



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Oct. 25, 44
France

Dear Mother and Father,

I am going to try and tell you everything I can about the jump I made on the invasion of Southern France. That is, all that I think will pass the censors, after we were brought off the front lines in Northern Italy. We were sent to a rear area where we trained for a month for an invasion jump. We trained on terrain similar to what it was like where the real thing was to take place. Of course we didn't know where it was going to be, but we had ideas. When D-Day was near we left that area which was south of Rome and traveled by truck to the airport. While we were at the

airport, we had our jump suits and equipment painted for camouflage. Then we also had classes in which we studied ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly maps and sand tables of the area where we were to jump. We also had discussion as to what to do in case certain situations came up.

The day before D day, we loaded our assigned planes with equipment bundles and were fitted for parachutes, we placed them in our assigned seats in the planes. That evening we had a big "chow" "T-Bone Steaks," after chow we were told when we were to jump, (my guess was right.) Then we put paint on our hands and faces, when we finished this we went to our planes, and waited until the designated time to take off. Some of the guys were joking about what they were going to

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At the first time they visited
Paris. Some were talking about
how some were sleeping.
When time came to take off
we got into the plane and
our parachutes, we took off
~~circles~~ circled a few times
took up our position in the
formation and took off for
our ~~destination~~ destination.
We flew for about 2 hours.
Then the red light came
on and 10 minutes later
the green light came on
and I was no 20 man
in the plane and it was
my job to pull the switch
that released our equipment
bundles on the bottom of
the plane. as soon as the
green light came on we
jumped and fast I had

a very bad ^{IV} position on the jump. when my chute opened my head was straight down. I was jerked so bad when my chute opened that my field bag broke ~~was~~ loose and fell to the ground. I had all my toilet articles, underwear, and socks in it.

We jumped way above the clouds thus I couldn't see the ground. I heard a fellow who had jumped from another plane land in water and I thought we were over the ocean. (Later I found out it was only a creek!) Before I hit the ground the shooting started. I landed in the mountains and in a tree. I was plenty scared and nervous and I'll admit it. it seemed as if I was all thumbs when I tried to

unbuckled my chute, I got out
put my rifle together, and
got away away from the chute
because by that time the
enemy was shooting at it
and they were coming to close.
it was too dark to see them.

I found some of my buddies
and we decided to lay low
until light. we really had
a hot time when someone
would move, bullets going
every way. when day light came
we found some more boys and
got things underway. sometimes
it was tough and sometimes
not so bad. since then
some of my best buddies
have passed away and
we are still on the front.

I hope enough of this
passes the censors so you
own

you can get a pretty good idea
of what it was like. and I
hope this thing gets over
with pretty soon.

Well I had better close
for now.

Write real soon.

Lots of love

Jane