Germany
April 28. 1945

Dearest Ree.

Delmos is pulling his guard and I am out with him. We have a fine set up here - even hot showers which is much too good to last.

Babe, it seems from your letter Frank has decided to wait until I get home to fix the car. I had trouble ever getting him to do anything while I was there, but this time he is worse than ever before. I know how inconvenient being without transportation is for you and hope you can soon get him to finish the job. I thought one time I might go in business with him, but he has thoroughly convinced me that would be a mistake. until he learns to give more attention to his business. I'm afraid we wouldn't be too successful.

Lee, I continue in good health and spirits. The food is good and our quarters are much better than I ever expected on the front. My letters would be more interesting if I could tell you of some of the things we see and do, but these will have to keep until I can get home.

The weather is getting better every day - I've even discarded my long johns and sweater. I think before long we'll be having real summer weather.

It seems Peg and Monty have made many friends from the many parties they have attended recently. It makes me very proud to know they are well liked, but I'll bet you have a time getting them ready for all the visits. Tell Peg not to get too many boy friends on the line.

Lee, the financial news

you send is fine and it's a great relief to know you are getting in such good shape. Getting the tax refund was a big boost to the bank account. With your savings and the bonus you can very easily afford to rest this summer and not try to work. Darling, you need the rest and should be sure to make no arrangements that will interfere.

Bye for now. If I get a letter from you at chow tonight I might write again today. Two in one day might spoil your thought. Think you could bear up under the shock? - Stay sweet -

yours always

Francis.

Enemy Prowls Behind U.S. Armor

By GEORGE DORSEY, Staff Correspondent

WITH THE 5TH ARMORED DIV.—When they ask where the German army is in this neck of the woods, the invariable answer here is: "Behind the 5th Armored Div."

The statement is more grim than funny, however, because men are getting killed and wounded far behind this division's forward elements.

Roving bands of Germans who prowl the forests to the rear ambushed a recon party of an artillery group and killed or captured all 26 men in the party, including the group commander. Nazi forces whose armament included Tiger tanks recently raided the division's main supply route, shooting up and seizing supply trucks.

These depredations were made possible because of the 5th's lightning advance over great distances. In such blitz warfare, the armor doesn't stop to clean out each pocket, but takes chances in order to insert long steel shafts into the enemy's vitals. Although the 84th and 102d Inf. Divs. have been following the armor sweeping eastward, there still are strong groups of the enemy active in the rear.

Combat Command B, under Col., John Cole, turned back to close with a large German force making a pounce on supply columns from its base within Kneisebeck Forest, 50 miles behind the 5th Armored's front lines on the Elbe.

Men of the CCB set up dozens of roadblocks in a semi-circle at the forest's edge and settled down to wait for the Krauts.

It was in mid-morning that riflemen Pfc. Charles Shauberger, of Girard, Pa., peering out of a windmill tower, noticed a German column creeping out of the woods. He yelled down to the tanks, and his cries brought the enemy vehicles under fire. The German column answered with close but ineffective rounds, meanwhile moving ahead into another patch of woods.

When the column emerged from the screen of trees, it was in full flight northward. Acting platoon leader Sgt. Salvatore Candito, of Hingham, Mass., and his men were ready. Inside his tank Cpl. John Ivers, of Oakland, Ill., and Pfc. Alfred Cea, Hazelton, Pa., loaded. Pfc. Leo Roundy, of Escalante, Utah, assistant driver, and T-4 Joseph Meinen, of Sioux City, Iowa, went to work.

First they hit a Panther. Flame shot out of it. It ground to a halt—kaput. American guns swung to a light tank behind the Panther and finished it too.

The rest of the column disappeared, and its fate is still unknown. But the boys beneath the windmill are certain that at least two tanks will harry our rear no more.

I'm pretty sure this is Lucy's outfit.
J

small or middle powers against the Dumbarton Oaks plan.

Shortly after Molotov met for a second talk with President Truman, the White House issued the statement that "in view of the limited time at his disposal in Washington . . . and in order to permit Mr. Molotov to consult with his government following these conversations, discussions in regard to the Polish situation will be continued by the three foreign secretaries in San Francisco."

In Snohomish, Wash., Carrell Keller has pitched two no-hit games for Snohomish High School, blanking Edmonds, 14-0, after whitewashing Sultan 4-0.

And in Brooklyn, St. Francis Prep has the dubious honor of being held hitless in two successive games. Thomas Greenfield, of Loughlin high, blanked St. Francis, 5-0, without a hit to repeat the no-hitter hurled by Walter Rooney, of St. John's Prep, a week earlier.

that gave their respective clubs the victory.

Nieman, for the third straight day, hit for the circuit in the ninth inning to literally pull the Braves up by their bootstraps to an 8-6 triumph over the Brooklyn Dodgers. Two mates were on base and Boston was trailing 4-6 when Nieman prodded the clincher.

Ott, a pretty fair hand at that sort of thing, too, despite his 20 seasons with the Giants, twice hit home runs to pace the National League leaders to a 5-2 victory over the Phillies. Mel spoiled Ken Raffensberger's seven-hit pitching performance by poking the ball out of the park in the first with George Gausman aboard and again in seventh with Johnny Rucker on.

WANTS ALL-STAR GAME

WASHINGTON, April 25—Clark Griffith, president of the Capital's American League Senators and baseball's closest contact with government officials, was prepared to agitate at the joint major league meeting for reviving the annual All-Star game.

By Chic Young



Pvt J.M. Wells 34980741
Co. a. 119th Inf Regt. Apo 30
C/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

U.S. ARMY P.O.S. 80 APR 30 1945 A.P.O. 30

VIA AIR

Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

PASSED BY
32606
ARMY EXAMINER

Germany
April 27, 1945

Dearest-

yesterday, I got back into the ranks of the lucky - 33 letters. Even had one from Ford and Aunt Clifford. I think the bundle yesterday puts me very nearly up to date with letters. None of the packages have come yet, but I'm hoping, now that I'm assigned, to get them soon.

