

5-27-1945

Ollington

not named Ollington

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Recommended Citation

Ollington, not named, "Ollington" (1945). *Correspondence*. 111.
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577th Quartermaster RhdCo
APO 667., New York City
27 May 1945

Dear Merze:

As promised, I am writing since I sent the package today. I hope it gets to you intact, though I was unable to have it insured. I was unable to get to Heidleberg before I sent the package, and since our tenure here is as unstable as our tenure has been elsewhere I did not wait to add to the package. I sent you a shell which due to its unique shape should be a rather nice vase. I also sent six small aluminum cups which are captured enemy material. The krauts, it seems have two types of cups issued to them. My small German is not enough to understand the exact uses they put these small cups to, but I think they were for liquor rations. At any rate, I wondered if they could not be used for picnics, etc. There is, also, a wound medal. This one happens to be for four wounds. In Dijon, I purchased while on tour with the show. I think you will recognize the sabots as truly a French item. Strange to say, the small ones which are used for souvenirs are prized at almost twice the cost of the practical ones. The paint is water color and I hope you will find someone to shellac or clear varnish them or they will soon be without any paint at all.

Today is Sunday but I have been steadily at this typewriter almost all day. We have to make out requisitions on the first and fifteenth and they must be at battalion headquarters three days before they go into higher headquarters, so I was doing mine today. Besides this, we have a gang of reports due on the first of each month, and I was working on these also.

News of the Japanese war is good, but I don't suppose it means that that war will end before a couple of million of us from over here have taken the long ride over there. If we get the additional points for Germany, I will have more than 85 points and that will mean that I am eligible to be discharged. Remember I didn't want to come into this and now I really and truly desire to get out. Pray for me.

"Black boy" has the reading element here on its head. It is like nothing I have ever read before. Wright does not spare himself at all, though I wonder if he has not colored it a bit trying to portray the picture of the neglected element of the race. I have requests from even the non-reading boys to let them have a go at the book. You have made time pass easily for a number of soldiers by sending me this last gift.

I just read page one over and find that I never told you what I got at Dijon. It was a door knocker, made of brass, portraying Wilberforce. I was surprised to see it there. Must have been bought or made especially for tourist trade.

Well, it was only a day ago that I wrote you and I have no news to tell so I'll just call it a day and write again later.

Ollington