

1943

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
January 1943

Dear Papa,

I'm going to try & write you a little note before dinner. We are off all day, so we can kinda catch up with our letter writing. I have so many to write, I don't know where to start. I was going to town, but yesterday was pay day & there is such a crowd on the buses & in town, I changed my mind & probably will go in the middle of the month.

I got a big box of candy from Sadie, Ralph & Teddy & a sewing kit from Miriam, so I'm doing all the good. & I also got a carton of Lucky Strike cigarettes from Mr. Bullman. Guess I'll have to start smoking now.

I surely hope you made it to Houston alright, & am sure you enjoyed yourself with the folks. I got a card last week from Ralph, & he said they were expecting you. It is awfully hard making train connections up here in this part of the country. They have to transport so many troops & there are quite a few fellows going on furlough now, & the rail road companies don't have enough trains to accommodate all the service men & civilians. They brought in about 200 new men the other day for the Division, & that is going on everyday all over the U.S. They are going to have an army of nine million men, so I imagine everybody & his dog will be in the army.

The Division is going on winter maneuvers either this month, or next month. We are going to start to get in all the winter clothing pretty soon. It will really take a lot & I don't see how they will ever get enough, but I imagine they will. It if doesn't get any colder than it is now, it won't be so bad. It really is nice outdoors now. You can really kick up your heels when you get out in the morning. I imagine we are getting used to this weather.

The mail man just came & gave me the letters from Ruth, Millie, & Leon, & surely was glad to get them, & want to thank all of you for the birthday & new years greetings. I haven't gotten the package yet, but am sure I'll get it today. Was sorry to hear that the goose spoiled. I bet the package was put near a radiator, or a stove, because it is too cool for anything to spoil if the package is handled the way it should be.

We just got through with dinner, had baked chicken & guess what we had last Sunday. Goose & it tasted pretty good too. That is the first goose I have tasted since I've been in the army.

I got the two issues of the Houston Post. It seems like no paper can beat the Texas papers no matter if the news is a little behind.

Well I am just about out of anything else to write, so will have to bring this to a close. Want to wish all of you a happy new year full of good health & contentment, & hope by next year at this time old man Hitler & the Japs will be a thing of the past, & we can all be together again.

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

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
January 4, 1943

Dear Papa,

I got my birthday package & must say that good old smoked sausage really hit the spot. I have eaten so much of it, I feel like a big hunk of sausage. I haven't opened the box of cookies yet. I'll keep them for later as I have so much to eat now. It surely is a pretty box & know they are good. The calendars are pretty

too. I notice too you have a pretty good name added on. I really would like to know the name & address of that pretty girl on the second leaf. She looks like she is Jam Up.

I also got a nice box from Aunt Haysie; she sent me some stationery, cookies & cake & Mexican candy, so I had a nice birthday. We were off all day New Years, so I slept for a while & wrote a couple of letters & Paul & I went walking in the evening & took in a show at night.

I guess you have finished taking inventory & know that is a yearly job that all of you are glad is over. How are the cattle getting along? I imagine you will have to start feeding them before long.

e really had a heavy snow up here yesterday evening & it was a lot colder this morning than usual. This is supposed to be the real cold month. We are all supposed to drill three times a week now. I really haven't done any drilling since I have been in this organization, so it should do me good, because as long as you keep moving you don't feel the cold, but when you stand or sit in one place for a while you'll freeze.

Paul had to go out & drill last week & I was kidding him about it, but he has it on me now. I got a letter from a fellow at Camp Hood that was in the same section I was in at Fort Sill, & he said they have to drill at night there, so I guess we are lucky after all, because we will do our drilling in the morning.

Well this is about all the gossip for this time, so will bring this to a close.

Thanks a million for the birthday presents & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

P.S. I got a birthday card from Uncle & Aunt Pauline & also a letter. They said they were surely glad to have you visit them.

Camp McCoy Wisconsin  
January 17, 1943

Dear Papa,

Received Ruth's, Millie's & Leon's letters & surely glad to hear from home. Our whole battalion is quarantined now. Several of the fellows have the mumps again. None of them have them our battery, but some of the fellows from the other batteries eat at our mess hall, so they quarantined us too. It doesn't bother us much, because we still go to the shows & service club, but they won't give us a pass to go to town. I stayed in bed this morning until 9:30. I asked to have my breakfast in bed, but they have discontinued that service. Sunday is the only day a fellow can sleep, so you may as well take advantage of it. We went to a U.S.O. show last night, & it really was good. You can get a good laugh at these shows.

A law has just been made starting that all cameras be sent home, so I'll send mine home one of these days. We haven't been able to buy films here for quiet a while. & I did want to take some pictures with our arctic clothing on, but I guess I can't. We can get a special permission from the General to keep the cameras, but they won't do us much good without films.

I heard indirectly that our battalion won't go on the maneuvers as the Division doesn't have enough equipment. I hope they don't get any in the mean time.

The fellows that went up to Michigan las month to learn to ski came back yesterday. They said they had a good time up there, & of course the training was pretty hard, but they say it's a lot of fun to ski. They took their lunches & went out this morning & they will probably ski all day. There are a lot of hills around here & that is good for skiing. I wrote to the Realestate Co. the other day & asked them if the garage couldn't be enlarged from the rear instead of moving it back four feet & adding on the front. I really don't see why they couldn't do that & too if they put the four foot addition on the front, it seems that it would weaken the front of the building too much, because of the large swinging doors.

Well this is about all the gossip for now, so will have to stop.

