet.

Where we are we can't have
access to stores and army P.O. so
we can't buy things or order
things to be sent home. There
is nothing I would like better
than to give you a beautiful
big carriage for Easter. I could
send a money order but as
long as I have money at home
that seems foolish. I am trying
to save what I can of the

② It shouldn't take too long to defeat all organized resistance then it will take awhile to wipe out pockets of fanatical resistance. They shouldn't need too many men over here.

Maybe I will get some mail tomorrow. I am awaiting news about the baby but I suppose it may be another week before I hear anything. Sometimes it makes one wish letters would come in three or four days doesn't it. I know everything is O.K. and am not worried but I want to know if it is a boy or girl name etc. I bet you are very proud.

We are still here and it doesn't look like we will ever move. All of the armies except ours is moving forward.

money I receive here about \$36. Now
I suppose Lealle may give you a
corrage for Easter so I want you
to take \$50 from my money and
use it for your trip to New York.
you can buy one little thing like
clocks etc or use it for sleep
sight seeing etc. I really mean
this and will be very dissappointed
if you don't. I hope you are
planning on a trip to New York.
It will do you much good to get
away. I will be thinking of you
and hope you have the best
time possible. Maybe when the
war is over we can get into Paris
or some big city and I can buy
so something over here. Don't
forget. I hope you are well. I am
fine. Say hello to Crocker. Tell
my love. Yours Fr

S/Lt Tracy H. Ashley
32471032

21st Weather Sq
9 P.B. 696 70 Post



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York



Sunday Night

March 11, 1945

France

Hello Mom dear,

Here another Sunday has rolled around and another week has passed. Sometimes one wonders where the time goes to. I didn't receive any mail yesterday. There weren't many letters. I wish I had just to have something to write about. I know my letters are dull but so is my existence here. Sometimes I think we have been stuck out in the back woods too long. One gets irritable and it is hard to get along. The same old thing day in day out with no change or nothing to look forward to except the end of the war which might be a few days

are a few years off. It could be
at all worse but some fellows get
furloughs, passie rotations etc. maybe
if we can get moving again things will
be more interesting.

I hope I can get some news of
Luella and the baby soon. I am
anxious to hear as you no doubt know.

The war news is good and it looks
like we should get it over with soon.

Our weather continues cloudy. I hope you
are beginning to get some better
weather. I hope you are well and
can get out and have some good times
you don't have much more to do than

I suppose you can have free time
during day to go down town etc. I am well
and feel o.k. Don't worry. All my love,

Tracy Jr

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

#32471032

21st Weather Sqdn

A. P. O. 696 7/8 Postmaster, N. Y. C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.,
Cortland, New York

PASSED BY

U

20249

James D. McQuigg
Capt RC

Wednesday Night
March 14, 1945
France

Hello Mom, dear,

We finally moved out of the town where we had been so long. We had stayed there so many weeks it felt like a home. It did seem good to hit the road again and be moving. It makes me feel that things are beginning to advance again. It really is noisy here because (many) artillery. We are in another town. We have houses to sleep in. There are four of us in my room. It is good we have cots to sleep on. The room is bare. So far we are eating rations but they are not bad. This place is cleaner than the last one - and it did not suffer too much damage.

at me. Other women would want to
keep their home and have their
children around them.

Feb. 27 says its along way from
Coastland over here but I'll be
home quite-quite if they'd let
me. I'll be just as glad as
you when I hear the baby
has arrived. (K. :) I know you'll
write as soon as possible. It's
a lucky to have such good attention
with doctors & nurse so scarce.

Dad also received an envelope
with clippings & stories & said your
lovely letter card. I'm so glad.

The war news is good. I
think this spring & early summer
should clear it up. I sure of
how we can get home as soon as
possible after the end of the war.

② There is a little canal that runs by here but I guess no boats are running on it. The few people I have seen around seem friendly enough.

Today I was having a picnic some nice small meat from you!

Feb. 25 I guess they're giving furloughs to Paris but we can't get any. I will be glad to be able to go into the Victor's new restaurant. Its too bad about your girls & their blind dates. Boys can really be mean and I suppose they think they can get just any girl they please now. I have heard midges on the radio also etc. Sully. I love you have fun Easter vacation alright

Feb. 26 I have written to Mrs Johnston well so I remember "Hellcock". I bet the Coach will be glad to hear his over. Thanks loads for sending the birthday boxes. I will be looking for them. I guess Aunt Mable doesn't know when she has

Dear

I hope we shall have some
news in the end. It
shouldn't take long once we
get rolling like we did through
Dana after the
Dana.

Dana - you don't worry.
Take care of yourself. Have
you been sick any this winter?
I must close as I must get
up early. Good luck.

All my love,
Henry J.

Lt. Col. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

32471032

21st Weather Sqdn.

A. P. O. 696 7th Postmaster, N. Y. C.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave.

Cortlandt, New York

PASSED BY

UT

29249

James McLaughlin
Capt. RC

Friday Night
March 16, 1945
France,

Hello Mom dear,

I am writing this at the
weather's truck. I go to work
about ten-thirty and as there
is no class in going to bed first
I thought I would come over here
a little earlier and write to
you. I will be working until
about three. unless he so well
want to sleep later in the
morning. A real good thing about
being the way we have been
one can get his rest no matter
what kind of a shift he works
as there are not a lot of men
around to keep you awake if
you wish to sleep during the

it is through the Maginat and
Siegfried Line defenses which are
full of blockhouses, forts etc. etc.
woods and hills. I hope we
can keep going and get this
over with soon now.

I am waiting news of Lucille's
new baby anxiously. I hope the
next batch of mail brings me word.
I am sure everything will be
fine. I am anxious to learn
the sex of said baby but I
hope it is a girl. Corky will
be very proud of a baby sister
not to mention your having a
little granddaughter.

I am wondering what they
have decided about Easter
vacation. I hope you get one.

daytime! We are eating in a regular mess hall now but we still have to drive quite a ways (as usual) to get there! I doubt if I will go to breakfast in the morning.

There is a quite a bit of artillery around here but it is quite peaceful. The weather the past few days has been marvellous. Very good weather for an attack. I read in the paper where we had gained two to four miles on a fifty mile front. This doesn't sound like much but if you could see the terrain around here you would understand that it is quite an achievement. Also

Oh it will be gone a lot of goods;
It is lovely it was at least the best
of his time of years.

Well I know I haven't much
more to write I have had some
I want to see my eyes in all
the time I have wanted to see the
in my I don't know what
more. I don't know what
the time I have had some
I want to see my eyes in all

I don't know what
the time I have had some
I want to see my eyes in all
the time I have wanted to see the
in my I don't know what
more. I don't know what
the time I have had some
I want to see my eyes in all

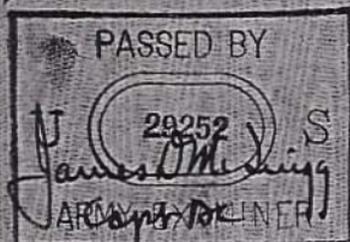
Lt. Tracy H Ashley Jr
21st Weather Sqdn.

9 P.O. 696 % Postmaster, N.Y.



Via Air Mail

Mrs Tracy H Ashley
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York



Tuesday Night

March 20, 1945

France

Hello Mom dear,

I have honestly forgotten when I wrote you my last letter. It was either the day before yesterday or the day before that. I didn't write yesterday

again. We are beginning to get rolling again. It does seem good though. It is very boring to stay in one place week in week out especially if it is a dull place to start with.

Where we are now is next a town which is the most little communities in this section. There are alot of pill boxes around. I was in some of them. They go down underground. many stores have kitchens, bedrooms, hospitals, railroads and everything all deep under-

ground. The tunnels run from one cell
box to another. It really is very
elaborate and must of cost a mint of
money. What a waste too had it
couldn't have been spent for welfare
in something. They could have
made alot of stucco houses for workers
etc.

The war was in pretty good.
I hope we can keep during and
get it over with soon. I haven't

had mail for sometime so I
know nothing about the baby or
things at home. I am fine. I

hope everything is well at home.

Don't worry and take care of
yourself say hello to all of the
Crocker's for me.

All my love,
Tracy

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

32471032

21st Weather Sqdn.

A. P. O. 696 % Postmaster, N. Y.



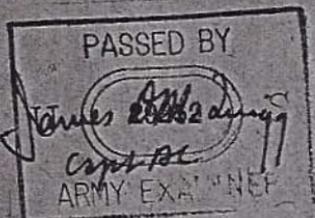
Via Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley

89 South Main St.

Homer,

New York



Friday Night
March 30, 1945
Germany

Hello Mom dear,

I hardly know how to start this letter as so much has happened since I wrote you last. Although I haven't written much of late (I have been very busy) I have thought of you often and as the war is drawing to a close I hope to get home soon!

We moved quite a bit and then I unexpectedly had a chance for a four day stay in Nancy at the rest center. I wrote you once from there. I can't remember if I wrote to you before that telling you I was in Germany or not. I had a nice time in Nancy and a good rest. It is a wonderful place to go. It is just like a hotel. We get up when we want to, eat from plates with girls serving us and the food is good. There is an orchestra that plays for meals and at night. Movies, swimming etc. I took a tour of the city and saw all sorts of interest. I saw several late movies, a French play and had a couple of dates with a French mademoiselle.

I have ridden more miles the past week than ever before in my life. The trip to Nancy was

long and tiresome. We have moved several times
 since I got back. One thing that impressed me
 about Germany is the wonderful roads - wide, straight
 and in good condition. You can travel for miles in a
 straight line. The larger industrial cities however
 been all put leveled by bombs but the rest of
 Germany does not seem to have suffered much.
 The people's attitude doesn't seem hostile and they
 are not arrogant at all. I guess they realize they are
 beaten. We certainly have come along ways into Germany
 after we crossed the Rhine and it must make an
 impression on them. I guess you hear as much
 news as I. We certainly are making rapid gains.
 It seems hard to understand. At the pace we
 are going now the war will be over in a couple
 of weeks. I surely hope so.

We haven't had any mail for a long time and
 I still have no news of the baby. The last letters
 I received were - (I don't know whether I have told
 you I received them)

Feb. 11, Feb 25, 26, 27, Mar 3. Mrs Penn is wrong about
 my address. I am in the IV Corps. Anytime you read
 anything about IV Corps you will know I am near.
 We certainly are making good progress. Last

night we spent in a German chateau. It was very old the site dating back to 1300. It was situated on a hill overlooking a small German village. It is very beautiful and picturesque ~~scenery~~ around here. We found a lot of German food which had been looted from other countries. We ate them for supper. We had eel, anchovies, porc de fer grass, tuna fish, sardines and red wine. I forgot to mention we found in one place thousands of bottles of French champagne. It was very good stuff. Tonight by contrast we are sleeping in a farmhouse. The Germans are allowed out of their houses only a few hours during the day. The streets are usually empty. One sees white flags flying from all of the buildings.

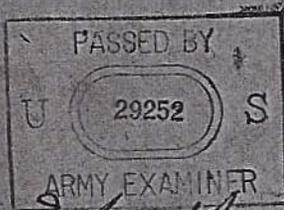
I am wondering if you have an Easter Vacation. I hope we get some mail soon so I will know what you are doing. I hope you had a very happy Easter. I will be happy knowing that I will be with you next year. The war must be over soon. Please say hello to Crocker for me. I am sorry I haven't Lucille but she's had time. I am
am fine - don't worry.
all my love,
Tracy P.

S/Lt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696 70 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Via Air mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Sigma Phi House
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland, New York



John H. [unclear]
157 [unclear]

Monday P.M.

April 2, 1945

Germany

Hello Mom dear,

It has been rather a cold bleak day here today. The weather the past week in fact has not been pleasant. I hope we can get some nice weather soon. I read in the 'Stars and Stripes' where you have had some warm weather at home.

It is hard to realize we are in Germany. Things are just the same as always. The scenery is different. It is very beautiful around here! Hills covered with deep evergreen forests. Swift streams, old mills and rustic bridges. The cities are different than in other places I've been. Cobblestone streets which are quite narrow with the houses right on the curb. The German women are very clean. They always seem to be scrubbing windows, sidewalks etc. The kids are always neat and clean. The boys usually have blonde, short cropped hair and the girls have their hair braided in pigtails down their back or in a little bun on their head. They certainly

are deceiving looking. As you know we can have nothing to do with them even if we wanted to. Non fraternization is the rule and if anyone is found talking or with Germans they are fined \$65. Most of us of course would not want to have anything to do with them but it is a good rule for those who do. We live fairly well here! We usually just move into a house and take it over. No civilians of course.

