

E. D. GREGORY
MERCHANT AND PLANTER
COTTON BUYER AND GINNER

PARKDALE, ARK.
June 13, 1946

BLACK CURLT HAIR, WEIGHT
155 POUNDS, HEIGHT FIVE FEET
SEVEN INCHES, DARK,
COMPLECTION [SIC], BROAD SMILE

Dear Becker,

Your letter written May first was received June 6th and is the first letter we have received from any member of the sixty-first detail from the Dermott Camp. Needless to say we were much pleased to hear from you and are glad to learn you found your family and relatives all well. Too, the writer is glad your home town was damaged less than you had expected.

You stated that your belts are becoming tighter and tighter. This I think you will find is the case in not only Germany but also over the entire world. The belts are tighter in some countries than in others. In the United States we are continually dropping from our list of foods items of every day usage, but sometimes find other food to replace it. The foods being taken from the US markets, we understand, are being shipped to Europe to help feed those who are in the greatest need. The US agriculture is suffering acutely from a shortage of labor, thus greatly cutting our food supply. The labor organizations in this country are demanding and receiving very high wages in industrial sections and are thus luring farmers away from their homes to get rich quickly. These people are going to receive quite a shock in the not too distant future. When the wheels of industry once more begin turning and supply equals demand, the flow of merchandise will lessen, many industrial workers will be turned out of the factories, and there will be no homes for them to go. Farmers are being forced to turn to machinery for cultivation and harvesting of crops because of the present shortage of labor. The day of tilling soil by hand is going to rapidly disappear in the very near future. When this all comes about the number of unemployed are going to rapidly increase, buying power will decrease as rapidly as unemployment increases, additional employers will become unemployed and so on until we again see very low prices and many jobless people who are much in need. This is just another outcome of the war. The writer sincerely trusts the peace this time will be everlasting. Your and my generation is charged with this responsibility. Let us hope we do not fail and cause our children to have to turn to the fields of battle a few years hence.

[written in the margin]: I wish to thank you for your courtesy in writing