Tell everybody hello & hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
January 21, 1943

Dear Papa,

I just got through fixing up my laundry, so now I'll jot you a few lines. We went out snowshoe walking for about two hours this afternoon. We walked through the woods where the snow is deep & that's really a lot of fun. They are made of gut & they look like a tennis racket only much larger. You don't sink down in the snow very much, that's the advantage of wearing them.

We got some more winter U.wear & sox today. I don't know where we are going to put all our clothes, because we get more all the time. They surely don't want us to get cold. The only part of my body that gets cold is my face & we are going to get knit outfits to put on over our face & that should solve the problem. I surely wish we could take pictures with all this arctic equipment on, but we can't get anymore films here & they don't allow us to take anymore pictures.

About the income tax. As long as a soldier in service he doesn't have to pay his taxes until six months after the war is over. So if we don't pay them now they will have to be paid later. We are going to have to pay the Victory tax, but they are going to take that out of our salary along with the insurance & bonds. They haven't said anything to us about the Victory Tax, but according to the papers, all service men are supposed to pay them. We have until March to file the report, so we will probably hear more about what we are supposed to do before that time.

Well this is about all for this time so will have to close. I feel a little tired from the walk I took this afternoon, so I had better hit the bed and rest because we are going out again tomorrow for a stroll.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
January 26, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well how is the winter weather? I certainly has been cold here. This morning it was 22 below 0, & one day last week it went down to 37 below. We took a hike this morning about two miles. It really makes you feel good after you get warmed. I wouldn't mind going out every morning, but we have to take turns about going, as we can't all leave the Battalion Supply on the same day, so three go one day & two the next. We took a two hour walk on snow shoes Friday. It really is good exercise & no matter how cold it is, you perspire like it was a summer day.

I got Millie's, Ruth's, & Leon's letters yesterday & surely glad to get them. The mail is coming through a little faster now, but it still takes the Sticker five or six days to get here, but I can wait that long for it. I am enclosing a letter I got from the Realestate Co. They are not going to fix the garage, as they say it would be too expensive, & I am sure they are right, as things are so expensive now according to the statement, the last check was from Dec. 1st to Jan. 15. I am going to write & ask them about how much back rent is due, & I am going to tell them to continue to send you the rent.

How are the cattle doing? I imagine you have to give them quite a bit of feed now since it has turned cold. The people in the eastern states are going to have to eat horse meat now, as they have been advertising it for sale. Meat is awfully scarce, as they have to send so much across.

Well it is time for the lights to go out, so I had better bring this to a close.

Tell everybody hello & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
January 1943

Dear Papa,

Just a few lines to let you know that I got Ruth's and Millie's letters today, & also the letter from Sam Realestate Co. I think I'll write them & tell them to do what they think is best. I believe if Mrs. Smith moves away, they won't have a bit of trouble renting the house, as there is no doubt that there are a lot of people in Houston looking for rent houses. The only thing is, how much back rent does she owe? The back rent must be just about paid up. The way the realestate Co. stated it, they are not in favor of doing that repair work, & I agree with them. I'll write them & ask them about the back rent.

I know all of you are more than glad that the inventory is over. I imagine goods will be awfully hard to get this year. Uncle Sam will probably supply most of the men with clothing.

Well there is nothing else to write about but the weather, & that is a pretty cold subject.

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

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Service Club  
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
January 1943

Dear Papa,

We just got out of the show & came over here for a cup of coffee, so will write you a short letter. It will have to be short because there is no news or excitement around here. I haven't been to town since last month. Guess if I would see a street car, I'd run.

I got Ruth's & Millie's letters the other day & I got Leon's letter today & surely glad to hear from them.

We got part of our winter clothing the other day & it really is nice & warm. You should see the trousers. They have pleats, zippers on even the pockets & made of much better material than our regular trousers. The boots are short one, with leather uppers & rubber on the foot parts. You are supposed to wear three pairs of woolen sox, the sox are at least 1/4 of an inch thick & we also have long sleeve slip over sweaters. We each have one of those silk lined bed rolls. Don't know if I can sleep between silk & duck feathers. I really would like to have one of them for camping.

They are spending over three million dollars to equip the Division with all of this. We looked up the prices on all of the equipment & those trousers cost \$11.50 a pair, but they are worth it, because they really fit. The sweaters are \$4.50 & we also have a white jacket & hood, that is around \$12.00. There are supposed to be some more things that we will get later.

I got a letter from Arthur Graff yesterday. He was transferred to Mexia, Texas. They have opened a new camp there & I also got a letter from Antone Stryk, he was transferred to Camp Bowie. He said he likes the camp, but doesn't like the town of Brownwood. It's a dry town, I don't believe the even sell beer there.

Yesterday, I drank a bottle of beer; the second one I had since I have been here. It is like the 3.2 beer they have at Fort Sill. They call it airplane beer. Three bottles & P40.

Have you heard from Mrs. Smith. I wrote here & I also wrote the Realestate co. & haven't heard from either. Thought maybe they wrote you.

This is about all for now. Tell everybody hello & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

• • •

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
January 31, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received the box of goodies & am surely enjoying them. They are really hitting the spot, as I get a little hungry in between meals & a little snack fits in just fine. Thanks a lot for everything. I don't know what I weigh now, but I think I have added a little extra weight. This cold weather really makes you eat. They should have sent me to a country where my appetite wouldn't be so good. All the fellows say they eat more here than they did when we were down South, but after we get a little warmer weather, we won't eat as much as the weather has a lot to do with our appetites.

I just got Millie's, Ruth's & Leon's letters & also the twins letters, & surely was glad to hear from everybody.

