

1942

Auditorium Hotel
Houston, Texas
May 13, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well, they have been keeping us plenty busy ever since we got here. They examined us yesterday, & took most of the day. Today we took a test, and some injections.

I put in an application for a 10 day leave, don't know if I'll get that long a leave or not, but hope I can get a few days anyway. I don't believe we will be here very long. I surely hope they ship us some place close to home. They haven't told us what branch of service we are to get in. Guess they will let us know in a day or so.

They feed us plenty of good food. A fellow doesn't have to go without food here, as they have plenty of it.

All of the Schulenburg boys are still in the same company, but imagine they will separate us soon.

Well, they are calling us for supper now, so will have to close. I am sending my pants & shirt home by Express. They let us ship the packages free of charge. I will write you in a few days, and tell you more. Hope you are feeling alright. Tell Leon & Millie hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
June 7, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well how have you been feeling? Hope fine. I feel mighty good today. I have been laying around most of the day taking it easy.

I haven't gone to see the Dr. yet about my blood pressure, but I'll go one day this week. I don't believe it is very high now, as I feel good, & I have been watching my diet, of course I eat enough because I get a lot of exercise, & a fellow has to eat, but I try not to eat too much sweets & starchy food. They don't give us many sweets.

I got a letter from Sadie yesterday. I wrote her, & told her where I was, & I also got a letter from Sara. I wrote her too, as I wanted to find out where Bessie lives. You know she lives in Oklahoma City. It is not very far from here. She sent me her address, & told me to be sure & go to see her. Maybe some Saturday I'll go & come back Sunday. She said Walter was visiting Bessie now.

How are the cows & calves doing? I bet they really look pretty. Wish I could see them, & I imagine the corn is tall by now.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie today. She said she would have liked to see me before I left, but she couldn't make it. You know business is still dull in Weslaco. I am glad business is good at home. I imagine it should be pretty good now as the farmers are getting good prices for everything.

When are you going to sell the cattle? I don't believe it is a chance for me to come home now, as they won't let you off but for a few days, & that wouldn't do much good. They don't like to let us go during our training period. Why don't you get Joe W. truck & let Jim Slavik help you. I know he would be glad to do it, & he is a good man to have to help you pick the ones you want to sell, as he knows that cattle business pretty good.

How is Uncle Julius, Tell him hello for me. I'll send him a birthday card. I'll get it as soon as I go to town.

It has been raining here for two days, & it is nice & cool.

Has my kodak come in yet? Bill said that he was going to send it off for me. When it comes in send it & I'll need some bath towels, maybe three or four, & about 1/2 doz. Hdkfs, & maybe about 1/2 doz. of those tan lyle socks, if we don't have tan any other color will do & a few U. shirts & shorts.

You don't have to send those right away, but I will be needing them before long, as we dirty a lot of clothes.

We send our clothes out to the laundry every Friday & get it back Tuesday. You can send all the clothes you want, & they charge you \$1.50 a month. That is not bad as we can send our uniforms, too.

I think I'll get paid on the 10th of the month, as I signed a pay roll Thursday. If I have too much money left over from the \$21.00, I'll send part of it home. When the boys got paid off the other day, one of the boys owed the govt. \$1.50.

Well I am going to have to bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine.

How is Middie & Mike? Tell them hello for me.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
June 8, 1942

Dear Papa,

I got the package, & surely thank you for sending everything, as I really was in need of it. It takes a lot of clothes now, as it is so hot & dusty here.

This is our last week of basic training, and we are having tests this week, next Monday we are supposed to start school. Will be glad when we get started.

Got the letters from Millie & Ruth today & also the papers, I got a card Sunday from Tubby Klecker. I am going to have to start answering my correspondence, but they keep us so busy we don't have much spare time, & they turn the lights out at 9:30 now & I am out on the steps of the barracks writing this letter. We have to be in bed at 10:30 every night also Saturday nights. I guess they want us to get plenty of sleep.

Lux & I went over to the old fort Sunday afternoon for a vehicle. Its a very pretty place. They have a museum & you should see the pretty horses they have. I didn't know the army used than many, but they must use the for something.

Well it is about time for me to go to bed, as I imagine we have a full day ahead of tomorrow, & I need some sleep.

I was glad to hear that you are feeling good, hope you continue to feel good.
I also hear you are thinking about coming up here sometimes, well hope you do as I know you would enjoy the trip.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Give everybody my regards.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
June 14, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well how have you been feeling? Hope you have been feeling OK & taking care of yourself. I went to see the Doctor this morning, & asked him about my heart. He examined it & told me I didn't need any treatments. That made me feel rather good. I weighed Friday & have lost five lbs. Hope I can lose about

another ten lbs. Next Sunday I am going to try & get my eyes examined, they haven't been bothering anymore than usually do, but I think it is about time to have them examined. I got a notice yesterday that there was a package at the post office for me, but I haven't gotten the package yet as the post office was closed. I imagine it is from you. I'll be glad to get the things as I certainly need them now.

Yesterday & today the weather has been very cool, & it has certainly felt good, hope it stays this way for a while longer. They had a bad tornado at Oklahoma City, it is about 90 miles from here -- that is where Bessie lives.

Went to town last night for the first time since we have been here. It is a pretty nice place, but all you see is soldiers. They have four or five very nice U.S.O. clubs. One of them is exceptionally large, they have place to dance, lounge rooms, & place to write letters & they treat you very nice. Every thing is mighty high. It always is in these army towns. Saw Lux there & we walked around together, also saw I.J. at the U.S.O. club.

I got a letter from Uncle the other day. He said they are getting along fairly well. Said that Sylvia moved away from her Montrose Blvd. home. She leased it & bought a home in some other part of the city.

Well this is about all for this time as it is about time for dinner. I'll write you in a few days. Give everybody my regards.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. I got the kodak & films & will take some pictures this afternoon. I'll write you in a few days again & let you know how my other package came in. I just got Millie's letter & also notes from Ruth, Julia, Annie & Leon. Tell them I certainly appreciate hearing from them.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
June 18, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well I am sure you are ready to start on your trip to Oklahoma. Hope you have your route figured out. I am sure Mr. Little or Mr. Shell figured the route for you. Let me know about when you expect to be here & I'll try and get off. I am sure we will get off duty Sat. afternoon & of course we always have Sunday off & when relatives come they usually let you spend the night out.

We started School yesterday & I am sure I'll like it, but they really give you plenty of work. There is such a short time & then they have to double up on the work. We are supposed to have four weeks of school & four weeks of practical duty. It certainly has been hot here. Hope it rains. It was real cloudy yesterday, but no rain.

How did you come out with the cattle. I am sure you should have gotten a fair price for them. I am glad you decided to sell them, as it should improve the pasture.

I got a letter from Uncle Julius. Said he was proud of the birthday card, also got a letter from Mr. Seerden & card from Patsy.

It is about time to go to class. So had better close. I'll be seeing you sometimes this week end.

Tell Leon, Millie, & Ruth I got their letters & proud to get them.

Give everybody my regards.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
June 23, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well all I did today was lie around and wrote letters. I really got plenty of rest. I imagine it will be rather hard getting started again tomorrow.

We had a nice little rain with a little wind this morning & it surely cooled everything off.

I am going to see how many days I can get off on the week of the 4th of July. I am going to try I don't know if I can get it or not, but it won't hurt to try. If I can get three days maybe I can make it home. They told us when we got here they wouldn't allow any passes, but I thought since the 4th falls on a Sat. maybe I could ask about getting an extra day. I doubt if I'll be able to get any days off, since we will start school this week, & they hurry you through school so fast if you miss a day it means a lot.

I bet the cattle really look good now. I imagine the calves are ready for the market. How are the chickens, bet they are big.

Was glad to hear that you got some of the tires fixed. They should hold up good at slow speed. At least they should hold until you will be able to get some new ones, no telling when that will be -- hope soon.

Did that real estate co. send a check for the rent? I imagine they have by this time, as they told me they would try & send it at the first of the month.

Last week I got \$13.05 from the government. That was part of my wages for the time I have been in the army.

Well it is about time for breakfast, so had better bring this letter to a close. I started it last night, but couldn't finish it. We really had a cloud burst last night. Bet it rained four inches, & it is till raining.

