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"My Rosary Beads" Poem and "My Crucifix" Poem

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MY ROSARY BEADS

A little pair of Rosary Beads,
As plain as plain can be,
But only God in Heaven knows
How dear they are to me.

I have them always with me
At every step I take,
At evening when I slumber
At morn when I awake.

In bright and cloudy weather,
In sunshine or in rain,
In happiness or sorrow,
In pleasure or in pain.

It helps me in my struggle.
It reproves me when in sin,
Its look of gentle patience
Rebukes the strife within.

In days of pain and anguish,
The greatest help I knew
Was to hold my Rosary Beads
Until I calmer grew.

So when the time approaches
When I will have to die,
I hope my little Rosary Beads
Will close beside me lie.

That the holy name of Jesus
May be the last I say,
And kissing my Rosary Beads,
My soul may pass away.

JEFFERIES & MANZ - PHILA. 25, PA.

MY CRUCIFIX

A little metal crucifix
As plain as it can be
But only God in heaven knows
How dear it is to me.

I have it always with me
With every step I take,
In evening when I slumber,
In morning when I awake.

In bright or cloudy weather
In sunshine or in rain
In happiness or in sorrow
In pleasure or in pain

It helps me in my struggles
It reproves me when I sin,
Its look of gentle patience
Rebukes the strife within.

In days of pain and anguish
The greatest help I knew
Was to hold the little crucifix
Until I calmer grew.

And looking at the figure
Which hung in patience there
I saw the dreadful torture
Which He with Love did bear.

Oh! His feet nailed together
His loving arms outstretched
And blood keeps dripping slowly
Down from his thornecrowned head.

How could I then murmur
Or bitterly complain
When Love for me induced Him
To undergo such pain?

So, when the time approaches
That I will have to die
I pray that little crucifix
Will close besides me lie.

O God, the Holy Name of Jesus,
May it be the last I say
And kissing that dear crucifix
My soul may pass away.

His father's and relatives address:

Alphonse Dutil
143 Bartlett St.
Lewiston, ME 04240

Written on the Anzio-
Nettuno beachhead 1944.

Pfc. Elisee A. Dutil
Regt. Hdqs. Co.
7th Inf. Regt.

KIA near Zweibrucken
around March 18, 1945