

January 5, 1945

Sgt. Ernest A. Pontius, 37728973
Hq. Det. 800th STR
Camp Crowder, Missouri

Dear Ernie:

I took pleasure in reading your letter of December 12th.

With due regard for the officers who are loyally serving us in foreign lands, I think it was almost inexcusable that they should be caught napping as they were. I think that the broadcasts calling upon old men and boys under age to serve in the lines were put out as a bait to cause the allies to be over-confident and we swallowed it hook and sinker.

Frankly, we were caught with our pants down in a most inexcusable manner. We evidently had failed in espionage and we had failed in road blocks, the placing of mines, and a number of other things that I think we are now doing. It probably delayed final victory perhaps an additional year and increased our cost in the lives of our soldiers and in money to a vast extent.

I understand that your back has bothered you again. If so, I am sorry, because I had thought that the freedom from worry about the your condition occasioned by your medical examination might well offset the break in your life caused by military service.

Mrs. Simons and I this morning attended the funeral of Mrs. Otto Barteldes who happened to belong to the same chapter of P.E.O. of which Mrs. Simons is a member, and she held Mrs. Barteldes in kindly esteem.

We too shall be glad to know if there has been any further development in your military status.

Sincerely yours,

WCS:df

W. C. Simons