Was glad to hear you are feeling fine, & hope you continue to feel the same.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
July 22, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well I started my second week of practical duty. After this week half of our training will be over. Gosh time is really flying by. Sat. thirty boys left our Battery going to Fort Sam, I would have really liked to be in the bunch, but it was the class before ours, so our class will be the next in line to leave. After you are here nine weeks they put you on the shipping order, but they will let you finish your training.

Rubin Knope came to see me yesterday, & that poor kid was really down in the dumps. He is supposed to be shipped out on the 28th of this month & they split the bunch up that he ran around with, & he is the only one in his bunch from home. He & Gabler used to be together all the time, & Gabler is leaving in a different outfit. They don't know where they are going. They don't tell them the name or location of the camp, they only give them the number, & of course that doesn't mean anything. I believe they will all go to the same camp, but they won't be together. The Mazoch & Smith boys are also leaving. Knope said his folks may come up & see him this week end.

I.J. & Lux came to see me yesterday. I.J.'s girl is here. I believe she is going to stay here several days. Lux just got out of the hospital last Tuesday. He is still having a little trouble with his operation. It won't heal up very fast. I hope he gets along alright, as that is a heck of thing to have trouble with. If he could lay off for two weeks, he could get the thing healed, but he has been drilling & hiking & that makes is hard.

How are the cattle doing? I imagine there is still plenty of grass in the pasture, as you have had quiet a bit of rain.

I got a letter from Uncle Julius last week. I thought he went to Denver. I also got a letter from Mr. Alexander & a card from Mr. Stokes, & Myke wrote me a letter too. I am going to be plenty busy answering my correspondence. I wrote Mr. Alexander yesterday.

Tuesday afternoon. I didn't get to finish this letter yesterday. As they brought in 150 new men yesterday & we had to check the clothing they got & last night we cleaned the barracks. We turned the hose on the whole thing from the ceiling to the floor only we got on our knees & scrubbed the H--- out of that floor, & we are going to have to do the same thing tonight. One of the boys has the measles & I imagine they want to kill all the germs.

Rubin Knope came by to see me last night & he asked the chaplin to get the Gabler boys to go with the same bunch that he is going with, so he feels better now. But he still doesn't know where he is going.

Well I am going to have to bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell Leon, Ruth, & Millie I got their letters & I'll write them as soon as I can.
Best regards to everybody.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
July 27, 1942

Dear Papa,

I don't have but a few minutes off, so I'll scribble you a few lines. I am on 24 hour guard duty. I went on duty at 2:30, had supper at 4:40 & started walking at 6:00 & walked until light, now I am off until midnight & I am going to have to try & get a little sleep. You really get tired walking, it's not very bad at night, but it gets plenty hot during the day.

I was supposed to go on a picnic this afternoon, & I couldn't go on account of being on guard. I sure hated it because I had my mouth all screwed up to go. Everybody here gets guard duty about 3 or four times & today was my day to get it.

We are supposed to go on a two day hike Tues. & Wed. I hope we get back in plenty of time to get ready to go to Texas night.

I haven't gotten the package yet. I imagine I'll get it tomorrow. I got Ruth's & Leon's letters today & I also got a letter from Millie yesterday. I got a letter from Uncle Julius & he said that Aunt Haysie was getting along fairly well. She still has her arm in a cast, & it will be several weeks before she will be able to use it.

I am going to have to bring this to a close. I'll write later in the week. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

USO
IDLE GOSSIP SINKS SHIPS

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
July 29, 1942

Dear Papa,

I received the package in fine shape, -- everything looked so nice I hated to break into it & start eating. Tell Leon I am really enjoying the bread & cheese. & don't believe he made that bread, because I don't believe he can make that good a bread. I don't know if you sent these cookies & other things for Texas night or not, but if you did it is just too bad, as we started eating them as soon as I opened the box. I figured that they would have too much, as people from all over Texas & several of the large companies have been sending all kinds of candies & cookies & we get hungry for cookies once in a while at the barracks, so now we will have a good supply on hand.

I think we will have a nice affair tonight. They will have plenty to eat & drink & they are going to give a lot of prizes away, & they are supposed to have plenty of girls, of course that will be the main thing.

I have a picture of our battery that I will send probably the first part of next week. I am on it, but you will probably have a little hard time finding me, as there so many faces. I am also sending some papers with the picture that I want you to keep for me.

I got a letter from Mr. Schwartz, he said he is feeling fine, but is not running around as he did. I also got a letter from Mr. Alexander, he said he would see you this week.

I saw Mr. & Mrs. Knope while they were here. I am sure they enjoyed the trip. Rubin left Tues. He came & told me goodbye. I haven't found out where they went. Stryk also came by to see me last Sat.

I am going to have to bring this to a close as I am going to the park. Tell everybody hello, & I'll let you know how we came out tonight.

Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Schulenburg, Texas
July 29, 1942

Dear Leslie,

Was very glad to hear from you some time ago as you was quite busy I did not answer so soon. Well Mike still drive you dad out to the farm, and I like a cow tail drag behind. We was out there to day and penned the little black cow and her calf. Very cute calf, but very wild and was awful hard to get in the pen, but Mike and Mr. Frank was on the horses and Rubin Adam and myself keep her from running in the bush. Well our little yellow cat has kittens up stairs but haven seen them yet. I put you a few jar of figs up yesterday wont put any more up as we will have lots of pears. I will put a few jars up also--hope you are doing alright in your school work and other work. Your dad seem to be feeling alright at this time only one time I think he eats to much supper and did not feel well be he was alright the next morning. I told him to let Leon no and send for me but he was feeling better by bed time. The solders are moving fast -going East - hope you will be station near home when they move you from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Well every body seem to be doing alright well we are having a good rain to day it has been very dry people are saving hay and fodder Mike and Jim help will get his fodder stack and put in the barn. Rex is alright also the other cats. We will have a large cat family all our Banters (?) are ok. We had the big white rooster for our dinner. Surly did enjoy him. we still have 7 on hand. Yet 4 Rooster and 3 pullets they are still in the yard. So by until you come home.

From the Cook -
Middie Lee

Mike send regard to you hoping to see you he is going to the farm as much as he can. Will and Sapha are still funny -

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
July 31, 1942

Dear Papa,

We are supposed to practice typing now, so I'll do double duty by writing to you a little note, & at the same time get a little practice in. We had a very nice time Wednesday night, they had a good program with Capt. Bill McGraw acting as master of ceremonies. He is a Texan from Dallas, he ran against Leo Daniels several years ago, so being a politician, you know he has plenty of B.S. & he really spread on, especially when he read the letter Leo Daniels sent, you know he has it in for him because he beat in the election. He also read the telegram that you sent, it made me feel good to have something from Schulenburg on the program. There was more than enough cookies candy & doughnuts for every one & they also gave cigarettes pop & shaving cream. I got a good supply of shaving cream, so I don't have to bother about running out now. After the program they had a good dance on the tennis courts. I stayed until 10:30 as we had to be back at camp at 11:30. I really felt tuff yesterday, that was the latest that I have stayed up since I have been here, & when you miss an hours sleep it really sets you back, but I made up for it last night.

Today is pay-day, & I am sending a money-order in this letter, I don't want to keep too much. You can send me some as I need it. I haven't taken any insurance out as yet, as I am figuring on taking out a policy just before I leave here. I heard this morning that we will have one more week of school, and one week of practical duty & two weeks of advanced work. I very much doubt if we will be here long enough to get the

advanced work, as they are starting to transfer fellows out of our section now, & they usually keep on taking a few each week.

I got a letter from Middie today, I thought it was pretty good, so I am enclosing it with this letter so you can read it. The other day, I got a letter from one of Frank Janacek's girls. She is working in Weimar now. They country girls are really keeping me posted. I also got a letter from Tubby Klecker yesterday. She said that Albert was going to be transferred. Last night as I was lying down resting in walks Knope, & Mazoch. I was really surprised to see them, as I thought they would be transferred a long ways from here, but they are only a short ways from where they were. I think they are rather lucky to stay at this camp, as it is a good camp, & they may be able to come home once in a while as they have completed their training & they shouldn't have a very hard time getting off.

I almost forgot to tell you, I got a card from Dave Shapiro & his wife. They saw in The Sticker that I was in the Army, so they sent me a card. I'll also enclose it in this letter so you can read it.

