

Dear Papa,

Just a short note to let you know I am still kicking. I haven't taken any more long hikes & it will satisfy everyone if they just forget about those D--- things. I lost two lbs. on that hike & haven't been able to gain it back. I weigh 198 now. As long as a person is under 200 he is considered a light weight.

You really got a good price for the little bull you sold. Cattle must be bringing a good price now. I noticed in a Chicago paper today where they are putting so many cattle on the market on account of dry weather in some sections of the country, but it said price are way above the average. I saw that Ermis boy this afternoon & he said he spoke you to while he was at home. He said he was trying to get a discharge from the army, but they were rather slow in giving it to him.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
July 12 , 1943

Dear Papa,

I received the package today & was certainly glad to get that little case. It will really come in handy both in camp & on week end trips, & of course I was glad to get the goodies & am enjoying them a lot.

I went to Eau Claire Sat. afternoon & came back yesterday evening. It was awfully hot up there. Think I'll go to some place around the lakes the next time I get a pass, as it will probably be much cooler. There's a place up here called Wisconsin Dells. It's a summer resort & they say it's a very nice place, so I'll have to try & take it in that is if we will still be able to get week end passes. For a while we could bet them every week end, but now they won't give them like that now.

I got Millie's, Ruth's, & Leon's letters today. & surely glad to get them. Thought the picture & the mare & colt was good. The colt really has long legs. You may be able to see home to a race track. How is the feed crop this year? I saw some very pretty corn yesterday. It is about half grown. Crops here are much later than they are at home.

Paul came back last Fri. He took sick while he was at home & had to take a three day extension on his furlough. He is going to have to take that 25 mile hike this week & that will probably put him back in condition. He wasn't here when we took it.

Have you heard how Uncle Julius is getting along? I bought him a card & will send it to him.

Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of your self. I have just been wondering if you have been going out to the farm in the heat of the day. If you are, I wouldn't do that, as it is just too hot for any one to be walking around in that heat. That is the reason we took our hike at night & if you go out to the farm either in the morning early or in the evening you would be a lot better off & enjoy it better.

Well this will be all for this time.

Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
July 20, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well, how is everything? Hope fine. I spent the week end in Milwaukee. Thought I would like to see a little different scenery & have heard so much about it & am really glad I went as I really enjoyed up

there. It's a very pretty city & the people are certainly nice to the service men. You see very few soldiers, but plenty of sailors. Most of them come from the Great Lakes training base. The city is on Lake Michigan & from one end of this city to the other the banks of the lake are terraced & they have parks all along where the people can have picnics & take sun baths. I even got out there & took a sun bath for a few minutes & it really felt good & it was a beautiful sight to look at that lake & of course there were some mighty pretty girls to add to the color scheme.

I went to a dance Sat. night while I was there & they danced the Polka & all those other steps & can't spell them but it was really a lot of fun. I never did much of that kind of dancing before, but I got along pretty good & really enjoyed myself. I went to several dances but had more fun at the old time dance.

I got a letter from Mrs. Rheinstrom several days ago & she said Meyer was sent to Africa in March. He was sent from New Jersey & was there six weeks before he embarked.

Well this is about all for right now. Hope you are feeling fine. & tell everybody hello. I got Millie's, Ruth's & Leon's letters yesterday & surely glad to hear from them.

Lovingly,
Leslie

August 3, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well I am here in Chicago now. Got here at 9 & shaved & cleaned up & had breakfast (sample) & now I feel pretty good. I phoned Mrs. Rheinstrom a few minutes ago & she is coming to town to meet me. She said she wants to take me out to her folks & I have until 2:45 this afternoon, so I'll have a little time to spend in Chicago.

I was rather lucky in getting a seat on each train, so I had a chance to rest. The train were awfully crowded. & they didn't have room enough for some of the civilians & they say pretty soon they won't let them ride at all unless it is a case of emergency.

This is the longest layover I have had, but I don't mind it since I am in Chicago as this country boy likes to see the sights & it is only a four hour ride from here to camp.

I thought it was hot in Texas, but when I got to Kansas City last night I thought I'd melt. It was about eight when we got there & the heat was blistering down like it was noon time. It is raining here in Chicago now. I'm going to get wet when I get out on the street, but a little water won't hurt me.

You don't know how much I enjoyed the little stay at home & being with all of you & hope it won't be long before we can be together again.

Think I had better bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine & hope your hand is well & be sure & take care of yourself.

Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. In addressing my letters be sure & put my serial no. on the envelope. 38157913

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
August 4, 1943

Dear Papa,

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

How is your hand feeling? Surely hope it is better by now. You had better keep on going to the Dr. & do what he says, as it is best not to let those things go on without giving them the right attention, so be sure & take care of it.