I went to church yesterday afternoon at two. We had Easter services in a German church. It was a beautiful church. I noticed several plaques around the walls with list of German boys from the church killed in the last war. Quite ironic isn't it.

Some of the German towns have not been harmed at all and others where there was stiff resistance have been leveled to the ground.

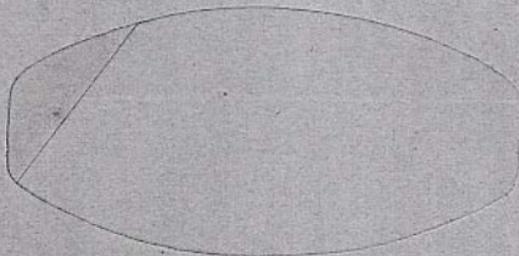
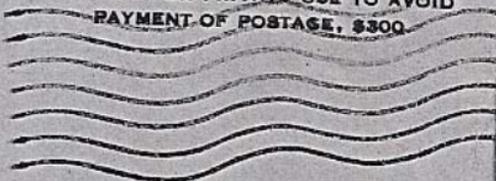
We have had no mail in several weeks. At the rate we have been going we won't get any. I am anxious to hear about the baby. Did you have an Easter vacation? Home seems further away than ever now with no mail etc. I trust all is well. I am fine ^{no} need to worry. The war should be over soon. Say hello to all the Crockers for me. Tell Lucille I will try to write if we get settled at all. all my love
Tracy Jr.

**WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



**PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300**



Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



MRS TRACY H. ASHLEY

89 SOUTH MAIN ST.

HOMER, NEW YORK

SGT TRACY H. ASHLEY JR
(Sender's name)

21st WED. SQ. W. H.
(Sender's address)

APD 676

To Postmaster, N.Y.C.
(Date)

MARCH 26, 1945
NANCY, FRANCE

Hullo Mom dear

I haven't written to you as of late as we have been doing alot of moving as you no doubt realize. I am in Nancy now. I was chosen to come here for four days. I have had the best ^{day} so far. I know I am in the [REDACTED] COMPS. They have a wonderful rest center here in Nancy. Very good food, lots of sleep etc. I really has done me alot of good. I write you that we are now in Germany. I myself don't know where my outfit is. I bet you are really beaten up. Nancy is quite a small place. It sure seems good to get back where people are about and it is quiet. Lots of combat men here etc. resting. It is nice [REDACTED]
all my love,
Tracy Jr.

S/Sgt Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

21st St. ~~St. Anthony~~ ~~St. Anthony~~ ~~St. Anthony~~

A. P. O. 1686 Postmaster, N.Y.C.

17 BPO

11 APR

1945



Via Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley

Theta Phi House

36 Lincoln Ave.

Cortland, New York

PASSED BY

U

29252

S

ARMY EXAMINER

John [unclear]
1ST LT AC

Wednesday P.M.
April 4, 1945
Germany

5 Hello Mom dear,

Well today I am twenty-four but I don't feel any older. Today has not been different than any other day. I hope to spend my next birthday at home with you. Of course, I expect to be home long before that.

The war news continues to be good. I honestly don't see how the Germans can stop us. Of course it will take some time to clean up pockets of resistance. Germany certainly is a lovely and picturesque country. The forests are beautiful with their tall stately trees. The cities are clean and neat except where they have been blown up. I wish we would get some.

mail. I have no idea of what has been going on at home after the first of March.

I surely hope my mail is reaching you better. I haven't written here much as usual as we have been so busy. I wish I could tell you where I am. We certainly have moved unbelievable distances.

We see alot of refugees and slave laborers, Russians, Poles, Czechs, French, Italians etc. They wander around not knowing where to go. It really is pitiful. I have been overseas ^{almost} two years and it seems like a long time. Most of them have been slave laborers for more than four years.

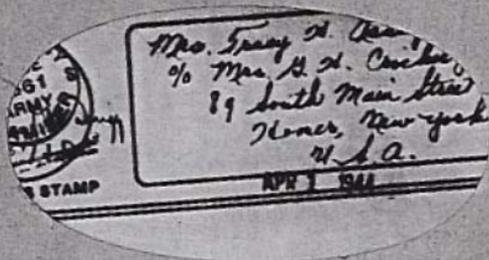
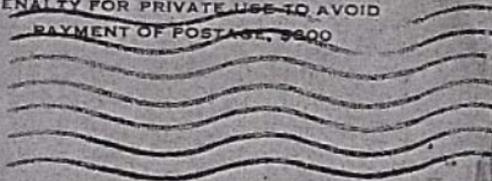
Well I must close. I hope you are all well. I am fine. I hope we get some mail soon. Maybe I'll be home before it catches up with me. Don't worry.
all my love
Teddy J.

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$600



No. 12



CENSORS STAMP

Mrs. Tracy H. Kelly Jr.
% Mrs. H. D. Cochran Jr.
89 South Main Street
Hones, New York
N. Y.

APR 1 1941

U.S. Army Signal Corps
SENDER'S NAME

21st Weather Squadron

SENDER'S ADDRESS

A. P. O. 678

% Postmaster, N. Y. C.

DATE

March 29, 1941

Thursday night
N. Y.

Dearest Mom,

Just a line tonight to let you know I am thinking of you as always. I am rather tired so I want to get to sleep early. I am working twelve hour shifts for a short time now and it will be a little tough. I just finished a letter to Bill Beasant as I owed him one after his nice letter.

I am fine and quite happy with my work. There is little to do here but work but that is alright with me. It is a beautiful camp here and I hope to see some of the country round about eventually. It is nice to see new places.

I hope you are well. I have not heard from you again as yet. Please take care of yourself and get some rest. Try to keep your mind occupied. Hope you get the check straight. Please don't worry about anything. I am fine and very healthy.

Love,
Tracy Jr.

V MAIL

S/sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Weather Sqdn.
9. P. O. Log 6 7. Postmaster, N. Y. C.



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
Theta Phi
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

29252 S
John D. [unclear]
EXAMINER
1ST CLAR

night
April 10, 1945
Germany

Hello Mom dear,

I can't remember when I wrote to you last because we have been so busy. If I ~~would~~ could write you every other day I would be at least fifty miles from the place I wrote the day before. We are moving at a rapid pace as you can read in the papers. Besides all the work connected with moving we have to do our regular work as it is very important.

Yesterday - or was it the day before we received a little mail. I am elated at the news of the arrival of Tracy Ashley Crocker. I have

Phi House mothers pen. I am sure
everything she said about you was true.
I am proud of you. Mar 21. It is
nice you can go up to see Lucille
and the baby. I would love to
see him. I hope we can get home
soon and see him. It was nice
of Lucille's friends to send flowers
and gifts. It is nice she has
such a capable girl working for
her. You are on the right track
and watching the correct army.

It is swell you are a patroness at
the Intersisterhood Ball. By the way
I received a Co Mo and read in it
where Dr. Pierce presented you with
the pin. Very nice! I also received
two letters from Lucille. Both
written March 22. A V mail & an
air mail. I will try my best to
write to her tomorrow if possible.

(2)

been anxiously awaiting news. I am very proud to have a new nephew with the same name as mine.

The letters I received were March 7

I am glad to hear my letters are getting through. I received one box with the letters. I haven't been able to open it as yet. I also received two envelopes I haven't opened yet.

I am glad the baby is healthy and looks so nice. I will write Corby a letter as soon as possible.

I am wondering if you received my letter telling you to take fifty dollars for Easter. I wanted you to use it on your trip to New York. I am glad you could go and I hope you have or had a good time. I will have enough money when I get out of the army. I think it was very nice of Dr. Purse to give you that

One sees many prisoners and
slave labourers around. I talked
with some French prisoners which
we liberated. They had been
prisoners for five years, and they
said they couldn't believe they
had been freed. They all wander
around smiling at the Americans,
shaking hands, kissing etc. There
has been a hard lot. We talked
with some Russian girls. They
worked 12 hrs ~~or~~ day seven days
a week in a factory. Were beaten
etc. Americans have been fortunate
in this war not to have suffered
like other nationals. I guess that's
why we are here. I am sure don't
worry. Hope it end soon. All my love,
P.S. Tell Louella the pull letter
I wrote will be to her. Tracy Jr.

S/ Sgt Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Sq dnt
APO 696 70 Postmaster's Office
1945

POSTAL
436
APR
21
1945
APR



Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
36 Lincoln Ave
Cortland,
New York

PASSED BY
U (29252) S

John H. ...
157 CFAE

Monday

April 16, 1945

Germany

Hello Mom dear,

I certainly have not been writing as much as usual have I. We are kept very busy with our work and trying to keep up with front. We certainly are really moving and I think the war should be over soon now. I hope I can get home soon after it is over.

We get very little mail now. I guess it is because we are so far away. The last letter I received told about the baby. I also received the birthday box from you and Lucille with the candy, cigarettes, nuts and cookies. Thanks very much. I hope you had a nice Easter vacation down with Aunt

mable. ^{I am} awaiting more letters so as
I can ^{hear} all about it.

We see many interesting sights the
most colorful is to see the slave laborers
the Germans have brought into Germany. We
see them along all the roads and in the towns
There must be thousands of them in
Germany. Most of them have worked very
hard.

The German cities have really been bombed.
I hope they have learned a lesson not
to make war. Of course all the Germans are
good Germans and didn't want Hitler they say.

I hope we can get this cleaned up soon
and come home and live a normal life. It
no doubt will be hard at first after three
years in the army. I hope you are well. I am
fine so don't worry. Say hello to Crocifers for me.
all my love,
Meady Dr.

S/Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.

32471032

21st Weather Sqdn

A. P. O. 696 To Postmaster, N. Y. C.

OSTA

436
APR
24
1945

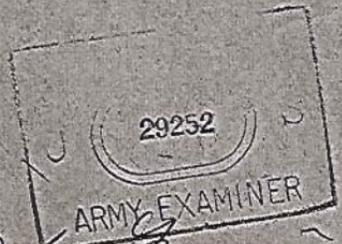


Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley

36 Lincoln Ave.

Cortland, New York



John P. [unclear]
15717 AF

April 20, 1945

Germany

Hello Mom dear,

Today is a lovely day here. I am sitting in the back yard of the house where we are staying. The sun is shining and it is quite warm. There is a main road which passes by here and there is a continuous flow of traffic by here. It certainly is a peculiar sight. We have our own modern trucks and jeeps etc and then there are the refugees and slave workers with horse drawn carts, push carts, wagons, bath tubs on wheels etc. The slave workers go around picking up whatever they can - food, clothes etc. There is a meat factory up the road and the

people are going by with strings of balloons
and balloons tied to stakes on bicycles etc.

It is an amusing yet pathetic sight
They have so little to eat.

It is very quiet here now and
can always hear the drone of airplanes
and a distant artillery fire but not very
loud. The city we are near at present
has not been damaged too greatly as there
was not much resistance here.

The war news is good but the
Germans fight on. I don't see why
they keep it up. Berlin is almost
entered. Nuremberg the birthplace of
Nazism is about to fall. I guess it
won't be over until we occupy all of
Germany. That shouldn't take too
much longer at the rate we are going.
I can't see where they get all of the men.

I haven't received any mail lately and don't know when I will. We don't seem to have any mail system. We just receive it when someone comes out from headquarters - which isn't often at present.

I hope Lucille and the baby are coming along nicely. About all I know is that it's here. I sure would love to see him. I am anxious to hear if you had a nice time down at Aunt Mables. I hope you have had some nice weather. We can't complain about ours over here.

I was hoping I could get home this summer and there still is a

chance to. I guess it doesn't take long
to get there. once they decide to send one.

I can't get over how beautiful Germany
is. At least this part. Much more so
than England or France in a rugged
sort of way.

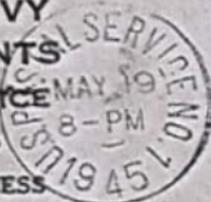
I hope you are well and everything
is going fine. I am fine so please
don't worry. Say hello to all the
Crocker family for me.

