



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 Miriam White Whitestone. She wasn't beautiful, but very nice. She goes to Huntington College as did most of the girls then. We sang songs, had a floor show orchestra and danced. It cost the squadron \$2500 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 Binghamton. 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 House. She was a friend of Doty Knowlton. Well she's (Ginny Carver) is his wife. We had quite a chat.

The clippings you wrote about meteorology — a week ago. I heard about 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 Sofyko, Miss Hong. All the old cranks at Normal are sending me cards.

I received cards from Ed and Adajane Brewer, Louise Robertson, Heron and Gertie S., Mrs. Winnie, Mrs. Merrihew (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 anyway. We have lots of girls around the field. Its 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 getting my rating the first of January. It sure has seemed like a long time to me to want to get any recognition considering the work I had to do. Well

at last I am on the road to success. It sort of like another Christmas present.

Speaking of Christmas presents you spoke 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 gram you take care of yourself.

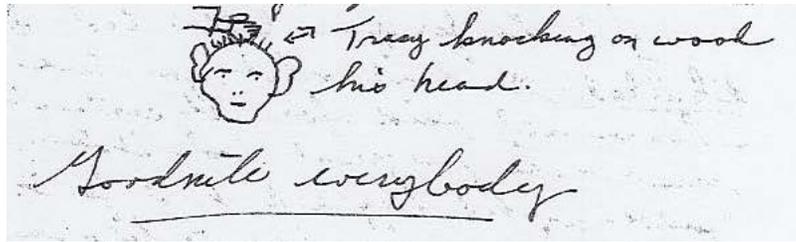
(Over)

Love to all,

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



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

Nite

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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
August 8 1943
In England*



Dear Mom and Dad

I haven't heard from you in two days but yesterday I received a letter from Lucille 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, dance etc. We each are to get a twenty-four hour pass once a week. We are busy every day except that day, even Sundays.

Love,

Tracy

V Mail



Saturday Night
October 16, 1943
In England

Dear Mom and Dad,

Tonight I am back at my censored after spending two very pleasant days in London. I had quite a lot 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 letters but I know you have now. I am glad you could visit the Clio House. Yes Joan is a Wave. I wonder how she looks in a uniform. I read about the explosion in (Nonfalb(?)). I am sorry she was hurt. Tiny is probably 42. I remember hearing something is wrong with him. You should listen to the Army Hour when you can. Quite often there is something about England. Don Witty 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 Bond Drive 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 not here 6 Quite near 7 yes 8 not three just two. 9 yes 10 yes 11 no 12__ 13 yes 14A + 1/2B, 15 no 16 no 17 no can do remember the censors 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 the work I mentioned before.

Letter 34 Sept 24. Glad to hear you are still buying bonds. Was glad to hear Jim made the wedding o.k. I know you did a good job decorating. I know Mrs. Clark is grateful for your assistance. I don't know Jim's parents at all and I have just seen him once or twice. I received Flossie Johnson's letter, also Mrs. Purson and Mrs. Spencer and Aunt Mable. So Jap 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. Kenney to have those letters sent down special. 1. yes, 2. no 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. So Ken and Meg are still going together. He will probably hang out at the Clio House while he is home. I did not know Joan Ruff's father had died. That is terrible. He wasn't very old. I feel sorry for Mrs. Ruff with the two girls. She was swell to me when I was at their 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 Dems. She knows I don't hear from her. I'll be watching for the Xmas boxes but I wish you wouldn't worry about Christmas.

Love,

Tracy



*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 Mostyns Red Cross Club. I didn't have those days off but one the fellows was good enough to change shifts with me so I could make it. I arrived in London Friday afternoon and went straight to the Mostyns 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 nor Dick Whiting showed up but I had a very good time. I inquired for Addie Bostelmann as soon as I got there but she wasn't working then. She came in about seven thirty and I recognized her 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 AI went out and wondered 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.

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

I went back at twelve-thirty to Mostyns as I was to meet Addie there for lunch. She had Friday off so it was swell. She had just purchased a mut 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 sate 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. So 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 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. Addie has planned it and I guess it will be lovely. There will be Bill and I, Dick Whiting, Asugnost, Ed Higgins and Addie anyway. Maybe Ross Bartlet. 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 photographer 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 rumbling by. There is a lot to tell but I have neither time nor space. I also must save some for when I get home.

Hope you are all ok.