I am going to have to bring this to a close, as we are going to have to take a test. I have been doing good in my school work, I have an A average so far & hope I can keep it up.

Tell Ruth, Millie, & Leon that I got their letters, & surely was glad to hear from them. Tell them that I'll try & write them this week-end. & tell Middie that I got here letter, I'll write her as soon as I can. A person doesn't realize how crowded for time he is in until he gets in the Army. If we could only catch up on our correspondence, we would feel a lot better. Any one you talk to, says he never will catch up with his letter-writing, & you feel like you want to keep up with it as much as you possible can, so we can keep on getting letters, as that is something that we all look forward to-- getting letters & packages.

Well I had better close, as we have to get ready for class. Tell every body hello for me.

Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. I still have enough razor blades, so you won't have to bother about sending any. I have so many things, I don't know where I'll put everything. I may have to send some home. If I go to town tomorrow, I'll take the picture along & have it wrapped & send it to you.

Fort Sill , Oklahoma
August 12, 1942

Dear Papa,

We got back from our hike this morning about 11:00 o'clock, & we were really dragging it in. We left yesterday morning at 7:30. We didn't have to carry our packs along, -- they took them on trucks. We only carried our rifles & gas masks. We walked until 11:45 then rested & ate dinner. We had walked about 11 miles -- had a good dinner of baked ham, potatoes, corn, coffee, bread & butter. -- it was a good meal. We had a kitchen, radio car & a first-aid truck, so we were fixed up. After we got through with dinner, we started on our way, & walked 3 miles, & pitched tents, & got our camp fixed up. We laid around most of the afternoon -- we had an air raid. An airplane came over & bombed us with flour, -- we put on our gas masks & got under trees & brush to hide from the plane. On our way out we had another gas attack, but they used real tear gas, & if you don't have a mask on then you will be in a heck of a condition. We went to bed about nine o'clock, but didn't get to sleep much as the attackers were trying to attack us all during the night, & we would chase them, & we got one of their trucks.

We got up this morning at 4, broke camp, & walked for 3 miles, & then we had breakfast -- after breakfast we started on our long stretch which was about 12 miles & got back to the barracks at 11 o'clock. We had a real nice time although we were plenty tired. They gave us the afternoon off today to clean up our equipment. This was the first afternoon we had off since we have been here.

We have only two more days of school--we have our exams Friday.

Ruth & Millie have been asking me for about a month about where my sweater is. I have it salted down in a box in the hall closet. I believe it is safe from the moths.

It is about time to go to bed so will have to close. Hope you are taking care of yourself. Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon I got their letters today. I also got a letter from that Hermis girl today.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
August 15, 1942

Dear Papa,

We took our last final examination Friday afternoon, so that is a big thing off our mind. We feel a lot freer now since our school work is over. We will go back to practical duty this week, & next week which is the last week, we will have some advanced work, but I imagine most of the fellows will be leaving before that time.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie yesterday. She said that Uncle Julius enjoyed his visit with you & he really liked the farm.

How are the cattle doing now? Do we have any young calves?

We had a little sample of winter this morning, & it certainly felt good. Hope it stays with us a while.

We all got out our winter uniform & tried them on to see how they fit. Mine fits good. I may have to have my trousers taken up a bit, as I lost my stomach while I was on the hike. I got over the hike just fine. My legs were a little sore the next day, but I am ready to go on another hike now. We really had a nice time, but that was our last one.

A bunch of us are going over to the Main post this afternoon to see a ball game, so I'll finish this letter after I get back & I can tell you about it.

Well I saw the game & it was pretty. The Negroes played the whites, & there wasn't a fight or an argument during the whole game. I bet if that would have been the Schulenburg Negroes there would have been half or dozen running around with their necks cut up. They had a good clown at the game, Al Shackle; he comes from the big league ball teams & he really made the crowd laugh.

They are having several movie stars here this week, so we will have something else to go to. We feel free now since school is over, & don't have to stay in & study so we are going to take in all the entertainment that we possible can.

I haven't written to Levinson's yet, but will write to them this week.

Did the real estate co. send the rent for last month? I am sure they did, as they seem to be a reliable co., but anyway we have to keep up with them, because sometimes they can't collect the rent. You know how Mrs. Smith is. If they ever fall behind, let me know, & I'll write them.

I got Leon's, Millie's & Ruth's letters today & surely was glad to hear from them & tell them I'll write them this week.

I also got a card from Louis Silver saying that he had seen you & I got a card from Frank Stryk who was up here. He is now in Littlerock, Ark. in the tank division. I think he asked to get that division when he first got in the army.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking good care of yourself.

Lovingly,
Leslie

8th Training Regiment
Field Artillery Replacement Training Center
Fort Sill, Oklahoma
August 23, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well we are going into our last week of training this week. It seems like we have been here a year, & yet time has gone by fast.

I haven't heard anything about the job as yet. They don't tell you a thing until the last minute. There are quite a few other fellows in our section that have been offered jobs & they haven't found a thing out about them. I imagine we will be finding something out sometimes this week. When they get ready for you they give you time enough to pack your clothes & get going & sometimes the fellows stay in the Battery two or three weeks before they have orders to leave. If I happen to stay here, I won't stay in this Battery, as all the fellows working in the replacement center stay at the Headquarters Battery.

I haven't received the Sunday Post yet. They may have a mixup in the address, so you had better check into it. I was glad to hear that you subscribed for it, as it makes you feel good to see a home paper.

I went over to see Lux today but he had gone to a Catholic Picnic. I haven't seen I.J. since he has gotten back from home.

Tomorrow night our section will have the last "get-together" before we get split up. We will go up town & have supper & shoot a little bull, & go back to camp. Last night one of my friends & I went over to the service & had supper & went to the show. They a good leg show. You should have seen it. We go to the picture show almost every night now since school has turned out. They are 15¢ so a fellow can hardly resist missing a show at that price. The leg show was free. It is put on by the U.S. O., so you see what you donate your money for. They are plenty good -- I just hope that they keep them on, as they have good actors & dancers from Broadway & Hollywood.

Well this is about all for this time, will write you in a few days, & let you know how I stand with Uncle Sam.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Seattle, Washington
August 25, 1942

Mr. Lippman,

Just a few lines to say hello to a friend of mine & hope you all are O.K. & everybody is working hard. Just want to let you know that I am alright an still kicking. I received the card that you folks sent me & I want to say thanks to all. It has been sometimes since I have written you last so I made up my mind to write a few lines although I do not know much to write about. By the way, where & how is your son getting along. The last I heard he was in Oklahoma. I don't suppose he is still there & if he is he is mighty lucky.

I still receive the Stickers from home once in awhile, so I know what is going on at home and in Fayette County, have not received any for quite awhile & I sure do miss it, too. Guess all the young boys are about all gone from home by now if not they will be in a short while at the rate they are taking them. If you happen to see Mr. Ben Speckels tell him for me that I received his letter & that I will answer it just as soon as I can, maybe about three or four days after you receive this letter.

I wrote to Billy Solansky awhile back but so far have not received any answer. I wrote to him in Colorado I believe but my mother wrote that he is now in the State of Washington. I would like to write all the boys in the service from home but that is quite impossible for me at the time. Give my regards to the ones who sent the card & all the other folks there at home. Will be glad to hear from you any time.

Best of luck,
Elroy Skalka

For Victory Buy United States Defense Bonds and Stamps

August 27, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well I just got off of a twenty-four hour guard & I am plenty tired. When you loose out on a nights sleep, you really feel it, so I am going to sleep with the chickens tonight.

I was planning on going to town today & send you the picture I had taken of myself, but I didn't get off until 6:00. I am going to try & go this Fri. evening, I can't go tomorrow, as we have a parade tomorrow evening.

I got a letter from Sadie yesterday. She said that Ralph was feeling fair, but has his off days ever so often. The Dr. put him on a years rest, so if he can get his right amount of rest in, he should get along alright. Sadie said she is working now, but didn't say where she was working.

J.J. came over to see me Monday evening. He told me about his trip home & said that he had seen you. He made a petty fast trip.

I haven't heard anything more about what they are going to do with us, so I guess we have to hold our patience a while long. There are some fellows here that have competed their training three weeks ago & they are still waiting for orders.

I am going to have to finish this in the morning, as it is about time to hit the bed.

