

COMPANY "A"  
HEADQUARTERS  
702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion

AFPO 339, US Army  
30 April 1945

My Dear Mrs. Koch,

I regret not having written to you long before this. However I know you will understand and forgive me when I say that I have not really had the time to even write my mother except on rare occasions.

Your son Lou and I were very good friends before his death. We had been in the same company for a considerable time. Lou and I met first in Fort Bragg when he first joined the 702nd. Later on while the outfit was on Louisiana Maneuvers Lou was assigned to Company "A". At the time I was the Executive Officer of Company "A". He and I stayed with Company "A" all through Maneuvers, Camp Gruber, England, and France.

The first platoon of the battalion to get into a fight was Lou's platoon. It happened when the Division made the break-through at Saint Lo, France. After a considerable fight we stopped for the night at a town, famous in Division history, called Villebaudon. The Krauts threw everything in the book at us. They succeeded in working three Mark IV tanks behind our column, thus cutting us off. Captain Mauro, then in command of the company, gave Lou the mission of eliminating the three tanks. After a lot of shooting Lou knocked out two of them and chased the other away. We were quite proud of the way he handled the job, for it was a very difficult one, and it's successful completion gave the needed prestige to the battalion. It showed the veterans of the 2nd Armored Division that we had the stuff and were not afraid to use it.

While we were in England we managed to have as much fun as the law allowed. On several occasions we went riding, and somehow or other Lou would always wind up with the smallest horse. Some of them were small enough to be classified as ponies back home. We must have added quite a bit of spice to the quiet English countryside, at least we got lots of stares,

I was just talking to Captain Hussey our adjutant and he tells me that you have not as yet received Lou's personal equipment. If you will write direct to the office of "The Quartermaster General" Washington 25, D.C., I'm sure they can help you in that matter. Captain Hussey also informs me that he has already sent you a Purple Heart to replace the one that you should have received by now.

If ever the war ends and I get home I hope you will allow me the pleasure of visiting you. Perhaps I can answer any questions you may have about Lou.

I must close now. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance to you, please write and let me know and I'll do my utmost to comply with your request.

Sincerely,

*Bernard J. Morris*  
B. J. MORRIS,  
Capt., 702 TD Bn.