Love,

Tracy



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 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 Corky. 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. Also 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 Glyn's stores are going ok. 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

Tracy



*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 Shearer's, Carrol & Edith, Aunt Mable, three from Lucille 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 and 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.T.O meaning England specifically is the best place for foreign service there is. I was very fortunate to come here.

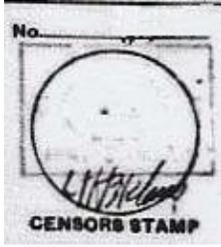
Don't forget to take my November allotment for Christmas. I was surprised to hear mom say she got to like those dogs. I wish Dad could get a bird dog for company until I get home. Then we could use him for hunting.

I haven't been doing much of anything exciting. I expect to go someplace visiting tomorrow. I mentioned that we go into a village after 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



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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
% Postmaster NYC
November 25, 1943*

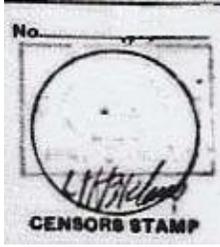


Dear Mom and Dad,

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 at 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 were 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



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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
December 1, 1943
In England*



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 cas you should not hear from me for a while don't worry. I am going to nice quiet place.

I will let you know where I am after I get there. I don't know when I am leaving here but you can tell by my letters. Don't worry it is a swell safe place. You will be very surprised when you learn where it is. I t is not the U.S. of course but it will be OK I guess.

*Love
Tracy*

V Mail



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 this 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 everyday. Today I also received another Christmas box marked October 2nd. I have received letters #73, 74 75 and Vmail letters of Nov 21 (you and dad) 22. I was 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 Mom. 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 bulletin. Am glad to see Potter is now a corporal. Eating Thanksgiving out was a good idea. It saved you all the work etc.

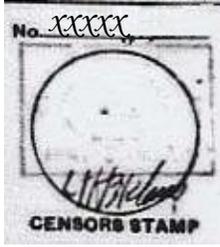
I was very sorry to hear you couldn't get out deer hunting the 24th Dad. Very tough luck. I hope you could get out latter in the week. Let me know about it.

I will be nice if you go up to Lucille's and give Corky. You were very right in your letter mom. 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



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

Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC
4 December 1943



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. As I told you in my last letter there is 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 is nice. A radio and a snack bar. I stay here because I don't like the tent. Today I 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 #73, #74, #75 also a letters from you and dad on 21 and 22 of Nov. Be sure and use my Nov. allotment for Christmas. Please don't worry me. Tell Uncle Andy I am moving like his 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 Crocker's for me. Thank you for the lovely Christmas Card. I also received one from the Herb Stanton's. Will keep you informed of my movements.

Love,
Tracy

V Mail



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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC
January 2, 1944*



Dear Lucille, Glyn + Corky,

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

I do hope you all managed to have a nice Christmas inspire of everything. I especially hope you had a Merry Christmas Corky. I hope you will write to me and tell me what Santa Clause 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 t think so, but I will be very disappointed if you don't use it. I want you to persuade mother that it is not nice of her not to use it. Please do this for me. I almost forgot. "Happy New Year"

*Love
Tracy*

V Mail



*Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker. Jr
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York, USA*

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster NYC
January 16, 1944*



Dear Lucille, Glyn + Corky,

I know it has been some time since I 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 move, and rarely a trip to Belfast.

We here are just like everyone else not home just waiting for the expected invasion and the end of it all. We hear all sorts of rumors as to the end of the Germans. Some say by Easter others next Christmas. I believe around August or September. What do you think? The Russians of course are doing a marvelous job.

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

Love

Trace

V Mail



*Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr.
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York, USA*

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC
January 27, 1944*



Dear Lucille, Glyn and Corky,

Yesterday I received three letters from you Jan 2nd + 3rd. I was very pleased to get them as I have 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 could attend the club dances. 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 Bob Potter, R.T. Clark and some of the fellows could get back for it. It looks as though

I am glad Corky is turning out to be such a jolly fellow. (Can not read)

I hope you are all fine and that Glyn finishes his inventory alright. I am fine and am trying to enjoy life.

*Love,
Tracy*

V Mail



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 Wasf. I went with when I was stationed near them.

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 on 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 nine thirty but didn't get into London (Kings Cross Station) until seven thirty P.M. I couldn't get a train until after four however. Saturday night "Jerry" gave me a hot welcome with a nice raid. I got under cover of course but saw some of it and it was a good show. I just went down to Picadilly Circus and Rainbow

Corner Sat nite and went back to the Mostyn. 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 Beads and Secleny Was 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, Guadalcanal Dairy, Sahara et.

