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AIR

26 Feb 1946

Strasbourg, France

Dear Folks:

Contrary to my good intentions, I did not write every day in Switzerland. The reason: it was so damn cold in our hotel rooms that I either stayed in bed and slept or went skiing.

The picture of France one sees passing through is very bad. The railroads are about the only things that are even half-way running, and they are a mass of rust. French trains take 5 hrs. now for a run they still have on their pre-war schedules as requiring $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. Even now, a year after the war, telephone poles and lines lie on the ground where they were shot down in the war. When one emerges from a French RR station, as here, one is greeted by hordes of kids ~~of~~ and

boys begging cigarettes, food, etc. Literally
dozens stands on the two block walk from
the R.R. station to the Red Cross. A tragic
picture. It is a truth that since there is
no work for the French they all turn to
the black market, as a profession, not as
a source.

I am feeling very good, the 2 days
skiing I tried, if not elegant skiing, was
a healthy and invigorating exercise,
and I also slept about 12 hrs. a
day.

I plan to write you a day by
day inventory of my trip - to do which
I shall need a little leisure time. The
train I take leaves in a couple of
hours, so I'll begin now -

Love, Bob