

Jt. Eugene L. Williams Jr. O-118314
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c/o P.M. N.Y., N.Y.

may 3rd
Letter

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France

VIA AIR MAIL

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A.P.O.



Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Williams
2463 - Second Ave. N.

St. Petersburg, 6

Florida

Eugene L. Williams Jr.
2nd FICE

Ltr #2

Thursday P. M.
3 May 1945
"France"

Dear Mom & Dad,

In case you haven't received no. 1 letter, I decided yesterday to start numbering the letters I write to you so that you may better understand the sequence.

Today was "laundry day" for me. I put this steel helmet into use as a small scale wash tub, and now between showers I hang my stuff on the rope line outside the tent. The weather here changes abruptly without advance notice - one moment sunshine and the next moment a shower. Adds a little novelty to each day.

Each evening I go down to the "Red Cross Coffee & Donut Headquarters" with a couple of the fellows - it's here inside our "camp", and there we have a sort of gathering of the clan for a couple hours. I'm gradually getting used to paying in terms of francs instead of cents, but it still gets confusing at times & all the while you naturally calculate within your mind how much you are paying in American money just to make sure the price is on the level. A franc is worth about 2 cents - therefore a 10 franc note is valued at 20 cents American money. No coins are used - just francs.

Just heard the news this morning that all German forces in Italy have surrendered, and other phases of the European conflict seem to be winding up fast.

A new food or new preparation of food has been served here for some time now. It's canned butter that won't melt except under very hot conditions. Something is added to make it have a non-melting quality, yet it spreads quite well except on very cold mornings.

We have church services each morning at 8:30 - no organ or piano - just a large tent, (usually overflowed), hymnals, and a chaplain or two, and many soldiers go to make up a most inspirational daily service.

I'm still in the same location, but have been expecting to move at anytime. French transportation facilities have suffered greatly because of the war, and so I guess it's hard to move from one place to another. The people really need all available transportation for distribution of food.

Hope everything is O.K. on the home front, especially at 2463-2nd Ave N.

Your devoted son,

Gene

P.S. - Just to remind you,

Anytime you should need to contact me in a hurry, the Red Cross has the best facilities for cabling.