I visited Madam 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 visited the London art galleries, Kew 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 really busy at the Red Cross.

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



*Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr.
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York, USA*

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC
February 15, 1944*



N. I.

Dear Lucille, Glyn + Corky,

Just a line to let you know I am thinking of all of you. I have meant to write before this but just didn't seem to get to it. I am so glad you and Glyn could get down to New York for a while. 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.

Thanks a lot for your Valentine Corky. I did enjoy the Santa Clause you sent me for Christmas very much. I still have it on my shelf. How is school going these days? I hope you are learning lots and lots. I don't suppose I will know you when I get home you will have grown so.

I guess I will close for now. Thanks ever so much for all your swell letters. I hope you are all happy.

*Love
Trace*

V Mail



Friday Morning
March 17, 1944
N. I.

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 fibers which are made into thread. The most interesting part was the looms when the weavers 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 time to go through because the girls were whistling and hollering at us. Very annoying with the war their output of linen goods has increased 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 six to eight weeks however.

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

Feb 16 #115

Feb 19 #116

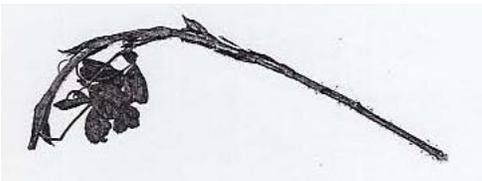
I have never been to Eire (?) Ireland as we are not allowed to. Stricter than ever now too. I have visited Queens University and I saw the Antrim Mts. Yesterday on my trip. We passed through Antrim. It was a beautiful day and the scenery was beautiful.

1. no 2. no 3. no 4. O.K. 5. yes 6. yes 7. no 8. yes

A letter from Lucille written Feb 21 and two Vmails from you Feb 22nd and 24th. I am glad Don Lewis arrived safely in England. Maybe I will have a chance to see him sometime. As the Kelley boy says it is very beautiful 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 buck sergeant for a year. I guess they finally recognized talent etc. (ha ha)

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.



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 Vmail from Lucille written February 24th 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's 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 way 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 grandma's and Dad's 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 their 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 teaching 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 brainy tonight mother but I have been trying to think. I don't know how much money I have in the 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 \$75.00 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 Dad's house. Don't worry mom we will get along just fine and have some good times too. I hope you can go to Aunt Mabels 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 par and my talk probably is incoherent. Please though do not worry. We 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 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 as 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 pies again. I like to think she is anyway. I can bear it alright mom dear and you too. Have faith and courage. This old world is in an awful mess and sometimes I think Dad is better off with no worries. He can see us all and know 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 Dad's 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 was 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.



Tuesday Afternoon

March 21, 1944

N.I.

Dear Mom,

Today is a very gloomy day here or 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 have 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 all this has to happen to us while other people go blissfully along unmindful of wars and tragedies. Sorrows like these come to thousands of people daily and we have been fortunate to 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 hear him calling me now. I guess

there is no use in talking about things we both know. I don't think but what you and Lucille 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 Mable and stay with Lucille 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 way.

Love

Tracy



Wednesday Afternoon
March 22, 1944
N.I.

Dear Mom,

As you can probably 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 class 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 until 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. In fact 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 know how I 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 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.



*Mrs. Glyndon H. Crocker Jr.
89 South Main Street
Homer, New York, USA*

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC
March 29, 1944*



Dear Mom,

I didn't write at all yesterday or I was busy all day and I didn't feel like writing at night. 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 letter so I am sending them to Lucile until I hear. I know she will be able to forward them to you. I presume that you are or were with Aunt Mable. 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 yourself.

I myself feel o.k. and I am in good health my work 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 Jr.

V Mail



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.

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 were 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 payed 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 your 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 off 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 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.



Thursday Night
April 27, 1944
N.I.

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 E 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 Homer, 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



D-Day
June 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 a lot 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 sooner 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 Corky 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 Shearer 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 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 keeps you occupied. I think you will enjoy the girls a lot.

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 Lucille's letter of May 16. Thanks a lot 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

Tracy Jr.



Thursday Night

May 18, 1944

N.I.

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 27th no number. So Lucille is helping Glyn out at the store. Bob Hammell 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 A&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. Corky must be a lot of company for you. I wish I could see the little fellow. So Bob C. is a co-pilot on a bomber. It is dangerous work but I think he loves flying. Question 1. no 2 [?] 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 church. It is nice Glyn & Corky can get out fishing once in awhile. How are the fish biting this year Glyn?

