

Dear Bill,

Sicily - Sept. 9-43.

Hav'nt heard from you in so long that you must be overseas somewhere but I hope you are in. I have written to you several times but I don't guess they get to you. They evidently blow up every ship that I send mail on.

The battle of Sicily is over now and has been for some time, I heard last night that Italy has surrendered but I don't know whether it was true or not. I guess to people over there that Sicily looked like a pushover, It's only a small place on the map and it sure looks easy but it wasn't. I remember when I was on the ship watching the Destroyers bombard the shore, I really felt it would be over before we could land and I at that time felt bad because there might not be any fighting. However when we landed I soon changed my mind. I like to watch a plane dive but I don't like them to dive on me. That first day I didn't think we had any planes at all because all you could see was German Planes. The ships knocked down several of them and it was really fun to watch them come down. However if you are in a plane flying over new troops

be damn sure to fly plenty high, for the first few days now troops will shoot an any plane that they see. What I advise anyone to do is paint their plane Red White and Blue and stay about a mile up. These German planes would just come out of no where and then they were gone. These Germans are pretty smart and plenty tough. For every German we would capture we would capture a hundred Italians. The Italians ain't worth a damn and when the Germans leave they give up. However I am glad that they do but you know what you think of them. Sicily is a natural fortress and if the Germans could have had any cooperation from the Italians we would still be fighting. You can always tell a German Machine Gun from an American one. The German gun fires about twice as fast but are not as accurate. They say we are going to adopt this gun and I hope they do because they are lots better and the works in them are very simple. I have seen them shell some of the hills over here until you would think that nothing could be alive in them yet you could still hear that damn gun of theirs, however they

would eventually get him. The seventyfives and
hundred and fives go over your head with a
swishing sound but the hundred and fifty five
sounds like someone is on the back end pushing it.
You get so that you are not afraid of small arms
fire over here but the artillery and mortar fire puts
the fear of God in you. That's when you get in your fox
hole and wish to hell it was a little deeper.

Well I don't know when the letter will reach
you but I hope it does before Christmas. I am now a
private and I only draw two or three dollars a month.
I have fifty two dollars in allotments and I have six seventy
for insurance and I only draw about sixty three bucks as a
private so you see how it is. The catch is I want you to get a
Christmas present for Rodney, she is always sending me things over
here and I am broke all the time now. I figure I may get another
break over here sometimes and I will be able to pay you back.
Please write and let me know if you need money get
it from mother as I send her all mine.

Well I better close now for I should be at
Radio School now but I had to write this letter. Write
soon and tell me where all the old Gang is. Don't
forget the present. Please write.

Love
Henry [Hills]