Babe, I can never begin to tell you how nice it is for you to write so much so often. It seems every letter gets better and I can almost believe I've seen you after reading your letter. Every little thing that happens at home is tremendously interesting to me and I enjoy your accounts of the children's escapades. Darling, keep writing me lots and often!

I got the letters yesterday afternoon at chow and could

handy unit to get home and start reading. Delmos got tired of waiting for me to finish so I had the room all to myself for full enjoyment.

A Tallahassee boy Ira Carter is in this outfit and we have had a lengthy bull session today. He knows all the people around Waciasa and Tansew, so we've had lots to talk about. I think he's almost as anxious as I to get back to that part of the world again.

Babe, you asked why I was on guard so much. I got put on a regular guard detail so I wouldn't have to go on maneuvers. The guard got to coming so frequently that I decided to get on the guard detail and know just what to expect. Guard was pretty rough, but much better than going out each day on a hike. Walking is not in my line. My feet just won't stand the pressure.

Rumor has it that this

division has very nearly ended its combat duty in this theatre but I've been exposed to G.I. Rumor too long to take much stock in what I hear. I'm waiting to see what happens, hoping it's true but expecting a different outcome. you should be able from news releases to keep up with me more closely than before. The boys feel their press section failed to get sufficient coverage of the division's accomplishments, but I expect you folks at home are better informed than we are up here. We get a goodly supply of rumor but actual confirmed reports are pretty scarce.

Both Delmos and I have been put in for Pfc. grades. There's about five extra bucks per month in it so we're glad. At one time, I had firm intentions of getting out for a big part in the war but I soon decided to do nothing to change whatever fate had in store for me. I haven't tried to get out of anything but neither have I volunteered for anything

that would have changed the normal course of my getting up to an outfit. Everything seems to prove my decision a good one - I'm well pleased myself.

Darling, you keep worrying for fear I need more than I have over here and ask that I send requests for you. Truthfully, We have all we need and find little occasion for items not furnished by usable. Plenty of food, Cigarettes, Candy, chewing gum, pipe tobacco occasionally - very little else we need. You might send me a package of blades, a pipe, tooth-Paste (Ipana please), and some pipe tobacco (Edgeworth). Send small amounts for we're limited to light baggage. All that heavy load of equipment I packed around all over Europe has been turned in and I have

very little to carry. Save this letter and use it for the request when you want to send something.

Delmos and I have been in the army exactly one year today. We were sworn in in Atlanta April 27, 1944, and have been together almost all the time. Try to write Julie when you can. She's about ready to go back to Florida I think.

Darling, stay sweet and don't worry about me. Remember how much I love you.

yours always
Francis.

Peg dear,

the letters and pictures you send are very nice and I do enjoy getting mail from my own little girl so much.

I can tell you are learning fast and know you'll be glad when you can really begin reading for yourself. I can remember how big I felt when I started reading my own books.

Kiss brother for me and write often.

Love

Dad

Germany
May 3, 1945

Dearest Ree.

I'm sitting waiting for my time to go on guard. Delmar is reading an old copy of Life Magazine - all the other fellows are in bed, so things are pretty quiet.

Babe, in one of your recent letters you asked my opinion of our new president. Most of us asked each the same question and practically all think there'll be very little change in policy or plans formulated under Roosevelt for the war effort. I feel that Truman will probably be as good if not better than Roosevelt and believe he will be more considerate of servicemen. If we can get home, we'll start getting interested in politics again - until we do I'm hope the change won't affect us too much.

George writes of his farming and of all the men being drafted. Looks as though they have decided to clean out Jefferson County and I'm a little sorry for present day draftees for they're going to get a rough deal if they think they'll make the war in the States. Practically all of them are bound for the Pacific and I'm very glad I came last year and we have as much if it made do me do. It's been tough being away, but we've managed somehow and I know I've been very lucky in being assigned when things over here were so well along.

Time for Guard now. Goodnight, darling. Stay sweet for me and take care of you and the Kids -

yours
Francis.

Pvt Lyn Wells 34980741
Co A. 119 Inf. Rgt. apo 30
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

U.S. ARMY POST
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1945
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VIA AIR MAIL

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ARMY EXAMINER

Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Fla.

E.C. Smith
2d Lt. Inf

Germany
May 11, 1945

Dearest Ree.

Our outfit has been moving again. We were in Magdeberg on the Elbe River when the war ended and were sent here shortly thereafter.

I imagine you will be interested to have a list of the German cities I have been in since coming up to the Ninth army from Italy. Respectively, they are: Aachen, Ostenrath, (both west of the Rhine) Linkfurt, Bloomsberg, and Magdeberg. From this list you can determine my course northward in Germany.

We are now doing temporary police duty while

awaiting announcement of further plans for our division. There are a full set of rumors along this line ranging from immediate departure to the Pacific to permanent occupational assignment in Germany. There is probably some foundation for either school of thought, because men from the 30th may be assigned in either capacity but until we get some official notification, I'm trying to be content here. We do have a good job here. The town is very small and our police duties very light. If we should stay for occupation I would like to remain here. We have fine quarters in a large German family's house

no american soldier is allowed any contact with Germans except on business, but without some knowledge of their language social activity would be a bit difficult. I believe there will be plenty of spare time soon and I hope the study course army has agreed to supply us will soon be sent down. There's some opportunity for athletics such as baseball, volleyball, and football, but no arrangements have been made to supply us with reading matter. That's a serious oversight for me, too, for reading is still my idea of perfect entertainment and relaxation for a person.

If I can get a good book, I can spend my extra time pleasantly and profitably.

Dennis and I are together and still get along fine. Our section leader puts our patrol shifts together and we are pleased at not being separated here. Practically all the fellows are agreeable and nice to us, so as far as duty's concerned, we have little complaint.

