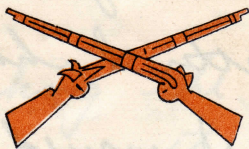




133 INFANTRY REGIMENT

34th



DIV.



Jan. 21, 1945

Dear Mom & Dad,

Only once in a while I try to catch up on my mail, but I'm afraid I'm so far behind now that I'll ~~never~~ catch up.

I don't know if they print much in the newspapers back home about Rep. Clare Boothe Luce but here is a clipping from the Stars and Stripes the Army overseas newspaper. A lot of us are hoping she is able to get what she is after for the combat infantrymen. She really knows how we feel over here and what the Division she

mentioned as having the most
combat time.

I was thinking the other day its
about time I was getting out of this
myself for a while. In the three rifle
companies in my Battalion I am the
oldest officer that is has been in
combat the longest. There are only
about 20 enlisted men in the three
rifle companies that has seen more
combat than I. I figured all the
tight spots I've gotten in and out
of and all the times of been shelled
and shot at and ~~missed~~ (knock wood)
I've been pretty lucky. Of course I've
been hit twice but I'm still in
and feel so I can't kick too much.
Well anyway I hope I get a good deal
out of this break. Clare Lued is
trying to get me.

Do you know folks every time
I write a letter I have to borrow
someones pen. I would appreciate it
very much if you would send me
a fountain pen. I really need one bad.

Everyone is pretty scattered these
days aren't they. Pet. Virginian in
England, Virgil is the S. Pacific and
me in this God forsaken place. What
a war.

The absence of news about my eldest
brother is very conspicuous, have about
a word or two on him. He is
probably on the out with the rest
of the family as usual but I would
like to know how he is. You might
also make a report on our whole
clan, aunts uncles and all.

Nothing of importance to report still

just struggling along and getting to
be an old man. I'm not the little
boy you used to know. And believe
me when I get down I'm not
going to waste any time finishing the
right job and settling down to
raise a family before I'm too old.

Well that's about all for now.
Take care of yourselves and don't
forget to write

Love and kisses
John