

5-8-43 / 11/6/43  
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Oct. 8, 1984

Dear John and Mary,

Your letter arrived on Sept. 19 the date of your town's celebration of liberation. I wish I could have been there to participate in the celebration.

As you will recall one of our Sergeants was killed when he bailed out and his parachute did not open. I believe he panicked when ordered to bail out, and he never found the rip cord. His name was William Mayo and I would guess that he was about 2 or three years younger than me. That would put his birth date at about 1922. I believe he was from Montana - one of our Western States. When the Germans came to pick me up at the observation post where I was being held, they had Mayo's body in a trailer behind the truck. I had to look at his dog tags to identify him.

Another Sgt. John Edwards was killed by a 20 mm shell in the neck before we bailed out. He was the Engineering Sgt. stationed at the gun station just behind the pilots. He was from Wisconsin and I believe that his body was returned there for burial.

Before the bail out, our Radio operator Sgt. was hit by a shell from one of the Nazi fighters circling around us. In the explosion, his chute was torn to shreds. The pilot