So you are fixing a victory garden. That will be mighty nice & I know it will come in handy, as I imagine it will be rather hard to get vegetables & you really have a nice place for a garden.

Did you listen to the special news broadcast the other night. The President is really doing some fast work by going into war country, like he did. There will really be some action over there now, as any place where he goes some sort of action usually follows. The Second Division found that out. As after he reviewed the Division at San Antonio, we had to move. They sure are bombing Berlin\_ now. That really sounds good, so I don't believe it will be very long before they will have Hitler where they want him.

Have you heard anything about the second royalty check that should be due now. If they don't pay it, then the lease is dropped.

We are going to have to go to school three nights a week. I don't know how long it will last, probably until April 1st.

Well this is about all for this time, so will have to bring this to a close.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

P.S. My kodak still leaks as you will notice on the pictures. I'm going to send my kodak home, so let Bill Darlick send it back to the factory, or may be he can fix it.

Camp McCoy  
February 8, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received Ruth's, Millie's, & Leon's letters & surely glad to hear from them. I know you are busy with you garden. Wish I could be there to help you, but when the watermelons get ripe, I'll come home & we will bust a couple of them. So the little cow had a calf. She is always the first one to have a calf. I imagine there will be quite a few more before very long. Hope there won't be very much more cold weather. The chickens are acting right smart too, if you can sell eggs.

I went to Tomah Saturday evening. Thats a town about 6 or 7 thousand population & about 8 miles from camp. I had supper & went up to the U.S.O. Club & walked around town & came on back about eleven o'clock. Had a good supper; Swiss steak, potatoes, corn, salad, pie & coffee, & they only charged 55¢. I thought it would be at least 75¢ because food has gone up so. They would charge at least 85¢ in San Antonio for that kind of meal.

Are you going to pay my income tax? You can just file it like we always do, & I'll have to pay some too from the pay I have gotten since I have been in the army. They allow us \$250. I don't believe we have to pay the Victory tax until next year. I saw an article in the paper yesterday where a senator wants to

eliminate all service men from tax, so I think they are on the fence & don't know what they are going to do. They might as well tax us, because if we don't spend for tax, it will be spent for something else.

I saw in the Sticker where Russell will be home. Tell him to write me, as I would like to hear from him.

It seems like we are going on maneuvers in March. For a while we couldn't get the equipment but we are getting plenty of it in now. It will only be a two week maneuver, so that won't be so bad. I was talking to a fellow the other day that has been living here all his life & he said this is the coldest winter they have had in forty years. Usually the snow melts a couple of times during the season, but it has been white here since we have been here.

It is just about time to go to work, so had better close.

Tell Millie, Ruth, & Leon hello & was surely glad to get their letters.

Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

P.S. I am sending a package home, so be on the look out for it.

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
February 10, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received Ruth's, Millie's, & Leon's letters yesterday & surely glad to get them. You might as well tell Mack to discontinue sending me the Sticker because there is more news in the letters than it is in the Sticker & by the time I get the Sticker the news is old. No, I'm only joking, as I look forward to getting the Sticker too. There surely must have been a large crowd in town when the Submarine was there as they really sold a lot of bonds. That's a good way to raise money. When Hitler is killed they should take his body around the country & bet they would certainly mop up.

Our whole Battalion left early this morning for the woods & will be gone until tomorrow afternoon. They are going to spend the night out & see how it feels to live in the open. They have plenty of tents & stoves & they'll have hot meals so that shouldn't be so bad. One of the other fellows from the supply didn't go as we have to get rations for tomorrow. I wasn't sorry to hear that I didn't have to go as I would much rather sleep in the warm barracks. They are going again next week, so I imagine I'll get to go then. Paul had to go, so he will tell me all about it.

They are having a U.S.O. show tonight & that is another reason I am glad I didn't have to go to the woods. They had one Sunday night & it was really good. They had a soldier & he really cracked some good ones. He said a stout woman went into the drugstore & the druggist asked her what she wanted & she said talcum powder, so he said walk right down this aisle. The lady told the druggist if I could walk right, I wouldn't be asking you for talcum powder.

He was telling about his sister having a baby, & the baby was born with a mustache & tickled it's mother to death.

Then a girl came out on the stage & asked the soldier to smell the French perfume she had on her dress. It cost \$15.00 an ounce & the soldier asked the girl to smell what he had on his coat. He said that was gasoline & you can't get any now.

Those pictures I sent weren't very clear, that is the reason you couldn't tell who was who. The one lying on the ground is Paul & the other fellow Ray Peterson. He was at Fort Sill with us. On the picture where there are two of us without caps on, one is Brau from around La Grange & the other is me. We both have the same kind of sweaters. His wife knitted one, exactly like the one Ruth knitted for me.

Well I had better bring this to a close, as I am about out of B.S. & I have to shave & take a bath.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,

Leslie

Service Club  
Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
February 15, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received the valentine box yesterday & am surely enjoying everything & thanks a million. This morning I ate some of that sausage & rye bread that Leon sent me for breakfast & it really hit the spot.

Be sure & thank Millie, Ruth, & Leon for the things they sent. It was surely nice & appreciate it a lot. Tell them I'll write them as soon as I get in the writing mood. I wanted to write some letters today, but I slept until 11 o'clock. There was no use getting up for breakfast, since I had plenty to eat in my box.