Well I feel a lot better now. I sent Mrs. Bezecny a check for my Insurance, so I imagine she should have it by now.

I am sending a few pictures, some of them were taken on the road march.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself.

Tell Ruth, Millie, & Leon I got their letter yesterday. Tell eveybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma

August 30, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well we have been taking it easy today. This morning we did our laundry, & this afternoon a bunch of us went to a ball game. They told us not to send any laundry out this week, because we may leave the Battery any time, so we have to be our own wash woman. Our barracks looks like a Chinese laundry with all the things hung in the windows & on the lawn.

Has Mrs. Bezecny been by to collect the Insurance. I sent her a check last Tues. so she should have it now. The realty co. is sending \$3 or \$3.50 back rent each month. That is the extra \$3.25 figures in.

You all surely are having a lot or rain around home. I bet it is ruining the cotton--that happens every year. I imagine Joe & Frankie won't do very well this year with their crop.

I imagine you heard that the country will have a number of meatless days during each month, so according to that meat must be scarce. Do we have many head in the pasture now. According to the papers they are bringing a fair price. Did you make very much feed this year. I bet hay & feed stuff is plenty high now & no doubt will be higher later on.

I wrote Mrs. Mayes a letter; thanking her for the box of cookies. I was sorry to hear that they got crushed since she went to that trouble.

I sent you two pictures of my "mug." You keep one & maybe you can send the other to Tonta Levinson, or any of the other folks you want to. I sent Aunt Haysie one, so don't send it to her.

I got a letter from Anton Stryk. He is at a camp near Littlerock, Ark. He said it is plenty "tuff", but he likes Littlerock. Next time you see his brother, or Dad tell them that I had a letter from him.

I still can't say a thing about what they are going to do with us. I think they like us so well they hate to send us away from the Battery. Just so they keep us here until Wed. night, because we are going to have a party up town. We were supposed to have it last week, but so many of us were on guard, but we don't have

anything to bother about this week. Tuesday is pay day, so I imagine everybody will celebrate. That is another reason we didn't have our party last week, because everybody's cash was a little low.

Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon, I got their letters today, I was glad to hear from them. Tell them hello. How is Uncle Julius? Tell him I asked about him. I owe him a letter & will write him one of these days.

Hope you are feeling fine. Will write during the week.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sill, Oklahoma
September 1, 1942

Dear Papa,

I received the box of pears & I certainly am enjoying them. I believe they taste better this year than they ever tasted. I have eaten so many, I feel like a pear.

We got our orders today that we would ship out from here Saturday. Where it will be we have no idea. They only gave us the number of the place where we will be transferred. We may stay here at Fort Sill & we may come back to Tex & we may go some place else. That is just as much as we know about it. There are seven of us Supply clerks that are going to the same place & we are glad of that because we have been together since we got to this camp & it makes it nice when we can go to a different place & stay together. You had better tell Ruth, Millie & Leon not to write me Friday, because I won't get it until a week later, as it will have to be forwarded to me & that takes quite a while.

I'll write you right away or I may phone you, it will all depend where I am at.

We are not doing much of anything this week, but acting like we are busy & killing a lot of time.

I guess you had better tell the Sticker office not to send the "Sticker" to me until I send my new address. They can send this weeks, but let them hold next weeks & tell Mr. Hilsher the same thing in regards to the Post.

I am sending an announcement I got from the Smrkovsky family. I imagine you had better give them a gift.

I had better close now, & I will let you know as soon as I possible can about where I will be located & you had better start preparing to pay me a little visit after I get situated.

Tell Millie Ruth & Leon hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp Clabourne
Alexandria, Louisiana

September 6, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well we made a rather long jump. We are in Alexandria, Louisiana now. We left Fort Sill yesterday afternoon at 2:30, had it very nice on the train traveling in the Pullman. We got here this morning at 9:00 o'clock & had breakfast uptown & are waiting for them to take us out to camp. The name of the camp is Camp Clabourne. I do not know my new address as yet, but will send it as soon as I possible can.

There are thirteen of us here from Fort Sill. I.J. is in the bunch. It seems like I.J. & I will be together throughout our army life. We were inducted at the same time, sent to the same training camp together & left & went this camp together. I don't know what kind of camp this is, but they say it is a nice place & we hope it is.

I know one thing it is a lot closer to home & the first chance I get I am go to come home for a week end, or maybe I can meet you in Houston on a Sunday, but first of all I am going to have to find out what my duties are. I don't know exactly how far this is from Houston. I would guess about two hundred or town hundred & fifty miles.

Well this is about all for this time will write more tomorrow.

Tell Millie Ruth & Leon hello. Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Leesville, Louisiana
September 12, 1942

Dear Papa,

Just a short note to let you know that am near Newton, Texas. I have been assigned to the 2nd Division with headquarters at San Antonio. The Division is out on maneuvers now & we are supposed to be in S.A. about the 20th of this month. We left Camp Claibourne, La. yesterday on the train at about 8 o'clock & got to the maneuvers yesterday afternoon & the biggest rain came you ever saw & every stitch of clothes we had got wet. We had to sleep in tents last night, but we have plenty of dry blankets that they gave us, so that isn't so bad & we get good food, but this is hell of a county especially around La. People here all go barefooted -- they don't know what shoes are. There are three of us from Fort Sill living close together so that makes is pretty nice. I saw "Chic" Steinman a few minutes ago as I was roaming through the woods. He is in the same Batallion that I am in & I also saw a fellow from West Point. I didn't know him, but he knew me.

I am just writing this on the run, as I am trying to dry my clothes in between showers, & that keeps us plenty busy, as it showers here every 15 minutes.

I'll try & write you later in the week probably by that time we will be near Beaumont or Houston. I won't be able to come home, as they don't grant leaves during maneuvers.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell Ruth, Millie, & Leon hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. I am putting a return address on the envelope, but I am not sure if we will be able to get mail at this address very long or not, as we are located in a different place everyday, but more than likely they will forward our mail to us.

(Deep in the heart of East Texas)
September 13, 1942

Dear Papa,

We are about fifteen miles from Beaumont, way out in the brush & what I mean it is plenty thick. We thought we had thick brush on the farm, but you should see the thicket around here. We are supposed to be here until next Fri. or Sat. then we will start to San Antonio. I don't have any idea about what time we will start, but they say we will be on the road two days. I hope we will stop in Schulenburg -- we will be traveling in a convoy * won't be able to make any stops other than for gas & I doubt if well stay.

I finally got all my clothes dry. I took them all out of the bags & hung them in the sun. I surely am glad because I hated to leave them in the bags wet. We have to bathe & wash our clothes in the creek. We are too far out in the sticks to get a chance to go into town, so we are really living in the rough, but it makes a fellow feel good to stay out in the open, but I wouldn't want much more of it. Most of the fellows have been

I got two issues of the Post today. They were both sent to Fort Sill. I never got the box of cookies Mrs. Reichman sent me. I can't understand where they were sent to. They probably are still in Louisiana.

I think I'll go to town this afternoon & go by A. B. Franks & see how they are getting along.

Tell Millie & Ruth I got their letters & was surely glad to hear from them & tell them & Leon hello & I'll write them, as soon as I can.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 6, 1942

Dear Papa,

Just a line to let you know that I arrived here OK. We stopped in Gonzales for lunch & got to S.A. at 2:30.

I phoned your Tonta & told her that I had been home & she asked for you & wanted to know when you were coming to S.A. I'll try & run over & see her in a few days. I rang Sara, but she wasn't at home.

I took a little walk around this post this evening & went up up to the hill, that is where all the store & places of business are located & as I was walking by one of the dry goods stores I glanced in & who should I see was Mr. Faniber, so I went in & talked to him for quite a while. He said had just started to work there, & he was going to turn in all his lines, as he couldn't do much traveling on account of the gas rationing.

Paul is on duty tonight, so I am staying with him. He surely enjoyed his visit with us, & we are going to try & come back pretty soon. It really made me feel good to be home a few days with you & get to see my friends.

Hope you are feeling fine & be sure & take care of your self. Tell Ruth, Millie, & Leon hello & surely was glad to see them.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 10, 1942

Dear Papa,

I got the box of persimmons this morning & are they good. Boy, I have really been eating them. Thanks a lot I had better quit eating them because I'll probably have to call the Dr.