#8 May 1. Jane was pretty much on the ball about radiosnode. So she heard it on the radio. Yes I guess it is quite important when given its choice. 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 V mail letter from your written May 2. "Lady in the Dors" 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 pas few days. It isn't hot but comfortable. Rather cold at nigh though. Most of our time is taken up with work these days. As you probably realize. We will be busier 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 Bostelmann and she said there was to

be a Cortland reunion at Mostyn 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.



Thursday 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 where I am but I am in ~~censored~~ 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 perspires 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 dates 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 a bit. 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 hadn't received Lucille's letter telling me about your being House mother at Theta Phi. I wish you would 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 a lot of nice girls. Can you quit anytime you want to? You do 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 shingles 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 well. I am fine. Don't worry and take care of yourself. Say hello to the Crocker's for me.

All my Love,
Tracy Jr.



Tuesday
July 18, 1944
Somewhere

Hello Mom dearest,

I wish I 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 ~~censored~~ 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 a lot that has helped to break the monotony. I have seen quite a bit ~~censored~~ 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 Crocker's for me.

Your loving son,
Tracy Jr.



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, #4. It had Mr. Sullivan's letter in it. It was very thoughtful of him to write. Letter from Lucille June 27. I am glad you finally had some nice weather when you were in ~~censored~~ Binghamton. July 3rd from you.

Am glad to hear you are back in Homer o.k. It was nice of Uncle Carrol and Aunt Edith to drive you up. It must have been some surprise to find Mary R then. It must have been quite a reunion with Harriett and Dick. I am so glad to hear Corky is o.k. after the operation. 27 missions is quite a few for Dan Lewis. I hope he gets through safely. I am sorry I couldn't see him. July 6 from Lucille. 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 Lucille. 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 get back. I hope you are all well and happy. Please don't worry about me.

Your loving son,
Tracy Jr.



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 hit parade on and it is very nice. I am very glad I can at last tell you 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 us of course. We move around a lot 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. Every time we pass through a town the people run out to the road and wave, shout vive le Americans and give the V sign. If we have to stop cider and wine bottles fly out and we much have a drink. The people are starving for cigarettes and bon bons 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 cider. Every farmhouse has two or three barrels of cider. One place where we bivouacked there was an empty farmhouse with about a thousand gallons of cider. We had all we wanted. We see some horrible sights too. The Germans are retreating very fast. All along the roads are wrecked trucks, cars and tank 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 closer. The people are so friendly and grateful. Just now a farmer came with cider for us. Most of them have suffered very much.

A lot of them have been in German prison camps or have relation 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. L 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 wan to get a good 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 the flying bombs.
I'll try to write as often as possible.

All my love,
Tracy Jr.



August 23, 1944
France

Hello Mom dear,

I am sitting 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 com in very handy I am sure. Yes I have seen hundreds of prisoners. Thank Glyn 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 Zaspery. I am wondering if you went to Tuckahoe. I received three letters today. One from you, one from Sis and a 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 won't buy things and 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 ran into you and 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 Jr.



Monday P.M.
August 28, 1944
France

Hello Mom dear,

I just returned from dinner (which consisted of one K 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. Once learn to understand the people a little and their Normandy is quite ... with many ...and ... hedgerows. The houses in all of the farms I have seen so far are mad of stone. The farms are all build 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 refuges from Paris and other large cities who have come out to the farms and smaller villages. There are a lot of little French children. We built them a swing and they play down here all day long. We give them little things to eat bon bons and 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 barbrass. She is a refuge from Paris. At three o'clock she is going to cut my hair. First time I ever had my hair cut by a girl. Nice look too. I hope I can get to Paris sometime but it doesn't look as though many Americans will be allowed in at present.

I received the box you and Lucille sent me. It was very nice. The Things like that are very hard to get. Thank Lucille for me. It was very thoughtful of you. You do not need to send socks etc. though as I can get those. The cigarettes and ...will certainly be... I received a V letter from Lucille.. also had a letter from Aunt Mable written 18 July from Hotel Nicholas Asbury Park New Jersey. She said she enjoyed it there and went to the movies a lot. It is nice Andy is an officer in Judge Advocate. As he is a lawyer it is a good spot. She speaks of having you down 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 exciting but boring and monotonous at the same time if possible. I hope you are well. It won't be long now before school. I have been in the army for two years tomorrow. It seems much longer than that. Don't worry.

All my love,
Tracy Jr.