All my love,

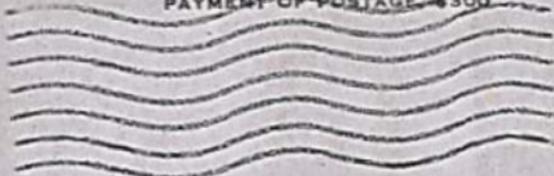
Tracy Jr.

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300



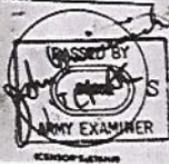
2

Very small writing is not to be read.

EXAMINER	To	Mrs. Eray H. Aubrey	From	Art [unclear]
		36 Lincoln Ave.		at [unclear]
		Castland, New York		0.00 [unclear]
				2 [unclear]

Place the complete address to which blank letters in the present tubes, and your return address in the space provided. The recipient, date, day, or month. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.



To Mrs. Tracy H. Oakley
36 Leicesters Ave.
Castland, New York

From

Tracy H. Oakley
(Sender's name)

36 Leicesters Ave.
(Sender's address)

900. 696

3 Postoffice, N. Y. C.

(Date)

May 1, 1945

Hello Mom dear,

Just a line to say hello and let you know I am O.K. I am sorry my letter writing has been so scanty but I have been very busy. I know you must be following the seventh army very much so you know about where I am at about time. We certainly are moving rapidly. I hear the people in the States were celebrating the war and a little prematurely. It doesn't look overcast from where I am but should be in a few weeks. We can make many more miles this year sure. Everyone talked about Hitler's another retreat. I don't see that at all so much. The Germans are broken but don't admit it. I assume some mail will tell you about that better than I can. I am fine. all my love Tracy H.

V - N

Sunday Night
May 6, 1945
Austria

Salvo Mom dear,

The news the past few days has certainly been wonderful. All resistance in front of the seventh army has ceased. The Germans in Italy and in the north have quit. There are just a few fighting in Czechoslovakia. The war is practically over. I imagine the end will be announced shortly.

Yesterday I had one of the most beautiful rides I have ever had coming here. We came past and into the Bavarian and Austrian alps. It is a breath taking sight. They are very tall and ^{have} snow covered peaks. This is

very beautiful country. Evergreen forests going right up the mountains to the timber line then snow. The people are very picturesque in their dress. They wear very colorful clothes, feathers in their hats, shorts with colorful suspenders etc. Girls and women wear hair in long braids down their backs and are quite nice looking.

We saw thousands of prisoners. They were all moving back. The German surrender to us was to go into effect this noon but yesterday thousands of them were coming in. They were walking, driving their own trucks etc. We passed them as we moved up. We could see them stretching for actually miles. It was a small thing to see. They really looked like a beaten army. They were rejected and bubbling along.

(2) One sees so much and does so much
he cannot write at all.

I received some mail but I don't remember
when or where. It wasn't only a couple of days ago
I guess. April 9. you just returned from N.Y. I
am glad you had such a nice time! Don't
worry about my trusting any Germans. I don't
think I will have to go to the Pacific but
I may stay here for awhile. April 17. Glad
to hear the baby is doing well. It was nice
Janie & the baby could visit Lucille. April 20
Lucille does have plenty of work with two children
I guess you won't have to worry much now
will you. I imagine I will go back to air
force now that hostilities have ceased. I sincerely
hope so. April 21st That thing in the paper
about the meritorious Service Plaque must have
been sent by the Public Relations office of
the 21st U.S. Army. I didn't know

it had been sent. I had forgotten to mention it to you in my letter. I look for other clippings to.

We have a lovely home we are living in here. It is typical Alpine architecture which is very decorative with scallops and how do you call it - conchy works? The scenery so beautiful. I can look out of the window and see high snow capped peaks. There is a large, old castle here in the city which is quite famous. We have swell beds and a radio. Electric stove etc. I just heard the news and they say Churchill is to announce the end of the war in Europe in a day or so. I am fine - don't worry. I hope you are all well at home. Say hello to Crochens for me.

All my love,
Tracy Jr.

May 17, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Dearest Mom,

Today is another lonely day here. In fact every day has been nice since we have been here. This is really a beautiful spot. I don't think we will stay here much longer but will probably move back to Munich.

I am definitely not going to the Pacific but will stay here in the army of occupation at some air-base until replacements come from the States. I don't have enough points to be discharged but I doubt if I would be if I had the necessary

points. It certainly is a much better
deal staying here and then coming
home for good than to get home quickly
and then head out again.

We received a batch of mail again.
Some of the letters were very old. I'll tell
you what letters I received. Feb 22. Mar 6
Day baby arrived. Mar 9th, 11th, 13, 15, 18, 19th
April 22 you & Lucille. April 26th you and
Lucille wrote on the bus on the way
to Syracuse. I received - birthday
cards and pictures of Cobby. Also you & his.
Cobby sure has grown some. I will
hardly recognize him when I get home. They
were very good pictures. I am anxious to see
little Tracy too. It was nice you and Lucille

could get to Syracuse. I hope you are getting
some nice weather. Ours here is wonderful.
This is a swell place to be. I don't know
how long we will be here.

I received your two boxes with tuna fish, soup
soup marshmallows etc. They took along
time coming but they certainly were
worth it. Thank you very much. If you
want to send anything please send
to eat and cigarettes. I also would like
two summer shirts (Kaki) They are called
sun ten shirts for summer army uniforms. We
can't get them here and C.D. shirts are too
hot.

I expect to be here in the army
of occupation for at least a little while. I'll
probably be at the Munich airport with



let you know as soon as I feel out for
sure. We are working regular, hence as
usual but don't have the strain of work
or money to contend with. These American
people try to be friendly but we can
have nothing to do with them. We can
go swimming and lay around in sun on
our time off. Also climb mountains etc.

It would be a great place for sking
in the winters. I am fine, and hope you
all are. Please say hello to Couchers for
me. Thanks loads for your wonderful
letters. Don't worry.

All my love
Tracy Jr.

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENT

V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



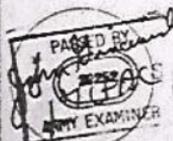
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PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300



5



FROM



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO Mrs. Tracy H. Ashby
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cottlands
New York

Det Tracy H. Ashby Jr
21st Weather Signal
A.P.O. 696
7th Postmaster, N.Y.C.

(Sender's complete address above)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

Hello Mom dear,

May 7, 1945
Australia

Well the war is over! It seems almost strange. I always thought when the war ended it would feel great but at just second young. you can't go on day in and day wondering and worrying etc and then have it end abruptly. Of course we knew it was going to end at any moment. When we were coming here we passed thousands of prisoners on their way back. There was isn't officially over until tomorrow night but there had been much celebrating tonight. We have flares and signal lights and Very rockets. Tonight they were going off all over the sky like the night fireworks on July 4th. It is good now.

all my love,
Tracy Jr.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



6

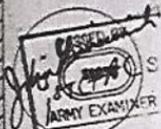
EXAMINER

TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
36 Lincoln Avenue
Cortland,
New York

FROM: Det. T. H. ...
Rt. 1st W. ...
9 P. O.
1/2 P. ...

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's)

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
26 Louisa Avenue
Castland,
New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

Pat Tracy H. Ashley
3rd Weather Signal
9 P O Box
1/2 Freshwater, N.Y.C.
(Sender's complete address above)

May 8, 1945
Austria

Mom dear,

Today has been quite a day. We didn't do any work today. Everyone is celebrating especially the infantry boys and I don't blame them at all. They are the ones who should. Today I saw Hitler's home or what is what is left of it. It was really bombed. Hardly anything is left of it or the 2d barracks around it. There has been much noise of guns & rockets going off all day. I thought all the guns in the area are going to open up in a salute to victory. It will be some night at night to see it. It takes place at midnight. When I am home now in a beautiful resort city at the foot of the Alps. The city is noted for its musical festivals held here each summer before war.

all my love
Tracy Jr.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

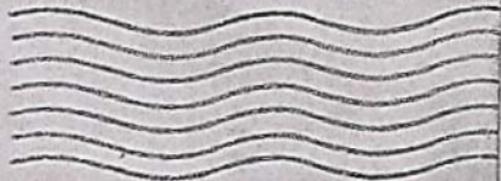


HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

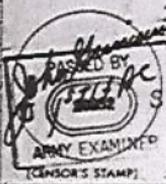
WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



TO: MRS. TRACY H. ASHLEY
36 LINCOLN AVE.
CORTLAND
NEW YORK

FROM: AT TRACY H. ASHLEY JR.
21ST WED. SQ. N.
A.P.O. 696
% POSTMASTER, NYC
(Sender's complete address above)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

May 12, 1945
Quebec

Hello Mom dear,
Just a line to say hello and let you know I
am thinking of you. Although the war is over
we are back in the saddle again and
working as usual. There are certain things we don't
have to do now of course. I don't know as yet
what I will do. I don't think I will go to the
Pacific. The name of the place where I am now
is Selkirk, Quebec. It is a beautiful place
it is very nice and warm here during the
day. I have been swimming already. It
is a beautiful place with the mountains and all. I
wish you could see it. There is a festival
festival.

all my love
Tracy Jr.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V---MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 O-371418

Sunday
May 21, 1945 ^{+22nd}
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Well our weather has gone against us at last and we are getting our share of ^{rain} ~~winter~~. This is a nice place though and it is really beautiful around here. I told you I had visited Hitler's Berchtesgarden which isn't far from Salzburg.

There is no censorship now so I will try to tell you a little of what I have done since leaving the States. As you know we sailed from Staten Island on July 17, 1943. We landed at Guroe, Scotland on July 27. It was a long rough trip with submarines etc. At Guroe we boarded a train and rode to a place called Welford Park near Newberry, England. It was quite a nice trip down. The 21st Weas. Sqdn. was all together at Welford Park until the last

of August when we were put into detachments and sent out to different parts of England & Scotland to bomber & fighter bases etc. I left there the last of August for Smiths Lawn and Little airfield in the heart of Windsor Park near Windsor Castle and the city of Windsor and Slough & Maiden. From here I went to the reunion in London etc. We had a very good time there. Early in December we received orders to proceed to north Ireland to an R.A.F. airbase at a place called Rato Carna. (I forgot to mention that at Welford Park they picked a few men to do radio-tele work) I studied it all the time we were there and then did the work in the field until I became a qualified operator. Just radio-tele men went to north Ireland. There were 4 radio-tele men and one officer Lt. Baxter. We were with the R.T.C. In March a full weather det. came up. (observers & forecasters and radio men for communication) We were to join the 1st Corps which was in

in Harcarock, N.I. It had been arranged to have weather det. with radsonde with the ground forces. It is very important for the officers to know the weather before planning an attack etc. With radsonde we figured out ballistics for the artillery which was very important. We stayed in N.I. until the first of May when we came back to England. We were stationed in a place called Adderbury between Oxford and Banbury (famous for fairs). Almost the same place I was at originally. We went up to Wales just before the invasion for 'artillery practice' in the mountains. We were there when the invasion started. The XV Corps was in 13th army which didn't make the D day landings. We moved to Southampton and thence to the beachhead in France. We hit France July 10. We went to a place called Berville sur-Mer. Near it was nice and we did get to go swimming.

several times. The fighting was still hard on
the beachhead. Jerry bombers came over bombing
& strafing very often. July 25 the big battle
at St. Lo and the 3rd Army went into action. We
moved very fast almost every day until we were
just outside of Paris where we had a short rest. That
is we didn't move we still did our work. Our
worst time for enemy activity was coming through
France. We use to dig a hole and patch our pup
tents over it and then sleep in the fox-hole.
We were at or near all the famous spots in the
battle for France. At Rose in Brice we were able
to visit Paris. After Paris we again moved
quite rapidly. We came to Lunerville where we
stayed for a couple of months, in Sept. we lived
in a house there for the first time. Lunerville
became quiet after awhile and we had a
Red Cross and messes there. There was
much hard fighting around Lunerville in the forest

(3)

de Poise where I better fought in the last war. The mines were well dug in and it took some time to get them out. The next larger town we hit was Sarbourg. The shelling at this time was very bad especially at night. One shell landed about fifty-yards away and knocked out five trucks. I forget how long we were at Sarbourg. From there we moved to Sarrailh. This was just before Christmas and we spent Christmas here. This was the time of the breakthrough in Belgium. The 3rd army had moved up there. The 2nd Corps joined 2nd army. Things were very very tense. The Germans dropped gas in places behind our lines which were very thin. We were shelled alot at Sarrailh and finally had to retreat back. We moved to a place called Wolfshirchen where we stayed quite some time and I lived with the family I wrote to you about. It wasn't a very nice

towns and there wasn't much to do. I went
hunting several times. Our spring offensive
finally got under way and we moved out again
and we sure were glad to get moving again.
We were around the Rutch, Weisenburg area.
I forgot to mention Saeverne & Strasbourg. We
sat on the Magast Line for several days
near Sarzenines. We crossed into Germany
at Saarbrücken. We went through Kaiserlautern
and Zwickhauser etc. Worms looked like a
nice old place but it had been bombed terribly
so had all German cities. I can't remember
all of the places. Bamberg, Gromberg, Nurnberg,
Munich & Salzburg. I certainly have covered
a lot in these few pages. I couldn't tell
you everything in a letter though as I want
to have something to tell you about when I
get home. If you have any questions at all

4
let me know as I can answer any questions
now. On the point system I have 69 pts.
It takes 85 to be discharged but I wouldn't
be discharged if I had 85 pts. We are
classified as essential. 32 months in army, 22
months overseas • 3 battle stars at 5 pts
each = $32 + 22 + 15 = 69$ pts. We are supposed
to go to the airport at Munich sometime but
we are still here. It is a nice place
though and I don't mind staying here. We
still do our regular work but don't move
and worry etc.