I really had a nice time in Chicago Tuesday. I met Mrs. Rheinstrom at 11:15 & she wanted to show me as much of the city as we could possible cover in the short time I had there. We went through Marshall Field's store. It is some store. Covers one entire city block, & they have anything there you want in merchandise, furniture, hardware, groceries & every Dept. is arranged perfectly. They have guides to take the people through, but we didn't wait for one, as she knows the store about as well as a guide. Then we went through Carson Pierce Scott's retail store. They have a pretty store & we went through several of the large hotels & then we drove through Lincoln Park along the lake front & saw Naval schools & yacht pier. We stopped at the Edge Water Beach Hotel & went through it & saw where they broadcast. They have fifteen different dining rooms there. It is really a ritzy place & is right on the lake front. Then we went over to see Mrs. Rheinstrom's parents, they live near Lincoln Park in a very nice part of the city. They have a beautiful apartment. Her mother asked about you. She said she met you in Hallettsville when she was there years ago. When Meyer was still at home they had an apartment, but when he went to the army she rented a room. She lives across the street from her parents. When we finished visiting we went back to town & had dinner. Had a good duck dinner at Gimbles. That is supposed to be one of the up to date places to eat. They do serve a very nice meal (with a fancy price) By the time we got through eating, it was time to go to the station, & catch the train. She really was nice to me & bought me a box of candy to eat on the train & wants me to come back to Chicago. & I may because a person can really get to see something there. If I could get a three day pass I would go, but I know I can't now since I just got back from furlough. I could make it on a weekend pass, but I wouldn't get there until ten Sat. night & would have to leave Sunday afternoon at 2:45 & that wouldn't give me very much time to stay.

I surely wish I could send you some of the cool weather we are having up here. It was like a fall day today, & it wouldn't surprise me if this would be the beginning of winter, as they had snow last year in September.

I met two other fellows from our Battery in Chicago, & we came in together. We got off in Sparta & had supper. A steak supper & you could put the whole steak on a piece of bread & still have plenty room left for the potatoes. We got to camp about eight o'clock & I got all my clothes hung up & went to bed & really slept.

They are cleaning all the barracks & buildings all over the camp & all the trucks & equipment has to be up to snuff. They are going to have a group of civilians go through the camp & some of them will stay here at camp several days & get a taste of army life. They will also have women & they will stay at the WAC's barracks & get an idea of what sort of a life they live while the men will do the same over in our barracks.

It is almost time to go to bed, so had better close.

Surely hope to hear you are feeling better & be sure & take care of yourself.

Tell everybody hello for me.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Saturday, August 7, 1943

Dear Papa,

How is your hand feeling now? Surely hope it is feeling better by now. It surely is strange that it is giving you so much trouble as it didn't look bad at all Sunday, but those things set in fast, but just take care of yourself & am sure you will be OK very shortly.

I have been taking easy this afternoon. I did want to go to town, but they are working on the vehicles now, so no one will be allowed to leave until they get through. I don't know what all they are doing but they have been working on them all week. I believe they are going to have an inspection Monday, so they have to get them all shined & fixed up.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
August 10, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well how is the hand coming along? Hope it is feeling a lot better now since the Dr. is getting the infection out. That should ease the pain a lot. I surely am sorry I couldn't have been home this week to be with you, but we can't control those things, but surely you are feeling better & be sure & take care of yourself.

Yesterday I went down the Mississippi River. It is only about 60 miles from here. It really is beautiful country. Nothing but hills & the prettiest farms. They raise a lot of tobacco around there & they say it's a good money crop. They get about five hundred dollars an acre, of course it is a lot of work. There were a lot of fishermen out & they were catching some very nice fish. They have a large dam across the river & they have some good fishing there.

Well it is about bed time, so will have to bring this to a close.

Surely hope your hand is feeling a lot better & be sure & take care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 2, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well I am back at camp & it seems rather strange around as I have been away so long. Capt. Crossley asked how you were getting along & all the fellows wanted to know how you were & were glad you were getting so well.

I had a very nice trip back. Was lucky to get a seat on each train. I got to Dennison at 11:30 Tues. morning & changed trains. We didn't stay there but 5 minutes. We were about an hour late getting to Kansas City, got there at 11 & just had time to change trains & it was really a crowded train. We got to Chicago at 11 Wed. morning & I didn't get to stay there so long as the train left at one in the afternoon. I went up to Marshall Fields store to see if they had any kind of food for Diabetics but they didn't have any thing but this Gluten bread so I sent you a couple of boxes for you to try. I imagine the Dr. can suggest a place where you can get some of that food. I know you couldn't make a meal of that type of food, but I think it would be a good idea to try & get a few of them, so you can have something to nibble on between meals when you get hungry. The lady at Marshall Field said there were several places in Chicago that handled those foods, but I didn't have time to go there as I wasn't in Chicago long enough.

How is your hand? Hope by now it has completely healed & be sure & be careful that you don't bump it & take it easy out at the farm.

I had a lot of mail waiting for me & surely was glad to get it. Also got the pictures. Think they are good.

When I went to the Commissary this morning "Sparky", she is one of the ladies that works there, asked how you were as I usually go there every morning & she missed seeing me & wanted to know what was wrong. So you see you even have women in Wisconsin asking about you.

We got in a lot of woolen clothes today. We are supposed to go in woolens this month. I wish I could send you some of this cool weather. It really is nice, but I imagine it will be cool at home before long. Hope you get rain real soon. It is dry in Oklahoma & Kansas, but everything is pretty & green in Ill. & Wis.

Most everybody went out to the field last night & stayed until this morning. They said it was really cold, I got cold in the barracks last night. I woke up in the middle of the night shaking like a leaf & I really grabbed some extra blankets.

