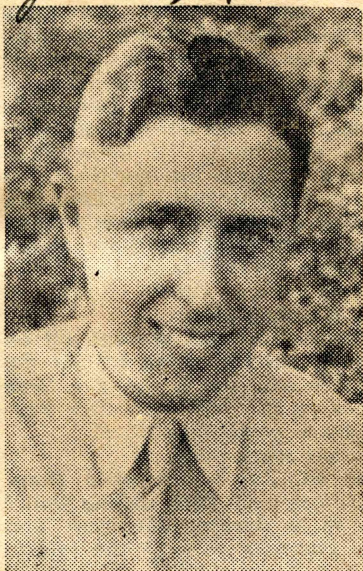


Ardell Heady Writes Of "C" Rations

Jan. 13, 1944



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Heady have received a very interesting letter from their son, Technical Sergeant Ardell Heady, who is serving with U. S. forces in Italy, in the Photo Reconnaissance Wing.

The letter was written shortly before Christmas, but from what he says there was not much sign of Santa Claus where he was stationed.

The letter, in full, follows:

Dear Mother: It is 10 o'clock December 20, 1943, Only four more shopping days until Christmas.

Well I have done all my Christmas shopping quite some time ago. I didn't do much this year, but I must admit it was more than I did last year. None of this talk means much but it makes me think of last Christmas. We dined on "C" rations. Maybe you don't know what they are, but you are just as well off. I wish I did not know about them, but I can say without equivocation that the roads from Cassablanca to Algiers, to Tunis, from Gela to Palermo to Messina, from Salerno to ——— are paved with "C" ration cans; just as the roads to Rome and Berlin will be. (I wonder who will have the honor of laying the last can.)

However, "K" rations are the vogue in Italy. They are a little different. They come in cardboard boxes and are a little more concentrated. They aren't worth talking about, however.

All this is beside the point. I am well and reasonably happy (slap-happy). I am sleeping in a room that looks like a cell. It has bars over the windows and a heavy bar across the door. I seldom see the place except at night and then it is dark and I can't see it. (Silly, isn't it?) But you see, I spend most of my time in the office during the day and most of the night also. We have lights in the office and I can read there.

The food is better here than I got back in Africa in my own outfit. Cigarettes are free, however that doesn't mean anything to me. I trade them off or give them away. We get more PX rations here, too. We can get laundry done for almost nothing at all.

I haven't made a sincere attempt to learn Italian yet, however I am picking up a few words here and there. Some of the Italians speak French, so I can get along.

I got the package containing the toilet kit today. I must say I was needing it very much and also the things that were in it came in handy. We get plenty of soap and toothpaste over here, so I have no need for that.

Well, I think I should go to bed, I have to get up in the morning as usual. So, good night. I'll be thinking about all of you all the time.

ARDELL