I have been working at the battalion supply for the past two days & I like it just fine. That is where they handle the supplies & rations. It's about two or three hours of work a day, but of course we have to stay at the supply house all during the day.

Arthur Graff came over to see me last night & asked me if I wanted to go home this weekend but thought I had better wait until next week -- that is if I don't have to be on duty.

Paul & I were in the lobby of the Gunther Hotel the other night & saw Hilda & Mrs. Turner. I believe Hilda said she was buying goods.

I saw Henry Ollie's boy here at Camp this afternoon. He was getting ready to leave. I didn't know he was in the army. There are quite a few fellows here from around home.

I am going to try & go to a football game tonight, this is if we will be able to get tickets. I imagine there will be a crowd there.

Will have to close as it is about time to eat supper. Tell Millie, Ruth, & Leon hello & Paul sends his regards to everybody.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 12, 1942

Dear Papa,

I am still eating persimmons -- they are getting better each day. They are much sweeter now than they were when I received them.

I had my eyes examined this afternoon. They give you a pretty fair examination. It was about 2 o'clock when I got to the new hospital where they gave me one examination, & then they sent me to the old hospital for another examination. They will furnish me with the frames too, -- but they will be silver -- they look like tin, but they are the only kind the army furnishes.

Yesterday morning I went to see your "Tanta." She was so glad to see me. I had to stay for a kosher dinner. I left at 1:30 because Paul & I wanted to go over to Brekenridge Park. We stayed there until about 7 o'clock, then had a Mexican supper & went to the show. I saw Alfred Flocke in the place where we ate & also saw Otto Leck. He has been in the army for quite a few years. Think he has been stationed in S.A. the whole time.

I phoned Sara last Friday. She is still down in the dumps. You know why I am sure. She has a couple living with her now & she expects Bessie to come home soon, as her husband will have to go into service.

Will have to bring this to a close as there is very little news now. Hope you are feeling fine & taking good care of yourself.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. If I am not on duty this weekend I'll come home. I'll let you know later in the week.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 18, 1942

Dear Papa,

I received the box of eats & am certainly enjoying them. Thank Millie & Leon for the goodies they sent. Those little eats come in handy when I get hungry between meals.

Surely wanted to come home this week end, but had to work yesterday afternoon. I started on the early bus, but it started in pouring down rain. It looked like we were going to have a flood, but it has let up & it looks like it will start pouring again as it is awfully cloudy. I know you are glad that all the feed is put up. That was a big job I know. Well we should have plenty of feed this year, & with the corn you have in the shed nothing should go hungry around the place.

Well we heard that we are going to move from Fort Sam up to Wisconsin which will be the permanent station for the second division. That means the whole outfit that passed through here the first of the month will move up there. They are going to make a medical camp out of Fort Sam so that means this Division has to go to a new home. It is going to be an awfully cold place, as they say it really snows up there. It isn't very far from Chicago. I kinda think the Division will stay up there a while & then come back to Texas. I have heard quite a few fellows say that & I think they are about right. They told us they were going to let us have furloughs, but I don't know when they will start. I am going to try & come home again this next week end, at least I am going to try. Things change so fast in the army now no one knows what the scare is. They are going to take in a million one hundred thousand men in the army between now & the first of the year, so you can imagine how things are running in this camp. We are taking in 128 new men in our battalion in about

two weeks, most all of them are World War veterans & around forty years old they are too old for foreign service, but they have plenty of experience & will use them to train recruits & when they start getting these 18 & 19 year old boys in they will need plenty of fellows to train them.

I went by that fellows home that we were speaking about, but he wasn't there & I rang him yesterday both morning & afternoon but no one answered so imagine they must be away for the week end. I am going to ring them again tomorrow.

Well this is about all for this time so had better bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell Ruth, Millie, & Leon hello.

I'll write again in a few days & can probably give you more information.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 21, 1942

Dear Papa,

We Just got in from the show, so will write you a short note before I go to bed.

I am not going to make any promises about coming home this week like I did last week & not be able to come. Just don't look for me until you see me because I don't know exactly when we will get off, but I'll come if I'll only be able to stay long enough to eat dinner. (I am sure I can stay longer than that.)

We went to the Milam Cafeteria Sunday evening for supper & saw Sara down there & also saw the thread salesman & his wife & little daughter. They invited me to their home -- they are very nice people. We had a good meal at the Milam fried chicken (of course not as good as we get at home, but you know they put on the dog for you with music & pretty dishes & pretty girls to look at. We ate at the Gunter Fri. night after the show had a fish supper & wine for an appetizer. Ruth is right about my not having as much money in my pockets now. These ritzy places don't mind charging but they have to because food is high & hard to get some things.

Sadie & Teddy sent me the nicest box of put up cookies, cheese crackers, small jars of jellies & cheese. It was sent from Levy Bros. I really hated to break into it, because it was put up so pretty.

Well it is about time to go to bed, so had better bring this to a close. Tell Millie, Ruth, & Leon hello & I was surely glad to get their letters.

Hope you are feeling fine, & hope to be home this week end.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 27, 1942

Dear Papa,

I got back safe & sound last night, but talk about a crowded bus, they really had the people on that bus. I believe they had enough to fill another bus & every stop we made, there were always a few more to get on.

Well, I certainly enjoyed my short visit & hope to be back again soon. I didn't eat very much today because I ate so much Sunday & I still feel full. Everything surely tasted good.

It was really cold this morning. When I went to bed last night it was hot & all I had was a blanket & a sheet & didn't get any extra cover because I didn't think it would get that cold & when I woke that old norther was blowing like it meant business. I already have my extra cover on the bed now. The heat has been on all day & it felt real good.

Paul got sick this afternoon & had to go to bed. He had a bad cold, I imagine he is getting the flu. I went down the drugstore & got him some medicine, but I think they will take him to the hospital where they can take care of him better. They have good looking nurses there & when they take the fellows there, they hate to get well.

As I was going to the drugstore this evening, I stopped in to see Mr. Fancher, but they said he won't be in until Saturday. I bought me one of those caps like we were talking about yesterday. Mr. Goldstein sold it to me, he is the leading Irish merchant on the hill.

Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon I got their letters today. They almost got here before I did. I guess because they were mailed in Engle. The bus even stopped in Engle yesterday & took on a passenger.

Hope you are feeling fine & I'll write you later in the week.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 30, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well how is everything? Things here are running along about the same as usual. We are having a little summer weather now, but I imagine it will change in a few days as it has been exceptionally warm.

They took Paul to the hospital Tuesday & he was pretty sick. I went to see him Tuesday evening & he was feeling awfully bad, but he was feeling much better yesterday when I went to see him. He was supposed to come back to the barracks today, but I haven't seen him yet. I imagine he will be back tonight.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie today. She said they visited in Brownsville Sunday & she said she hadn't heard from the Houston folks in quite a while.

I won't be able to come home this week end as we are going to have some work to do. Thought maybe I could come home & help fix fence but first Hitler & the Japs will have to be whipped. Then we can do as we please.

There isn't a thing to write for news, so will have to close.

Hope you are feeling fine, & tell Millie, Ruth & Leon hello & also tell Millie & Ruth I got their letters today & certainly glad to hear from them.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
November 2, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well how is everything? It has been hot as a firecracker here. Hope it cools off soon, because the wool clothes are about to burn me up.

I didn't have to work yesterday after all. Most of the fellows did, but I was fortunate enough not to. I couldn't of come home this week end if I would have known I wouldn't have to work, as they weren't issuing week end passes. They are talking about giving us furloughs so it is at all possible I'm going to try & get one as soon as I can.

I got my glasses today & they feel very good. I believe they gave me a pretty good fit. While I was at the hospital getting my glasses, I went by to see "Sonny." He is still cutting meat. He said he wanted to come home Sun., but couldn't get off. I saw Mr. Fancher this afternoon & he said he had seen you last week. He invited me out to his home, so I'll have to go when I get a chance.

here since July. They get so used to it, it doesn't bother them at all, but they all will be glad to get back to S.A.

I wish you would tell Mack to send me last weeks "Sticker." I am sure it will get here before we leave, as it shouldn't take over a day & a half to get mail from home.

Well there isn't much news out here & don't know a thing new, so will have to close. Hope you are feeling fine.