It is almost time to go to bed so had better close.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
Friday, September 3, 1943

Dear Pop,

How are you feeling? Hope that thumb has completely healed by now. I didn't tell you in the letter last night about the chicken & sandwiches. That lunch certainly came in handy Tuesday. I ate everything the first day, so I ate breakfast in the Diner Wed. Two fried eggs, toast & coffee for the sum of 85¢. If a fellow would really want a good meal he would be out of luck.

There were about ten German prisoners on the train when I was coming back. They were all young fellows & seemed to be very happy. They got off here at McCoy.

I got a letter from Henry Stavinoha. He said he really like Chicago, but thinks he will be shipped from there soon.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 5, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just a short note to let you know I am alright. Surely hope you are feeling fine. I bet you will be out at the farm today & tomorrow.

I got Millie's, Ruth's, & Leon's letters yesterday & certainly glad to hear from them. Hope you continue to go home & eat lunch as it will do you more good, than eating so much for supper & too it does you good to get out in the fresh air.

I didn't go anyplace this weekend. Went to the show last night. Saw Bob Hope in "Let's Face It." Was a pretty good comedy. This morning we had to work for about an hour over at the supply office. Then I went over to the barracks & straightened out my clothes. They have been in the barracks bag so long, they really have a barracks bag crease.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 7, 1943

Dear Papa,

Received Ruth's, Millie's, & Leon's letter & surely glad you are getting along so well. If I were you I would let the Dr. check you over every once in a while & it may not be a bad idea to take a little run over to Dr. Harvey Renger & see what he says.

A cold Norther blew up Monday & we are really getting a taste of early winter. I have my heavy U.Shirt on & it feels mighty comfortable. I was glad to hear that you had a little rain. That should help the pastures, but it was awfully dry & you can probably use a lot more rain.

We heard today that Italy finally surrendered. That sounds might good & it may not be very long before Hitler will do the same thing.

We are going to leave McCoy pretty soon. We are really supposed to leave soon after the 20th. Where, no one knows yet. A few of the fellows are leaving in a few days on an early detail. This movement is not supposed to be discussed too much, so keep a "tite lip" & we will probably hear more about it later.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 13, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received Millie's, Ruth's, and Leon's letters day, & surely glad to hear from them. How is your had getting along? Hope is has healed completely by now.

It is still cool here . Went into our wool uniforms Saturday & they feel mighty good. I am sending home my khakis & some summer underwear that I won't need.

How are the cattle getting along? Surely hope you have had a rain. We had a nice shower Sat. night & you should see the fall flowers up here now. They are really beautiful. It looks like spring, but they won't last very long, as it will start getting real cold pretty soon.

Paul went home for three days & came back yesterday. We went to see Red Skelton in "I Dood It." It was real good.

I went to town this weekend, but is was awfully crowded. Seemed like everybody & his dog was there. Well this is about all for now. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 17, 1943

Dear Papa,

I am going to take time out & write you a note. We have been rather busy for the past week. Been having a lot of inspections & they take up a lot of time. A couple of times last week we had all our things displayed for the big shots from Washington & they never showed up, so we are supposed to have another one tonight & one tomorrow.

I got my glasses the other day & was surely glad as I missed them. The army is going to give me another pair. I had rather not have them, but am supposed to have two pair.

So you had a blow out on one of your tires. That's a good way to get a new tire, but it is taking quite a chance. Hope you will be able to get another one before very shortly. I suppose you saw Mrs. Rheinstrom in Hallettsville. Surely sorry I didn't get to see her while I was home.

Captain Crossley ask how you were getting along & was glad to hear you were doing so nicely. Have you gone to the Dr. for a check up? If you haven't, you should go.

I go a letter from Aunt Haysie yesterday. She said they were getting along alright & business was good, but are having a hard time getting mdse. Everybody is having that trouble.

Have you gotten the Johnson Grass cut yet? If you get all of that cut I am sure you should have enough feed & that will come in might handy this winter.

We just got through with another inspection. We placed all our clothing on the bunk & they come around & glanced at it & that was all.

I am enclosing a ration check. There is quite a bit of red tape to go through to cash a check so I will let you have a big time with it.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy Wisconsin
September 22, 1943
After supper

Dear Papa,

I just received the letters from Millie, Ruth & Leon, & surely glad to hear from them. Have you gotten another cook? If you get Lottie that worked for Miss Emma I am sure you will have a good cook as she has had a lot of experience. You will have to tell here what dishes to prepare for you.

We are getting in over five hundred pairs of shoes tonight so we have several hours of work.

Thursday - 12:30

Now I shall try & finish this letter. I just finished dinner. Had a pretty good meal beef, potatoes, salad, greens & fruit for dessert. Well we got through with our shoes last night at 9:15. There were six of us & didn't take very long. There are about eight or ten widths to each size & it takes a while to get each width assorted, but after we get that done it doesn't take long at all. My shoes are just about worn so imagine I'll get two new pairs. I kinda hate to get rid of my old ones, as I had them since I have been in the army & they really feel good.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 23, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received the box yesterday & have surely been enjoying everything & want to thank you Ruth, Millie, & Leon for everything. It really is nice. The letters came at the same time, so I really hit the Jackpot. I imagine all of you were rather excited over the storm. One of the guys come in last night from Texas & he said they were preparing for the storm when he left. It would be alright if you would have gotten a good rain out of it as am sure you need it.

