

136 Regt. A P O 33
c/o P M San Francisco, Calif.

23 Feb. 1945

Rt. Rev. D.V. Foley
Chancery Office
11th and Bluff Streets
Dubuque, Iowa

Rt. Reverend and dear Monsgr:-

According to grapevine information I have received congratulations are in order. Father (Major) Eddie Sullivan also wrote about you being raised one notch higher in the rank of "consignior" - pardon the spelling if incorrect; it's been so long since I've seen a dictionary that my spelling is getting rusty. Leaving all kidding aside I offer you my congratulations and best wishes.

I am enclosing my monthly reports for January and February. The clipping enclosed explains where I have been all this while. We finished our campaign in New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies and now are in the Philippines. At present we are in North Luzon. We are now fighting side by side with the famous 32 Div. which is about tantamount as saying, "We are a darn good outfit." Besides doing a lot fighting the 33rd. made the headlines with this announcement; "33rd. Discovers one-half million in gold." Money the Japs looted from Philippine banks and hid. An artillery shell hit the hidden dump and one of the boys of my unit discovered it while fighting the Japs. "he lad just exclaimed, "Oh Boy! I hit the jackpot."

I also have a sad note to add, one of the former students of Loras and a great athlete and Captain of a team on the great Loras Ravens, Al Leary was killed in action. Sgt. Leary deserves a Silver Star and I think he will be awarded it, post mortem. I was with Al. a few hours before he went into action. He was at Mass and Communion. I said Mass that evening in one of the grand churches which was wrecked in this vicinity by bombs and shellfire. After the Mass the boys stood around the sanctuary of this wrecked church and Al was with them. The back of the Sanctuary was blown out and the body of church and roof were full of huge holes but the altar and the statues of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Antony, and St. Francis Xavier were untouched and unharmed.

Handwritten signature