Tell Ruth, Millie & Leon hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
September 23, 1942

Dear Papa,

We passed through Schulenburg this morning at eleven o'clock & we parked along the side of the road, a little ways passed the Navidad & had lunch. Being so close to the farm, I would have liked to run over & see the cattle. We didn't leave until 10:30 this morning, so I could have stayed in that good old bed a little longer if I had known that. I don't believe I ever appreciated a bed as much as I did last night. After sleeping out on that hard ground a fellow can really enjoy living in civilization again.

We have a very nice place to stay. They are large brick barracks. & they have reading rooms, a radio & a pool table. We are about two blocks from the show & store. I went to the show tonight & was looking around seeing if I could find anyone I know & before I turned my head half way around I spotted Carlton Knesek & Arthur Graff. I spoke to them for a few minutes. They don't stay very far from where I stay. They said "Sonny" was still here. If I have any time off, I'll try & look him up.

Well it is almost eleven o'clock & I had better hit the hay. I just wanted to let you know that we got here OK & I surely was glad to spend the night with you last night, only wish I could have stayed longer. I'll let you know in a day or so if I'll be able to come home this week end.

Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon hello & tell Ruth I surely was sorry that I didn't get to see her last night. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself.

Love,
Leslie

P.S. I saw Middie Lee sitting in the front yard as we passed. I didn't call the folks because there was a line a block long waiting to make phone calls, but I'll call them tomorrow.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
October 1, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well how is everything coming along? Did you get over your week end trip OK? I know you were tired after losing all that sleep, but I surely was glad you got to come up & you will have to do that soon again.

We have a holiday today. It is the second anniversary of the Service Battery & they are going to have a chicken dinner for us & let us have the day off.

We are supposed to have two days off next week. & if we do I am going to try & come home. Of course that isn't definite, so don't look for me, until I get there.

Today was pay day, so we had the afternoon off. Paul & I came to town & went to a show & had supper at the Milam. We are at the U.S.O. now.

I went out to see your Tanta Levinson yesterday. She wasn't feeling very well. Rose was there, & she took me over to her house. They have a new home, its very pretty. I had dinner with them & stayed until about 7 o'clock then we went to the U.S.O. They were having a carnival there. They had gefilte fish & all kinds of kosher ponums.

Well this will be about all for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of your self.

Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon I got their letters & was glad to hear from them. Tell them I'll write them as soon as I can think up a little news.

I'll let you know about my furlough as soon as I can find out about it.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Paul said to tell everybody hello. He got out of the hospital Friday & is feeling alright now.

So you are getting rid of Bill & Sophie. Well I certainly am glad. That is a good riddance & hope you will have better luck with the other renter that you get.

I sent a check to Houston for the tax.

November 2, 1942

Dear Mr. Lippman,

Please forgive me for not answering your nice card before this. You know how easy it is for a person to put off writing. I do wish to thank you for the lovely week end I had at your place and to thank you for your hospitality extended to me.

Its hard to express one's feelings in a note, but I do want to say it gives a person a good warm feeling to meet folks like you.

Thanks again for the card. Tell all the folks hello for me.

Sincerely,
Paul

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
November 5, 1942

Dear Papa,

Just a few lines to let you know everything is hunky dorry. I put in for a furlough last week & I should get it next week. It won't be a very long one, as they want to give them to all the fellows that live in & around Texas & to do that they are cutting them short. The longer distance you live the longer furlough you get, as they figure the traveling time. Whatever I get, I'll appreciate it. I wish I could get two weeks, but wish in one hand & get something else in the other. You know how it goes.

I phoned Mr. Shell this afternoon & he asked me to come over to his office, so I went over for a while & talked to him. He said he may be in the army by the first of the year. I also met his wife. She is very nice. They invited me out to their home this coming Sun, but I am supposed to be on guard this Sun. I went by to see Mr. Fancher & he wants me to come out to his home. I am going to have to take a week off & fill all my social obligations.

We were in J. C. Penneys looking around & I saw some people from home. I don't know their name, but the lady was a Hrncir before she married. They are related to Sylvins' wife. They work at the cooky co. that Sylvin works.

How is the Mexican coming along on the farm? I imagine he will do pretty well, as they make good workers, that is if they don't have a car & if he has one, it won't do him much good with all the rationing going on.

I am going to have to bring this to a close. I hope to be home sometimes next week. I'll let you know as soon as I hear anything.

Tell Ruth, Millie, & Leon that I received their welcomed letters today & I was going to write them tonight, but one of the fellows came by & asked Paul & I to go to town with him, but I am going to stay in tomorrow night & write them. I really feel ashamed of myself for not writing, but we have to try & go as much as we possible can, as the camp we are going to is about 15 miles from a town & the town is only about 10 to 15 thousand population, & they say it snows so much sometimes the roads are blocked. So when we get up there, we will have a chance to really write to all our friends & relations. I'm going to write so many letters you all will get tired of opening them up. (That sounds like B.S. doesn't it?)

Tell everybody hello & I hope to see you in a few days.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
November 24, 1942

Dear Papa,

It is just about time for the lights so I will have to make this a short note.

We got here this evening about 6 o'clock. We were only ten hours late. We lost a lot of time in Chicago. It took us about six hours to get away from there. We have plenty of time, so it didn't make a bit of difference how much time we lost.

We left S.A. Saturday at 4 o'clock P.M. & went to Flatonia & turned North on the Austin line. We got to Texarkana at noon Sunday & traveled through Arkansas up until Monday morning then went into Illinois. Illinois is a pretty state. They really have the nicest farms I have ever seen. It is the best agriculture country in the U.S. & you should see the dairies & milk cows up here in Wisconsin. You remember this is where the carnation bull came from. Most of the cattle here are black & white Holstein. They really are fixed up & the pastures look like lawns. They really keep their farms up nice, but I imagine it takes plenty of work. There isn't much to Arkansas--they have a lot of saw mills & most of the country is timber. We also went through part of Missouri, but we went through at night & didn't get to see any of it.

We were on a pullman & they also had the kitchen along so we had hot meals & we slept in berths so we traveled like ritzy folks.

I haven't seen any of the camp yet as it was dark when we got here yesterday evening. We are in new barracks & have new cots & equipment.

It is about time for the lights to go out. Will write you another letter tomorrow.

Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon hello & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
November 25, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well I have seen the place in the day time & it doesn't look bad at all. All the buildings are new. They are built of this plastic wood & they should be good & warm. They had better be, because it gets cold as H... here. I expected it to be freezing here, But it isn't much colder here than it was in San Antonio

Saturday when we left. Just before we got on the train, a cold norther & rain blew up., & I think that helped us a lot, as we didn't feel the cold as much when we got here. Our barracks are heated with steam, & they use coal for fuel. It really puts out a good heat. Much better than gas. They say gas doesn't give enough heat, so they don't use it at all in this part of the country.

The air here feels like it does at Kerrville. You really feel like kicking up your heels in the morning, but when it starts snowing & freezing, I bet we will feel like staying in the bed. It starts getting dark here about five o'clock in the evening. The days are awfully short, that should cut our working hours down a little more.

The camp is located about six miles from a town of about five thousand population, so I am sure it will be overrun with soldiers. We are about 300 miles from Chicago & around 200 miles from Milwaukee. We are not allowed to leave camp now. When it gets real cold I don't imagine we will feel like going any place when the thermometer starts dropping below zero.

I started writing this letter this morning but didn't get a chance to finish it as we had to unpack something at the supply room.

You should see snowing now. It started at about seven & everything is white now. It really is pretty, but I bet it will colder than heck in the morning.. I am going to put on all the clothes I possible can, so it shouldn't be so bad.

The mail man just gave me the letters that Millie, Ruth & Leon wrote & surely was glad to get them. Yes I wish we could have stayed in S.A. w while longer. In fact I would have liked to stay there for the duration, but when Uncle Sam needs you someplace else there is nothing to do but go. Any way I am getting to see a lot of county that I probably would have never seen.

We are not going to celebrate Thanksgiving tomorrow & believe we will have turkey Sunday. They are going to give us a dance Sunday & I believe they are going to have one Friday night. Our Battery commander told us to be careful when we are around these girls around here because they are all corn fed & when they swing at you they really mean to hit you & they don't Jitter bug either. I was glad to hear that because I can't do that either.

