

# A LIBERATOR'S LETTER HOME, MAY 2, 1945 (TRANSCRIPT)

SGT. HORACE EVERS



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.

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Dearest Mom and Lou,

Just received your 19th April letter and was glad to hear you all are well and the tractor business is still intact.

So you went to N. Y. and had a big time. I'd give most everything to be able to see Lou with his pants rolled up and a baby cap on. Gawdamighty. Did Mom get a jog on and smoke weeds? Have you even learned to smoke, Mom?

A year ago today I was sweating out shells on Anzio Beachhead—today I am sitting in Hitler's luxuriously furnished apartment in Munich writing a few lines home. —What a contrast. A still greater contrast is that between his quarters here and the living hell of Dachau concentration camp only 10 miles from here. —I had the misfortune of seeing the camp yesterday and I still find it hard to believe what my eyes told me. —

A railroad runs alongside the camp and as we walked toward the box cars on the track I thought of some of the stories I previously had read about Dachau and was glad of the chance to see for myself just to prove once and for all that what I had heard was propaganda. —But no it wasn't propaganda at all. —If anything some of the truth had been held back. In two years of combat you can imagine I have seen a lot of death, furious death mostly. But nothing has ever stirred me as much as this. I can't shrug off the feeling of utter hate I now hold for these people. I've shot at Germans with intent to kill before but only because I had to or else it was me—now I hold no hesitancy whatsoever.

The first box car I came to had about 30 what were once humans in it. —All were just bone with a layer of skin over them. Most of the eyes were open and had an undescrivable look about them. They had that beaten "what did I do to deserve this" look. Twenty or thirty other box cars were the same. Bodies on top of each other—no telling how many. No identification as far as I could see. — And then into the camp itself. —Filthy barracks suitable for about 200 persons held 1500. 160,000 persons were originally in the camp and 32,000 were alive (or almost alive) when we arrived.—

There is a gas chamber and furnace room in one barracks. —Two rooms were full of bodies waiting to be cremated. —In one room they were all nude—in the other they had prison clothes on—as filthy as dirt itself.

How can people do things like that? I never believed they could until now.

The only good thing I noticed about the whole camp were the scores of SS guards freshly killed. —Some of the prisoners newly freed could not control themselves and went from German to German and bashed their heads in with sticks and rocks — No one tried to stop them for we all realized how long they had suffered.

I guess the papers have told you about the 7th Army taking Nurnberg and Munich by now. —Our division took the greater part of each place and captured many thousands of prisoners. We also liberated Russian, Polish and British and American prisoners by the thousands — what a happy day for the people.

Well enough for now —

Miss you all very much

Your Son

Horace

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ADOLF HITLER X

S/Sgt Evans

MÜNCHEN, DEN

2 May - 1945

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A year ago today I was sweating out shells on Anzio Beachhead - today I am sitting in Hitters' luxuriously furnished apartment in Munich writing a few lines home. - What a contrast. - A still greater contrast is that between his quarters here and the living hell of DACHAU concentration camp only 10 miles from here. - I had the misfortune of seeing the camp yesterday and I still find it hard to believe what my eyes told me. -

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