Jan 25-45
Germany.

Dearest Mother & all,

This letter is going to be very hard for me to write. I'm sorry I didn't write yesterday but since I heard about dear Bernard I just haven't been able to do much of anything. I know you all know how badly I feel & how much I wish I could be home with you at a time like this. I know how hard you folks are taking it & that also is on my mind. Things like that happen around here every day but it just doesn't seem possible that it happened to us.

I spent all day Wed. with our chaplain trying to find out all I could. We went down to where his outfit is fighting & talked with his chaplain, 1st Lt & some of the other boys in

bout Bernard. They said he was the cleanest & by far the ~~finest~~ best fellow they had ~~ever~~ known. They said he was a good singer & always kept their morale up by leading them in songs. Even fellows who were only with him a short time said he was everybodys friend & they were proud to have known him.

If you have not heard from the War Department you will very soon. Bernard was hit by enemy artillery on Dec. 19. They went into position on the 18th & on the morning of the 19 he was drawing ammunition in a building with several others. Artillery hit the building & killed most of them. They told me that the Concussion did it & that they never knew what hit them. I am telling you this because I know it will make you feel better to know that he did not suffer & was not laying out in the snow for several days. Just why he had to be in the building at that time we will never know. Maybe it was ~~Gods~~ to save him from being

tortured & then murdered by German S. S. Troops which did just that to most of his outfit just a few days later. You have probably read about that in the papers. Bernard had a regular military burial in an American Cemetary in Belgium. They promised me they would send me a record of the burial so that I could visit the grave when this is over.

I hope I have wrote the right thing. I am sure you will want to know the truth & that is what I tried to get for you. I feel so bad about not being here the day he came to see me just two days before he was killed. If I had only known he was coming. I hope you all will keep your chin up & try & brave this like thousands of others. I would want it that way & I know Bernard would.