That old mean steer brought a pretty good price. It was worth that to get rid of him. I'm surely glad we got rid of the cattle when we did, because now since the cold weather set in they would have lost in weight.

It is about time to get to bed, so will have to bring this to a close.

Tell Ruth, Millie, & Leon hello. Wish all of you could be up here with me to throw snow balls.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
November 28, 1942

Dear Papa,

How is everything deep in the heart of Texas? Everything here out doors is a blanket of white, & it really is pretty, but plenty cold. The past two days have been very quiet with no wind blowing, & the sun shines here every day, but it doesn't melt that old snow at all. I went over to the store last night, & by the time I got there, my overcoat was solid white across the shoulders, & I only had to walk about three blocks. It really seems strange to see al this snow because we people from the south very seldom see that much, & then have it last that long with the sun shining all day long. It must be an awfully cold sun up in this part of the world. They say it is very mild weather up here for this time of the year, so I am anxious to see how the real winter weather is. But it is not near as bad as I thought it would be, since I have never been in any real cold climates.

I got Millie's, Ruth's, and Leon's letters to day, & tell them I surely was glad to hear from them, & I'll write them as soon as I get settled down. We have been working a little later every evening over at the supply house, & when we get off it is time to eat supper, & it doesn't take very long for me to take a shower & get in that warm bed. I really have been sleeping good up here. Every body says they sleep better here than

they did in San Antonio. I think one of the reasons is that the town is about twenty five miles, & you think twice before you get out in the weather, & go to town. They say it is a pretty nice, town about the size of Waco, so it should be pretty nice.

Did I tell you that I got a letter from Ralph? I got it while I was still in S.A. He said Sadie was working, & by the time she got off of work, & got home & fixed supper she was too tired to write, so he was doing the correspondence. He said he was feeling much better, & that his heart was improved just a lot since he has been staying at home & resting.

I saw Paul for the first time last night since we got here. We didn't come on the same train, & he has been staying in pretty close too. He is from cold country too, but he likes warmer weather much better. I think we will be tuff to night & go see a show. It's not very bad after you get out side, but is just the idea of getting out of a warm building.

How is the new renter doing out at the farm? I imagine he has all of the brush cleared away between the house & the dip. That surely will make a good pasture, & it makes it much better that you can see the road from the house. I guess the next thing on the program will be to get the house painted, but I imagine it could wait until the war is over, since it has been that away for so many years. Paints & materials of that type are so hard to get now too.

How is Middie & Mike? Tell them hello for me, & also tell Uncle Julius hello.

Well I can't think of another thing to write about with the exception of how many Nazis are getting killed, & the rest of them backing up, & I know you know all about that. So we won't go into that this time.

Tell Ruth, Millie & Leon hello & am really glad to get their letters. The further away from home you are the more welcomed the letters are, tell Mack, or Charlie my new address if you haven't done so.

It is not necessary to put the (A.P.O.#2) on my letter. Someone thought it was supposed to be on, but is not.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking good care of yourself.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
December 1, 1942

Dear Papa,

Hope you have gotten my letters by this time. I wrote Tuesday night, but the mail wasn't taken up until Wednesday, so I am almost sure you got it Saturday. It takes three days to get the letters from home, & if you send them Air Mail, I get them in two days. I think that is pretty fair service for that distance.

We had our Thanksgiving dinner Sunday, & it was real nice, & we all had a pretty nice time. We had the same menu that they had published in the Sticker several weeks ago, only we had cider to drink, it didn't have any kick though. We also had cigars, cigarette, candy & nuts. That wasn't bad at all for an Army meal. There were four turkeys left over, so we are going to have another turkey dinner today. Our meals have been better here than they were in S.A. We get better meats & vegetables & I have never tasted any better milk than we have been getting. This is the country where the contented cows originated, Schulenburg is the place where the contented Bull landed. I had better not say any More.

I was surprised to hear that Frankie is classed as A1. Can't you let him work part of the field on the Buchek farm, & maybe get enough points to put him in another class... It is strange that they take these farmers, as they say there is a shortage of food, & they will need more food as this war goes on, & even after the war is over they will need plenty of everything for these foreign countries as well as over here.

Are you going to Shirley Ray's wedding? I hope you go, as they will expect you, & I know they will have a nice affair. Your Tanta is anxious to see you too, so you had better go.

Well there is not much of any thing else to write, so will have to bring this to a close for this time. Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon hello, & I got their letters yesterday. Hope you are feeling fine, & I wouldn't worry about the gas ration, as I believe you will be able to get a few extra gallons for going out to the farm. You will just have to go out there every other day, or three times a week instead of every day. As Bob about that

special application for farm vehicles. I think he should be able to do something for you. Tell him to let you have a little of that gas he has stored away in his office. I bet he is really smoking cigars now since he has that job.

Will write again in a few days.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
December 6, 1942

Dear Papa,

I just finished eating dinner, had baked roast, potatoes, peas, greens, soup & coffee, pretty good dinner, so now will scribble you a few lines. We certainly are having a pretty day -- the sun is shining, & it has warmed up quiet a bit. It snowed quiet a lot this morning, but it cleared up & I hope it stays this away as long as there is now wind blowing it is not very cold, but the thermometer was down to 4 below zero. That sounds awfully cold, but it is not as bad as it sounds.

I got off of work yesterday afternoon at 3:30, so I went over to the barracks; cleaned up & dressed & went to town; Sparta it's about 6000 population, its about 6 or 8 miles from camp. Of course its awfully crowded with so many soldiers being at this camp. They say there are around 65,000 here now, so you can imagine how the town is over run with soldiers. I met 3 other fellows up town from the 38th. So we went up to the U.S.O. club and asked about rooms, so they introduced us to the Methodists ministers wife, & she had tow rooms to rent, so she called her son & he came down in their car & took us to their home -- they have a very nice place & they really treated us nice. We had two separate rooms with twin beds. We got in fairly early, as there was nothing much doing in town, & they were still up & they let us listen to their radio & we talked until around midnight. They have two sons in the army, & the third one will be called soon, & they also have a daughter in Washington working for the O.P.A.

I got up this morning at 8:15 & went up town & had breakfast & caught the bus to camp. I would have stayed until this evening, but I was supposed to go on guard at 11:30 this morning. The people are all very friendly, just like they are in most small towns, & they try & be as nice to the soldiers as they possible can. Next week I may go the LaCross, that is a town of about 50 or 60 thousand, so it must be a fairly nice place.

Paul went on his furlough Friday. He got seven days off, & he surely was anxious to get home. Its been eight months since he was inducted, so you can't blame him for wanting to go home. I believe he lives around 500 miles from here. I got a card from one of my friends at Camp Hood. We were in the same section together at Fort Sill. He said he had just gotten back from his furlough -- he lives in Arkansas.

I'm still working in the Battalion Supply. We have ben doing most of our work in the afternoon, & several nights last week we had to go back after supper & work, as it takes a little longer here to get our rations from the quarter master. They are not organized here like they were at Fort Sam. We are getting in a lot of Arctic clothing for the ski troops. They are going to send around sixty fellows from this battalion to Michigan to learn to skate & ski on the ice & you should see the equipment they have to have. White trousers & coats, silk sleeping bags with duck down in the lining -- these bags cost \$34.00 each. I really would like to have one, don't know what I would do with it, but they really are pretty. They are made of silk, because silk holds the body heat so well. These fellows are going to have to sleep out in the snow, so it takes something to hold the heat.

Well I am gong to have to bring this to a close now. Tell Millie, Ruth, & Leon I received their letter yesterday & glad to hear from them.

I am glad to hear that you will be able to get enough gas, but be careful, as you know how some people are. If they see you buying gas; what they thing is too regular, they may investigate, so try and skip around in buying gas, & don't buy it from one station too regular.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
December 10, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well how is everything in Schulenburg. I imagine it is a little cool now, at least it is about time for little winter weather down that away. Everytime we start talking about how cold it is here we say I bet if we were at home we would be running around in our shirt sleeves, & here we put on enough clothes to sink a ship. I got a pair of arties the other day, size 13 & they look like submarines. There's enough rubber in them to make an automobile tire, but they sure keep my feet warm. We got some 3/4 length fur coats in the other day. The kind they wear in Russia. The fellows that are going on the ski troop are going to use them. I'm going to have my picture taken with one on. I'll look like the mad Russian.

