

George Geier Describes War's Destruction ^{12/12/44}

Says the Devastation Caused by War Is Beyond the Imagination of Those Who Haven't Seen It

Lieutenant George Geier writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geier of Wakefield vicinity, from Germany under date of November 24: "I am now in the remnants of a little town in Germany. I have been up front for the past few weeks, fighting like hell and am now enjoying a well earned rest.

"I should try to describe the effects of war on the town but it would be impossible as it's beyond the imagination of anyone who has not seen it or any of the other hundreds of towns just like it. To give you an idea what things are like here in Germany, I will start by saying all the civilians have retreated with the German army and I haven't seen one in the past many miles. They have left all their belongings behind as they had no way to carry them.

Everything Ruined

"After the Air Force and Artillery and front has passed beyond the town, it is about as flat as anyone could make it, with household goods such as furniture, dishes and silverware scattered all over the place. Then come the tanks and bulldozers, shoving and grinding the stuff in the mud and water. Only yesterday I saw a tank run over and crush the most beautiful set of sterling silverware I ever saw.

"There are about a hundred houses in this town and out of all of them, there are probably twenty rooms that we are staying in that still shed a little water. Some of the boys and I are sitting here in a little kitchen. They are trying to relax by playing poker with a deck of cards they found here. We have a fire going in the cook range, which, strangely enough, still has all the enamel on it and reminds me a lot of the one at home.

"The only live animals to escape the bombardment are a couple of cats. There is dead livestock all over town. Just across the street is a dead horse, still in harness and hitched to an ammunition wagon used by the Germans.

"I hope you can read my scribbling. My nerves are not as good as they were but they'll be all right after a rest."