Babe, I'm afraid our mail may become confused again after our move and expect several days of "no mail" before getting anything like regular service. It's pretty tough not hearing from you but I know we can do

little to improve matters, so will try to be patient.

Darling, please be sure I'm well and don't worry about me. I really think our worst days are behind now and that it's only a question of waiting out the final plans for men over here before we'll know just how soon we can be together again. Remember how much I love you - stay sweet and cheerful for me - and write long letters. The longer, the better.

Goodnight, my dearest.

yours

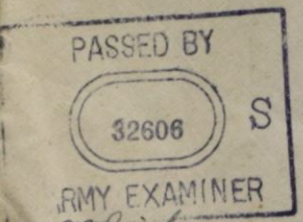
Francis

Babe, can you send me a little Edgeworth?

Pvt J. M. Wells, 34980741
Co A. 119TH Inf. Rgt. Apo. 30
c/o P. M. N. Y. N. Y.



Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

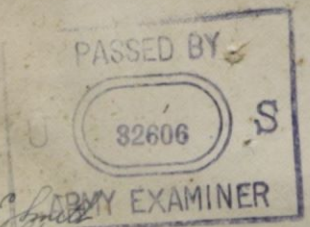


E. E. Smith
2nd Lt. Inf.

Pvt J. M. Wells 34980741
Co A. 119th Inf Rgt. Apo. 30.
C/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.



Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Fla.



Germany

May 14, 1945

Dearest Ree.

Some of our boys are getting the good news that they will soon be starting home. You can imagine how happy they are, after all they've been through, to know they can begin looking forward to homecoming.

The plan for shipment home so far only applies to men who have been overseas longest, but there will probably be a more detailed plan released soon covering men in other categories. I know I have small hopes of being included, but a fellow can hope. If they'll let me stay over here, it won't be

so bad waiting a few more months - I'm really "sweating out" the Pacific now and will be really relieved when the complete plan comes through if I'm not listed for transfer to the Islands -

Darling, I'm well and as happy as a fellow could be under the circumstances. Don't worry - just hope I can soon get on the list for home. Stay sweet and cheerful and remember how much I love you.

yours always

Jack

No mail today - TOUGH BREAK!

April 1. 1945
Germany -

Dearest Ree -

Easter's been very quiet with me - I've washed clothes, cleaned shoes and caught up a little sleep. I had been putting off my laundry for several days - and had accumulated enough that it took longer than usual. The weather's so cold & damp I had to hang everything inside - reminded me of you and Ella trying to dry clothes during a wet spell at home - We've a stove in our room and running water so I heated a big tubful before starting. Sure makes a lot of difference to have warm water when the clothes are so dirty.

The catholic boys went to services in a German church today. I should have gone, I guess, but didn't have the feeling, somehow. Protestant

services weren't announced until I had my laundry all started, so I missed on that. I imagine you and the kids went somewhere, probably in Monticello, today and I know you saw lots of the folks for Easter usually brings out those who ordinarily don't attend. I wish I could be there to see the new Easter outfits you have and be sporting one of my own. This O.D. suit gets just a little monotonous after several months and I believe I could appreciate a different color for a change. I intend to make a big investment in clothes when I come home and none will even remotely resemble O.D.

Our news recently has been a little short, but what we've had looks might good. Our side seems to be pushing along at a good clip into Germany and

the opposition has been very light lately. Some outfits tell of finding German soldiers just sitting around waiting for capture. I reckon they've decided further resistance is useless, and prefer being a live prisoner to being a dead German soldier. If the 3rd army ever gets through to the Russians in eastern Germany, the Germs will be in the last quarter then. Patton has really made some wonderful progress in the past 10 days and the 1st & 9th armies are rolling fast. Babe, won't it be great when it's really over? Even if I have to stay here awhile we can feel more cheerful about it all for we can begin to plan for some definite date when I'll be out. The demobilization plan will be made public then and everyone will know where he stands and how much longer he'll probably be over here.

you wrote quite some time ago of
getting the kids a pup, but never did
say for sure whether you did or not. I
expect you postponed it until later when
you'll be downstairs and have a better
place for keeping a dog. When you are now
a pup would be lots of trouble. When we
get our own place, I want plenty of room
for dogs, cows, and horses because I've
promised the kids plenty of pets and
know they're going to hold me to that
promise. Then I'll probably have two or
three bird dogs to take up room.

Babe, you're doing such a good
job at home! Everything seems to be going
right along and I never worry about you
being able to handle the job. You have
learned fast and well. I expect we'd be
much better off when I get there if we
leave you in the managing position

and just fuss me out on a job. I know you've done much better than I could have and I am very proud of you.

Marion wrote that he'd been in Paris several times and found it all he'd been told. I wish I could see Paris before I get away, but won't be too disappointed if I miss it. I hoped to see Rome before leaving Italy, but was shipped here before an opportunity came to go. Maybe some day you and I can come over and do Europe together. I know I'd enjoy that more than a G.I. tour.

Darling, your letters are so sweet and cheerful. They make this being away easier and bring a touch of home and you right with them. They're always just what I need when I get low and I read them over and over. Being in love with you and having you for my wife is the best thing that ever happened to me

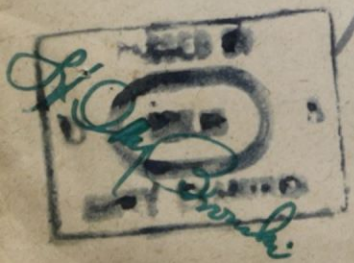
and you've made me happier than I ever dreamed of being. Babe, you're an even better wife than I used to hope for. If I ever get home again I'm going to put in all my time being a perfect husband for you're more than worthy of the best.

Goodnight, my darling. Stay sweet and beautiful as you are and know I love you with all my heart.

yours always

J.

Pvt J. M. Wells 34980741
A. T. R. C. Apo 739
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.



Mrs. Frances M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Fla.

April 3. 1945

Germany.

