

FRANCE 7 JULY 1945

Dear Jennie:

To identify myself - I'm the last of the Sivertsens. Olaf sends a letter from you and a clipping about Virgil and the Silver Star award for gallantry in action. This information prompts this letter, but it is not a letter of condolence... I could not write a letter of condolence to you because you have experienced the deepest hurt of war; I have not. Had I known about his death a couple months ago it would have been possible to look up the cemetery and grave, but now I'm out of that section. There are many cemeteries and many white crosses and they are being well cared for and beautified. The beautiful cemetery and the Silver is not of any worth to Virgil. But he wasn't in this was for what he could get out of it. He did not go to the rescue of the other fellow for what he could get out of it. He did the gallant thing because he was unselfish... There are men in this army like that, and they come from homes like yours.

More than six months have passed since I came to the ETO. Because of the many places visited and then frequent more the time has done rapidly. In war there was times feverish activity, and times of waiting. I'm in a period of waiting now. There are good prospects of seeing much of the pacific in the next year or so. While the war is on there are many of us who cannot expect to return to the US. Several months will have to be spent in the Pacific by many troops even after Japan's defeat. However, the issue in not in doubt.

Give my greetings to Aunt Julia. I often wish it were possible to get around there and talk to her and see the rest of you. The couple times that I did go through there I was probably too immature to appreciate those more seasoned by living. But I appreciated the kind hospitality.

It may be of interest to you to know that I have a son who is more than a year old now, and in good health. My wife is living in the same building where her folks are there in Chicago. She is well cared for and has lots of help when it is needed. The boy had whooping cough last winter which put quite well strain on then all including the boy, but he managed quite well even at that early age. Bettie is expecting again in a month or so. This time she insists that it is twins. Seems to me she had the same impression when Johnnie was born. Anyhow, my family is increasing and growing even though I'm not at home. A father is not so necessary, after all!

Sincerely,

EDDIE

Eddie Sivertsen is my mother's cousin, I think from Devil's Lake ND. He was an army chaplain.