I started this letter yesterday but was
interrupted several times. I am well and
hope I can start for home before
too much longer. I hope you are
well. Say hello to all of the Crocker
family for me. I must write

to them the next letter. I have had
no more mail since last batch I wrote
to you about. Don't worry.

All my love,

Tracy Jr

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

FROM

TO

Mrs. Algon & Corby J.
89 South Main St.
Rome, New York

Col Tracy J. Ashley Jr.
4th Wackerly Bldg
R.F.D. 696 72 Lakeside, N.Y.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

May 24, 1945
Lakeside, N.Y.

Dear Lucille, Algon & Corby & Tracy,

I really am ashamed for not writing very often and I really have no excuse since she war has been over there has been a awful lot done. Everything has been so strained and stressed that most things seem quite strange. We are doing our regular work but naturally it isn't as hard. We are on a lovely spot here in the Alps. It really is very beautiful here. I don't know how much longer we will be here. We are supposed to go to Munich. I don't know when I will get home as most of the stuff moving out is headed for Pacific via the ship. I know I won't go to the Pacific and should be home before Christmas. Thanks loads for the letters & love. I hope you are all well. I am fine and miss you all.

Love
Tracy Jr.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

FROM: *Capt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.*

2nd Weather Sqdn.

A. P. O. 696 To Postmaster, N. Y. C.

SEE
INSTRUCTION
NO. 5

V...-MAIL



TO:

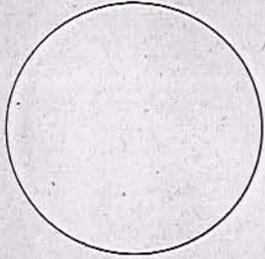
*Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland,
New York*

V-Mail service provides a most rapid means of communication. If addressed to a place where photographing service is not available the original letter will be dispatched by the most expeditious means.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) Print the name and address in the two spaces provided. Addresses of members of the Armed Forces should show full name, complete military or naval address, including grade or rank, serial number, unit to which assigned or attached and army post office in care of the appropriate postmaster or appropriate fleet post office.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if domestic air mail service is desired when mailed in the U. S.)

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

Pvt Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
27th Weather Sq.
A.P.O. 696 90 Postmaster N.Y.C.

(Sender's complete address above)

Friday
May 25, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

yes I am still here in Salzburg. The weather hasn't been too good the past week. We do our work play soft-ball and go to the movies. There is a lovely theater here where they use to have music concerts. It really is nice here and if I have to stay anywhere in Germany I think this would be as good a place as any. We still don't know for sure what we are going to do. Everything is quite mixed up at present. We don't know for sure whether we are going to Munich or not. I hope to get home before many months. I hope you are all well. I am fine.

all my love,
Tracy Jr.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Sunday Afternoon
May 27, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Today is a beautiful day here once more. I am sitting out in our front yard with my shirt off absorbing some of the lovely sunshine. This is our first nice day for some time. It isn't quite warm enough to go swimming today but if this weather continues I guess I will go again. I can't get over how beautiful the scenery is around here. Salzburg is situated in a valley with mountains all around it. The mountains are high with snow caps.

It sure seems funny that the war is over after so long. We have been here some time and

at times get quite restless even though this is a very nice spot.

No one seems to know just what is going to happen. Most of the staff going home now is car-marched for the Pacific but I should get home in a little while. I will be stationed here somewhere meanwhile, taking ridiculous runs! I wish I could think of more to write about now that there is no censorship!

Our mail service is very bad and I can't understand why! We should get mail regularly. Our headquarters is not on the ball I guess!

I hope you will ask a lot of questions so I can answer them all. I have seen so many places and done so much everything, for a little wage! The same thing

② I am interested in it to get home to you as soon as possible. I probably will be stationed somewhere in the States and can get home often and look after things. I should surely be home by next Christmas.

Tom Clokey one of the redwings, men had a pass to Paris instead of rest center at Nancy. He stayed at the Red Cross where Addie Postelmann is. He met her accidentally as he did not know her. He talked with her about me where we were, had been etc. She gave him a letter for me! She says she saw Nat Bennett, Ed Steggs, Whiting and others in Paris but she missed the old reunions we had in London! She wants me to get a

pass and come to Paris, as if I
didn't want one.

Please say hello to all the
Crochiers for me. I am not much
good as a correspondent. Ask questions
about things and I will answer
if I ever get the letters! I am
fine. I hope you are. I suppose
you will soon be through at
Theta Phi for the summer. I hope
you have a nice vacation! Write
and tell me what your plans are!
My love a little indefinite as yet.
I imagine I will summer here in
Salyburg or somewhere in Germany.
Please take care of yourself and
don't worry about me. I am all
well my love,
Tracy J.
P.S. I'll try and mail
some post-cards I had
accumulated.

ntley Jr.
2nd Weather Bldg.
A.P.O. 696 2 P.M. N.Y.C.



Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
36 Lincoln Ave.
Cortland, New York

Tuesday

May 29, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

I am wondering what you are doing today. I receive such little mail and so late that I never know what you are doing until long after you have done it. I wish I could just call you on the phone and talk to you for a little while. It seems so long that I have been over here and so much has happened. When I do get home you and I will just sit and talk for hours. I have been thinking of you very much. School will be

out before long and I know
you are wondering what to do.

I can't advise you as you really
know best I believe. I was
hoping I could get home before
school was out but it doesn't look
that way. It looks as though
I will be here in Salzburg
instead of moving back to Munich
I know it will be three or four
months before I can expect to
start home but I would much
rather stay here a little longer
than go out to the Pacific. Most
of the stuff going out of here
now is headed for the
Pacific.

We are living very well here
at present. We live in houses. There
are five men in my house. I
have a lovely soft bed, but

running water, electric stove etc.
Our food isn't too bad but we
really don't get enough. Food is
quite scarce here and I hate to
think of what winter will be like
with so many displaced persons here
in Germany. We really can get plenty
of rest here. It seems good to go
to bed with nothing to worry about.
We don't jump with every little noise
and when we hear an airplane we
know it is not going to drop any
bombs.

There is nothing to do here
socially. Of course we can't fraternize
and so it is just a mass world
here as far as we are concerned.
We cannot buy anything except
at our own P.R. I hope we
are not here in Austria or Germany
too long. It seems as though

they could send some men over here who haven't been overseas to do the police work. Of course what I am doing is essential and not police work. We are supposed to get replacements soon so we can get home. When I don't know.

Today is another beautiful day. It is really very hot here when the sun shines. The nights are quite cool though because of the altitude I guess.

Again I hope all is well at home. I wish I would get some mail. I suppose quite a few boys will be returning home now.

I will be so glad when it is my turn. Give my love to Crocker.
All my love,
Texas J.

Sunday P. M.

June 4, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Here it is another Sunday and another week has passed by and I am still here in Salzburg. The observers and forecasters have moved out of the weather truck into a building at the airfield. We still operate from the truck as our radio receiver is mounted in it. We are still living in our private homes. It is really quite nice I doubt if we stay in these houses much longer. I suppose the people will want to get back into them as soon as possible.

We don't do much here. There isn't
much to do. We have movies to
see, play ball, read and work.

The days seem to pass quite
quickly. I wish we could get
some mail. It certainly is
discouraging not to receive mail.

I have no idea what you are
doing or have been doing for some
time now. I forget when we received
mail but we had received none
here. I realize school will be
out shortly and I am wondering what
your plans are. I only wish I
might get home. The army certainly
is a very rough deal sometimes!
The Japs should be kicked soon
and then maybe everybody will get

out except the volunteers. The Pacific war is going ahead very well and we should beat them soon. I hope to get home in a few months but I don't know when. I guess many of the boys will be arriving home. Bill Bennett no doubt is home or on his way but of course I don't know.

I hope you are well. I am so anxious to see you. Since it is almost two years now since I've been away. We have two new men with us to train as railroad operators. We hope they are replacements. They left the states the 15th of May. We sure ask them many questions about life in the states. They are worse off than we though as they have two years

over here to look forward to while
I am looking forward to going home!

I hope you are well. Say
hello to the Crochus for me!

All my love,
Tracy Jr.

Thursday P. M.

June 7, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Well believe it or not we finally received some mail. It certainly was good to hear from you again. I don't like going so long without mail. I will tell you what letters I received.

Sat. April 28 I am glad you had such a nice time in Syracuse. I remember when we all went into the Rainbow Room. April 29th I read all about the false announcement of the war ending but knew it wasn't so false as it was really all over. I am so glad to know Jim Sullivan is O.K. His people must be very happy. The plaque we received is a unit citation for meritorious service. I wear a gold wreath on the sleeve of my uniform. It doesn't give any pts

for discharge though. May 1 sorry you
have had such cold weather. Glad
to hear little Tracy is doing so well.
May 4 Glad you are getting my letters
Here to hear I have \$950 in bank. I
will no doubt find use for it. May 7
Nothing new. May 8. VE Day. I guess it
was rather a quiet celebration for
all of us. I wrote and told you
what we did here. May 9. I am
glad you took my being a private
so bravely. you shouldn't worry
so as it was nothing serious.
Just a little infraction in rules and
you know how some of the
old West Point Colonels are. I told
you my Captain said he would get
my rating back for me just as
soon as possible. It was not because
you had failed in anyway. In fact I
didn't fail either.

So Joyce Ruff is getting married. I

(2)
wonder if you ever married. So Alice
Brewer is engaged to Raymond Cummings.
all the kids I know are getting married.
Jane Keller. it must be an epidemic. I
am glad I will have a chance to get
settled & look around before I marry.
I am glad little Tracy is doing so well.
I received two letters from Lucille on the
9th & 10th May 10 sure is hard to take
snow in May. I have 69 pts with
three battle stars but we are suppose
to get another one which would give me
74 pts. I should get home within
six months. I would rather stay
here a little longer and not go to
the Pacific. I am not sure yet
what I want to do when I get
home. If I teach I will have to go
back to school for awhile. maybe
I will do meteorological work. I will
want and see what opens. sometimes
I think I would like to go

into business but what I don't know.
It is nice to have your own business.

I will keep right on doing the same work
until I start for home at least
May¹¹ 12 you know where I am now of
course. So far nothing has been done
for us in line of school. I suppose
later we will have a chance to take
some courses. I guess the 9th A.S. will
be occupation. I have heard nothing
of what they are going to do. We are
still attached to the ~~15~~¹⁰th Corps but don't
imagine we will be with them much
longer. May 13 It was nice your girls
gave you a lovely carriage. I am anxious
to see the pictures you had taken in
Syracuse. May 14 I am glad the perfume
arrived. O.K. you had a nice time at Cliv
tea. you write you would rather I stay
in France than go to Pacific. Except what
I went back to Nancy for seat I have not
seen France since early last winter.

