

AUG. ~~28~~. 28, 1944.

Dear Mom + Dad.

I hope you are not mad at me for not writing. I received a letter from each of you to-day. I'm glad things are going fine.

About the Purple Heart I set, when I was in the hospital I had a Red Cross girl wrap it and send it for me. That was around the middle of June, you should have gotten it before this. I did save the ribbon to wear myself. But I am late to lose the medal. By the way you know I have a cluster to wear with it. I was wounded on May 8th and May 31st. The first one was just a scratch. I think I told you about that.

Mom, you asked me what Div. I was in. Do you know her been writing it on all my letters?
A.P.O. 34 means 34th Inf. Div.

You have probably read a great deal about the 34th, it had more fighting time than any other Reg. Div. (American) in Europe. Not that I'm bragging but it is admitted by every one here in Italy that it is the best Div. over here, I think so too. By the way our shoulder patch looks like this -  - a red bull's head on a black background.

I haven't heard from Pt. Virginia for a while. But I guess she's used at me. Before I get her new address and have a chance to write to her she will be married. So I wish you would deliver my congratulations and best wishes for me. Kiss the bride for me too will you. I just thought of something. She has to take orders from me or be court marshalled. Boy am I going to have some fun when I get home.

As you know after 6 or 7 months
of fighting I've seen a lot of things
happen. I know I never talked
much before what I was doing. I
won't now and I never will. But
I've certainly seen a lot of men come
and go. Quite a few of the older
men. (I mean men that have seen
a lot of combat) try their best to
get out of the Infantry. I don't blame
the enlisted men but the officers
back out I have no respect for. The
way I feel about it, I accepted a
commission and with it I accepted
a responsibility. I'll never quit as
long as I'm physically and mentally able
to keep going. It's easy for an officer
to quit, that is if he doesn't have
any pride. I could have gotten out
of this bloody mess when I was
hit in the leg. It looked a lot worse
than it was. I did have to go back
to combat if I didn't want to. But
great satisfaction, what ever happens to
me now or in years to come I'll
know myself if no one else does that
I didn't let my knicker down when

the ship were down.

I didn't mean to go on like that, just blowing off steam & gills.

Do you know I think everyone must be mad at me for not writing. But honest I'll been busy, you understand. I can't carry paper and envelopes around with me a step to write a letter every time I sit down.

Have you heard from Dore & my dear wife yet? She said she was going to drop you a line.

It's getting so dark I can see better step.

I'll write again soon

Be good.

I am

John (Fearless)

P.S. No feeling that my wife and