Dear Ed & Minnie -

I've done quite a bit of traveling since writing you last, and am now in the land of "The Supermen", though I've been unable to see anything "super" about them. They look much like folks every where over here - except that now they have a slightly puzzled expression as though they can't understand how the heck they are losing the war. Their leaders tell them we are along everything's O.K. just a slight withdrawal, and the next thing they know the yanks are taking over. .

Spring is trying to "arrive" here. The trees are beginning to bloom and we're having some typical April weather. Cold & raining one minute, warm and sunny the next. 10 minutes

ago we had a hailstorm; now it's sunny. The warm weather is making me more homesick than ever - I get to thinking it's time for trout to be budding and for fish to really begin biting again, and really get anxious for this war to get over. I'm so far behind with all my business that I'll need at least three months off when I get home. Ed, you'll have to close up and help me with my fishing - I'm going to need a good paddler - and we've been so much together that we know how to get along.

Ed, None of you ever wrote me anything about Howard Kenney. I've often wondered about him and wish you'd let me know in your next. Marie usually mentions most of the other fellows but she left him out. I'd also like to

hear the latest on Curry Bussert and what the Legion did about Glenn Miller. Marie wrote that Woodrow Cone had bought Pane Plaines out which was a surprise. When I was home Woodrow planned to take over Mac's two Standard stations.

I often wonder what I'll get into when I get home - There's always the old job, but somehow it doesn't look so attractive to me as before I left. I made good money, but I'd have to make a new start now and would lose much of what I had built up. I sometimes think of something of my own, but haven't decided anything. I'm leaving that to worry about when it's all over.

Well, folks, Keep out of trouble and write me soon. Best wishes

your friend

Francis

Pvt. F.M. Wells-34980741
G.F.R.C. APO 739
c/o P.M. N.Y.N.Y.

~~Hart~~
April 2. 1945
Germany -

My darling -

that report you gave on family finances is fine! It's great to know we're out of the red and can begin getting ahead again. Lee, you've done such a good job and I'm so proud of you. I know it's been a hard fight because I remember how far behind we got last summer, but you stayed right with it and brought us through with flying colors. If I could just be there now to help you. See let in one year we could get us a home! I want it to be well planned and well built for we've waited long enough to get exactly what we want and we don't have to take any old thing. We'll get what we want.

after living upstairs so long

I know you aren't going to be too anxious for an upper story on any house we build. Going up and down so much takes lots of energy and becomes very tiresome. If we plan for our quarters downstairs we can have room for the kids upstairs when they grow a little older, though I doubt if they'll like that idea too much. They always have been accustomed to being right near us and they'll be hard to change.

Darling, stay right after Frank on the car. He can put it in shape so you can depend on it for your running around, if he will. Then if I should get home before too long, there'd be some transportation for me to get to work with. I think it'll be a long time before we can get a new car and we should keep this one in the best

possible shape. When I get there, I'll take her to Jax and get her re-painted and have new upholstery put in. Then we should be able to ride until new cars get over in production.

The war news is better and better. This war gets better in hand every day and should be finished any day. I won't be surprised to hear it's over any time. I just wish I knew how the War Department plans to handle things when it's over and who's going to be discharged. Looks like they don't want me. I've been kicking around over here six months now and haven't done one single thing. I've been available for whatever came along, but they've not found a place for me yet. My own personal opinion is that this war will end before I get a chance to get into combat. Of course there's always the possibility, but things are moving so swiftly now no one looks for the Jerries

to last many more weeks. Our lads are moving so fast that we in the rear echelon can't keep up.

Babe, I looked in my writing kit this afternoon and found the letter I wrote last night which I intended mailing this morning. I was lazy and didn't get up when first call sounded so got behind with my dressing, washing and bed making to the extent of forgetting my letter. There's nothing to do here in the way of amusement or recreation we can play football or baseball, but I'm outgrown ball games. I usually find me some older fellow and engage in a bull-session. Shooting the bull is the great pastime of the army.

Lately we've had quite a few fellows coming through going back to their units from Base hospitals. They've been wounded, gone back to hospitals, recovered and are on the way back to the front.

The have some rugged stories to tell, when they start talking. One boy I met last week has been wounded three times and is going back up again convinced he'll be killed. I don't understand how they manage to keep going, but they do and aren't satisfied a minute until they're on the way back to their outfits and their buddies.

That news about Ed's brother marrying is one of the biggest surprises of the year. I never thought he'd get married and can't imagine him married to that old lady. She's much older than he - in fact almost old enough to be his Mother. Jennins never was the type for getting Married - he was always to ornery and independent to even work more than a few days at the time. I just can't picture him married! - I always liked him, though, and wish him every

happiness. Ed and Minnie have always been a little ashamed of him because he never tried to work much and never worried about getting rich. He's the guy that always had time to go fishing or hunting and take a day off for a drunk when the notion struck. Everyone in Cuellia likes him.

Keith wrote me about the new daughter. Seems she's keeping them quite busy, but they're really pleased. I know Lucile's proud of herself. They're two fine people and I think we're fortunate to count them among our friends. They have become real Southerners and seem to be very happy in living our life. Keith said he knew they couldn't be called "crackers" yet, but thought they could qualify as "cracklings".

Babe, I'd better quit now. Write. Stay sweet for me. I love you more each day.

Yours always. Francis.

Pvt. Francis M. Wells, 34980741
G.I. P.C. Apo 739
Co P.M. N.Y. N.Y.



Mrs. Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

April 16, 1945
Germany -

Dearest Pee -

I was down for guard tonight from 2 to 6 am but got the Sgt. to change me since I had had that shift 2 days ago. He looked over the roster and put me on day shift which is much better. Guard at night is pretty rough.

Babe, about the time I think the mail is smoothed out and that I'll be getting mine regularly it stops again. Two or three good days, then a week without. Very discouraging! Just gotta grin & bear it.