May 15 There are not many readable men and that is one reason I must stay here until replacements from the states are brought here. In some cases new men must be trained. Don't worry, I will have my rating back soon now.

May 16. My letters are quite slow in reaching you as I write quite a bit after April 24th. of course I was very busy at that time. I will be in 9th A.T. and not with ground forces. It looks like I will be here in Salzburg until I leave for home. It is a nice spot. It is nice. Glyn is desiring to fly and has solved. He will have to take me up when I get home.

We are moving out of our house into one large house. It is really a palatial mansion. It is situated on top of a hill overlooking the city. It was the Station's consulate for the city of Salzburg. It had about

30 rooms. The dining room is very
high and large with beautiful
chandeliers. I wish you could see the
place. It has a pool (no water), tennis
court and beautiful lawn. It
really is a beautiful place. The
housekeeper and gardener are still going
to keep the house and lawn looking
nice.

We will move there in a few
days now. This is really a lovely
spot to be.

I am fine. Please don't worry. I
will have enough money. I hope you
are all well. Please say hello
to Crockett for me. Don't worry.

All my love,
Tracy Jr.

Sunday P.M.

June 10, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Well we are settled or I should say are here in our new house. It really is a nice place. It is situated on a hill overlooking the city of Salzburg. It is owned by a very wealthy Austrian. He has traveled in England, America etc and speaks very good English. He lives in another smaller house (servants quarters) in back of ours. He allowed the Italian Consulate to lease it as he could not get servants to maintain it. The house has an elevator, dumb waiters etc. It is beautiful around here. Quite wild many trees with bridle paths

etc. It reminds me alot of Westchester
Co around Aunt Mabel's except
they don't have the mountains.
There are some lovely chateaus
around here and this is one of
the nicest. We are going to get
several women to clean for us. Also
we are going to have our own mess
here. The women will prepare the
food for us it will really be
nice.

We work out at the airfield
which is about two miles away.
We are in the air force (9th) again.
We are not attached to any other
unit. We are out on our own etc.
don't work too hard but we do work.
We go to movies, read, play ball
for recreation. There is a Red Cross
in town and at the airfield where
we can get coffee and donuts. It
really is quite nice, much better

②

than the Pacific no doubt. I imagine it will be about three or four months before I get home anyway. I have 69 pts as I told you before. That isn't enough to get me out of the army but it should keep me out of Pacific. Radio-tele technicians are very scarce and very much needed but I doubt if any who have served over here will be sent to the Pacific! There are only thirty of us in the whole 21st. That is enough for five stations. We have two new men direct from the states that we are training now. We figure they are replacements for us older men. I am sure I won't go to the Pacific but I am not sure when I will get home. I can say I will be with you Christmas and no doubt several months before!

There is so much to see here.

that it would keep one busy just
seeing the sights! It is a very historical
and scenic spot here. Many people
here are artists and musicians.
It has a rather Bohemian air
here somewhat like Greenwich
Village in New York. One sees
people sitting out with their easels
and canvases reproducing the wonderful
mountains, snow etc. There are many
monuments to Beethoven, Wagner,
Mozart etc here. The people dress
very colorfully here and the women
are quite attractive. but of course
we can have nothing to do with
them.

With school is soon over. I am
wondering what you are planning to do
this summer. It would be nice if
you could leave in 94 awhile in
the nice weather. Let me know. All my love,
Tracy S.

Post. Tracy H. Ashley Jr

21st Weather Sqdn.

A. P. O. 696 7/ Postmaster, N. Y. C.



request
letter

-AIR MAIL-

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley

89 South Main St.

Homer, New York

Tuesday Night

June 19, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Today has been a lovely day here. The sun has shined all day and it has been very warm. I haven't done too much today. I loafed around the yard this morning in the sun. I spent most of the afternoon (two hours) standing in the PX line to get my weekly rations. It was hardly worth the trouble. We get five packages of eggs, one chocolate bar and one package of gum. It costs 5 marks or fifty-cents. A mark is worth 10¢. If you want to send me something send

me some candy and cigarettes. I am also
looking for a couple of sun-tan shirts
(summer kakis shirts U.S.) to wear. O.D.
shirts are very hot. Most of the fellows
have them which they got when in England.

I have heard no word of when I
expect to be sent home. They say
radiovalve operators are a critical item
so I may stay here several months.
It won't be better than going to the
Pacific however. I imagine I will be
getting home sometime this fall. I
would feel much safer staying here.
I would like so much to get home
though even for a little while to see
you and Lucille, Corky, Hope and the
new baby. I am very anxious to see
him. It seems longer than two years

that I have been away but still two years is a long time. I have covered so much territory and seen so much that the two years has gone by rather quickly. If we had been in one spot all of the time it would have seemed longer.

Well I suppose school is out and I wondering what you are doing. I wish I could be there with you. It would be nice if you could live in our house a little this summer. You can visit Aunt Mable for awhile too. The summer will no doubt pass very quickly.

I hope it passes quickly here so I can be on my way home before long.

I go to work tonight about ten. That is I drive out to the airport. We

usually make a cup of coffee before work.
I will get back here about three
o'clock. I can't sleep in the morning
however. I have a private room as do
most of the boys to be honest in so
big one cannot hear a thing in his
room ^{as} it is very quiet.

Please give my love to Crocker's.
I am very sorry I haven't written to
them. I know they can enjoy my
letters with you. I really haven't
much to write about now as I am
not doing much. I love this place
though as it is so beautiful. I am
fortunate to be in such a beautiful
spot. I am fine please don't worry. I
hope you are all well. All my love
Tracy Jr.

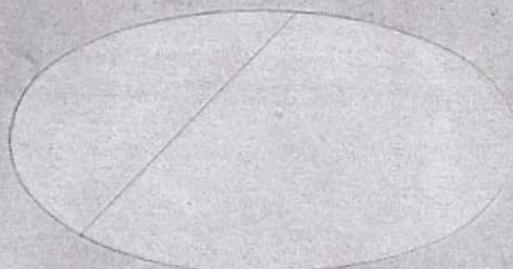
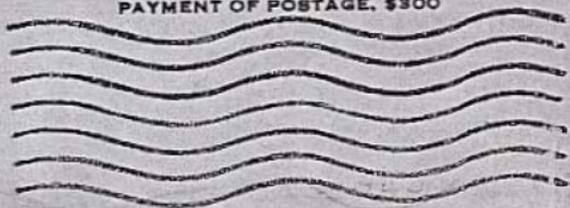
WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS

V-MAIL SERVICE

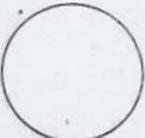
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO *Mrs Tracy H. Ashley*
89 South Main St
Home, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

Pat Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st West 44th St
A.P.O. 616 7th Postmaster N.Y.C.

(Sender's complete address above)

Tuesday Night
June 22, 1945
Sallyberg

Hello Mom dear,

This is just a line tonight to let you know I am thinking of you as usual. I haven't been doing much of anything of late I go out to the airport to work and come back here to sleep I attend an occasional movie but it is hard to sit still for so long! We spend alot of time talking about parents and going home. It sure will be a happy day when I can get home. I hope you are well and getting some rest. I am anxious to hear what you are doing this summer. Say hello to the Crochets for me.

all my love,
Sallyberg Jr.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 O-428248

Pvt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr
81st Weather Sqdn,
A.P.O. 696 % Postmaster, N.Y.C.



request
return

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homes, New York

Sunday Night
June 24, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Here it is another Sunday and another week has gone by. In some ways the time seems to go by quite rapidly. I only wish it would go by faster so I could be on my way home.

I was very happy yesterday to receive some mail from home. I was especially pleased because I received that beautiful picture of you. The picture is lovely Mom. You look so nice. It is a very good picture of you. I have wanted a picture of you for a long time and now I have a beautiful one.

I received the letter Jane R. Abbott wrote to you. She is a good kid and certainly thinks alot of me I guess. There really is no reason why she shouldn't be. She has the right idea about it.

I received a letter from Luella written June 2. June 6 from you. I am glad Mason Clark did a good job of washing the porches. I am glad the trophies made a good window display. I don't

think they amounted to much. When I talked about stuff not staff moving out to Pacific I didn't mean 2nd Wca. None of us are going to the Pacific. It was quite a write-up I had in the paper. I will return it to you in this letter. I am keeping the picture as I have none of myself. June 6 Sorry you are having such bad rainy weather. Glad I have \$1000 in bank at least. It will beyond a doubt come in handy. I have written you all about our nice house. at present we eat at a mess hall with a Signal Co. We have weather observers, forecasters, radiotele men and radio communications men in our Det. The ~~IX~~ ~~corps~~ has moved out of Salzburg. What it will do now I don't know. A Corps is part of an army. So not in 9th our zone. We are attached to ~~IX~~ ~~corps~~ but not the whole 2nd Wca. Anytime you want to send me anything send me candy, cigarettes, things to eat, soap, toilet articles etc. We are having trouble getting things here.

June 9th I am glad you received some letters. I will be looking for the shirts. Don't worry about the house. It is in good shape and I can have the yard looking nice soon after I get home. I think it is nice you plan to live in it awhile this summer. When I get home I can trim the shrubbery.



Don't worry about me I am fine.

June 10. What raining again. I guess all it does in Cortland is rain. I don't envy Bob Bennett being stationed at Dachau. It is a filthy place - full of disease. Your Sunday dinner sounded good. I wrote you there is a Red Cross in town and me at the airport besides movies here.

We manage to keep happy and busy. We have a ping pong table here in our house which we use very much. Of course all we talk about is going home. That is on everyones mind.

I hope you are all well. I have a new summer vacation and I should be home before too long. Say hello to Crookers for me.

All my love,
Tracy J.

Prof. Tracy W. Ashley Jr.

21st Weather Sqdn.

A. P. O. 696 1/2 Postmaster, N. Y. C.



Prof. Tracy W. Ashley Jr.

2 - Depot Plaza

Tuckahoe, N.Y.
Mrs. Tracy W. Ashley
~~89 South Main St.~~

70

A.F. Russell

~~Home, New York~~

Sunday Night
July 1, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

This morning was quite nice but after dinner it started raining and still is. Our weather hasn't been as nice of late as it was in May. July is suppose to be the rainy month so I suppose we will receive more than our share. It is quite cold too. I have had no ideas of going swimming ^{as} before. Well maybe the month of August will be nice - if I am still here. I say that because two radiomobilemen from our detachment were sent home yesterday. That is they went to headquarters to be processed for going home. Originally there were four of us radiomobilemen who went to M. D. Silver, Weiner, Clokey and myself. Silver and Weiner have left. Silver had 76 pts, Weiner had 72. Clokey has 71 and I have 69 pts. If they keep on sending us there is no telling when I may get home. It could be within a month.

There is Thomas and two new men here now making five in all. No one knows exactly what is happening. I don't think Wema & Silver will go to the Pacific but we can't tell for sure. Keep your fingers crossed & I may be home soon!

I received two letters yesterday. One from Lucille written July 12th and one from you written July 15th. Lucille writes you received my letter of May 31. I hope to get some snaps of Tracy soon. I am dying to see him. I am glad to hear Corby is growing into some boy. I sure will want to take him fishing when I get home. Lucille says she is looking forward to your coming up to her house. It will be nice for you and Corby to stay at 94 for awhile. It is nice Lucille has been able to play a little golf. I used the book meteorology for Pilots, which Glyn is studying in my studies.

You had received my letter of June 4th. I don't know whether they will send me to school or not. The two new radio-rod men are new from the states. They ~~let~~ were in the mid Atlantic when the war was over. I am glad you found at least one shirt. I will be looking for it. I am glad to hear you are having some

better weather. We are quite busy now as you must realize. Two of our men gone and we have to train and teach the new men. They can't work alone. I am glad you liked being a house mother. I hope to be home before another year (just kidding) much sooner I think.

I am fine so please don't worry. Don't do much of anything exciting.