I think I am going to go out in the woods tomorrow & spend the night. I'm going to get a little sample of how it feels to sleep out in the snow. We have a tent & a stove, so that shouldn't be so bad. The fellows that went out last week said it was cold as H...., but those sleeping bags kept them plenty warm, so if you have a war place to sleep it's not so bad. The kitchen is going along so we will have some hot meals.

I am going to have to bring this to a close now. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself & I want to thank all of you for the nice package.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
February 19, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received the letters from Millie, Ruth, & Leon yesterday & also received some today so I have been will posted on everything.

We spent Monday & Tuesday nights out in the woods. We left here Monday afternoon & went out about eight miles & put up our tent. Had a nice tent with a coal stove & we slept good & warm in the bed rolls & we had warm meals & that helps a lot keep you warm. The weather is getting much warmer now & hope it continues to keep on getting warmer.

About my income tax. You won't have to pay tax on the pay I have gotten from the army as we have to file the tax report here.

I got a letter from Ralph yesterday. He said are getting along fine, only they had quite a bit of cold weather.

Tell Patsey I got his valentine & letter & I'll write him as soon as I get time. I got a letter from Annie Leck the other day. She said Otto was going to be transferred. Be sure & thank Miss Emma for the valentine she sent me, & I also got one from Antone Stryk. He is still at Camp Bowie. I don't know when I'll be able to write these people. We are going out in the woods for three days next week, & a person can't do any writing out there.

I'm going to have to cut this letter short as it is time to go to bed. I'll write more in a new days. Give everybody my regards. Hop you feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

February 20, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received the package yesterday & I am really enjoying the sausage & rye bread. I'm going to get so fat I won't be able to get about, but I imagine when the hot weather begins, I'll lose a lot of that extra weight.

The past two days have really been pretty, & the snow is beginning to melt & that old ground really looks good. It has been since November since we have seen any soil. I surely hope it continues to stay warm.

We are going to spend three days out in the woods the first part of next week & the week following we are going up to Michigan for maneuvers. We are supposed to leave on the 1st of March & will be back around the 14th. The maneuvers are going to be held in the Ottawa National Forest. They say it is a beautiful place. It's not very far from Canada, so may be we will be able to go over & get a little of that good "snaps".

Well, I'm going to have to bring this to a close now, as we are going to the show this evening. They are showing "Hitler's Children." I imagine it is good. We have been seeing some good shows here lately. I believe they show most of the pictures here before they let the public see them, as I have noticed the shows advertise the pictures that we have seen here.

Tell everybody hello & thanks again for the delicious sausage & everything. Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
February 22, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well we are really having some pretty weather now. Most all the snow has melted & the grass is starting to pop out & it surely looks good. Hope we don't have any more cold weather.

We couldn't go out on our three day problem on account of all the snow melting. We weren't sorry about that either. I hope we won't have to go to Michigan on maneuvers, but more than likely we will, as they still have snow up there. I wouldn't mind going just to see the country, but they won't let a fellow go sightseeing.

I received the Letters today from Millie, Ruth & Leon & surely glad to get them. Schulenburg must be getting rather dull with several places of business closing & people moving away, but it's that away everyplace where there is no army camps or gov't work going on.

I started writing this letter this morning, but I didn't get to finish, so I'll write a little more now.

The chickens are surely smart. That's doing pretty good if you can sell a few dozen eggs every week. I noticed they are getting 42¢ a doz. for eggs at the commissary & I imagine they are higher than that at the store.

Well I'm going to have to bring this to a close. I believe Roosevelt is going to speak tonight so will listen to him.

Tell everybody hello & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
February 27, 1943

Dear Papa,



We have finished packing today for the maneuvers, so we are going to leave in the morning at 7:16 & will get there sometimes Monday evening. We surely hope it will be warm up there. It really has been nice here today. I got Ruth's & Millie's letters this morning & surely glad to hear from them.

I hope you got my letter in time enough to fix the income tax report.

I bet the cattle are really getting to look nice now. How many new calves do you have? I think you got a good price for the little bull. I bet the other calf from that registered cow is pretty.

Well there is not much of any thing to write, so will close. Paul & I want to go to the show tonight. I'll write you the first chance I get. Tell everybody hello & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

March 5, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received Millie's, Ruth's, & Leon's yesterday & surely glad to hear from them.

We got here Monday evening about five. We thought we had a lot of snow at McCoy, but they really have the snow up here. The first morning it was 26 below 0. You could hear the trees cracking, so you know it was plenty cold. It started snowing this morning & turned a lot warmer.

We have a good warm tent & have a pretty nice to sleep & the food has been good.

Will have to close as it is about time to go to bed. Hope you are feeling fine & give everybody my regards.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

March 9, 1943

Dear Papa,

Am getting along just fine. We are getting sorta accustomed to this Eskimo life. We are leaving for Camp McCoy either Sunday or Monday. We are supposed to make the trip back in a day. That will be a fairly long trip, but I had rather do that than make it a long drawn out trip.

I received Millie's, Ruth's, & Leon's letters Sat. & surely glad to get them. I also got a letter from Aunt Haysie.

Will have to bring this to a close as it is about time to go to bed. A person really gets sleepy early out here. Soon as we get through with Supper we prepare for bed.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

March 15, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well the time is drawing closer to the end. We have been counting the days every since we got here. It's not so bad, but it is much nicer to live in a nice warm barracks.

Yesterday we did our own cooking in our tents. We have one burner gas stoves & we can cook a pretty fair meal, at least we ate it. We have been eating dehydrated & frigid foods. They have been experimenting with them to find out how the men can get along with them during cold weather.

I'm going to have to bring this to a close now.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello for me.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
March 16, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just got through reading the letters from Millie, Ruth, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them.