I saw a great bevy of Kraut prisoners the other day. They look

very different than pictures I had seen of the German soldier and it's hard to imagine the sorry looking specimens were ever Hitler's vaunted supermen. There's a big difference in their looks!

Babe, this country is beautiful now. Trees are in bloom, the grass is getting green - all the markers of spring make me homesick. Spring's always been my favorite season. The wisteria and azaleas will be blooming soon at home and there's no prettier sight in the world than our own Florida in spring. I hope I can live a long life and enjoy it all there with people and surroundings more

grown to love.

I'm living the life of Reilly now. Nice room, just two of us in it, in a big house - tables, chairs, piano, heater, electric lights. Really a break after that tough going in Italy.

Babe, I hope you won't get too tired of this song. I intend to keep singing it until I have a letter saying you agree to take the summer off. I'm afraid you'll crack up if you don't get some rest and know the summer's your only chance. Hurry and write that you're taking my advice.

Hope I get a letter tonight. Bye Darling, for now.

Yours

Francis.

Pvt J.M. Wells, 34980741
G.I.R.C. Apo 739
c/o P.M. N.Y.N.Y.

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
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Mrs Frances M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Fla.

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Pvt F.M. Wells 34980741
Co. A. 119th Inf. Rgt. APO 30
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

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E E Lynn
2nd Lt. Inf.

Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

Herbert Giebel
Magdeburg
Mansfelder Straße 8 b

Germany.
May 14, 1945

Dearest Ree.

By now you are probably in the midst of getting over the move and settling down in your place. your letter mentioned Mrs. Morraine leaving May 11, so I imagine you are buzzing around completing some of those ambitious plans you have for the new place. I hope you are fortunate in securing the help of the painter for a new coat of paint is a veritable must in any renovation and I'm afraid you and Ella will find it better to leave the harder work for professional talent. Take the work slowly and make it last a long time. you have all summer and can use "fixing up" the new place as a means of preventing boredom during the long summer days. My hope is that I may soon be there to enjoy home with you.

I have just finished my most difficult army duty - doing my laundry. Helmos and I have two changes of clothes - so are able to keep reasonably clean by washing often. The other boys only have the clothes they wear and have a real problem here where conveniences as we knew them at home are almost non-existent. We all expect that soon supplies will be available for a new issue of clothing. until then, we think of the tremendous distance separating us from our source of necessities, and of all the problems facing our Service men and believe ourselves lucky in getting as much as we do. A new, summer uniform will be a great help though and we hope they soon reach us.

Ree, I know that in later years you and I will recall our war service (ours because we both serve) as a proving grounds for our theory of life and living. So many families have found themselves caught a lessening of mutual

Herbert Giebel
Magdeburg
Mansfelder Straße 8 b

regard and respect, that ~~[illegible]~~ our theory must be right. Our separation has given opportunity for casual consideration of our life together and we can neither find cause for complaint. We have found definitely that we had the marriage problem well solved and I know we'll be happier in days to come because of knowing how much we mean to each other. We've gained patience and learned to ignore trifling things that once infuriated me - you have acquired poise and self-reliance from your position as head of our family. So, darling, as usual, out of bad, comes good. "There's always a way out, and the happy heart will find it." Confucius stored that about four thousand years ago and it's true now.

Babe, I'm living like a King now. Sleeping in a real bed (with three or four G.I.'s), and I can tell you a bed is a wonderful piece of machinery. After cots or a floor, or the ground, a bed is something to appreciate highly. Our food is good, the work is light, army routine is practically non-existent. So you can be assured this Joe is really getting along well. If I could see you occasionally, this would be an ideal set-up.

Tell Peg I'll have some funny stories to tell her when I come home and Monty that I haven't forgotten the "hossie". When censorship permits and I can visit on of the larger cities I hope to be able to send all of you a souvenir of Germany.

Darling, On this Mother's day, I thank God that you're Mother of our children and pray that He will continue to Guide and protect you.

yours always
Francis.

Pvt Francis M. Wells. 34980741
Co A. 119th Inf Rgt. Apo 30
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.



Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Fla.

Hinglestedt, Germany
May 22, 1945

My Darling Wife-

One of the Sgts and myself got ambition right after dinner today and decided to wash our O.D. uniforms. We had just started when the other fellows began drifting in each with a shirt or pants that sorely needed a treatment such as we were giving ours. We ended up by doing about a dozen uniforms and I have just finished pressing my shirt, so you can imagine about how tired I am. We're a big bath tub, a hot water heater, and got some good soap from the kitchen so the job wasn't too bad.

Ree, Babe, I'm glad you saw my way and have given up any idea of working this summer. There's really no use of it and I was afraid you wouldn't be able to keep up next year without some rest this summer. You've enough money ahead to pay the bills and allow you a chance to just be lazy while you gain some weight and store up energy for next term. I imagine the first few days will be hard trying to keep busy, but you will have the children and can perhaps go for a visit with someone, though I imagine you'll have more fun nearer home.

This writing without having a censor hanging over your shoulder is a great relief! I was almost to the point of stopping writing when they decided to change the security regulations to permit some uncensored mail. It really helped me and the rest of the fellows feel as I do. I only hope there'll be no drastic changes in our present setup and that I can make whatever remaining time there is here instead of being shipped to the Pacific. That's one prospect none of us is interested in! Babe, don't get your hopes up for me to come home for it seems we have practically no chance of that. It's either here or

Pacific. Delores and I have about 43 points each and will be held in the army until Japan falls so let's just hope we can soon get it finished over there and start home. Some of the divisions going from here may be sent through the States, but we have no rumors for sure.

Darling, you've no idea how anxious I'm getting to crawl in bed beside you and give you the loving of your life! I want you so darn bad I can hardly stand it and can promise you a real treatment when I see you again. I don't mean just one either, but a long series!

Say hello to our friends for me and write often and long. If we stay here a few days, perhaps I can do somewhat better toward writing you for this is a vast improvement over anything I've had in Germany.