Jan 1, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

Well another year is here. This year should see all this suffering in Europe brought to an end. The war news hasn't changed much this past week but it has been in our favor I believe.

I spent a very different New Years 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 a 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. Nov 9. I am glad my ballot was in but I guess it didn't do much good. I am in this Air Force yes but attached to the ground force. My type of work also helps other based here. I do some like Jimmy Walter, but I am in the Air Force in name only at present. (Not legible) The people here are very kind, but they are not really 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 both places. I have been ___ Fontainebleau. I wrote and told you in one of my letters the name of the place. I was in at that time.

Nov 11- Yes Armistice Day didn't mean much this year. It was nice of your girls to stop at house and bring you the letter. I was sad at learning about _ Nichols being killed. He always tried so hard to get ahead and was a swell chap. Questions 1 yes 2, 3 yes in a house (mattress underneath) 4 4hr, 5 no 6 yes 7 no 8 yes, a long way 9 south 10 yes 11 lines move forward 12 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. Someday 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 Lucille is feeling good. Say hello to Crocker's for me and let them know 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.



Jan 10, 1945
France

Hello Mom dear,

I haven't written much but V 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 it was after Christmas letters Nov 29. Sorry to hear Mr. Sanders is so bad. I would like to see the movie "Sine 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 break-through. A letter from Lucille written Nov 30, Dec 21st from you. It was very nice Don Lewis and his wife to call on you. He is lucky 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 and Stripes about Germans hiding in the mine are right about where I am. Yes we have plenty of food. I am glad to hear "Jere" is treated o.k. in prisoner of war camps. I am saving a little money in a soldiers 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 my work.. General Patch is in charge of seventh army. I am glad to hear your room is nice, warm + cozy.

You must make a lovely "house mother". I envy those girls. I hope you will soon be mother 94 (their home at 94 Greenbush). 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 here too and I would like to get one but I guess the artillery has scared them away. It is a quaint little village nestled among wooded

hills. It looks like a picture of a Swiss or Bavarian village. Most of the villages look alike. They all have the church steeples with clocks 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 "limies" (British) said so. It isn't exactly quiet here either, but the Germans can't get away. So you see I am very well so don't worry. Please take care of yourself and watch your health. Please say hello to Crocker's for me tell her I will try to write.

All my love,
Tracy, Jr.



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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC*



*January 12, 1945
France*

Hello Mom Dear,

Here I am again in 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 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 Lucille, Glyn + Corky. I am well and no need to worry.

*All my love,
Tracy Jr.*

V Mail



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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC*



*January 14, 1945
France*

Hello Mom Dear,

Today has been a lazy day without much to do. The weather is quite cold and there is snow but we keep comfortable. I have read all of the stories in the magazines 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 good programs and get the news. The news is getting better, but it is a very tough fight. The Russians 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 Crockers for me. I am fine.

*All my love,
Tracy Jr.*

V Mail



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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC*



*January 15, 1945
France*

Hello Mom dear,

Received quite a few letters, cards and a package from Glyn 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 old. Glyn's package had flashlight, pipe, candy, gum, tobacco, etc. It was a lovely box and I shall write to him. I also received the envelopes with Readers Digest, Cornet and stories.

This is just a not 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 cold working outside which we must do. The news remains the same. Don't see how the Germans keep it up. They surly will crash..

*Say hello
All my love
Tracy Jr.*

V Mail



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 two did. Mostly news though. Nov 17 from you. Well do I remember those ten week tests. I know how the kids look forward to vacation. I am glad you have no problems with your girls. Were supposed to get thirty day furloughs after eighteen months but whether we will get them or not is another thing. I suppose Tig 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 Brooks nor 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. The lecture you heard at Y.W.C.A. sounds interesting. She was right about pets. Most yankee outfits have a pet of some kind. Some have dogs from Africa, Italy, etc who came all the way to France 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 Boshart 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 expand with new buildings 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 Lucille, 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 Lucille 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 Readers Digest, Cornet and clippings. Lucille 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.

One sees so many things when he travels around. I had so much to tell you about England and Ireland but now they see so far away. I can hardly 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 write 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, potatoes + 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 Jr.



*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 of 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 every 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 homely, fat, etc.

I am so glad 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 Lucille could have the Crocker's over the day after for turkey. I thought of you very much and very often Christmas too. It was nice of Aunt Mable to send you a gift. I hope you had a lovely Christmas. I wish it were more however. You shouldn't worry 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 boxes. I think I have explained as much as possible about my work and your idea is right. Stop worrying about spies etc. I am careful very quiet etc.

