

## 10 Letters from Richard Morrison to his Family back home (Oct-Dec, 1944)

Letter #1: Date: October, 1944 - Location: Southern France

To: Mrs. F.V. Morrison, 3745 Chaisen Ave, Beaumont, TX

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dear Folks,

Here I am, your own loving Richard made it. I was a little surprised to land down here, had it looks like as good a place as any. Remember that nature detail I was on the boat. I forgot to tell you I managed to get scurvy with cans of mango juice, pear and pineapple. If they get me coming I get them going, When we landed, we came down landing nets into landing barge and went on to the beach. From the beach we hiked an XX or XX miles to where we are now. It was a pretty tough hike as the ground here is as rough as a cob. We're living in pup tents now and are pretty well settled.

It's pretty rainy here but I don't believe it snows all year round. Remember John McHill? I found out he's in XXXX. Just born under the right sign I guess. I haven't had a chance to try out my French lessons. I've been studying a little in a French book they gave me so I ought to be able to get along. I will write some in mail when I can get some chances.

Bye now,

Love, Dick

Letter #2: Date: October, 1944 - Location: Southern France

Dear Grandma & Helen,

I've gotten a couple of letters from Helen since I've been over here but this is the first change I've had to answer them. We don't work too hard, but it seems as though we're kept busy all during the daylight hours, and we can't have any electric lights in our pup tents.

Did I tell you I saw Africa the Rock of Gibraltar, Spain, and the beautiful Mediterranean Sea? I'm having as good a time as to be expected. It's not like the United States of course, but it's something new. I'd like to take a trip through Europe after the war is over and they are somewhat back to normal. I've been in a few little bars and restaurants since I've been here, and in the little places on the outskirts of town, they can't talk English. So, I've been improving on the little bit of French I know. I might learn it fairly good if I stay around some towns. We've seen quite a few wrecked and bombed buildings the Germans and Americans both gave this place plenty. The people here aren't too bad off. Things are pretty high, but they seem to get along OK. I sure hope America never has to fight a war on her home soil.

We've had a little rain, but it's been pretty fair, about the same as Iowa in the fall. I heard from Killer, but the letter took 7 weeks to get to me. He's doing fine, still in the South Pacific. Got a X-Mas card from the Cali's a little early, but appreciated. I'll write them later, I've got to work now.

Bye and Lots of Love, Dick.

PS: Thanks for the buck I've spent it already. A loaf of bread about 18 inches long cost \$1.00. They don't censor your letters to me. Just mine going out. I can now tell you I went by train to New York and we went through Ft. Madison in Iowa. First time in Iowa in 15 months. Wished we'd have stayed a while.



Letter #3: Date: October, 1944 - Location: Southern France

To: Mrs. J.V. Brum, 225 E. Church St, Iowa City, IA

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dear Helen and Grandma,

I always thought I'd like to see the world and the Army is sure helping me out. I didn't get a bit sea-sick all the way over so I should have joined the Navy. We got off the transport by nets down into landing craft. After we hit the beach, we marched about XX miles to our area, where we are now. We're living in pup tents and now that it has stopped raining it's not bad. They said we're going to get paid in Francs; I get \$5.00 a month. Guess I'll have to get a bigger wallet. Can't drink anything but beer and wine when you go to town, so guess I'll have to take up alcoholic beverages. I like the water, but Army water is carbonated. Guess it's about time to open up the can marked "supper."

Don't forget to write back,

All my love, Dick

Letter #4: Date: November, 1944 - Location: Southern France

To: Mrs. F.V. Morrison, 3745 Chaisen Ave, Beaumont, TX

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dear Folks,

I got your Christmas package today. It was a bit early you know it. You sent things I can always use, except I haven't shared too much, but I will before I leave France. I'm gonna save the cake until Christmas if I can hold myself away from it. I have saved the others too but there is place to carry them all at. Didn't tell you I got a X-Mas card from the Cali's the other day? I will write her a letter one of these days. I heard from Killer, but the letter was written Sept 8. He hasn't advanced in grade yet. Also heard from Harry, he's still in the XXXXX. We got paid \$5.00 today, will get the rest later. I sent \$1.00 home. Please put it in the bank for me. I'll have to break those new cards out and start a little game up. I learned the names of the cards in French the other day but they won't let me write any French in these letters so I can't tell you. Thanks again for the presents. Say I had some good French pastry yesterday.