Bye babe, Stay sweet and cheerful for me and remember you're the most loved wife in Montiseno -

yours

Francis -

Pvt J. M. Wells 34980741
Co H. 119th Inf Rgt. Apo 20
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

MAY 20 19[illegible]

UNITED STATES POSTAGE 2 CENTS

Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Fla.

Dingkestadt, Germany
May 23, 1945.

My Darling.

I heard a rumor last night that our division would be in the States by July fourth. Even though it's just a rumor, it was cheerful listening and I wish it could be true except that I'd know almost definitely then we were slated for Pacific duty. If we could go home for a furlough without being liable for another war it would be the best news I'd ever heard and I could hardly stand the wait for starting.

I want to see you three so darned bad honey, sometimes I wonder how I manage to keep going. This being away from your loved ones is no good and it's even worse than at first. Gal, if ever I get out of the army, I'm going to be hard to get rid of and you may as well prepare to have a "line" shadow follow you around. Think you can stand it? I know our lives will be one long round of happiness now that we're found how much depends on being together.

Last night our platoon leader sent up a few bottles of Cognac and Gin so we had a little party. It might be called our victory celebration for it was our first time to relax and sort of let our hair down since the German collapse. We had a good time until some of the fellows started getting drunk, then it wasn't so nice. I had only enough to get a warm feeling and stayed in condition to look after the others. Having the war over is hard for us to grasp and it will be some time before we can really realize what it means. Since being in Germany, I haven't been out of a house even for the shortest time without my rifle and we sleep on our arms under guard. We eat armed. I guess when I get home I'll be going to work with my rifle slung over my shoulder. Really though Darling getting back where firearms are for hunting game will be a

real boon to me for I have never felt much interest in killing a man. I just hope I can be lucky and not get in a game where I'll be forced to shoot.

Those grades you're making are fine! you are a wonderfully intelligent girl and I'm very proud of your accomplishments. I hope some day I can help you get your Master's degree.

Bee, keep ole Liz in as good shape as possible so she'll have transportation when I get to come home. We'll have lots of places to go and it will probably be some time before we can buy a new car. We heard last night that two hundred thousand cars will be sold this year at home, but I don't if we could qualify for one.

Babe, if you should run across a good camera, buy it. I've wanted one badly and could have a much better record of my travels had I had snapshots of some of the things I've seen.

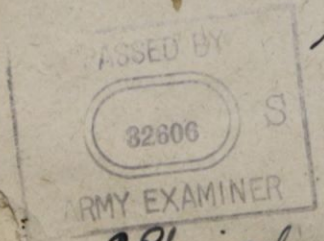
I must write Marion, so darling. Bye for now. Love me as I love you and remember to stay cheerful and happy.

yours

Francis

Pvt F. M. Wells 34980741
Co A. 119th Inf. Rgt. Apo 30
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.





C C Smith
2nd Lt Inf

Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida.

Darling -

I was amused at your account of Liggett's troubles with my job. He's one of the wise guys who was always cracking about me never doing anything and I'm glad to hear he's finding there's a little more work than he expected. Lots of the folks could never see where I had much work to do because I planned it so I'd have some time off, and when I did go out to work I stayed out until I had finished. Liggett probably hasn't learned to schedule his work and is taking a beating. By the time I get home they will probably have let the business run down so

much I can pick up some good commissions putting the business back on the books.

The Grantham's you mentioned are good friends of mine. Mrs. Moraine must make about the same route I had. I used to see her quite often out over the county.

All my love

Francis.

Pfc Lin Wells, 34980741
Co A, 119th Inf. Rgt. APO 30
C/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.



Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida



Blankenstein, Germany
June 7, 1945



My darling Ree,

The news over here is that our division has been assigned for occupational duties. Of course whether we stay or not depends entirely on the situation as it develops in the Pacific - if our boys are reasonably successful, we stay here, if not Pacific bound. The war department has much confidence in the 30th as a combat team and will certainly push us over if the tactical situation becomes difficult. My opinion is that Japan will soon be so bombed she will be ready to talk business. Our air force has been pouring the heat on Japan recently and the Pacific forces will soon be augmented by units from the E.T.O. The 8th air force is sending much of its personnel to the eastern front and those boys really have the know-how on bombing. We hope our boys over there, together with our Chinese allies, can soon put the finger on the Jap big shots.

Darling, your letters of our children make me very proud of you three and make me realize how much I'm missing being away during their cute ages. I guess we'll be forced to have another but think we should wait long enough to catch up on some of the things we're missing out on now. I want to really enjoy you as I never have before and will expect you to be with me on everything, so we'd better not start anticipating too soon. You do manage beautifully when pregnant, but I'm afraid hunting and fishing and camping and wood be a little strenuous

for a lady with a swollen stomach.

Blankenstein is in the heart of the winter sports station of Germany and we're told the snow gets plenty deep here by Christmas. I hope my next holiday turkey dinner will be eaten in a much warmer clime, but I know the snow will be more pleasant than Malaria and Jap bullets, so if my lot is to stay in Army I will be content. I know you're well fixed and capable of managing for you there and am trying not to worry about anything over which I have no control. Babe, try to stay cheerful and keep hoping circumstances will soon change so I can come home. Let's be thankful for our many blessings and content with our lot for many have been less fortunate.

I do love you and will until I find out you didn't buy the watch - then it's all off!

Yours always

Francis.

Pfc L.D. Wells, 37980741
Co A, 119th Inf Rgt. apo 30.
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.





Mrs Granelia M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

Blankenstein, Germany
June 5, 1945.

Dearest Ree.

We've been for a short trip today over to our Battalion headquarters to practice for a big parade we're to put on Monday. The 1st Battalion of the 119th Inf. (ours) was awarded the presidential unit citation for "exemplary action and devotion to duty" and each man of us will be sporting a new ribbon after Monday. It's quite an honor and we're the pride of our regiment.

Next week we're to go on maneuvers for a few days practice in fighting and living in the woods and hills. It seems to me we could at least leave off maneuvers now the war's over, but the "big brass" has to show it's authority from time to time. So, we go on field problems - the men on foot in the rain and mud with full packs - the "brass" in a jeep riding along the line of march finding all manner of fault with our work. It's really encouraging!!

This gang I'm in is practically 100 % nuts. Right now in one house some are frying potatoes, one cleaning three small fish, three writing, two or three sleeping, some out on the lawn getting a tan. The radio which speaks hardly anything but German and Polish runs at least 20 hours each day full blast. We like it loud so we can hear it all over the house - from cellar to attic. I wish I could learn a little German so I could understand part of the programs, but German is a much more difficult language to master than any I've tried.

Ree, I've been invited to help eat the spuds - stay sweet and remember who loves you.

yours Nancie.

Pfc. Jr. N. Wells 34980741
Co H. 119th Inf Rgt. APO. 30
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.



Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

Blankenstein, Germany.
June 15, 1945.

Dearest Lee,

This bids fair to be our first good day for over a week and we're holding our fingers crossed! I hope to get one chance at our pool - so thoughtfully provided by the Germans before we leave here, and leaving is getting very close. As G.I. who has been around as much as I can recognize the signs - Mail stops - rumors fill the air and a restless feeling runs through the outfit. The choice rumor circulating now has it that we're been transferred from the Ninth to the Seventh Armies and have been assigned to permanent occupational duties. The story goes on that we will be moved from Germany into old Austria - I just hope this one's true and that our move takes us near Vienna. That's a city I've always had an urge to see!

Yesterday, our battalion put on a full dress parade - new uniforms, shiny brass, and polished boots - Everything including a General and a good band. The occasion was the awarding of a Presidential citation to the battalion for "heroic achievement

and devotion beyond the call of duty". The General awarded the citation and we paraded for him. It was a wonderful sight after all these months of dirt and mud to see all the outfits with clean equipment and we felt a real pride in our army.

When the mail gets messed up I find it extremely difficult to write. When your letters come regularly it's much easier, but when they stop I get to feeling like a fellow talking to himself. Darling, take care of you for me and write often about everything you do. What you're doing is big news to me and I follow each day's activities with great interest. If I ever get back in the states, I never intend to write another letter. I'm going to just call you - it's much more satisfying!!

A few of the fellows are getting passes for Paris and London. My turn will probably roll around in two or three months, but I hope I can get one for either Vienna, Switzerland, or Rome. I still feel disappointed missing Rome and hope an opportunity presents itself before I get away.

Babe, how are the folks taking our new president? Are they satisfied with him and do they think him capable of going ahead? The boys here are

pretty evenly divided - half wants to make a decision now! half wants to give him time to adjust himself. I personally think he's about as good as Roosevelt and expect him to try to continue the policies of the preceding administration though I doubt Mr. Truman politician enough to manage some of the teams Roosevelt harnessed together.

I wish I could have one of those dreams some night and meet you somewhere for a renewal of wonderful experiences we have shared. My dream maker seems run down or altogether finished for all I can do is sleep. I hope each night - but wake up disappointed. Guess I just ain't no good for dreaming.

darling, you must rest, relax, and get ready for the next session. Seems you'll be at the head of the household for awhile yet even though I'm lucky enough to miss Phyllis orders.

all my love to you three

Yours

Francis.

Pfc. J.M. Wells. 34980741
Co. A. 119th. Inf. Rgt. Apo 30
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.





Mrs Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

Blankenstein. Germany
June 20, 1945.

Dearest Ree.

We have been told we could write home we'd be there in the early fall. We've been given a tentative date, but I'm afraid of it, so will just say early fall. The army can change its plans so quickly one never knows exactly how he stands and where. I just hope it's true and that we're really on the list to go home. I think I'd just as soon "sweat out" the Pacific in the states as here - perhaps we can find out something there, and get away from the rumors that fly over here. Then, too, the food has got so short over here we're all ready to change and take a chance.

Babe, I'm off right after supper for a walk in the woods. The rain has stopped, the weather cleared up so I believe I can spot a buck. We're had strict orders about shooting them, but hunger has me to the point I can't think much of orders. I went to bed last night so empty I couldn't sleep for a long time and when

I did wake up, I felt like a empty barrell. There's lots of griping about the shortage of food since V-day. We were cut 10% and by the time the cut reached us it was more like 50%.

Babe, don't let this news of our homecoming get you too excited I think maybe it's true, but surely wouldn't bet a cent on it. We were transferred from the ninth army a few days ago to the seventh and could very easily be shifted again. Some of the divisions are going to Marseilles and embarking for a direct trip. The 66th Div. was the latest one ordered there, darling, take this with a grain of salt, but hope it's true. I need to get home for a few days so darned bad!!

Stay sweet, Babe. Maybe I'll see you before too long.

Yours

Francis.


Pfc Lon Wells 34980741
Co A. 119th Inf Apo 30
c/o P.M. N.Y.N.Y.
U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
JUN 23 1945
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA AIR MAIL
Mrs Francis N Wells
Box 142
Monticello, Florida

Blankenstein, Germany.
June 21, 1945

Dearest Lee.

My hunting trip yesterday turned out about like I expected. We walked for miles and miles up some of the steepest hills in Europe and saw exactly nothing. The exercise was good, but a little too rugged for the light rations we're on now. It's getting so bad food has become the important subject even over how we won this end of the war and how we dread the Pacific. Helmos and I have lost quite a bit of weight and they have started a strenuous training program of hikes, calesthenics and early morning running. Every one of the boys is ready sore over it all, but there's nothing we can do but what these miserable officers say. We were expecting a little rest after the shooting and a chance to get around and see some of the country but we got a tough schedule lined out for us. All this balleho you're getting in the news about the parade, baseball games, and entertainment we're getting over here is strictly B.S. I've been in the army almost 14 months now and have had exactly one furlough - the delay in route last September. There's always two ways of doing anything - the right way and the army way.

Darling, if the news I'm going home is true I'll probably be there just in time to mess up your going to work, so you may as well plan for a substitute to start the term for you. The men are getting from 21 to 30 days now. I'm going to try to pack a lot of living into that furlough for I know it will be a long time before I get another. Try to have everything running so you'll have nothing to do but keep me.

Kiss the boys for me. Stay sweet and hope I won't have to go to the Pacific.

Yours always

Francis.

Blankenstein, Germany
June 28, 1945.

Dearest Ree.

your mail is probably piling up somewhere along the route and will all come in a bunch before long. Ours gets tied up the same way occasionally and we get to thinking we've been forgotten, but A.P.O. eventually gets around to us.

From your letters I just know that Apartment is shining and I'm really looking forward to a short visit with you before too long. The couch is a good idea and will suit me as your gift as well as a watch if you get what you want. I hope you can get the one from Thomasville and not take one from Laurence. His furniture is too cheap and shoddy and will not be at all what we want. When we invest in furniture we must be sure we get only the best for that's a long time investment and poor quality can be a great disappointment. I think it would be wise for you to start thinking about your heat for next winter now while there's time to make good arrangements. See if you can get an adequate ration of fuel oil so that you can buy a nice big oil heater. Coal or wood are too much trouble and much more expensive than oil. If you could get a heater like mine had your heating problem would

be permanently solved and you would eliminate the need of carrying wood in and ashes out. Earl Gossup can help you if you need any advice. If you don't like this idea, try to get your coal and wood delivered as soon as possible for there's going to be a real shortage next winter and I don't want you without heat. Figure what you'll need, then add 1/3 more for emergency. Maybe you can secure enough by starting before the rush.

I guess you were glad to wind up the Bible School and get back in the ranks of the lazy. I'm glad you helped out, but can imagine what a time you had with the moving, painting, and teaching. For the remainder of the summer, I want you to be careful about taking on anything even remotely resembling work and keep your time free for resting. You have earned a rest and need time to get in good shape for the next session of school.

The news of C. J. Reams' death was a surprise to me. I never particularly liked Mr. Reams, but I did admire him as a man. He always stood for the right and was ready to do his part for the community. If we had more men like him, we'd have a better county.

Lucile and Keith are evidently "in the groove" again. I've often thought (wondered) if perhaps Carolyn was the

outcome of a certain night we all remember at "The Rendezvous". When Lucile and Keith had to go out for a short session in the car and when you and I should have knocked before opening the door. Remember, Babe?

Forget the furniture deal with Lawrence. you'll be stuck. If you can't get it in I'll try Tallahassee. Start toward Aunt for the winter. Preferably Oil for oil eliminates all the heavy carrying and cleaning which coal causes. This sounds like a flock of orders and I imagine you're much better qualified to handle the situation than I am, but, Darling, I like to think I'm keeping my hand in in keeping you inside the issues at home. I think of you so very much and wish I could relieve you of all the responsibility and worry there and just have you for loving more than a pretty girl was ever loved before for that's just how I feel about you.

Yours always

Francis

Pfc 2.M. Wells. 34980741
Co. A. 119th Inf. Cpo 30.
c/o P.M. N.Y.N.Y.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Francis M. Wells
Box 142
Montiello, Florida

Oklahoma City, France
July 10, 1945.

My dearest Wife.

I had hoped that when I wrote this letter I could write from a considerably closer city than one in France, but our movement that began two weeks ago seems to have bogged down for a few days. This has been the toughest of all my experiences. We've had a long train ride - two days with two meals - a long truck ride and a week of living in pup tents. It rained almost every hour we were in the field. Bill and I were together in our little two man tent just big enough for two when you're lying down. We slept almost continuously for the week getting in shape for the rest we lost during the movement. See darling, I never thought I'd ever be so thoroughly disgusted and worn out with everything as I've been in these two weeks. Our two main officers were transferred out of the company and we got two more from another division who have set out to make ours the most miserable lives in Europe. We expected that when the war was over we'd have a chance to see a little of the country and play just a little while we waited to be sent to the Pacific. Instead of that

we get pushed around, confined to our area, refused passes, half-starved and generally treated as though we were criminals instead of American soldiers. We may have to march to show. I'm trying to keep out of trouble until I get to see you and the children again then I intend to stop being pushed around by some of these miserable specimens we have here for leaders. I've been so damned mad in the last three weeks I could have killed without even a twinge of conscience. When a guy gets as hungry as I've been recently he forgets a lot of the reasons he has for staying out of trouble, but I'm trying to keep my temper down until after my furlough home.

The present set up should get us home early in August. There are almost daily changes of plans but I think I'll be there at least by the middle of the month. Babe, you just can't imagine how

Blankenstein Germany
June 26. 1945

that furlough means to me after all these long months over here away from all I love. I want to try and do enough living in that short space of time to pay for all I've lost and missed and feel very conscious of my good fortune in having you and the children waiting for me there. Try to forgive me for not writing for so long and know it was not because you were not in my thoughts every minute. There's just been a little more than a guy could go with lately. We were told when div ie deploy next began we'd have a real vacation from work with passes to Paris and Brussels, shows, Beer baseball games and all the work done by P.W.'s. So far we've gotten one bottle of beer, no passes and work every day.

My darling, your sweet letters have begun arriving again and I can't tell it's much easier from thinking of what a truly wonderful girl I have waiting to have my furlough. don't plan anything and don't let the news get out that I'm coming home for 2

don't want to see anyone for at least 2 weeks after I get back. I'm too fed up to go out among the civilians and be looked at and questioned about what happened over here. I'm just in a good way to becoming a first class heel and might take them a few unpleasant things like they might come see for themselves.

Darling, love me more each day and try to keep cheerful these last few days. don't fret again and keep looking for a man what really is

yours

Francis.