Was surely sorry of tante's death. She surely had been ill for a long time, but she didn't take care of herself like she should, as all that kosher cooking was too rich for her condition. I often wondered when I ate there how she could eat that food all the time. It may taste good but too much surely couldn't be good for a person.

I went to LaCrosse Sat. evening & came back Monday morning. I had to have some alteration work done. I have some new trousers. The others I had fit me a little close so I got new ones also got a new blouse & an overcoat, so I am prepared for the winter.

I sent my civilian shoes home today as I don't believe I'll be able to use them. I had to send the package collect, as it takes so long to get to the prepaid counter. I got some batteries from the PX & put them in the package.

Well this is about all for now. Will write later in the week. Want to thank all of you for the package again. Hope you are feeling fine.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 24, 1943

Dear Papa,

We just got through with a meeting, so will write you a few lines. I wrote you a letter at noon, but it was written in haste & I forgot to tell you I am sending a picture of our Battery that was taken not so very long ago. It is not especially a very good picture as it has a little too much light in it, but I wanted one any way. I imagine you will get it in a few days. They are sending it from one of the photo shops in LaCrosse.

Part of a New Division came in today. They are going to get their winter training up here this winter. They came from one of the southern states & were still dressed in khakies & they looked like they were freezing as it is plenty cool. I wear a woolen U. shirt & it feels very comfortable. I really don't know when we are leaving, but just don't worry, as I'll write, or wire, as soon as we get to our destination. We are not supposed to write while enroute, as it may give away information, so it is better to be safe than sorry.

This is about all for right now. Tell Millie, Ruth, & Leon hello & hope you are taking care of yourself & feeling fine.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Will write again in a few days.

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin
September 29, 1943

Dear Papa,

Received Millie's, Ruth's and Leon's letters yesterday & surely glad to hear from them. I meant to write last night, but we worked at the Supply Office until 9:30. They have really been keeping us busy, as we have been getting in quiet a bit of clothing & turning in a lot. It's very much like civilian life you get it one day & bring it back the next.

We are leaving here Thursday night, so imagine by the time you receive this we will be riding, or we may be at our destination. So don't worry about me, as I will be just as safe as a person can possible be. & I'll write you the first chance I can, that is as soon as we will be allowed to write & just remember there is not a thing to worry about. I certainly hate to leave here, as we have been here ten months & you sorta get accustomed to a place & don't care to leave & the people have certainly been nice to the fellows. This is really the nicest time of year in this part of the county, as the leaves are turning & it is really beautiful. Much prettier than spring. I went up the Wisconsin Dells Saturday afternoon & it is really a beautiful sight. It is a resort on the river, & I took a ride up the river in a large cabin boat. It held thirty passengers & I certainly enjoyed it. It was a 2-1/2 hour trip & they make three stops so the people can get out & look at the different rock formations. I am sending you a folder of pictures of the places we saw. You will find some leaves from maple trees & you can see the pretty color they have & you can imagine how beautiful they are on the trees.

I really am glad I made that trip, as I have heard so much about it since I have been here. The town is small, but it is a pretty place, & not very crowded with soldiers. A lot of people come there from Chicago

to vacation & spend weekends. Where ever we are going, I hope we get to go to a place where we can see a little something, as that really makes everything much more pleasant for a person, as you have something to look forward to.

Paul went to Milwaukee this weekend & he said he had a big time. I told him about my trip up there so he had to see what it was like, & now he is sorry he didn't find out about it sooner.

How have you been feeling? Have you been to the Dr. to let him check you? I surely hope you have & be sure & take care of yourself. Have you been going home at noon to eat? If you do that, it will be much better than eating a big supper, as that is not good for any one.

Imagine you have sold the cattle by now. Hope you didn't have any trouble rounding them up.

Well this is about all for right now, so take care of your self & I'll write you as soon as I possible can.

Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

New York
October 2, 1943

Dear Papa,

I know you will be surprised to hear from me from your old "stomping" grounds. We had a very nice trip up here, the eats were very good & a good place to sleep & saw some very beautiful country.

We just went down to the PX & had a couple of beers, so if I sorta run off the line you will know why. I only had three glass, so I hardly believe that will have much affect on me.

I received Millie's, Ruth's & Leon's letters Thursday & surely glad to hear from them. Glad you sold the cattle although you had to wait a little too long for the truck, but I imagine you were lucky to get a truck. I think you got a pretty fair price for the big bull, as I am sure cattle have dropped some.

Will have to bring this to a close as I want to take a bath, & buy that time the light will be out. Will write you again in a day or so.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 6, 1943

Dear Papa,

Don't have any news to write at all, but just want you to know I am OK & please don't worry about me as we are all getting along just fine.

The weather is very cool especially in the morning. That old wool U.Shirt feels mighty good. & we have a fire in stove all night, so we sleep pretty warm.

I haven't received the box of cake Mrs. R. sent me. She probably sent it to the old address & hasn't caught up with me yet.

Well this is about all for now, maybe next time I'll have more to write about. So until then keep everything on the UP & UP & take care of yourself & don't worry. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

North Ireland
October 18, 1943

Dear Papa,

Imagine you will be surprised to hear from me from Ireland. Am getting along just fine. Had a very nice trip.

