

Send back

Belgium

March 12, 1945

Dear Phog and Mrs Allen.

It has been some time since I wrote you a letter. I have been hearing about you in the papers. I am heartily in accord with the editorial that Doc should be the ~~CZAR~~ CZAR of Basketball. I am very proud of the fact that I have been so well acquainted with you both. If this war continues much longer I shall be an old bald-headed decrepit piece of humanity. It wont be long before my third year overseas will have slipped by.

I am inclosing a post-card of the costume of the Gille This the the name for the personages composing the main feature of a yearly festival in Belgium. It originated centuries ago through the efforts of Queen Mary of Hungary. She conceived the constume from the Inca Indians and introduced it into the festival. The Madi Gras of New Orleans is taken from this festivity which begins the day before Ash Wednesday each year. The Plums are ostrich and around the waist are regular bells which make an awful racket during the dance which is a rhythmic clog. As you see the subject is only a child. The adult costumes have tremendous plums. The figures are the royal Lion of Belgium and are in vivid colors on a bright yellow back ground.

It is surprizing the number of wooden shoes that we see on the civilians. I know why they take their shoes off when they enter the house. They wear something like a house slipper, (felt) insid e the wodden shoes. I tried to wear a pair once with just stockings and I about broke my foot on the first step. I have seen some old ladies who have had their wooden shoes as long as 20 years.

We are taking a well earned rest now after the Belgium buldge