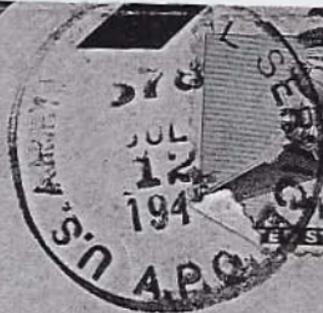
I love to get your letters. I don't need anything but candy, cigarettes, food and toilet articles are always acceptable.

I must close and get ready to go to airport. It is nine o'clock now.

Don't forget I love you and miss you more and more as time goes on.

With my love,
 Tracy Jr

Prof. Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Weather Bldg.
P.O. 696 Postmaster
New York, N.Y.C.



VIA AIR MAIL

2-Dept Plaza

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.

70
A. F. Russell
Homer, New York
Tuckahoe, N.Y.

Sunday night
July 8, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Well today has been a little better weather for us. The sun actually shone for awhile. I hope you are having some nice weather. We don't do much. I haven't been swimming lately as it has been too cold. I do see an occasional movie. As I have said before we spend most of our time wondering when we are going home. The boys came back from headquarters and the ~~best~~ latest rumor is that there will be a shipment of men in September and that is when I will come home. The officer spoke to our C.O. and he said he would try to do something about my rating right away.

We got a little mail and I received two letters from you. June 12. Your weather isn't much better than ours! Your garden party at Hilton sounded nice. It was too bad about Mrs Kellogg. It is too bad you have to move

long we can both settled down! June 16. I
guess you aren't receiving all of my mail or else it
is very slow in reaching you. That was a nice
article about the XV Corps. I am returning it
so you can keep it for me. I will tell you
one more I am back on 9th Air Force not with
an army. We eat with a Signal Corps unit
and we are the only Air Force units here
in Salzburg but we are in the air zone.

I am wondering if you are up at Lucille's
and what you are doing. I hope you are
having some nice weather and can really
enjoy yourself this summer. I know you
have a birthday coming up soon and I
want you to know I am thinking of
you. All I can do is wish you a very happy

I am wondering if you are up at Leukthos
and what you are doing. I hope you are
having some nice weather and can really
enjoy yourself this summer. I know you
have a birthday coming up soon and I
want you to know I am thinking of
you. All I can do is wish you a very happy
happy birthday at present. I am sure
that on your next birthday I will be
home with you. Please don't worry I
am fine. Try to enjoy yourself as much
as possible. I will sit tight here
and wait until I can get home to you.
Please say hello to Crokers for me.

With my love,
Tracy J.

Wednesday Note
July 11, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Raining here again today as usual. This certainly is a rainy month. I think our weather here must be worse than yours at least I sincerely hope so. Well I have been quite busy today. The artillery now has its own radio and radio stations. That is they are in the artillery and not in corps. Twelve stations came over from the States recently. They are strictly labeled for the Pacific. One of the stations came over to see how we operate today. We have had a lot of experience and they wanted to check their stuff against ours. I am glad the ground forces have their own stations as we with all of our experience might have had to go to the Pacific.

We also got two more radio sets in our Det. They were in 18th Wea in England but they are breaking up the 18th Wea and 21st is getting most of the news. They are low point men as they have no battle stars etc. It looks like

my chances of getting home by the end of the summer are very good. I don't like to be too optimistic but I think I should get home by the end of September. The two new men we have now are trained messes I imagine clothing and I will be the next man to leave.

I haven't had any letters of late so don't know what you are doing. I hope you are having a nice summer. I am ^{am} wondering what you are doing or have done. I wish our mail was better. The war against Japan seems to be going very well. I imagine it will take some time though to really defeat them.

I haven't done much of late of interest. Mostly just work, read and go to the movies. We do have some good movies and get some of the latest pictures.

I am fine and just sitting here waiting to be sent home. I hope you are well and happy. Try to have some good times. Don't worry. Say hello to all of the Crocker's for me.
all my love,
Tia J. H.

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Weaker Sqdn.
A.P.O. 696 7^o Postmaster N.Y.C.



July 20

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homer, New York

Saturday Morning
July 14, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

I came back from breakfast a little while ago and have been sitting in the house listening to the radio. We have breakfast from seven to eight o'clock. This morning we had fresh orange, cereal, fried eggs, bacon, bread & butter & coffee. Not bad eh. It sounds better than it really was!

Now I am sitting in the front yard writing to you. It is a lovely morning here and it is very beautiful around here! I wish I had a camera and becoming film so I could take many pictures. Cameras and film are even scarcer.

I haven't received any mail for the past several days so haven't much to write about. I've been interrupted in my writing for one reason or another. This is really a lovely home here. I wish I owned it.

wouldn't be too nice to come over here at present however. Everything is in a turmoil and dirty

to bid more or less just to write to say hello and let you know I am thinking of you.

I hope you are all well and having nice weather. Our weather here seems to run in streaks. We have a spell of good weather and then we have a stretch of rain.

I guess I will close as I haven't much to write about. I am fine don't worry.

all my love,
Tracy J.

Post. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Bldg.
a. r. c. 696 $\frac{7}{8}$ Postmaster.



July 30

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homer, New York

Sunday P. M.
July 15, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

This morning when I awoke I found I had a package and some letters from you. I guess the mail came in from Munich last night while I was working. I want to thank you so much for the lovely sun tan shirt. It got here in good time. I surely can use it with the weather we are having at present. I want to thank you loads for the candy and peanuts too. Also the magazines. Naturally I was very pleased to receive your lovely letters.

June 15th you write you mailed the box which I just received. Glad you have had nice weather. yes I am teaching the new mess! Plenty of marriages in Cortland. I don't see what all these boys are going to do after the war to make enough to support a family and all. June 19 just a note telling me you were up at Homer. June 21. Too bad Bob Clark must go to the Pacific he has been overseas longer than I. I thought Bill Bennett would be home before this. There is a tennis court with our house

but it is in poor shape and we have no rackets!
There is no skiing ^{near} here now but will be in the
mountains in Sept I am told. I have climbed several
mountains and there is plenty of snow up on the peaks
but it is too steep & dangerous to skid. yes I
have a couple of German pistols. I had some rifles
but they wouldn't let us send them home and I
got tired of lugging them around so often. I imagine
Lucille is very busy. I am glad Allyn is coming along
fine with his flying. I hope Lucille learns to
play golf well. I must learn when I get home.
There is no place here. I wish I could send
more pictures of myself but cameras, film etc are scarce.
I write I received your picture and I think it is
very lovely. I have shown it to every one.

June 22. Glad Cook passed to 2nd grade. All of
us weathermen and the radiomen live together.
About 30 of us in all. We eat with this signal
battalion we have always eaten with. We have
a large game room with card tables, ping pong table
etc. We live on a hill which rises out of the
center of the city. It is very beautiful where we
are. yes there will be quite a young crowd in
Cortland. That is some idea of Allyn running an
airport. It may be good as there will be alot

2

of flying after the war. July 2 more rain - too bad. The bicycle I have was in our house so I appropriated it. It was nice you & Corky could spend some time at 94! I wish I could. I hope Luelle won in golf tournament but realize she has played very little. I am glad you are going to Grethman next year. It will be so handy for you. July 4th you wrote me while sitting at the Country Club. I am glad you had nice weather for the 4th. It must have been some day. July 5th

So you received another of my savings checks for \$5.00. I guess that money will come out of my pay latter. It should have stopped by now. yes Jack Klase is a nice fellow. It was nice you could have a talk with Jere Sullivan. He was fortunate not to have had too rough treatment from the Germans. But is funny his attitude about Jean Gould. I think he knows what he is doing every minute. He is wise not to marry right away.

I know I won't. I want to get things for you and D. and the house and have some money saved & a good job before I think of getting married.

If I can get home before long I will be very happy. I am fortunate to be here and not out on the Pacific. Life is rather dull here now. no excitement at all. Just waiting to be

sent home.

Well I'll close for now. Thanks again for
lovely letters and the packages. Say hello to all
the Crookers for me.

all my love,
Therese J.

Sunday P. M.
July 22, 1945
Salzburg

Hello Mom dear,

Today has been a lovely day and although I had to work some I enjoyed the day. I did manage to sit in the sun a little. I guess it is the hottest time of the year here now. I understand winter comes quite early here. Around October there is snow in the mountains. I haven't been doing much except working, reading etc. I walk around Salzburg a little and enjoy the sights!

Last night we received some more mail which came down from Munich. Our mail isn't regular but it is coming a little better than it used to. I received two letters from you. One written July 7th and one July 7th

July 7th I realize how hard it must be for Louella with two boys and such a large house. She is fortunate to have you to be able to help her out. Corky certainly is a little devil. Remember the times the twins and I were

playing with matches' under ~~Luella~~ Grandon's
bed? you do what you think best about renting
the house. I hate having other people in it
but if you need the money don't hesitate. Alice
Brewer's wedding sounded like some affair. I
don't think she did so well. At least as well
as her mother wanted no doubt. Ray is a swell
fellow though and Alice really is very lovely. Her
wedding picture I thought was awful! Salisbury
is a nice place. I have in a museum school
here but no university. I'll be looking for the
box you and Luella sent me. I know how
hard it is to get things. Yes I have 4 bottles
stare. Yes I have over two years overseas now
and August 29th I will have been in army 3 years.
It is a long time to take out of a young man's
life.

July 9th. I am glad you are able to pay bills on
8th I am glad to hear the house looks so nice
as always. About renting the house. If I did come
home it would be for too long - at most thirty days.
It wouldn't be much fun being in it alone if you
are at Artigue's etc. Do what you think best.
I'll be glad when I get out of the army
and can take care of things for you.
I should have enough points to be discharged.

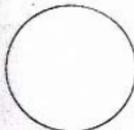
as soon as the storm is over. Don't get excited
and worry about things. Everything will come
out alright.

I hope you have a lovely time down
at Aunt Mabel's. Write and tell me what you
see and do. Take enough money with you
and have a good time. I don't know
when I will start for home but I
imagine it will be in September. Nothing
definite just rumors.

Please say hello to Crochers for me.
I am well and happy - don't worry. Take
care of yourself and her few.

all my love,
Tracy Jr.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Barnes
New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

Post Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Signal
A.P.O. 696 To P.M. N.Y.C.

(Sender's complete address above)

Wednesday Night

July 25, 1945

Sallyburg, N.Y.

Hello Mom dear,

Just returned to the house from the city. I had been to a musical concert at the Westport House. It was a Mozart concert and the music was quite heavy. I enjoyed most of it very much however. At present they hold two concerts a week here. In August the annual Westport Concerts are to be held again. You no doubt know of it they are being done with various conductors here such as Bruno Walter etc. They are planning to play quite a lot of the music which was forbidden when the Nazis were here. I will write you all about it. I can see those you all are well. Love
Tracy Jr.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V---MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Friday Night

July 27, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

We are having quite a storm outside at present. We have been having lovely weather but this afternoon about supper time we had a real thunderstorm and it is still going on outside now. The weather has been very nice for several days and I have absorbed all the sunshine I could.

This morning we received some mail and what do you think I had eight letters plus a Life and Reader's Digest from Luella. All of the letters were from you.

June 26th you were down at 94 with Corky. no real news etc

July 11th. Can't understand your cold weather in July. Now Corky & Allyn could go fishing but sorry weather was miserable and Luella could get together with Betty Sander & Barbara Brewer.

July 12th you & Luella since keep busy with two kids and the house to take care of. Salzburg isn't a really big city. I was bombed badly. Only a few bombs. There is no subway.

but there are buses & trolleys. The city is really divided into two parts - one very old and the other quite modern. Our officers live in the same house with us - we have two. Bub Clark must be headed for the Pacific, although if they haven't heard from him for over a month.

July 14th. I am so glad Bill Bennett finally got home and is discharged from army. He is lucky to get a head start on the rest of us. I wonder what he will do. I figure he must have had about 100 pts. Jimmy Walsh too. If he is smart he won't get married right. I enjoyed the description of Eternity and of Time you sent me.

July 15th. Glad you have your things all settled down at Arthena. It will be lovely for you there as it is so centrally located for you. As far as I know there is no place to play golf here. It is about a mile and a half out to the airport. The 42nd Division is here in Salzburg, along with II Corps (IX Corps moved out) and other units. Quite a few G. Is here. The airport is run by air force. The 21st Wea. Gp. (IX Corps) is just an Gp. They were the spearhead for Patton's third Army drive across France.