This is only a note letting you know where I am & will write more later.
Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 18, 1943
V-Mail

Dear Papa,

I am mailing this V mail letter at the same time I am mailing the air mail to see which letter you receive first. There has been a lot of discussion about this as to which of two is the fastest.

Will write more later & tell you something about Ireland. We hear it nice country & very nice people, so am sure we are in a good place. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 19, 1943
V-Mail, Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

We have been sitting around shooting the bull, so now I have a little inspiration to write you a few lines. Hope you received the letters I wrote you yesterday. I received the two letters that Millie, Ruth & Leon wrote me. I got them before we left the States. Surely glad to get them & I imagine I'll have some more mail in a few days.

I turned my money in today to get it exchanged for pounds & shillings, so now we will be able to buy whatever we need. Cigarettes, candy & things of that sort are rationed. I heard a civilian say he gets an egg every two weeks & they never eat white bread. Only rye. I wouldn't mind that much as I like dark bread. (continued in the next letter).

October 19, 1943
cont. of letter No. 1

Yesterday we were watching some soldiers throwing American made cigarettes to the Irishmen & they were fighting over them like they were gold. They say some place they will give 50 cents a pack for them & \$4.00 for a cigarette-lighter. Their beer is served warm. I believe it is a quarter a bottle & they say the whiskey is strong enough to knock a mule down. We spoke to several of the young Irish fellows & they are very nice. They speak much faster than we do, but they are not very hard to understand.

Will have to close now, as it is about time for supper. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 20, 1943

North Ireland -- V Mail

Dear Papa,

Just received letters no. 3 & certainly glad to hear from home. That was the first group of letters I have received since we arrived. We are getting along just fine. It has been raining everyday & fairly cool. The country is just as pretty & green - like spring. How are the cattle doing? Hope you have had a rain by now.

Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello. Will write more tomorrow.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
October 24, 1943

Dear Papa,

We have a few minutes before dinner, so will start a letter. Imagine you are eating breakfast now, as there is six hours difference in the time here.

Think I'll go to town this afternoon & look around. There are several towns around here, but they say everything is closed on Sundays. This is a very religious country from what we hear.

I was talking to one of the Irishmen the other day about the Linen & said don't make as much now as they did on account of the war.

Back from town. Another fellow & I went over to a little village. We wanted Paul to go but someone borrowed his trousers.

We enjoyed our little trip into the village. It is about the size of Moulton. The houses are all built of plaster & you can tell they are old. They are built on the sidewalk & you can't tell the places of business from the residence. The street are narrow & late in the evening you can see the people driving their cows up the middle of the street. You see very few automobiles. It seems strange to see them drive on the left hand side of the road & in crossing the street you have to look to the right first. It will take a while to get accustomed to things like that. The few cars that we see are the small English cars with the right hand drive.

I wanted to taste some of the beer but all the Pubs were closed. That's what they call taverns or confectioneries. They say you never see a girl in the places, & they have no music or singing of any kind.

We went into one place where they served only meals & had a good steak & chips -- that's fried potatoes. Then we had coffee & bread. That cost 2 shillings or 40¢. We are learning to get along fairly well with the English money. The best way to learn it is take a pocket full & go up town & buy a few things & you'll learn to count it.

Then we went to the YMCA. It's real nice there. They sell coffee, sandwich, cookies, & ration to 2 bars of candy to each person.

I like the people. You have to greet them first, they are glad to talk to you.

Well I had better bring this to a close. Hope you are getting my letters & if you think about it I would like for you to send me a few air mail stamps.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 25, 1943
V-Mail, Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

I sent you a telegram today & imagine you will get it in a couple of days. I don't imagine you have received any of my letters as yet, but you I imagine you will be getting some of them in a few days. Have you

seen Mrs. Reichman lately. I have been wandering what ever happened to the cake she sent me before I left the States. Next time you see her thank her for me even though I didn't receive the package.

I saw the Muenke boy on our trip over, but didn't get a chance to talk to him, by the time I got over to where he was, he was gone. So tell his brother I saw him. This will be about all for right now. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
October 26, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well I feel a lot better today since I received two letters from home one mailed on the 8th & the other mailed on the 18th. I think that is very good service. I also received a letter from Aunt Haysie. I think she was rather surprised to hear that I am here. She said Uncle J. was planning on going to St. Louis to try & buy merchandise. She said if they had the merchandise, they could sell it. Imagine that is everybody's problem. The business places are having the same trouble over here. We went into a store Sunday & asked for candy & cookies, but they were completely sold out. All they had was soda water & that is very hard to get. The fellow said if he loses or breaks a bottle that is one bottle less he will be able to get from the factory. Bottles are very scarce. I received a letter from Sara. She said Bessie & Sam are in S.A. now. He is going into the army this month.

Was surely sorry to hear of the bad fire at home. I really is bad losing everything in a home like that. It must have had a good start by the time the Fire Dept. got there.

Was surprised to hear that you are giving up smoking. Think it is better to stop as it doesn't do a person any good. I smoke a pipe once in a while, especially after eating a meal, but I can quit any time as I haven't formed a habit. Some of the business concerns in the states gave each of us twelve packs of cigarettes & the Red Cross gave us what they call a "housewife." It is a bag containing a sewing kit, shine rag, extra pair of shoe laces, razor blades, playing cards, gum drops, soap container with soap, stationery & envelopes & a pencil. Think that is a very useful thing & it really comes in handy.