I got in yesterday from the maneuvers. One of the other fellows from the Supply & I were sent in a day sooner to get the rations & we were really glad to get in a little earlier. The others are supposed to be in at three in the morning. I imagine they are having a cold ride, as it surely turned cold here this morning.

It really feels good to be able to go to bed under a roof. I felt like I was floating in the air when I lied down on my bed last night. Those sleeping bags are plenty warm of course it is awfully hard to crawl out of them in the morning. They had firemen to keep the fires going in the tents all night, but even at that it's hard to get up.

I bet that country would be pretty in Spring as there are so many large trees & lakes & hills, but it is just too much snow out there now. It was four & a half & five feet deep & if you didn't wear snow shoes, you couldn't get about at all.

Well it is about time to go to bed, so I'll have to bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
April 1, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well I'm having a tuff time trying to get started after having a furlough, but that is everybody's trouble when they get back.

I surely enjoyed my little stay at home, only wish I could have stayed longer, but there is one thing I can do, & that is look forward to my next furlough.

I made better time than I thought I would on my way back. I got to St. Louis Tues. morning at nine & changed trains & left at 9:30 & got to Chicago at two in the afternoon & had an eight hour lay over there, so went to the U.S.O. They have nine story building only for the U.S.O. Club & they really treat you swell. They give you all the eats you want & on one of the floors they have showers & if you want to spend the night you can get a room free of charge. They give you tickets to any of the first class shows & to dances. They really treat the service men swell there. I really don't see how they can do all of that. When we walked out of the R.R. station a policeman at the door told where the U.S.O. club was & he said he would get a taxi for us free of charge to take us to the club, but we walked because we were sitting so long on the train. We had lunch there & walked around & then went to a show & then went to the U.S.O. & had supper. It is really nice there & you can enjoy your self.

It is about time for the lights to go out., so had better bring this to a close.

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

They moved us in another barracks while I was away. We have double bunks, so they have more men in each barracks. They are moving another division into this camp so they have to double up now.

Did you get to see all the folks while you were in S.A. How is your Tanta. She wasn't doing so well when I saw her.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

P.S. It is a lot warmer here now & no more snow. Glad of that.

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
April 5, 1943

Dear Papa,

It seems like we are finally going to have a little spring weather now. It got a lot warmer today, & it certainly felt good, but yesterday it was awfully windy & dusty. They say they have the March winds this month & next month is the month of heavy rains.

I went to see the Dr. Friday about my eyes & he said they are working on a project now to take care of all the fellows that need to have their eyes attended to & he said as soon as they have it completed, they would let us know. My eyes are feeling fairly good now. I have been using the drops I got from Breymanns & they seem to ease them a lot & I try to rest them as much as I possible can. I hope they have some good specialists here that can do me some good. The Dr. told me to experiment with different food, & that may be right, but it is rather hard to go on a diet in the army. I'm afraid I'd be hungry all the time & you know that would be bad.

How is the meat rationing working out? I was thinking about all of you today we got in around 500 lbs. of beef & you should see the pretty steaks. I wish I could have you a few of them, as that would really be treat. Yesterday we had pork roast for dinner & came over to the service club last night & had a chicken supper, that really hit the spot.

Paul & I are living in the same barracks now & tomorrow I'm supposed to start eating in his mess hall. They are splitting the service Battery up & we have to eat at the other Batteries now. I don't know how long that will last. We hear that the Division has put out another training schedule that will run into the latter part of July so we will probably be here until July.

I got the letters from Ruth, Millie, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. Also received the pictures. Thought they turned out very good.

Think I had better stop for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy Wisconsin  
April 12, 1943

Dear Papa,

I just got back from LaCrosse a few minutes ago. I went yesterday afternoon. I got to town about three & got me a hotel room. That is always the greatest problem as it is usually very hard to get a place to spend the night. I was rather lucky, as I ran upon a nice room at the Stoddard Hotel. That's the largest hotel in town. I window shopped & walked through several of the Dept. stores. There's some nice stores there & they really get fancy prices for everything. I went to a dance last night & had a pretty nice time, but it was

awfully crowded & I stayed in the bed this morning until 8:30. I wouldn't have gotten up then, but the fellow in the room with me got up & I couldn't go back to sleep, so I got up & went down & had breakfast & met two other fellows from the Service Btry so we walked around, had dinner, went to a show & came back to camp.

Give the emblem I have enclosed in this letter to Freddie Kautchky. He asked me to send him one of the Sixth Service Command & when I was coming back from my furlough I got it in Chicago.

How is the grass doing that we planted. I imagine it is up by now. I was talking to an FBI man this morning, & he said he was at Fort Sam last week & everything is really pretty in Texas now. The grass is starting to come out & farmers are beginning to plant corn. It is getting to look a lot nicer around here than it did during the winter months, but the mornings are still pretty cool. I noticed ice on the water yesterday morning.

I saw a lot different kinds of cheese in one of the place this morning & wanted to buy some & send it home, but you have to have points & I didn't have any, so bought some rye bread & I imagine you will get it in a few days.

Well this is about all for this time, so will close. Tell everybody hello & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
April 18, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received the letters from Ruth, Millie & Leon yesterday & surely glad to hear from them. We have been under quarantine for the past week. One of the fellows has the meningitis, so all of us had to stay in the barracks. He is doing alright now & tomorrow they are going to lift the quarantine, so we'll be able to go back to work & everybody will be glad, as it surely gets tiresome staying in like that. We went out every morning & took exercise & came in & had lectures & shot the Bull & read & slept.