Dec 31. It was very nice of you to spend New Year's Eve writing to me. I wrote how I spent New Year's. You speak of Reas boy being near Cologne way then mention you think I am in the _____ sector. You are pretty close in your guess. How did you do it? I have French _____ but can't send them home. Also Irish + English (Bostogna?) will go down in history as are thoughts of American _____. 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 Lacy boy I knew him quite well. I would rather not have a furlough than to spend a few months in states and then go out to the Pacific.

I enjoyed Lucille'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 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, Cortland Standards, Cortland Democrat and thoughtful expressions Mrs. Munson must have saved and put together. I plan to write them right away.



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

*Sgt. Tracy H. Ashley
21st Weather Squadron
APO 638
%Postmaster, NYC*



*Tuesday
January 22, 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 bit 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 farm house.

The war news from the Eastern 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*

V Mail

Sunday
May 21 ~ 22, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Hello Mom dear,

Well our weather has gone against us at last and we are getting our share of rain. This is a nice place though and it is really beautiful around here. I told you I had visited Hitler's Berchtesgaden 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 Guroc, Scotland on July 27. It was a long rough trip with submarines etc. At Guroc we boarded a train and rode to a place called Welford Park near Newberry, England. It was quite a nice trip down. The 21st Wea. 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 & Staines. 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 RAF airbase at a place called Nuts Corner. (I forgot to mention that at Welford Park they picked a few men to do radiosonde 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 radiosonde men went to North Ireland. There were 4 radiosonde men and one officer Lt. Foster. We were with the A.T.C. In March a full weather detail came up (observers & forecasters and radio men for communications). We were to join the XV Corps which was in Kircassock, N.I. It had been arranged to have weather det. with radiosonde with the ground forces. It is very important for the officers to know the weather before planning an attacks etc. With radiosonde 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 Banberry (famous for fair). 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 3rd army which didn't make the D day landings. We moved to Southampton and there to the beachhead in France. We hit France July 10th. We went to a place called Barnville-Sur-Mar. Here 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

pitch 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 Rosie in Brie we were able to visit Paris. After Paris we again moved quite rapidly. We came to Luneville where we stayed for a couple of months in Sept. We lived in a house there for the first time. Luneville became quiet after awhile and we had a Red Cross and movies there. There was much hard fighting around Luneville in the Foret de Parroy where Hitler fought in the last war. The Jerries were well dug in and it took some time to get them out. The next larger town we hit was Sarrbours. 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 Sarrbours. From there we moved to Sarrable. 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 then. The XV Corps joined the 7th army. Things were very very tense. The Germans dropped paratroopers behind our lines which were very thin. We were shelled a lot at Surrable and finally had to retreat back. We moved to a place called Wolfshirchin where we stayed quite some time and I lived with the family I wrote to you about. It wasn't a very nice town 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 Bitche, Wesseinbourg, area.

I forgot mention Saverne & Strasbourg. We sat on the Maginot Line for several days near Sargamines. We crossed into Germany at Sarrburchen. We went through Kaiserlantera and Zwerkruchan etc. Worms looked like a nice old place but it had been bombed terrifically as had all German cities. I can't remember all of the places. Bamberg, Homburg, Numburg, Munich & Salzburg. I certainly 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 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.

In January 1944, GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters requested "a weather service adequate to meet the needs of the ground forces supported by these Air Forces in the United Kingdom and in the European continental area or area over which the Allied Forces will operate." The Allied Expeditionary Air Force, through the Ninth Air Force, directed the 21st Weather Squadron "establish liaison with, and make provision for, giving meteorological service to the Headquarters, First U.S. Army Group, and such other subordinate units as the Commanding General, First U.S. Army Group may desire." The 21st Weather Squadron had already been organized to work in mobile, fast moving conditions.

A radiosonde is a very important part of the whole observation process of weather. It's hard to forecast the future, without knowledge of the present. A radiosonde tells meteorologists about the present conditions of the atmosphere.

Specifically, a radiosonde measures temperature, humidity, and pressure at many different levels in the atmosphere, even at 7 miles above the surface of the earth! I can't even run 7 miles without passing out.

The way the radiosonde instrument measures conditions at several levels is that the instrument is attached to a balloon. Sounds simple, eh? It is. Below is a picture of Air Force meteorologists preparing to launch a radiosonde.

