





























“Well, honey, I’m happy, but not half a happy as I will be when I walk down the gang plank and put my feet on American soil again. One reason, Elinor, I’m not too happy now is because of our task at the present. This will be hard for you to believe, as I can hardly believe it with my own eyes. Darling, we are here at a prison camp with around 15,000 slave labor which are starved. We are told thousands have been killed here, some say millions – which is right, I don’t know, but yesterday an American bulldozer was digging a deep hole to bury the piles of naked bodies lying around the building which was supposed to be a hospital.

“I saw this with my own eyes. Human bodies, nothing but skin and bone, piled up like stove wood. I also saw where thousands of other bodies were buried. Also, the torture chamber covered with human blood two inches deep, the gas chamber, shooting gallery and the big ovens for cremating bodies. These are things hard to believe.

“We saw several thousand of P.W.’s along the roads from starvation, others who could hardly walk. Also, I’ve stood arm in arm with some of my buddies that were killed only a foot from me, but this is one memory that can never be erased from my mind.

“I myself have doubted some of the pictures you see in papers, but not now. Thirty tons of food was brought yesterday by our trucks and a hundred or more medical men. Things are beginning to look better already. Of these people there was 2,000 women and some children.

“There were five American soldiers, one with whom I had a long talk. He had spent 10 months here and really knew what had gone on. He told me of one day when 5,000 Jews were lined up at a rock quarry and if they didn’t jump to the rocky bottom 300 feet below, they were shoved over or shot and then thrown over.”

Joe’s company in the U.S. Army, Co “A: had 250 men at full strength. “There were 50 of us left after the mission,” said Joe, who now lives in Brandenton Florida. “I thank God every day I was able to live through the terrible times and return home to my wife and darling little girl.”