Paul was supposed to leave on his furlough Friday, but he had to postpone it until Tuesday on account of the quarantine.

We had a little more snow here Tuesday morning & it is still cool. I put my long handles on again & they felt might good. I took them off when I got back from my furlough & didn't think it would be cold any more, but this weather really changes fast.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie this morning. She said they are doing alright, but can't get anymore merchandise. I imagine people will have to start wearing less clothes.

I'm going to have to bring this to a close as there is not much news stirring around.

I imagine you will get this letter about the time of your birthday. I surely wish I could be there to help celebrate with you, but maybe next year we will all be back home & really throw a big one & many more to follow.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello for me.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
April 20, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just a note to thank you for the matzos. I got them this evening & you can imagine how glad I was to get them, -- they surely are good & thanks a lot.

We went back to work this morning after a weeks vacation & it surely felt better working than it does hanging around the barracks. It's especially hard to stay in at night, as I usually go to a show or come over to the Service Club.

That emblem that I told you I was enclosing in one of the letters was put back into my pocket & I forgot to bring it over with me this evening, but I'll send it tomorrow.

Monday morning everything was white with snow. I never heard of such crazy country to have snow in April. It wouldn't surprise me if we had a White Easter.

They are having a dance here tonight, so maybe I'll go in & try & shake a wicket leg. Tell everybody hello & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
April 23, 1943

Dear Papa,

I am enclosing the emblem for Freddie, so give it to him when you see him.

Last night I went to a Jewish service at one of the chapels. They had a Rabbi from LaCrosse. They have services every other week, but is rather far to walk in cold weather, so I haven't been going. They gave every soldier there a Passover box prepared by the Philadelphia Passover League. It is really nice. They were put up by the same company that we get our matzos from & of course everything was Kosher. There were two packs of cigarettes, 2 doz. almond macaroons, 2 boxes of cheese, 2 jars of jelly, raisins, pecans & walnuts. I think it was really nice. They were put up in packages to be shipped overseas, so I imagine they sent them to all fellows in the service.

I made a big bust when I walked into the chapel. I took my cap off as I usually do, then I noticed the Rabbi had a monkey cap on & all the other fellows had their caps on. It takes a while to get used to the Orthodox ways.

We are going to spend a few days out in the field next week. I believe we are going out Monday & stay until Friday. If the weather stays like it is now it will be real nice. The nights are still cool, but the days pleasant.

I went over to the Dental Clinic this morning & had my teeth examined. The Dr. said if everyone's teeth were like mine, he could go home. I'm surely glad I don't have to have any dental work done as I hate it.

I also asked about eyes & they told me to wait until week after next. They are not prepared here like they were at Fort Sam & it takes quite a while to get an appointment.

Well I am going to have to bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello. I got Ruth's & Millie's letters & surely glad to hear from them.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
April 25, 1943

Dear Papa,

The Easter rabbit was really nice to me today, as my box came in & I am certainly enjoying everything. Tell Millie, Ruth & Leon I'll write them as soon as we come back from the field either Friday or Saturday. They will deliver our mail each day, but I don't know how much we will have to do out there. We will come in every day & get the rations, & I imagine that will take most of our time.

I went to town yesterday evening & went to a dance, but I didn't spend the night this time. Got back about 3 o'clock this morning, So I slept most of the morning, had dinner, had pork chops, gravy, potatoes, ice cream & cake. That's a pretty good Easter dinner. Then I went to the show & they are having a dance at the service club tonight so may step in there for a while. I'm not staying up very late tonight because it makes you feel on the bum the next day. I was lucky today was Sun. so I could rest.

Well there is not much news, so will have to bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine. & tell Millie, Ruth & Leon I'll write them soon as I get back.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

USO Club  
Tomah, Wisconsin  
May 2, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well we got back from the field yesterday about five o'clock. Yesterday was really the prettiest day we had while we were there. It rained real hard one day & the rest were awfully cold, but we had a pretty nice time. Had good eats & that is one of the main things. I came in to camp everyday, so I had chance to shave & take a shower. It only took us about twenty minutes to come in, but the roads were awfully rough. The country around where we stayed looked like West Texas, lot of hills & there are quite a few deer there too.

This is one of the prettiest days we have had since we have been here, so I felt like going someplace today & I came to Tomah. I was here once before. It's a nice little town about 5 or 6 thousand population.

I haven't had dinner yet & it is past twelve, so I had better stop this chatter. I don't know a bit of news, as being out in the sticks for the past six days we haven't heard a thing as far as news is concerned.

Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

USO Club  
Tomah, Wisconsin  
May 2, 1943

Dear Millie, Ruth & Leon,

I'm going to get Scotch & write the three of you one letter. First of all I want to thank you for the nice Easter box you sent me. I surely enjoyed it & I couldn't have gotten it at any better time than I did as everyday when I come in from the field I'd take time out to eat a little lunch, & that give me a little extra vim, vigor, & vitality in other words, I enjoyed it a lot.

I came to town today for a change today. Wanted to come last night, but I lied down to rest for a while after we got in from the field & went to sleep & woke up at eleven o'clock, so I went back to sleep. Am probably lucky that I didn't come in last night as it was awfully crowded being the first Saturday after pay day & a lot of these soldiers try to drink the bars dry & get drunk as H--- trying to do it. Some of the heavy drinkers from home should be here, as every other place is some sort of a bar, & some of them get fancy & call the taverns. They sell liquor by the drink (about an eye dropper full for 30¢), & if a person wants to even get tight on those drinks he really has to have a big roll of bills.

