

Pat Risko*[Archive]: World War II Letters including Nazi Massacre*

Philadelphia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Germany: 1943-1945

\$1800



A collection of 80 letters from Pat Risko while serving with the United States Army during World War II. All letters are very good or better with some tears from opening and age toning.

A collection of 80 letters written by Pat Risko to his wife in Philadelphia while serving with the army during World War II between 1943 and 1945. The early half of the letters takes place at United States training camps including some in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas while the latter half, October 1944 through June 1945, are from Germany and France. Most of the letters are dated and underneath they include his "mood" which is often times listed as "low." Much of the content consists of warm sentiments for his wife and young son, Patty. He gives some detail into military life discussing a rest in Belgium and hinting at some traumas he's experienced in Europe. One letter dated November 29, 1944 includes a poem commenting on censorship which reads, "Can't say a thing. The war is to blame. Just write that I'm well and send you my name... Can't say for sure, dear, these words that I write, will be passed by the Censor, so I'll just say goodnight."

A later letter dated April 25, 1945, contains a three page description of the discovery of a Nazi massacre. "There's a place out here which is nothing more or less than two large doors and its made of brick and I do mean the walls are thick. Well here's what we've found, the Jerries have taken a large amount of prisoners which consisted mostly Russians, Polish, and Jewish put them in this barn and as I call it, poured gasoline over them and straw, locked the doors and then set fire to the place...there were bodies laying all around...stacked 4 and 5 deep...you could see where some of them tried to escape but were mowed down by a machine gun...I've talked to a lot of Russians and Polish slave labors,... and they been telling me of such doings and its been going on for 5 years and I've read a lot about such doings but I really had to see it for myself."

An interesting look at an American soldier's tour of duty towards the end of World War II with his own eye opening account of Nazi atrocities. [\[BTC#421467\]](#)