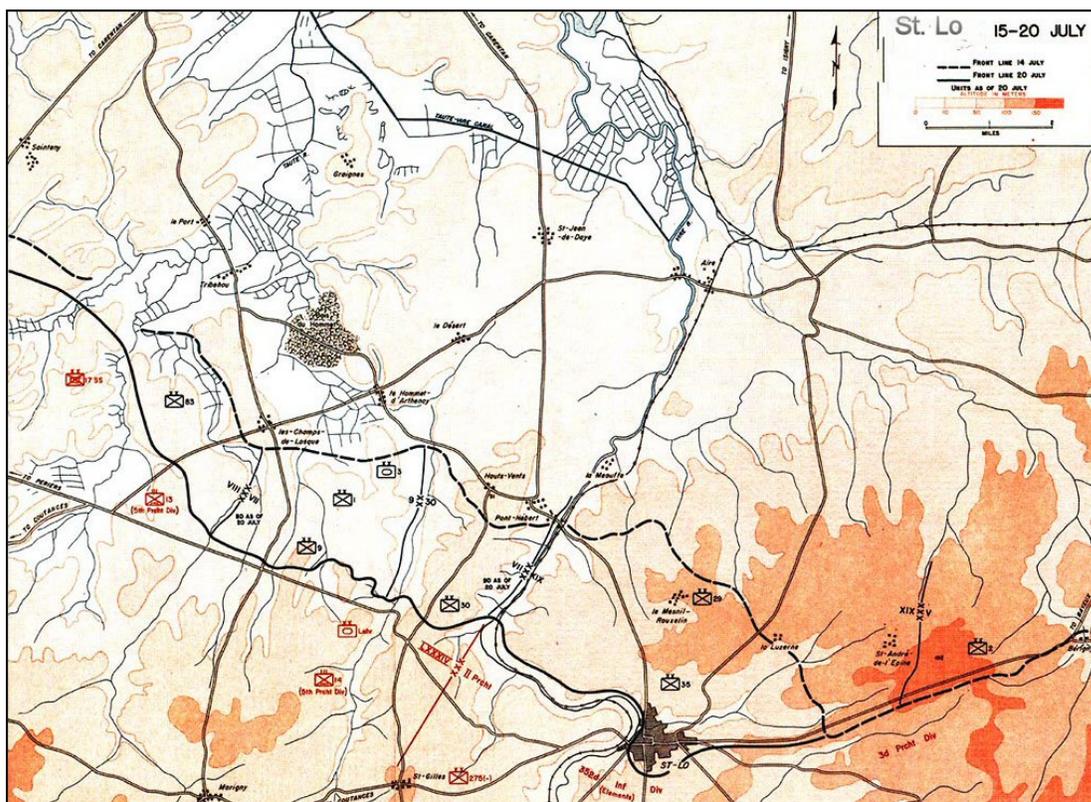


Red Cross Club at Barnville-Sur-Mer, France ~ Normandy Coast



[Tracy writes that he went swimming here]

Battle St. Lo



Breakthrough at St.-Lo

On July 18, 1944, the First Army fought its way into St.-Lo where formidable Nazi defenses blocked the advance. But after Allied planes had delivered a crushing air bombardment, the First Army smashed through the German lines and broke out of the beachhead on July 25. Racing through the gap General Patton's Third Army captured Avranches on July 31. Four days later a daring attack by American tanks cut off the Brittany Peninsula. Meanwhile on July 18 the British and Canadians crossed the Orne River at Caen and struck south.

On the left flank of the Third Army the XV Corps pushed east to capture Le Mans on August 9, then north to Argentan. Meanwhile the Canadian 1st Army advanced south to Falaise. By August 17 these two Allied thrusts had trapped the German 7th Army in a pocket between Argentan and Falaise. Five days later the Allies had captured 100,000 prisoners and killed many others who tried to escape.

Hitler's Berchtesgaden



[Also known as "Eagles Nest"]

Sunday
May 21 ~ 22, 1945
Salzburg, Austria



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All my love,
Tracy Jr.

In January 1944, GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters requested "a weather service adequate to meet the needs of the ground forces supported by these Air Forces in the United Kingdom and in the European continental area or area over which the Allied Forces will operate." The Allied Expeditionary Air Force, through the Ninth Air Force, directed the 21st Weather Squadron "establish liaison with, and make provision for, giving meteorological service to the Headquarters, First U.S. Army Group, and such other subordinate units as the Commanding General, First U.S. Army Group may desire."

The 21st Weather Squadron had already been organized to work in mobile, fast moving conditions.

A radiosonde is a very important part of the whole observation process of weather. It's hard to forecast the future, without knowledge of the present. A radiosonde tells meteorologists about the present conditions of the atmosphere.

