

Somewhere in Germany
17 March 1945

My dear Mrs. Goldman.-

I am answering your letter of 23 Feb 45, as to the death of your wonderful nephew. I cannot express to you in writing of the close friendship Jack and I had. To me, Jack was like a brother. It was, more than just an Army friendship. He had made some plans for the future. Which we had held strictly confidential.

In losing Jack, I lost a brother.

Jack was no outstanding soldier. He was liked by all of the men in the Organization. His fine qualities in life, showed he had carefully planned training from a baby up to manhood. With this splendid background the Army career was very easy for Jack. He could have easily been an officer. Several times he had thought about it, but his love for the boys with his buddies seemed more important to him.

Jack's death was quick and he had no suffering. It was a terrible shock to me. I had intended to write his mother soon but I did not know how long it ^{would} take until War Department would no longer require us to be allowed to write until this was closed. I was hoping some one would write and I should feel my loss.

to pay a visit on my return to the U.S. Although I have never met Jack's mother, it seems that I must have known her. Jack spoke of his mother his father & you often. He always showed me the family pictures when we started talking about home. Jack was also religious minded, he prayed often and went to church at every opportunity.

Your questions as to Jack writing somewhere in Belgium. As you know from the newspaper that is where we had our first combat experience and also our first Battle. "The battle in the Bulge". After that we were sent ^{to} Southern France to fight with the 1st French Army and the American 7th Army in the Colmar pocket. I have enclosed a copy of the commendation for this battle our his received from Group Hq. We also received similar commendations from 1st and the 7th Army Comdors.

This is the battle in which Jack gave his life to his country. Since then I have been in the hospital and kind been transferred to another organization due to a high nervous tension which to date have not been able to overcome.

At this writing I am somewhere in Germany and I hope and pray each day that this terrible ordeal will be over.

I want to thank you very much for your letter
Mrs Goldman, and please convey my deepest sympathy
to Mrs Asenstein. I hope I have been of some help
and if there is anything else that I can assist in
do not hesitate in asking. An invitation to call
on the family on my return would be welcome.

In closing may ask that you all offer your prayers
to God to end this war soon.

A friend always
Bill.