28-12-1944 Joseph Gorman to his mother

12/28/44

Dearest Mom:

Received your letter & was glad to hear that all are in the best of health.

Also glad to know that you received the back pay. It sure come in handy for Christmas I'll bet.

That sure was to bad about George Morgan.

Received the pictures that was taken at Mary's while you were there. You look like fire by fire.

That's to bad about Aunt Bessie having so many heart attacks. She sure is pretty tough when she can pull out of them the way she does.

Well Christmas has passed & I hope you enjoyed yours as much as possible. Things have changed since last year when I spent eight hours trying to get you by phone. They tried to make it seem a little like it here but the old spirit seemed to be lacking. They had beer on Christmas afternoon & the next afternoon but the boys were pretty good & didn't overdue it.

I received a package from Mary, ~~one~~ from Theresa & Walter with candy & Ella Mae & Ann's came on Christmas.

Tell Anne Chick & Maureen I want

to thank them very much. As we sat here in the dark last night with their box in the middle of us, that is on the floor, the boys suggested that candy shouldn't be put in those small papers that they are set in, because every time they would stick their hand in the box to sneak one the paper would give them away.

I went to midnight Mass in a cave that was made in the eighteenth century & a Brotherhood took it over one hundred years ago. I also received & it was really nice. A high Mass & about fifteen Brother's sang, & there was eight altar boys. The walls were hand sketched & statues were carved in the lime on

both sides of the wall.

They had one part smoothed off & they had writing at the top saying that the people of Ballard wished us all a Merry Christmas & that the Mass was being said at Midnight for the boys in the U. S. Army & that they wished we would be hearing the next Midnight Mass in our homeland. After Mass we all put our signatures in that block.

Well Mom that's all for that.

I am now in Belgium & in the 9th army.

Feeling fine & hope this letter finds you in the best of health.

Your Loving Son

Joe.

P.S. The mail is very slow, packages get seem to have the preference at this time