3:30. Since I started this letter I had to stop, now I shall try & finish. This afternoon we were taken through a castle. It is over a hundred years old & has about a hundred & thirty rooms. It really has some beautiful hand carving. & in each room there is large fire place made of marble with all sorts of decorations. It really was interesting seeing a structure so old & it makes a person wonder how they constructed things like that of rock with so few tools & instruments. If there was a building in the states like that it would really be worth something.

Think I had better bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 29, 1943
V-Mail, Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Was very glad to receive Millie's, Ruth's, and Leon's letters yesterday. I think the mail is making fairly good time from home. Hop you are getting all of mine the same way. Imagine you are busy with the pecan crop. How many lbs. did you get from the trees at home? The Blackberries are bearing now. It seems rather strange to be eating them this time of year & you should see the pretty sweet peas blooming. I noticed an apple tree full of apples a few hundred yds. down the road. Think I'll go down there & sample them one of these nights.

Will have to cut this short, so I can get this in today mail. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell ever
hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 31, 1943

Western Union

All well and safe are you all right please don't worry.

Leslie Lippman

Northern Ireland

November 1, 1943

Dear Papa,

Well how is everything coming along? We are doing just fine. It has been raining everyday infact if it doesn't rain a little during each day there is something wrong in Ireland.

I went to a little larger town Sat. than we usually go to. It is around 9 or 10 thousand people & they have some fairly nice stores. I went through Woolworth's which is a very nice place of business, carrying a nice line of variety goods. I noticed they carry a lot of brands we have in the states such as palmolive soap, Sloans linaments & things of that type. but you have to have a coupon to buy almost everything. One of the fellows wanted to buy a wash rag, but they wouldn't sell it to him on account of his not having a coupon. One thing we see a lot of & that is meat. There are a lot of meat markets & all have a good supply, but they keep most of it on tables & counters in the open, they haven't refrigerators like our markets. I went to a show & saw "The More the Merrier". I saw the same show in the states several months ago, but I enjoyed it as much the second time. Most all the movies over here are American production. Yesterday afternoon they had a very good Red Cross show. One American girl in the group & the rest were English. They were all very good & a bunch of pretty girls which alone is a treat to look at.

I saw something yesterday that I have never seen before -- they were sheering a horse & you should see the coat they were taking off of him. There are some beautiful horses in this country. They use a lot of the two wheel carts on the farms & in the town you see the horses pulling those old time buggies shaped like a tub. They are digging potatoes out now. This is a big potato country. & they raise nice ones.

Well this is about all for right now. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 4, 1943

Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

The past two days have seemed a lot like Xmas, getting a package & a letter which I was looking forward to getting for over a week. It was mailed on the 15th, but it took a little longer getting here than usual, as the others got here in about ten days, but when ever I get them I'm well satisfied as anything from home makes a fellow feel good. The pecans are certainly delicious & we have really been enjoying them. I had been thinking about those good pecans for the past two or three weeks & wishing I had a few. I also got the Houston Post - it was the Sept. 28th edition. I haven't gotten any editions of the "Sticker" as yet. I

imagine I'll be getting them before long. It takes a while to get this mail situation worked out, & when we do I am sure we will get fairly good service. Some of the mail travels by boat & that is a reason it takes a while longer.

I saw Otis Kent in town last Sat. & we had a good chat together. He also told me about Russell. Was surprised as he seemed to be doing alright after he got back from his trip to the valley. You remember I was at home on furlough then. (to be continued next letter)

November 7, 1943
continued from letter 1

I am wondering if you will be able to read my small writing after it has been photographed. If you can't let me know & I'll try & improve. There are a group of fellows in a bull session & listening to them & trying to write a letter, no telling what I will write. We are going to try & buy a small radio for our sleeping quarters & that will help pass the time away just a lot. Most of the radio programs here are very much like the programs at home. They go in for our music & dances in a big way. Since there are so many Americans in the British Isles They have gotten accustomed to the ways & likes of the Americans.

Well have to bring this to a close as it is about time for dinner. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello & thanks for the pecans.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 8, 1943
V-Mail, Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

I hit the Jack Pot again today - received the cable gram & also two letters from Ruth, Millie, & Leon, & surely glad to hear from home. Am wondering how many of my letters you have received since we have been here. Imagine you will start getting a few of them right along.

Was surprised to hear that you haven't had any rain yet. Wish I could send you a little from here, as it rains here everyday. There is mud here up to your knees. You should see the pastures. They are solid with green grass & the cattle are all as fat as they can be. Every week they have an auction sale & sell their cattle to the Govt. Am still eating the pecans & am really enjoying them. When ever you get one of those small pocket book calendars, I wish you would enclose it in one of the letters. None of the fellows folks have received the Bty. pictures. I believe someone will write to the co. & find out about it. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 10, 1943

Dear Papa,

It seemed like Xmas in our quarters last night. Most everyone received packages & letters. Those were the first packages we have received since we have been here. I was lucky in receiving three, the two all of you sent & the one Mrs. Reichman sent While I was still in the states. The cakes tasted as fresh & good as if they had just been baked, so we really had a good time eating cake, pecans & the candies that all of you sent. The packages came in good condition & everything is really nice & will get a lot of use of everything.