Bye for now,

Love, Dick



Letter #5: Date: 11/04/1944 - Location: South of France

To: Mrs. F.V. Morrison, 3745 Chaisen Ave, Beaumont, TX

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dear Folks,

I guess I can start putting the date of the letters now. You have to be here a long time before they will let you. Also, I can say I've been in Marseilles, France and it's quite a town. It's the second biggest town in France. I'll buy a couple of postcards and send them to you. I lost a screw in my colored glasses but got them fixed at an Optician for free too. They are pretty cheap on glasses here, my buddy bought a pair for \$8.00 and had one lens put in for \$1.00. It is cheaper than the U.S. Also, the street cars are free to soldiers. Went to a bath down town today and took a shower (douche in French). It only cost 10 Francs, but you bring your own soap and towel.

Have stuff to do,

Love, Dick

Letter #6: Date: 11/16/1944 - Location: South of France

To: Mrs. F.V. Morrison, 3745 Chaisen Ave, Beaumont, TX

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dear Folks,

Well they finally got me where they want me, up front. I'm ready to come back any time too. The weather is pretty cool, with a little snow and lots of wind and rain, but you keep pretty warm other ways. I got about 5 letters from you the last couple of days. The latest one dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct. I'm sorry to see Gus is taking a beating this year, but it's good to hear they're putting out. Hope he does OK at end. Got your letter from Bob Stephens will write him when I have time, which isn't too often. I haven't heard of Emmitt's outfit here yet, but I imagine he's here somewhere. I'll bet Killer wasn't any more excited at Guam than I've been here. This life is for the birds. No more news from here, if you see our outfits name in the paper, please tell me.

Bye for now,

All my Love, Dick



Letter #7: Date: 11/16/1944 - Location: South of France

To: Mrs. F.V. Morrison, 3745 Chaisen Ave, Beaumont, TX

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dear Folks,

Give Annie my congratulations on being Vice Pres. Looks like the Morrison's have taken over St. Anthony's. The reason I had that card filled out, in part was we made them out before we got that magnificent one stripe. Had a big hail and rainstorm yesterday AM and then it cleared off to the nicest day we've had since we've been here. Just like I thought sunny France would be. It was warm enough not to snow haven't to wear a jacket. It rained a little last nite too, but we maligned the tent with a floor from the packing so we didn't even get damp. They say, "Necessity is the mother of invention." I got a laugh out of the CR kids. Glad to hear you wind up at the in the racket, if you've seen one you've seen them all. That is something that sure could come in handy. I lost mine and didn't have one. It crushed my other can of shaving cream.

Thanks again for the X-Mas presents,

Love, Dick

Letter #8: Date: 12/03/1944 - Location: South of France

To: Mrs. J.V. Brum, 225 E. Church St, Iowa City, IA

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dean Helen and Grandma,

I finally have a few minutes to drop you a note. Sorry I haven't written you sooner but we haven't slowed down since we've hit the front. I'm getting your letters in 2 or 3 weeks and sure do like to get them. We got our first packages today, but they will probably catch up to us soon. Hope I only get one at a time because I can't carry them too far. I've walked over a mountain range since I've been here and it's really pretty and it sure is tough fighting. I'll write as soon as we slow down again.

Save that good food for me Grandma,

Love, Dick



Letter #9: Date: December 7, 1944 - Location: Southern France

To: Mrs. J.V. Brum, 225 E. Church St, Iowa City, IA

From: PFC R.A. Morrison - Co E, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Dear Grandma & Helen,

Today is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the war. Sure hope we finish soon. I got your package with the three cans in it. I don't know what it is because I'm gonna save it a while, but thanks. Got your stamps in the letter too. I'd like to use them one of these days on a Grandma letter. Tell Iko to join the army and come over seas and he'll have plenty of cigarettes, we get mobs of them. Sure was surprised to hear about Hubie, but give her my congrats when you write her. I shaved today for the first time in over a month. Hardy recognized myself. Had to clip the whiskers off with a clipper. Candy, cookies, dried fruit would sure be appreciated.

A boy send out,

Lots of love, Dick

Letter #10: Date: N/A - Wed - Location: Southern France

Dear Mamma & Helen,

Well you no doubt believe the telegram we're you are...

(Unable to read the rest of the letter).