Specifically, a radiosonde measures temperature, humidity, and pressure at many different levels in the atmosphere, even at 7 miles above the surface of the earth! I can't even run 7 miles without passing out.

The way the radiosonde instrument measures conditions at several levels is that the instrument is attached to a balloon. Sounds simple, eh? It is. Below is a

picture of Air Force meteorologists preparing to launch a radiosonde.

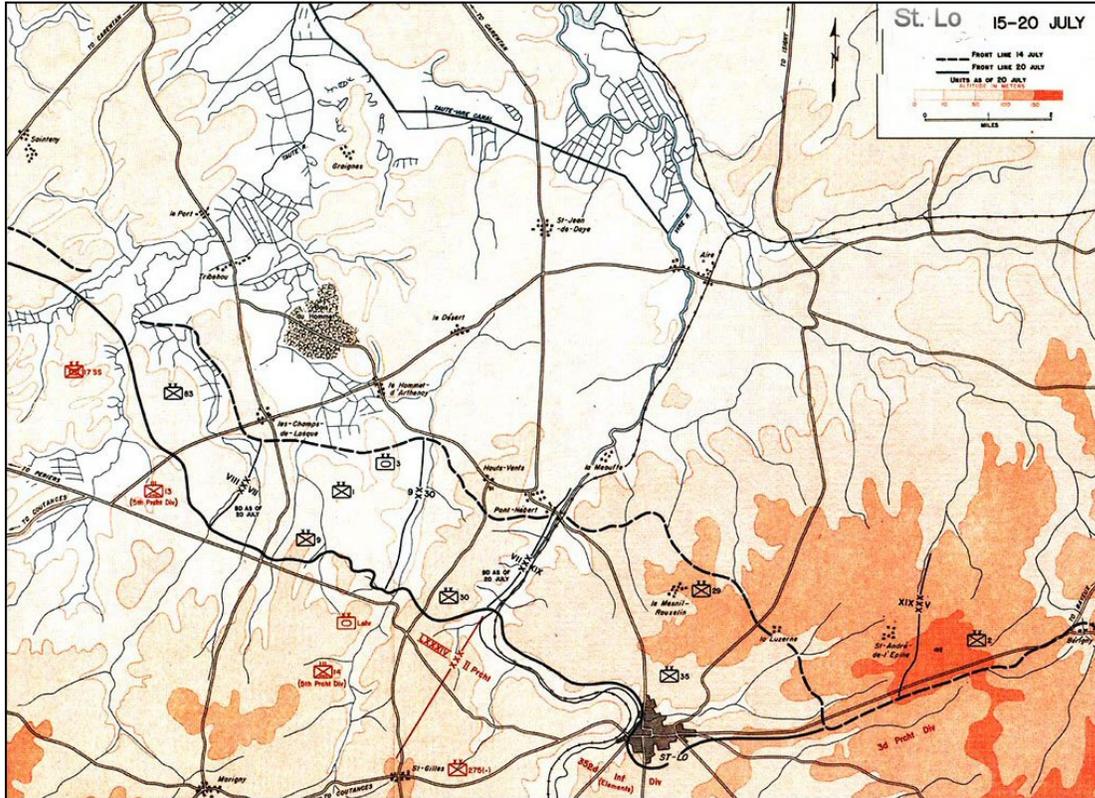


Red Cross Club at Barnville-Sur-Mer, France ~
Normandy Coast



[Tracy writes that he went swimming here]

Battle St. Lo



Breakthrough at St.-Lo

On July 18, 1944, the First Army fought its way into St.-Lo where formidable Nazi defenses blocked the advance. But after Allied planes had delivered a crushing air bombardment, the First Army smashed through the German lines and broke out of the beachhead on July 25. Racing through the gap General Patton's Third Army captured Avranches on July 31. Four days later a daring attack by American tanks cut off the Brittany Peninsula. Meanwhile on July 18 the British and Canadians crossed the Orne River at Caen and struck south.

On the left flank of the Third Army the XV Corps pushed east to capture Le Mans on August 9, then north to Argentan. Meanwhile the Canadian 1st Army advanced south to Falaise. By August 17 these two Allied thrusts had trapped the German 7th Army in a pocket between Argentan and Falaise. Five days later the Allies had captured 100,000 prisoners and killed many others who tried to escape.

Hitler's Berchtesgaden



[Also known as "Eagles Nest"]

Battle of Foret de Parroy near Luneville