We also had payday yesterday & it came at just about the right time as I was almost broke. Beginning the first of December you will receive a check for \$30.00 which is an allotment I took out. They advised us to do that as it is not a good idea to carry too much money around over here, mainly because we don't have the occasion to spend it over here like we did in the States & we get 20% raise now for foreign duty.

Think I had better start writing on both sides of the paper as it is not too plentiful now & it makes the letter little lighter.

The Red Cross had a big bus out here yesterday with an automatic doughnut machine & they served them with hot coffee & the girls served smiles. A fairly good menu if a fellow is not too hungry. We have been getting very good meals here. They seem to be better here than they were in the states. I weighted while I was in town the last time & weighed 14 stones, 1 lb. The English use stones in place of lbs. There are 14 lbs. to a stone & that makes my weight 197 of course that is with all my clothes on & my shoes run up to several lbs. alone.

It was too bad Isy had to be taken away being rather young & having a nice family, but he never knew what it was to take care of himself of enjoy life & that is something everyone should do. It is a pity one works day & night & doesn't get to enjoy life when he can afford to & it doesn't take a fortune to do that.

It is almost time to eat supper so had better close. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell Millie, Ruth, & Leon I will write them real soon.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 13, 1943
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Imagine you spent the greatest part of Armistice Day at the farm picking up pecans & checking up on Domino. How is he getting along? I spent the afternoon in town. There wasn't anything going on as they don't celebrate over here at all. They only have two minutes of silence after eleven o'clock. At that time every one stops working, all the traffic & street cars are help up for two minutes -- then they go on about their duties. We went around to a radio shop to see about buying one. They only rent them out so I believe we are going to rent one. That will be a lot of company for us, as we will be able to get the programs from the States & keep up with the news. We get a daily paper each day published in London & it has a lot of news concerning the world conditions.

This will be just about all for right now as it is about time to get ready for dinner. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
November 14, 1943

Dear Millie, Ruth & Leon,

First of all I want to thank all of you for the nice box of things you sent me. I don't believe I have every enjoyed any gifts as much as those, as we are rationed on things like that & things that are rationed always taste much better. As I was opening the boxes the fellows were gathering around like four year old children just wondering what the contents were & we really had a big time eating. It seemed more like Xmas than the first of November, but it doesn't hurt to celebrate a little early.

We are getting along just fine, getting to like this part of the world fairly well. The Irish treat us very nice & think a lot of the American soldiers -- they call us "the Yanks". They are very friendly & enjoy talking to us about the states & finding out the way we live & it is a great difference. I hardly believe you will find

one American that will trade all of Europe for one county in Texas as far as living conditions are concerned. They just don't live like we do.

This is one of the best places for agriculture I have ever seen, mainly on account of the mild winters & summers & it rains almost everyday, not hard rains but showers, just enough to keep it muddy & sloppy all the time. The people get in those muddy fields like ducks & work their crops. They are digging out potatoes now. & to keep them fresh they dig holes in the field & bury the potatoes -- they keep that away for months at a time.

All the houses here are built of either brick or stucco & painted & white especially the farm houses surrounded by the pretty green pastures & fields & they raise beautiful flowers. They have "growing fences" here. They are hedges, small trees & evergreen bushes planted along the fence lines & the pastures are divided into two or three acre sections & each section is enclosed with a growing fence -- it makes a very pretty scene from a distance. Why the pastures are divided I don't know.

The other day several of us went to town & as we were walking down the road the side walks are awfully narrow, so we usually walk in the road. What I wanted to say as I was walking along I stepped on something real soft & it jumped, looking back I noticed it was a goat. This is a great goat & cattle country & at times it seems like they are all on the street & they are very gentle & will never get out of your way & at night the whole town is "blackened out" & you can't see a thing. Two other very good crops they have here are children & dogs. We never saw as many children & dogs in one place in our lives. Their religion requires each family to have a certain number of children & it seems that they are living up to their religion.

When we go into town & expect to eat a meal we always know exactly what the menu will be; either chips & steak, or chips & fish, or chips & sausage. That is the complete menu. Chips are what we call "french fried" potatoes & this being a big potatoes growing country they really go for them in a big way. Instead of children buying candy which require coupon they go into a "chip joint" & buy a bag of chips. About the only time they get any candy or gum is when the soldiers give it to them & they really beg for it.

Think I had better end this chatter before your eyes get tired. It is almost time for supper, so had better get ready.

Thanks again for the goodies. Hope everybody is feeling fine. Certainly have been enjoying your letters & appreciate your remembering me.

As ever,
Leslie

November 15, 1943
V-Mail, Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Just got through reading the letters from Ruth, Millie, & Leon, & also received one from Tubby & really glad to hear from everyone. Am rather surprised you haven't received more of my letters, but you no doubt will receive them as it takes time for them to go through. I will find out about the Kodak & let you know if you shall send it. Really would like to have it as there are some good scenes around here that I would like to have pictures of. You probably think I went to take some snap-shots of these "Irish-lasses", but I haven't seen but very few since we have been here that compares with the American girls. We hear in the larger cities they dress better & seem to be more up to date.

Am sure everyone was glad to have the long awaited for rain. Yesterday we had rain, snow, hail & sunshine. The weather changes here faster than it does in Texas. The sun can be shining & raining at the same time.

How is Uncle J. getting along? See he still trading jacks? Tell him hello for me when you see him.

