

1

Wednesday evening

November 8, 1944

Dear Mother,

The results of the 1944 U.S. presidential election have been radioed to the U.S. troops in the E.T.O. throughout the day. They have caused interest, no excitement and general approval.

Servicemen wish the war to end and for peace to prevail in the world. And Franklin D. Roosevelt seems to be the best qualified and most determined leader to achieve that.

And now that the campaign is over maybe congress and the president can concentrate on more efficient domestic administration and postwar planning.

Somehow a presidential election seems to be in some other world of the dim distant past with the folks we love and Saturday football games and real fresh eggs.

A horrible reminder of our present exile is the English monetary system which is the system used in the U.K. (United Kingdom) by U.S. troops.

2

A large copper coin labeled half penny and called hay penny is the smallest unit in the British currency, equal to a U.S. cent. Two ha'pennys [sic] is a penny, another large copper coin. Then comes the brass hexagon three pence, pronounced thru'pence and the small, thin silver sixpence, equal to a U.S. dime. The small silver shilling equals twelve pence or twenty cents and two of them equal a large silver florin. A half crown equals two and six (two shillings six pence) or fifty U.S. cents. There is a large Kleenex like ten shilling paper note and two of them equal a large paper pound or \$4.043. Then come higher values not in general circulation.

To further complicate matters special signs must be learned: (drawn symbol similar to L) equals a pound; S equals a shilling; d equals a penny.

If you ever tour the Isles or the empire you can use this letter as a monetary guide.

The best to you all.

Love,

Lee