(2) As you know now we have 4 new men and 3 old men. Two radical men left for home early in July. I will be looking for the second box.

July 16th Glad you received my 4th July letter. The allotment checks for June & July which you received are coming out of what pay I get now. I get about \$10 a month a present.

July 17th you certainly have had ^{more than} your share of rain this summer. I will be looking for the two books you say you sent out. I know Lucille helps on all the boxes you send and I appreciate it. Lucille also writes. I would love to see little Tracy. He must be a darling. Sorry Lucille hasn't been able to get any picture of him.

July 19th Sorry my mail isn't reaching you better. It was nice of Bob Mitcheson to mow the lawn for you. Sorry Nell Bennett wasn't home when you stopped in. Lucille certainly is a fine girl. She does all the time. It was swell of her to go out in the rain and take care of Grandma Abby's business. I think it is very nice that Lucille, Corby and you are going down to Tuckahoe. I bet the Russells will be glad to see you. What a pleasant surprise. It is swell. Lucille could get someone to look after the baby. I imagine when the Pacific war is over they will

2nd Weather Sqdn
A. P. O. 646 1/2 Postmaster, N.Y.



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St
Dover, New York

Sunday Night
July 29, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Today has been quite a nice day. I worked last night late and so this morning I slept until almost dinner time. We had a chicken dinner but it wasn't too good. This afternoon I went to the movies at the Festspielhaus. It was 'Diamond Horseshoe' with Betty Grable. It was a fairly good show and I particularly enjoyed the music. I wonder if you have seen it?

There really isn't much doing here. We have a very nice Red Cross Club here now which is in one of the swankiest hotels. We can get coffee and drinks there. There are no dances of course or any real social activities. I have done all the sights there are in town here. It really is beautiful here as I have

said before but after you have been away
from home for so long nothing impresses
you except the desire to get home! I wouldn't
give a nickel for the whole of Europe.
The people over here don't really know
how to live I don't know. The people
and things here all seem false & make
believe. you really can't beat the good old
U.S.A. people can talk about Europe - London
Paris, etc but except for the old backgrounds
etc they are nothing but big dirty cities
teeming with people.

It sure will seem good to get home
I have even forgotten what things look
like. The festival of music will be here
soon. I no doubt will attend and see
what it is like.

I hope you are all well and enjoying
the summer. I hope to get home some
time this fall. It sure will be some
reunion. Give my love to Crocker.

All my Love
Tracy J.

August 3, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Just a line to say hello and let you know I am thinking of you. I have been and will be quite busy for awhile. I was planning to go to headquarters today but couldn't make it. Clokey the last of our original men left for headquarters today. Then two men we had were transferred and we are getting two new men. I couldn't go as we couldn't spend the money. One other radisondt man is in Paris on pass. I don't know how much longer I will be here. I think there will be another shipment of men home soon and I should be on it.

I hope you are having a nice summer. The weather here isn't too bad. I don't do much except read, see movies and sing. I would give anything for a camera! Well I will close for now. Say hello to Croibers for me. all my love
Frank

Sunday Night

August 5, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

I have been quite busy of late doing nothing in particular. I do work of course but that doesn't take all of my time.

Friday Bob Hope and his show flew in here at Salzburg. I was at the airport working - when he came in. He was quite funny then. Sunday night I went to his show which was held outside of Salzburg in a big open field. It was a pretty good program and we all enjoyed it. It was though for a little while we were back in America and not in Austria.

Last night myself and some of the fellows went to the movies and saw "H. I. Joe". It was the Ernie Pyle picture. It was very good and sure gave the

average \$1 a boost. After the show
we went to the Red Cross for coffee
and donuts. It is quite a nice club
alright.

I am wondering if you are having a
nice time down at New York and the
weather is good. Did you see where the
airplane hit the Empire State building?

I hope you have a nice rest and are
all set for school again in the fall.
Arthursen will be much nicer for you
as it is handy for church, home etc. Say
hello to the Russells for me. I am
not much of a letter writer anymore. After
almost three years I am beginning to tire
very rapidly. I expect I should be sent
home early this fall but am not sure
of course. I am fine here you are all
well.

Love
Tracy Jr.

Saturday P.M.

August 11, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Well, Mom dear,

I am sitting in the weather station at the airport. I have just finished taking one radiometer run and am waiting to take another at midnight. It is now nine-thirty. We take our runs at 6 P.M. and 12 midnight at present. Next week it will be six in the morning and noon.

I have been listening to the radio and everyone is talking about the Japanese surrender. It is so good it is hard to believe. No one figured it could possibly be over so soon. I do hope we accept but they maybe won't find it acceptable to leave Hirohito as Emperor as it may lead to another war in the near future and we might as well get it over with now once and for all. I do hope they can accept it and that many lives will be saved. I imagine

the advent of the atomic bomb and Russia's
winning the war made the Japs see just how
hopeless their position is.

I was also very happy today to receive
some mail from you. I don't understand why
the mail should be so mixed up now that
the war is over here. your letters were from
last of June and last of July.

June 28th. I am glad you got the pictures
all painted. It cost quite a lot (\$) but it's
worth it to keep the house up. As you know now
we never did eat here. We still eat with the
92nd Signal Battalion which we have been with
ever since we came to France last July. I
also had a letter from Luntle June 28th. I realize
how busy she must be. Little Tracy must
be a darling. I want so much to see her
soon now. Luntle says she plays golf in the
80's that isn't bad at all for a beginner. I
am anxious for Glyn to take me up (flying)
when I get home. I would like to learn to fly
myself.

July 29th. I am glad you are enjoying your stay at
Aunt Mable's. I hope Henry can get home. I am
so sorry to hear Mr. Crocker has had a stroke.

8
Tell Glyn I am very sorry and I hope he gets
much better soon. Corby certainly has had
a time. I guess there isn't much of New York
he hasn't seen.

July 3rd. I am glad Laurel & Corby arrived home
safely. I am sorry to hear Mr Crocker is still
very sick. I hope he gets much better soon. Silver
and Wiener did go home. I mention in my other letter
that other fellows coming back from headquarters
said they were told the next shipment home
would be in late September. Henry was very
lucky to get a furlough in Switzerland. I
would like very much to go there. Headquarters
(or the weather) is in Germany. Bad Messingta or
something like that. Spelling is wrong. I imagine
I have 3 pts for each month here since V.C. day.
Thomas is a reasonable man who joined us
last September in Lunenburg.

I haven't any news myself. Rumors fly around
but all we can do in the army is wait. I
don't much. Go to show or Red Cross and
work. Now the war is over you don't feel what
you are doing is really necessary etc and you.

got to feeling low and want to get home. I
know I would give anything to be home living
a normal life.

I guess I will close for now. I am fine.
Don't worry. Hope you are well. Say hello to the
Russells for me

all my love,
Trey J.

Post. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Sqdn
A. P. O. 696 70 Postmaster, N. Y. C.



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St
Homer, New York

Sunday Night

August 12, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Well another Sunday is almost over. It has been a nice day here for a change. It has rained every day for the last few days (five to be exact). I didn't get up very early this morning as I worked quite late last night. This afternoon I took a walk around town and went into the Red Cross for coffee and donuts. There are quite a few Wacs here now. They certainly aren't a very beautiful group of girls. Most of them in fact are quite homely and those that are attractive are quite tough looking. I think the civilians here get quite a kick out of watching those American girls behave. I hope they don't judge all American girls by these two hundred Wacs or so.

Well I guess it won't be long before the war in the Pacific is over. We're all sweating out the Japan answer to our peace ultimatum. I imagine they will be glad to get out of the war if they possibly can. It sure will seem funny to be in the army with no war on. With the Japanese war over I should stand a good chance of getting a discharge. I will have about 80 pts. I will be so glad to get out of the army and live a normal life again.

I hope you are having a nice time down at Aunt Mable's and getting a good rest before school starts again. I know nothing definite about my coming home but rumor still has it that there will be a shipment of weather men home the last of September. I certainly should be one of them. It sure will seem good to get home and see everyone again.

I suppose everything is about the same but I can't even remember what the old home town looks like. I am well love you all
All my love,
Tracy Jr.

to
Pvt Tracy H. Ashley Jr
21st Weather Sqdn
A.P.O. 696 70 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Mrs Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St
Homer, New York

Wednesday P M.

August 15, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Well its all over. The first thing I heard this morning when I got up was that Japan had accepted the surrender terms. Everyone certainly is happy and with good reason. There hasn't been much real celebration here yet. I imagine there will be a parade or something later on. I guess people in the States really went wild according to the radio. I wish I could have been there.

It certainly seems funny having no war after so long of talking and thinking of just war day in and day out. I hope they start discharging men fast now that the war is over. I imagine when V-J day is announced I will have about 80 pts. That surely will be enough for a discharge. How long it will take I don't know. Maybe I will be discharged by next Christmas. That would be wonderful wouldn't it. I wonder what

Bill Beaumont is doing now what he is out of ~~school~~? ^{Army}
Does he have a good job? I am not sure what
I want to do when I get out. I will see if there
are any good jobs available - if not I guess I
will go to school. Education never hurt one.

I don't do much here. The Musical Festival
is on here at present but not many soldiers can
go. We were allotted four tickets for our outfit
of 30 men. I didn't win one. I guess we will get four
more little later.

The Stars & Stripes today has huge headlines
in red reading War Ends. It certainly is a wonderful
headline. It means the end of death, suffering and
destruction. I hope we never have another war
as I hate to think what it would be like.

I hope you have been having a good time
at Aunt Mable's. Say hello to all the Russells for
me. I hope the crockers are all fine and
little Tracy is growing nicely. I am fine so
don't worry. I hope to see you again before
very much longer.

all my love,
Tracy G.

Capt. Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
21st Weather Sqn.

a. P.O. 696

7. Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Use Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Ithaca, New York



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Saturday Noon
August 18, 1945
Salzburg

Hello Mom dear,

I am out at the airport waiting for a plane to take me ^{in a} pass to Paris. There has been quite a few opportunities for furloughs to England etc but I haven't been able to take any of them. ^(no money) I decided I would like to go and really see Paris before I come home. I have very little money and won't be able to do anything except to see what I can that is free. I didn't get any pay in May. June + July I get \$1.0 which is just enough for rations, clothing etc. you

P.S. The newspaper me of old boys took
for me. It isn't too good and will take another.

received my two \$50 savings checks
after I couldn't afford it, now I
am paying for it. I wish you would
send me a money order for \$50 right
away. I hate to do it but I must.
I want to come home with a little
money. I borrowed \$10 for my trip
to Paris and that is all I
have. Prices on everything are
very high.

I will try to write from Paris.
I received your letter of August 3. I
am ^{so} sorry about Mr. Crocker's passing
away. Please tell Glyn for me that
I know he is very sad. He was a
fine, honest man. I will write Glyn
myself later. Don't worry. I have
three days in Paris then fly back.
I should be leaving for home
soon after that. I hope you are
well. Send the money quick as I
must pay the boy back before I leave
if possible.

All my love,
Harry D.

Tracy H. Ashley Jr.
1st Weather Sq. Det.

a. P. O. 696 7/ Postmaster, N. Y.



Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homer, New York

Saturday Afternoon
August 25, 1945
Salzburg

Bello Mom dear,

Well here I am back in Salzburg Austria
I left Paris this morning a little after nine
and arrived here by plane a little before noon!
I had a very nice time and really saw
Paris. I didn't leave last Saturday as I
expected as the last minute someone with
a high priority came and took our seats.
Sunday the weather was bad and so we didn't
get away until Monday after one o'clock. We arrived
in Paris about four-thirty.

We took a bus into Paris from the airport and
reported to Seine Base headquarters at Place de la
Opera in heart of Paris to get our rooms. We were
assigned to the Rainbow Corner Red Cross Club at
Madeline, which is right in the heart of things just
a little ways from the Champs ^{elysées} ~~Élysées~~. We had
a very nice room with good bed, sink etc. etc.
and a bathroom with a tub.

There wasn't much time that night so we went over to
the Eiffel Tower where there is an enlisted mens night
club. It is quite a way up the tower and has a
marvelous view of all Paris at night. They have a
band and it is just for soldiers. Lots of Wacs there.

The next day we spent walking around and seeing
the sights. It was fun walking up the Champs-Élysées
and through the Arc de Triomphe. It is like 5th ave
in New York and we see many beautiful girls.

