

**NAME:** William

**RANK:** Private

**ORGANIZATION:** 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE:** European Theater of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by William. This is the only letter from William in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpt is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**William writes some friends in the United States:**

“Germany

Wed. Jan 31, 1945

How are all you folks these days? I hope you will excuse me for not writing sooner but I have been pretty busy...The country over here is a lot like parts of the U.S.; we see Texaco, Shell, and Moboil gas signs and even Coca Cola signs; what there is left of them. The towns here are really a mess of rubble and ruin. We are living better here than we did in France. I am sleeping on a german bed with a nice mattress. This seems too good to be true and am afraid it won't last very much longer...I haven't received a letter for over 3 weeks now. Write whenever you can, With love William”

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- William made it through the Second World War but when he passed away is unknown.
  - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period and William's organization (viewer discretion advised):**  
[https://archive.org/details/1945-01-29\\_First\\_Pictures\\_Manila\\_Drive](https://archive.org/details/1945-01-29_First_Pictures_Manila_Drive)
  - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers William's wartime organization, the 104th Infantry Division (reader discretion advised):**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/104th\\_Infantry\\_Division\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/104th_Infantry_Division_(United_States))