

Wednesday evening -
Oct 11. France - 1944?

Dear Little Ruthie:-

Thanks for your letter -- You are
doing a fine job of writing to me --
I was glad to hear about your school --

You asked me to tell you more about
the French kids - They are a lot like
children at home -- or in England - Except
you probably wouldn't be able to understand
the way these kids talk -- I can understand
a little bit of French - & talk a little -- but
not much --

The main difference between these French
kids & Americans is that the French have
seen so much war - How would you feel
if your house was blown up - - & Pop was
taken prisoner to Germany? - - The French
kids have had that happen to them - - some of them - -

They haven't had plenty of good things to eat - -
their clothes are nearly always clean & well
mended - - but old - - they wear shoes with
wooden soles - - or all wooden shoes - -

Some of them never had tasted chocolate or candy -
("bon-bon" they call it) in their life - till our
soldiers came here -

Some of the little boys ask us for
cigarettes "Pau Papa" -- (for Father) --
& then they smoke them themselves --

Some of the little boys wear smocks
over their trousers & shirts - & it looks
like they had a dress on --

I don't know much about their schools -- They
call a schoolhouse "Ecole", so "Ecole jeune fille" would
be a "school for young girls" -- (The word for
girl is "fille" & is pronounced "fee" -- but we'd
call it "filly" -- -- If you ask Pap, he'll tell you
that a "filly" is a young girl horse --) So I
guess that boys & girls go to different schools --
They did in most towns in England, too --

I've got some more film - & I'll take some
pictures of some little kids about your age &
send them to you --

Write often, Ruthie -- & get after Pap and Dotty --
They're kind of lazy when it comes to writing letters --
so you'll have to scold them for me --

P.S. I showed your letter to
some of my boys - & they said
it was a very fine letter --

Good Night --

Your brother -
Jim -