Tell Gloria Ann I received her letter & surely glad to hear & I'll write her in a few days.

I read that O.P.A. article. It seems like the O.P.A. is backed by the chain stores & naturally they will make the laws to favor their own business. If the Govt. lets that go through that would certainly be doing the

independent retailer an injustice. But they have a bunch of Lugg Heads at the head of those organizations that really can mess things up for us.

Well I'm going to have to bring this to a close, as it is about time to catch a bus & go back to camp. Thanks again for the nice Easter Box.

As ever,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
May 7, 1943

Dear Papa,

I went to the eye Dr. this morning & they examined my eyes & changed my lenses & told me that my system lacked Vitamin A so they gave me a bottle of cod liver oil, that contains a lot of Vitamin A & he also gave me some eye drops to use twice a day. He said he was sure if I would take that cod liver oil it would help a lot & he thought it would be a good idea for me to get some vitamin tablets -- they are not quite as hard to take as the oil, as it rather nasty.

The weather here is still cool & an overcoat feels might good in this morning. It seems strange to have cold weather in May when we have been used to hot weather around this time of year.

Paul got back this morning. Said he had nice time, but the time passed to fast. It always does while you are on a furlough.

That \$1.25 check you got from the govt. was interest on my bonds. They are supposed to send a check for that amount every six months.

We heard over the news broadcast this evening that the allies took Tunisia that really sounded good as that was one of the major battles & the allies have really been pouring on Hitler. He really catching H--- & I don't see how he can last much longer with all the men he is losing.

Will have to bring this to a close, as am out of news.

Hope you are feeling fine. Give Millie, Ruth & Leon my regards. I got their letters & surely glad to hear from them.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
May 11, 1943

Dear Papa,

How is everything? I imagine you have been kept busy looking after the new calves. Hope you have had some rain by now, as am sure it would help the pastures.

I went to Eau Claire Saturday afternoon. It's about 90 or 95 miles from here. I went to Tomah & caught the four o'clock bus & got to Eau Claire at seven o'clock. It's about 30,000 population & they have a large defense plant where they employ around 5,000 people. It is really a nice town & the people are really nice to the soldiers. There are not very many soldiers around there & it's a pretty nice place to go although it's a little far, but I enjoyed the bus ride.

Well don't know a thing else to write so will have to sign off for this time.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
May 16, 1943

Dear Papa,

I got my glasses back Friday, & they feel pretty good. I'm still taking the cod liver oil. Have taken almost a large bottle, but believe will switch over to the vitamin tablets as they are much easier to take. I bought a bottle of them in town last week.

I didn't go anyplace this weekend as it started to rain yesterday morning & it rained most of the night, so didn't feel like getting out in it, & it has turned rather cool. It seems that we will never get summer weather up here. I am still wearing my heavy woolen U.Shirt & it feels pretty good.

They are bringing in a bunch of WAC's & they have around a hundred here now. They have been coming to our dances at the Service club & they seem to have a big time. I haven't met any from Texas yet most of them are from the Northern states. They are going to take the place of men in these offices & also be chauffeurs & truck drivers. Seeing a few skirts going about the camp should improve it a lot.

How is Russell getting along? Tell him hello for me. I have been wanting to write him, but I just haven't been doing hardly any correspondence lately.

I got Millie's, Ruth's & Leon's letters yesterday & glad to hear from them.

Guess will have to close as it is about time to eat. I'm not very hungry, but will go through the motions anyway.

Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
May 23, 1943

Dear Papa,

We are going to spend the week in field this week, so I have sorta been getting my things lined up today. The weather is getting warmer now, so we don't have to take very many clothes along. It started to rain this afternoon. & it will keep on, as it usually does when we go out.

Are the soldiers still out at the farm? I bet they had a nice time out there as there are plenty of good places to fix a camp.

Have you heard how Uncle is getting along? I wrote Aunt Haysie a letter last week & sent it to Weslake. I didn't know she was in Houston.

We are going to start wearing our khakis on the first of June. They have been wearing them down south for over two months, but it has been too cold up here form them, but I imagine it will stay warm now.

Well this isn't much of a letter, but there isn't much news now, so will have to bring this to a close.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
May 30, 1945

Dear Papa,

We got back from the field yesterday about ten o'clock. It rained everyday that we were there, & last night we had a hail storm & more rain & wind. We were at the show when it blew up & it sounded like people were throwing bricks at the building & the lights stayed out for about half an hour. & they are not



letting any soldiers go to Sparta today on account of the flood. They really are having quite a few bad floods throughout the states. One of the fellows came in from Texas yesterday & he said his train was delayed fifteen hours on account of the flood.

The country around here is really getting pretty. There are a lot of oak, pine, maple & cotton wood & most of them are in bloom now & the country is hilly & that really makes it pretty. It kinda reminds me of west Texas but there are more trees here.

I just noticed a sign at the PX today stating that we can't buy but one hamburger or cheese sandwich on account of the food shortage. I quit eating hamburger several weeks ago as the meat is awful. They put too much tallow in it. We have been getting very good meat at the mess hall & fresh vegetables. & I had rather eat more vegetables than meat anyway.

I got Ruth's, Millie's & Leon's letters while we were in the field & surely glad to hear from them. I think Hitler would be a pretty good name for the baby colt. There used to be a race horse around Hallettsville that they called Hitler, but I don't imagine two Hitler's would be too much since they happen to be horses.

I saw "Mission in Moscow" today at the show & it really is a good show. Be sure & see it when it comes to Schulenburg.