That Hermis boy who was in the store when I was at home lives across the street from me. I saw him for the first time the other day. He said he is a fireman. He had been working at nights & now he is on the day shift.

After dinner.

Just received the letter from Millie, Ruth, & Leon & surely glad to get them. I imagine you are busy now since it is so close to Xmas. I don't know if we will get a holiday Xmas day or not. The papers stated last month that the army wasn't going to observe Thanksgiving or Xmas, but I imagine we will get part of the day off Xmas anyway. We will probably have an extra good dinner, & we won't be able to work on a full stomach.

I got last weeks Sticker. If you subscribe for the Sundays Houston Post just subscribe by the month. I believe that's the way you did while I was at Fort Sill.

I got a letter from Buddy the other day. He is in Georgia in the air forces. He is doing radio work & likes it fine.

After supper. It is taking me the whole day to write this letter. I have quiet a few letters to write, but we don't have much time as the lights go out at 9 o'clock. We can go over to the day room but its to cold to go outdoors because I take a shower after supper & I get on my bunk & I really hate to leave it as it just feels too good.

Well this isn't much of a letter but will have to bring it to a close as there isn't a thing going on around here. There are a lot of fellows on furlough now & most of them that are left are getting ready to go up to Michigan on the ski troop, so there won't be but very few of us left here.

Tell everybody hello for me & hope you are feeling OK.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy Wisconsin
December 16, 1942

Dear Papa,

I meant to write you last night but when I came in from supper I lied down on the bed & went to sleep & when I woke up it was time for the lights to go out.

I spent the week end in LaCross. I left here at 8:30 on the bus; it's a little over 30 miles & took about hour & a half to get there. It's awfully hard to catch a bus here on account of the fellows all trying to go at the same time & you really have to do some pushing to get on. I got to town too late to get to go through the stores. They were all closed & everything was closed on Sunday too, with the exception of the liquor store, they even sell liquor here on Sundays; both by the drink & in bottles. They have a large U.S.O.

club there & they had a dance Sat. night; it was real nice. There is a river near the edge of the city limits, so I walked down to see it, & it was covered with a solid layer of ice. It was really a pretty sight. I imagine by next month the lakes & rivers will have ice thick enough to skate on. They say they drive their automobiles out on the lake. I don't believe I'd want any part of that.

I got the letters today from Millie, Ruth, & Leon, also got the Sticker & the Post. My package came in; it is still at the Express office. They sent me a card to come after it, so I'll have to get tomorrow. Surely anxious to see what all is in it. I won't open it until Xmas (maybe). It will be hard to keep from opening it.

Was glad to hear that they won't take Frankie. They are going to start taking the 18 & 19 year old boys & they are really going to have a bunch of them in these camps. I believe they are going to build quiet a few new camps.

Well this is about all for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself.

Tell everybody hello.

I'll get my package tomorrow & let you know how everything is.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
December 19, 1942

Dear Papa,

I got my Xmas package & have already opened it. I just couldn't wait until Xmas to open it. The scarf & glove set is surely nice. I really needed a scarf to wear around my neck & I also needed another pair of wool gloves. The pair that was issued to me is starting to wear out, so the pair you sent came at just the right time, & thanks a lot.

I am not going any place this week end. Think I'll stay in. It is snowing now & it seems almost too bad to be out in it.

Paul came back yesterday. He had a nice visit at home but the time just went by too fast. Those furloughs are always that away. There are quiet a few fellows that live in this part of the U.S. getting their furloughs. The supply Sgt. who works at the same place where I work took his furlough today. He went to San Antonio to see his wife & little girl. He hasn't had a furlough in four years so he was entitled to one, & he has only been in the army twelve years.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie yesterday. She said they were feeling fine. Their Xmas business was fair, but they were having a hard time getting goods.

I surely was glad to hear that you went to S. A. to the wedding. Know you had a nice time. How is Sara? The last time I saw her she looked awfully bad. I haven't heard from her since I have been up here.

You will have to go to Houston for Xmas as you will have several days off & you would have a chance to visit all the folks. I wrote Uncle a letter the other day. I had been owing him a letter for quiet a while so though had better write him to let him know where I am.

Well this is about all for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of your self & thanks for the nice Xmas gift.

Tell Ruth, Millie & Leon hello & I'll write them tomorrow & thank them for the nice gifts they sent. All I need now is a Xmas tree to put my gifts under. They put a piano in our day room yesterday, so I imagine we will sing Xmas carols. Can you imagine a bunch of goons singing carols. The officers should bring up part of their liquor & we would really celebrate.

Will write more later. Hope you decide to go to Houston for Xmas, as know you would have a nice time.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P. S. am sending this A.M. so you will have it before you go to Houston, that is if you decide to go.

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
December 22, 1942

Dear Papa,

I got Millie's, Ruth's & Leon's letters today; the ones that were mailed on the 17th. It surely takes a long time to get a letter now; that's the reason I sent the last letter air mail. So much mail is going through now, I guess we are luck to get it as fast as we are.

Am glad you went to S. A. for the wedding, as I know they were expecting you. Hope you will go to Houston for the holidays. I guess you will have to select a gift for Meyer Rhonstrom if you haven't already.

I wrote a letter to the Real Estate Co. in regards to the putting an extension on the garage & the other repairs. I asked them to make an estimate on the job & let me know what it would be. I also wrote Mrs. Smith & told her I was going to have the garage fixed, but I didn't think we could get a hot water heater now as things like that are awfully hard to get.

I got a letter today from Alex Alexander's daughter. I wrote Mr. Alexander last week & he is working in a store now before Xmas & she is doing her dad's correspondence. I also got a Xmas card from Tubby & of course I got "Patsey's" card. I'm going to have to write him a letter.

You surely make a good fire watcher to go to sleep on the job. We had a practice fire call right after lunch today & three or four of us were doing our daily duties & didn't pay any attention to the call & just kept on sitting & everyone else was out of the building. It was a good thing it was only a practice drill other wise we would have been S.O.L.

Well I haven't gotten any more news, so well have to close.

Hope you have a nice trip to Houston.

Tell Millie, Ruth, & Leon hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
December 26, 1942

Dear Papa,

Well it is raining & the ice on the walks is about 5 or 6 inches thick & you can hardly walk, so I'm staying in tonight, & write a couple of letters. There was so much ice on the highway this morning they had to stop running the buses, & you can hardly walk on that ice. We look like ducks trying to get about outdoors.

We had a pretty nice Xmas, had a turkey dinner with all the trimmings & in the afternoon we took some pictures & went to the show in the evening. Didn't feel like going to town as it too crowded. I believe everybody & his dog went to town. Oh yes. Charlie Winkler came to see me Xmas. I saw a soldier walk into the barracks & I didn't pay much attention to who it was & I looked the second time & it was old Charlie. He came here from Camp Hood about two weeks ago. I hadn't seen him in a long time, & he surely looks good. He is the first one I have seen from home since I've been here.

I got a box of cakes (kindluchs) from Mrs. Reischman & they really are delicious. You know how good she can make them. I got a letter from Mrs. Rhonstrom from Chicago, & she wants me to come to see her if I every come to Chicago, & she said Meyer Married in Nov. & is in the army.

Day before yesterday I got nine Xmas cards. & yesterday I got ten. I have really been hitting the Jackpot. Got a card from the Fire Dept. with a dollar bill in it. I thought that was cute & thoughtful of them to remember the fellows in service. I got a pair of shower shoes from Aunt Haysie, so I'm having a big Xmas.

Paul came over to see me this afternoon about three, but I was working, so at six o'clock they quarantined the battery where he stays on account of mumps. now he is going to stay in for twelve or fifteen days. I don't believe they will let him go to work either.

One of the fellows that I work with went home on a furlough yesterday. That will be the first time that he will be home in over a year. & he surely was glad to get to go. Our 1st Sgt. got back from his furlough a couple days ago. He went to S.A. & brought his wife back. She is staying in Sparta, about eight miles from here. He said Fort Sam has surely changed since the 2nd Division left. They can't go to town but three times a week, & they have to check in & check out. & they are really getting strict.

Well guess this is about all for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & had a nice time in Houston visiting the folks.

Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon hello & I just got their letters & surely glad to hear from them.

Lovingly,
Leslie