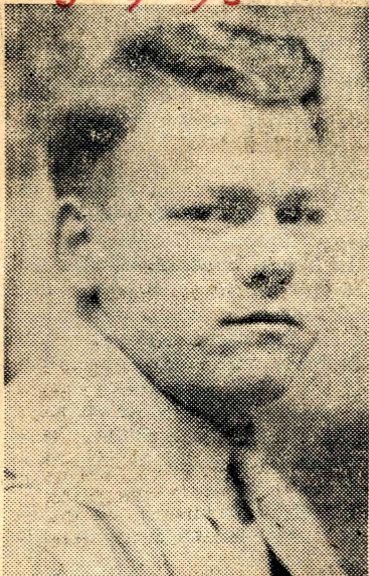


## LaVerl Kennedy Writes From Germany

3-9-45



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Kennedy, of near Newton, have received the following interesting letter from their son, LaVerl, who is serving with the U. S. Army in Germany:

Jan. 28, 1945

Dear Mom and Dad:

How are you tonight? I am fine after getting rid of my cold.

Today it was 9 degrees above zero but the weather is pretty nice. We have a big snow but some of it melted away this afternoon. Probably it will last a week or more because it is knee deep out in the fields. We have been shooting a few rabbits and quails as we drive along the roads. So far I have killed two quails and crippled one. They are very hard to hit with my 45 sub-machine gun. We give all of them to civilians because the army furnishes our eats. The people are sure glad to get them and sometimes they have us come in for meals. So far I haven't gone because I know how short they are for food. Some of the boys have gone and they say they set up a fine meal. They soak the meat in wine and then fry it. I guess it is really good that way. Most of the people treat us swell although all of them speak German. Some of them talk English but very few speak French. That seems pretty funny but they don't know what country they belong to.

Tonight an old farmer is up in our room talking to one of our boys who can talk German. They are really going to town but I don't hardly know what they are talking about. I can understand most of it by picking out parts along the conversation. When he asks me questions I can't understand what he wants but we get along swell. He was telling about Hitler's election. They had a box filled so they could tell how everyone voted. I guess the ones that voted against probably were killed or placed in prison camps. His son is in the German army but they forced him to go. Of course they don't hear from him but he is supposed to be on the Russian Front. Most of the boys have been gone for more than a year and no word has come back to them of his whereabouts.

I got a little souvenir that I will clip on this paper. I traded two cigarettes for it. For a little candy you can get all kinds of souvenirs although they never get any of my candy. Sometimes we give them chewing gum or rations, but this candy is pretty scarce.

The kids say Germany has no chocolate. That seems pretty funny to us because we get a small bar everyday.

I am trying to get a German flag but no success as yet. They shouldn't be hard to get before very long if

we get into the home land.

One of our units are located in a scissors factory. I got one pair so far but hope to get more. They are really nice and all sizes. I will send some home in the box I am collecting up, if possible. I never saw so many in all my life and the house is very modern. They have a lot of stainless steel inside for trimming, especially the banisters of the stairways.

I must close for tonight and go to bed. This little pin was given every time the Germans took a pig or something of the people.

Bye and write when you can

Love and good luck,

LaVerl