Well this is about all for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

The Galloway Hotel  
Eau Clair, Wisconsin  
June 7, 1943

Dear Papa,

I spent the weekend in Eau Claire this week. We caught the train here at camp yesterday afternoon at five & got there about 7:30. It is really a nice trip on the train. It's a streamliner & it really makes good time & there are no stops. The fare is only \$2.55 round trip & it's about a hundred miles. It's cheaper than the bus, & usually the bus is so crowded you have to stand.

Paul & I stayed together & we went to a couple of dances & had a nice time. We had real good chicken dinner today. Of course it's nothing like home cooked meals, but you can't expect to get too much now. They do have a lot of eating places there & most all of them are always crowded.

Coming back this evening we went through Sparta & we noticed the damage that the flood did last week. Several buildings sank & did quite a bit more damage. They have really had a lot of rain up here the past two weeks, & it is still cool. I'm wearing a jacket now & it feels mighty good. We started wearing khakis the other day & that cool air really seeps through them.

We were pretty busy last week. Got in a lot of new clothing & think will get more this week.

Well they are turning out the light so had better stop. Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

June 8, 1943

Dear Papa,

I didn't get to finish the letter I wrote you last night so I'll continue here. I haven't had a letter from Frankie Shimek as yet in regards to his buying the farm he is living on. Personally I really don't care so much about selling it as it is so close to the other place & it is a good little farm & we ever want to turn it into a pasture it could be done easy enough by putting in an underpass under the road like Otto Brauner has at his

place. Of course if you want to sell it, it will be alright with me, but I surely would want to realize a little profit from it since there were some improvements made on it & you also have to figure the investment in the place.

I really believe farms will be a good thing after the war, as they will continue to raise as much or even more for all these foreign countries, as they won't be able to raise much over there as everything will be shot to H--- & they will have to depend on us just as they are doing now.

That's only my idea of the thing & maybe I am not right as things in civilian life have changed a lot in the past year, but I still think a farm will be a nice thing to have.

I got Ruth's, Millie's, & Leon's letters today & surely glad to hear from them. I bet the little colt is really pretty & I imagine the cattle are in good shape now since you had a rain.

This is about all for now. Hope you feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
June 15, 1943

Dear Papa,

We are finally having a little warm weather. It really was hot today and we had a good rain, too. The country really looks good up here. there's plenty of grass in the pastures & the cattle are really in good condition. I bet our cattle look pretty now. I imagine there are some calves that will be large enough for market pretty soon.

I got a box of cookies from Aunt Haysie several days ago. They surely were good. I haven't gotten the box from home yet, but imagine I'll get it tomorrow I'll enjoy it I know. I'll let you know when I get it.

Paul & I went to Eau Claire this week end. We always enjoy getting away for a while & I enjoy that train ride as much & even more than any thing else about the trip & you get to meet a log of people. I met the owner of the A.B.C. Garment Co. He lives near Chicago & was going up to Mayo Bros. at Rochester. He surely was a nice fellow.

Well this will have to be a rather short letter this time as there isn't much news around here.

Tell everybody hello, & hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
June 26, 1943

Dear Papa,

We go back from the field this morning about eight. It was awfully hot out there & it really felt good to take a shower & get on some clean clothes. I took a bath every day that I came in, but it doesn't take very long to get dirty again.

How is riot situation coming along in Texas. They have had some tuff affairs in Chicago & Michigan. They called the Ninth Infantry out of the Division & sent them to Michigan to try & straighten out those Negroes. That's the outfit that whipped the Japs when we first got here.

Paul got telegram this morning stating that his nephew had fractured his skull, so he got an emergency furlough & left this afternoon.

Charlie Winkler came up to see me last Sunday afternoon & spent a couple hours talking. He got a transfer back to camp Hood near Temple. He surely is lucky to get to go back there.

I got a card from Russell the other day. He said he was spending a few days in Dallas.

Well this is about all for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy Wisconsin  
June 29, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just a short note. I got Millie's, Ruth's, & Leon's letters today, & surely glad to hear from them. I think the pictures are real good & surely was glad to them. The colt is really cute & those calves look might good -- they surely are getting big.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie today. She said she hadn't been feeling very good, but was taking care of herself & though she would be all right before long.

We couldn't go any place last week end because we went to the field Sunday. & it started raining about three o'clock so we had to come in. I was glad it rained because I don't believe in working on Sundays. Ha.

We are going to take a twenty five mile march tomorrow night, so I had better get to bed pretty soon. That going to be a pretty far march. We took an eighteen mile march when we were at Fort Sill & though that was plenty far.

Tell Rheinholt W. hello for me. I am sure he is glad to be home. I never got the letter he wrote me. It must have gotten lost.

Well this is about all for this time.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin  
July 1, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just a not to let you know I made the 25 mile hike OK, although I was plenty tired. We started at 8:30 in the evening & got back at 4 in the morning. The weather has turned cool again & that made it very nice walking, but gosh in the morning I couldn't get out of bed. We stayed in bed until 10:30 & wouldn't have gotten up then, but it was pay day, so we had a fairly good reason to get up, but I took a nap in the afternoon & caught up on my sleep & I feel fine today.

I went to a Jewish service this evening. It was pretty nice. One of the fellows was so religious he stood in the corner & he looked like he was butting his head against the wall, but imagine he was praying. Everybody laughed like H--- as it did look funny, but guess he felt that he was doing some good.

It is almost bed time so had better bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,  
Leslie

Camp McCoy Wisconsin  
July 9, 1943