



U. S. SIGNAL CORPS



Tues. 26 Sept. 44
Somewhere in France

Dear Mom,

Seems like we're managing to get around a little over here, doesn't it? It's hard to believe I was nowhere near this place last Tuesday, just a week ago. While we were in England we saw the major part of London, & managed to work in a few other places. London didn't come up to expectations, but the biggest disappointment of all is the so-called English beer. It's absolutely atrocious stuff, and I believe I'd have had to be there a year or more in order to get to like it. And, of course, the money had us all wacky trying to figure out fractions & decimals. Nevertheless, the whole thing was a broadening experience, and one we're not apt to forget for quite a while.

So far, France seems to be an improvement on England. We've seen Paris, and in the process of living up to expectations,

it's considerably better than London.

French money is easier to reckon than English, and what's even better, it manages to buy some really refreshing drinks. The beer here is more nearly American than English, and the wine & cognac are a delight to the tongue & spirits. \$25 in American money is worth 1250 francs, at the legal exchange rate. In the black market that much American money will bring higher than 2500 francs. Inflation, consequently, seems to be quite a problem here!

Some life - breakfast in England, & lunch in France -! On the way over from England we could see ~~signs~~ signs of what the fighting here must have been like - shell holes, blasted houses, ruined roads & forests, & demolished bridges.

In the matter of sending things, you can get my sleeveless sweater, my wool scarf, some Lux soap, cigarettes, shaving cream, (Palmolive), & some gum & candy - ^{air mail stamps,} also my gloves - & photo folder which is in the bottom ^{one} of the 2 top drawers in my dresser - when you get my permanent A.P.O., unless ^{under way} I notify you otherwise.



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The fellows were just surmising that it will be quite a while before our mail catches up with us. I suppose they're right, but I'll keep writing till I hear from you. For the present, I think I've run the gamut of what we're permitted to say. So I'll close for a while, with

Send my engineering books

Love as ever,

Frank.

FROM

F. J. Shields 12110488

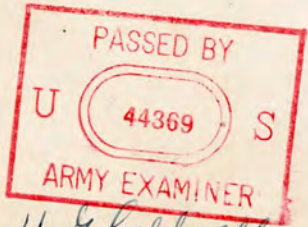
APOL 4250

90 P.M. N.Y.



*Mrs. F. J. Shields
244-87 St.
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Oct 10/44



*H. G. Caldwell
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