We tried to do a little shopping & evening went to free
movie along Canal Zone - very cozy. Next day took sight
seeing bus around Paris and saw all the sights - Notre Dame
Cathedral, Invalides (Napoleon buried here) Opera, Pantheon, Church
of Sacred Heart, Louvre, Arc de Triomphe & Eiffel Tower of course
etc. at night we went to Montmartre and Pigalle sections where
all night life is. Went to see the Casino de Paris. Couldn't
get tickets for Jules Bergiers so took Red Cross tickets and
went to Casino. It was a show with lots of girls singing
and dancing & wearing practically nothing. It was very
entertaining & they play up to America soldiers because that
is what the audience is mostly made up of. Another night
we went to another G. I. night club. They had a floor
show and dancing. Paris is like one huge fair
or carnival. Very lively and gay and very interesting.
By the way I don't need the money I asked

for so when the money order comes I will just
keep it and not cash it unless I need it when
I get home. I bought you some perfume and Lucille
a little charm bracelet which I will send out right
away. Prices a very high on everything in Paris. To
me a franc is worth 24¢ but to the French it
isn't worth 1/4 a cent. The only perfume I hear of
is Chanel #5. I couldn't find any but the Red Cross
women recommended what I did get.

I am sorry I haven't written to Olga as yet.
I thought I would write while at Paris but I
was busy every minute. I will write very soon.

I am wondering what you have been doing
and if you ^{have} had a nice time at Aunt Mable's?
I hope you are enjoying it. Everything is fine
here and I should be home in October.
Say hello to everybody for me.

All my love,
Tracy Jr.

Sunday Night
August 26, 1945
Selzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Just a line to say hello. I slept most of the day today to be honest. Last night I worked. I didn't have to but I figured I might as well get back to work again after a week off. We don't have to work too hard now and have free time but don't do much here. Everyone is anxious to go home and it looks like I'll make it before long. I should be able to get discharged (honorably) soon now too. That will be wonderful won't it. We will have so much to talk about when I get home. We will decide what I am going to do work or go to school etc. I imagine when I get home I will get a furlough and then have to go back for awhile. It isn't impossible though that I could be discharged. I guess it depends upon how

essential weathermen are etc. I should think they would have plenty. Anyway I am sure of being sent home in the next couple of months.

There has been no promotion in 21st since the war ended because headquarters says they are waiting until redeployment is over. It looks like I am stuck at present but my C.O. is doing everything possible to get me promoted (he says). I have reached the point where nothing bothers me however and the only thing I want is to get home and out of the army and lead a normal life. It seems that life is very funny. The harder one works the less he gets. My C.O. and headquarters too are so wrapped up in going home etc. that is all they think about. I don't like to complain though but I do feel like I have had a tough break. No weathermen in the world had it any rougher than we did in our station. Oh well (and so there). I am sure don't worry.

All my love,

Tracy Jr.

P.O. Tracy H. Ashby
3rd Weather Bldg.
P.O. 696 7th Postoffice N.Y.C.

U.S.A.
Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashby
89 South Main St
Homer, New York

Wednesday Night

August 29, 1945

Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

I am very happy today as I received three boxes from you also some letters. Thank you so much for the boxes. They certainly were full of good things to please a boy. The boxes of cookies, fgs, pop corn, candy, cigarette, soap etc really hit the spot. I decided them well be nice as treat for snicks at night. I think I will to as I know she no doubt helped you in sending them.

I received quite a few letters. Aug 5 There is no course here at Salzburg for G. Dr. I haven't had Foster for C.O for well over a year. McDugg was my C.O. up until last month and he went home. So you see

the position I am in. The new C.O. was
with us for over a year however as
you see I have kept after him
to get my rating as my old C.O. said
he would. He went to headquarters in
Germany and I just found out I have
now no stripe (P.H.C.) I am very much
fed up and mad but my one consolation
is that I will soon be getting out of
the army. It is too bad it happened
but they really haven't been fair
about it in the least. Aug 6 I think
it will be nice for Aunt Mable to
come and live with you at 74 for a while.
Thomas is a radio code man who joined us about
a year ago Aug 7 you certainly have seen
plenty of ~~movies~~ ^{movies}. Selmer & Wilbur went
home and the two new men are doing well.
Aug 8 no news Aug 10 they take the money for
allowance they sent home out of my pay.
I receive \$10 a month until I am paid up.
I have 74 pts now but if they count for
V J Day I will have eight more or
82. I should get discharged when I
get home they say. I don't know

Aug 12 I know you want me home
just as much as I want to come home
and you and Jane must have had some
fun talking together about Henry & I
and when we will get home. Don't worry
about money. As I said before I
don't need the money order for \$5.00
and if it comes I will send it back.
I would like to go to school and
get a better education but if I
had a chance for a good job in weather
etc I probably would take it. If
I did go to school it would probably be
at Cornell and I would live at 14.
See the musical festival here is quite
nice. I have the programs. I realize
how busy Luella must be with two
boys etc. Aug 16. I couldn't comprehend
the war being over either. It was more
real to us here when the German war
ended but the Pacific war end gave
a chance for discharge. So you were
in New York on U. S. soil. It must
have been some sight. I told

you I think that Capt. McCreagh went home
Lt. Brancewick is in charge now. Please
don't worry I am fine and doing good. I
am sorry about the rating but it is
one of those things. If I can get out
of the army soon now I will be happy.
I also had a lovely letter from Lucille
written Aug 16th I am glad Mlyn has
his parole because. So better my
own country. I feel sorry for him
in some ways leaving now when other
boys are getting out. He can't have
more than 30 pts or so for three years
in army. Aug 19. I can't understand
why my mail takes so long in
reaching you unless it is because I am
way out here in Austria. I think our
mail goes by plane to Paris but I am
not sure. ^{Aug 20} Lucille had a good intuition
when she thought I might have gone
to Paris. I don't know when I will go
to be processed for coming home. Probably
somewhere in France. I think I got processed
at 2nd Weather Headquarters but not sure we
have the C.O. of 2nd WEA Bde. She is a
major. at Sitsburg we had a Lieutenant
Thomas is a Redwood man who joined

us when we were in Lunenburg. Clokey
has left too but will for home. He
speaks fluent German and is helping
get the German weather system going.
I have 74pts now.

I am fine please stop worrying.
I have enough money but no extra.
I want all the money I can have in
bank when I get home. I am sorry
I only have one stupe at present but
I am just disconcerted and don't care much
if I can get out.

Thanks loads again for the
small boxes of things you sent. Say
hello to all Coochese for me.

All my love,
Tracy Jr.

P.O. Tracy H. Ashley
71st Weather Sqdn.
a.p.o. 696 70 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homer, New York

Sunday Night
September 2, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

not much to write about except
to say hello and let you know I
am thinking of you! I haven't done
hardly anything since I returned from
Paris. Worked a little yes, gone to
the show and Red Cross. The
weather has been quite nice and
I have done quite a bit of walking
around and seeing all I could of
Salzburg while I am here! I don't
think I will be here much
longer. I should be called
into headquarters within two
weeks I should think. I would love
to be home for Thanksgiving.
Of course I could be home before.
I sure am looking forward to getting
home. It seems so long. At times I

can't even remember what 94 looks like
and it worried me. I don't think
I will ever leave home if I can
not get there again.

Your wonderful packages you
sent me really furnished me with
some wonderful snacks. Our
chow isn't bad but we sure
can eat a little extra at night.

I am enclosing another picture
of me and a picture of the house
where we live. It is a lovely
house. It must have been very
nice in your time. The grounds
are very lovely. I would like
to own a house like this some
time but it would take beaucoup
money I guess.

I am fine don't worry. I hope
you are ok. School will start
before long. I should see you
in a month.

all my love,
Tracy Jr.

P.O. Tracy
21 1/2 Weather Sq
A.P.O. 696 % Postmaster, P.



Air Mail

Mrs. Tracy H. Ashley
89 South Main St.
Homer, New York

Wednesday
September 12, 1945
Bad Kissingen
Germany

Hello Mom dear,

Well here I am at 21st
Headquarters at Bad Kissingen.
We got here late Monday night
yesterday. We spent trying to
find out what the deal was.
It looks as though I've been
it. They are planning on sending
all men with 75 pts or more home. That
is 75 pts on U.F. Day. I ironically
enough have 74 pts. It looks like
I will have to wait until the
next shipment. They broke up the
radioconce det. at Ft. our detachment
at Salzburg and are going to send
the men out to other detachments.
We had one man who joined ours.

detachment at Salzburg recently. He came
overseas with me and he has 76 pts
so is going home. If I had only come
in the army one month earlier or
had come overseas one month earlier
I would have enough pts to get home.
I don't know where I will be sent
from here. It may be up in northern
Germany near Bremen. I talked to my C.O.
yesterday about my rating. He said my
C.O. had written & spoken to him several
times but his hands are tied by 9th
airforce directives but I will get it back
in time. Please don't worry about it
as it is nothing serious. I just had
a run in with a 2nd Lt. in artillery
about working too hard. I will
explain to you when I get home.

They get mail here almost
every day but at headquarters
and I have received some.

⑤ I received Lucille's letter with the
scraps of little Tracy. He sure looks
very cute and healthy. I can't wait
to see him. I received your letter of
Aug 31. It is nice Aunt Mable &
you could live in it for awhile, sorry
Mary didn't see and they left in a
hurry but we can't help that. I
did get to go to the music festival.
I suppose Bill Bennett will eventually
marry that girl. It seems strange he
doesn't get a job. If I could get home
before the mob I certainly would
try to get set in a good job. Maybe he
wants to rest for awhile. It is too
bad Bob Patten must go overseas now.
Lucille kept it. She had just received my
letters telling of my going to Paris and
my return. She sent me 5 dollars. Please
thank her very much as I can use it.
Sept 4 from you. I am glad you received
the letter telling not to send money before
you sent it out. I am glad you are
looking forward to going to Ortheusa

and I hope you like it. It is a
marvelous location, yes I would like
to visit England again before I
get home. Maybe I will go there on
my way home. American soldiers have
married alot of English girls. I am
glad you said no to Mrs. Brown
about our house. I thank you for
the dollar. I will no doubt be
here for two or three months yet
so send me some cigarettes. you
should be able to get them now.
I am glad you took the snapshot
of me. I will Sept 4th I did have
a nice time in Paris and saw all
of the sights. I am glad to hear
all the Crochets are fine and they get
a chance to fly one. She would take
me up. I had dollar for this dollar
too. I can buy a few things I need
It seemed good to see American money
again.

I am fine don't worry. I will
write again as soon as I hear anything
definite. Meanwhile I am here at
headquarters. All my love,
Easy Jr.

HOLD OPEN HOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker, jr., entertained last evening with an "open house" at their home on South Main Street, Homer. The occasion was in honor of Mrs. Crocker's brother, Tracy Hollis Ashley, jr., formerly staff sergeant, who was honorably discharged from the service on November 27.

Mr. Ashley was in the service more than three years and 29

months of that time was spent overseas. He was a meteorologist in the 21st Weather Squadron. On his arrival in England in July 1943 he was one of those chosen to learn radiosonde, (operating ground radio and sound equipment in the gathering data of the upper atmosphere), and was stationed at Great Park, Windsor Castle, on the king's estate, while learning. From England he was sent to Northern Ireland where he became attached to the Ninth Air Force.

When his unit invaded France in July 1944 they were assigned to the 15th Corps under Lieut. Gen. Wade H. Haislip. In the early days of the invasion the 15th Corps which was under blackout, spearheaded General Patton's drive across France, pushed through the tangled Avranches corridor and then pushed across river after river to bring about the liberation of Paris.

The corps then made first contact with the Seventh Army which swept up from Marseilles. The radiosonde men operated with the artillery and gave weather data to them and the air force. General Devers wrote Haislip "your country has every reason to name the 15th Corps among its military greats".

Later the 15th Corps invaded Germany with the Seventh Army, and was at Salsburg, Austria, when the end of the war came.

Mr. Ashley wears the Ninth Air Force insignia and the 15th Corps insignia and the American Theater of War and European, African, Middle Eastern Service Medals, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the meritorious Unit Citation, has five battle or campaign stars, the Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland.