10-27-1944

Franz DeVault World War Two Correspondence #1

Franz DeVault

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Subject Terms

Keywords
U.S.A., U.S. Soldiers, correspondence, troops, family, Mother, Father, artillery, trenches, tactics, housing, comradery, culture, morale, assignment, landscape, cold weather, military kit, supplies, money, funds, Christmas, holiday, presidential election, marriage, humor, military honors, Purple Heart, love, motion pictures

Identifier
2014.121.w.r._DeVault_worldwartwo_1944-10-27_001.pdf

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Dear Falk,

Wells again. Just to say, line up, line off. Good appetite last. Sleep 8-9 hours every week. Less time out for artillery. Barrage, stuff. George Capland and I share the same fox hole. Have a laying shelf boards. A foot dirt plus a foot layer of fine hows. 3 1/2 feet wide. 3 1/2 feet deep. 7 feet long. Good protection & we are as happy as a thing in a rug. Yes, quite a guy George. I'd rather be in the field a story half hour, grand fellow & a good buddy.

Wre about a large forest. Big trees all here. Here been planted. Now after more rain thick. At 7 P.M. you can't see a foot from the fox hole. Block heard always cloudy. No moon. Very quiet & quite chilly. The home is 5 9 feet blankets under. 3 over. Plus a shelter half under. Rest one goes. The ground is still plenty bad. Morning. "Sh out aching back." I called you some money & your Xmas. Now be afraid it won't get there in time. Cable is due. Now, at the time. I sent it was
Money orders were available — but you'll get it eventually. But I'm glad $10 for you.

Nice letter from Lorna. Guess she will tell my vote — the vote — Pep. I'll look to change that or many done one else. Did Archie & Paul vote

They? He was Mercile doing happen. The George from the Pacific is sure good

be two even here before we are here. I guess. Lots of guys think we will go other there after we are done here. She I'll hope a double row of battle

ribbons by then. Just said I don't get any Purple Heart.

Don't be too surprised if the letter's slow for relations from Norfolk. Things are changing. But don't worry.

Eh — I come a long way from

the French Beach. But still if I can do going to make it at all I'll take care yourself. We did the thing — be seeing you.

God bless & Keep you.

Your son,

[Signature]
Germany 27 Oct. 1944

Dear Folks,

Hello again – Just a few lines. Am O.K. good [[app-t-ale]] eat. Sleep 8-9 hours every night less time out for Artillery Barrage + stuff. George Copeland + I share the same fox hole. have a layer 9 inch boards – a foot of dirt – plus a foot layer of pine bows. 3 ½ feet wide – 3 feet deep 7 feet long. good protection + we are as happy as 2 bugs in a rug. He’s quite a guy (George) I’d rather hear him tell a story than see a show. grand fellow + a good Buddy.

We are in a large forest. Big pines all have been planted – row after row very thick. At 7 P.M. you cant be out [[one word]] fox hole. Pitch black here. Always cloudy no moon. Very wet + quite chilly – We have 5 9I Blair Keys under us + 3 over plus a shelter half under us + one over.

The ground is still plenty hard by morning – “oh my aching back— “I cabled you some money for your Xmas. Now Im afraid it wont get there in time. Cable is so slow. At the time I sent it no
money orders were available – you will get it eventually but I'm afraid not for Xmas.

Nice letter from Lorna. Guess she will fill my vote – she votes Rep – see love + change that or marry some one else. Did Archie + Maud vote? Ha Ha. Magic do happen –

The news from the Pacific is sure good be this over there before we are here I guess. Lots of guys think we will go over there after we are done here. Gee Ill have a double row of battle ribbons by then. Just so I don’t get any Purple Hearts. –

Don’t be too surprised if the letters are slow + for between from now on, things are changing. But don’t worry Please – I’ve come a long way from the French Beach + still O.K. sure I’m gonna make out O.K. Take care of yourselves I’ll do the same – Be seeing you –

God bless + Keep you

Your son

Franz