

## LITTLE STUDIES

Last January, when General Eisenhower's forces were smashing the Germans back in the Ardennes as the tables were turned on the enemy in the Battle of the Bulge, Leon Wall, Wyoming artist, serving with the Fourth Division, was picking his way with his infantry outfit through the pillboxes near Schnee Eifel when his attention was drawn to a little volume in the rubble. The area was a desolate waste, as the fighting had been particularly severe there.

Out of curiosity, he reached for the book and was startled when he opened it to find this inscription on the flyleaf:

"Dear Leon:

"May God's blessing attend you and Mary's protection defend you. What more can I wish for you?" "Mother."

It was a startling coincidence to receive such a message while engaged in the grim game of war.

On the opposite page was this printed message:

"No man can serve his country who fails to serve his God."

A hasty examination revealed it was a prayer book. On the inside cover, the owner was established as Leon J. Setter, Wichita, Kansas.

The West Side artist put the prayer book in his pocket and carried it with him through the rest of the campaign. He was naturally curious about its owner and namesake, but there was no time to make inquiry until he returned to the States. Some time ago, he wrote to Leon Setter and the other day received a letter which said in part:

"Received your letter today and was very glad to hear you found the Bible. Little did I think I would ever see it again.

"I was a member of the 106th Division which moved up on the lines December 12, 1944, for the first time. We spent about a week in the pill boxes before the Germans moved in. Two regiments of the three were completely knocked out with most of the men being captured.

"I left the pill box on the night of December 16. After being pursued by the Germans for three days, I was captured just outside Charmburg.

"I was held prisoner until April 14 when I was liberated by the Sixth Armored near Dresden. Due to the fact the Germans didn't feed well, I lost about 60 pounds.

"My experiences as a prisoner are something I shall never forget, so receiving this Bible means a great deal to me.

"Incidentally, you didn't find a Rosary with the Bible? If so, I would appreciate your sending it also. Thanks again."

By the time this appears in print, a package will be on its way to the Middle Western city with the Bible. Technician Wall did not see the Rosary.

Just another glimpse behind the scenes in the drama, entitled the Second World War.

## 1945-10-16 T/4 Setter's notebook found by artist and published

Clipped By:



criswest

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