It is about time to go to bed, so will sign off for tonight. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,

Leslie

Sunday, November 21, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just got back from town so shall attempt to write a few lines. Had a very quiet & restful weekend, as usual the weather was very dreary & cloudy & ideal weather to sleep, so stayed in the bed most of the morning, got up in time to eat dinner, had chicken fried steak, potatoes, cabbage, beans & cake, which was a pretty good dinner for a hungry fellow. Then we went up town & walked around. On Sunday's there is not a thing opened up a couple of eating places, so three other fellows & I went in & had chips, sausage & eggs that was the only thing they had on menu, so that's what we enjoyed eating.

I went to Cernagh on a pass Friday afternoon & as I was walking around I ran into a very nice dining room where they served something besides chips. Had a very good ham & sausage dinner with buns, cake & coffee. That was one of the nicest places I have found since we have been here. These people are beginning to learn that the Americans really go in for good food & drinks, but the way food is rationed over here we should give them credit for doing as good as they are.

I had to buy another flash light while I was in town, as they are something a person really has to have here. We have never seen as dark a night as there are here & during the winter months up until nine o'clock in the morning it is as dark as it is at midnight. All the towns around follow the black out laws & if you don't have any kind of light you surely will get lost easily.

Have you found out about my "Sticker" subscription? I haven't gotten an issue in over two months, so if you will check with "Mack" & see if he has my address.

This is about all for right now, so had better bring this to a close.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Thanksgiving
November 25, 1943

Dear Papa,

Certainly was glad to get Millie's, Ruth's, & Leon's letter yesterday, one written on the 8th & the other on the 10th. Am wondering how many of my letters you received. I wrote quite a few V mail letters inbetween the air mail letters. It may take a little longer to get a V mail over, but you can always be sure that you will eventually get it, as if the plane & its cargo is destroyed or goes down in the plane; they always have a recopy of all the V mail that is lost where -- as if the airmail is lost that is the end of it. But personally I had rather receive the air mail just as I have been. V mail is very good where you only have a short note to write & quite a few of mine are short, as news gets rather scarce at times.

I bet the front of the store looks nice with a fresh coat of paint. So even if you can't get much merchandise you will have a clean looking front. I went to town this afternoon & went into one of the jewelry shops with one of the fellows to get his watches repaired & the lady was complaining because she had such a difficult time in getting stock. She had just received a shipment of pocket books from England & she showed us the bill where they charged her 100% tax on the shipment, so you can imagine how high things are over here. One of the fellows bought a 54 inch square table damask for \$9.00. It wasn't near as nice as we used to have in the store. He really wanted a linen cloth, but they are very scarce. They showing the rayon & cotton cloths in place of linen.

Well we had our turkey dinner today & it was very good, but I enjoyed the supper more which consisted of pork chops -- they really hit the spot. We went into one of the bakery shops today & all they had were those little buns with sausage inside. They were just taken out of the oven & they were really good. I know what you call them but I can't spell it. Then we went down the street & got a shot of Scotch to warm up our tonsils. They have this old real dark beer here, a lot darker than the Bock beer we used to get at home. Beer is awfully hard to get & so is liquor.

I went to a dance up town last night. They have a very nice dance hall. The floor is built on springs. That was the first time I ever saw a dance floor like that. When they dance this jitter bug stuff you feel like you are on a boat. I didn't do very much dancing because that was the first night I was up until after ten o'clock in over two months & I got sorta sleepy & tired. They like the American music a lot over here -- that is really all you here. You can hear them singing "Deep in the Heart of Texas" & all those late tunes.

I asked Captain Crossley about my getting a kodak sent to me & he said you could send it & I would have to get a permit from headquarters to have it, so I would like for you to send it on. I don't know why they returned it to you from New York. I imagine we left after the package arrived.

Well this is about all for right now. Hope you are taking care of yourself & feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. In one of my letters I asked for a few air mail stamps. If they have been sent I can use them, but we can get all we need over here. I bought quite a few today in town, so don't bother about sending anymore, unless I ask for them.

Also send me a couple pairs of wool sox. If you have any of those wool work sox they will be just the thing. I sent a few pair home I believe & they will be alright if they haven't any holes. I will only need about 3 or 4 pairs.

Northern Ireland
November 28, 1943

Dear Papa,

This has certainly been an ideal Sunday to lie around. It has been dreary all day & now it is beginning to rain, which is a very regular occurrence here. Surely was glad to get all the letters Thursday. Since I haven't been getting the Sticker, I have to rely on the letters from home. Also received a letter from Celia asking if there was anything I needed she would be glad to send it, but I don't need anything but socks & I asked you to send them with my kodak.

I went to town yesterday afternoon for a while & walked around. I walked into one of the dry goods stores just to window shop. They have very small stocks in their stores as they only get a certain percent & things are awfully high. Women's work shoes, they call them utility shoes cost around \$8.00 & the men use the old hobbs nail shoes. I don't see how they wear them, but they do. Each person gets 20 coupons every six months & a pair of shoes takes 9 coupons, a suit of U.wear takes 6 points so the people can't buy very much & their food is rationed the same way.

I went to a dance last night & watched them for a while. They dance something like the square dance, but they spin around like a top. It makes a person feel drunk to watch them. They call it the "Mad House Dance" & it is the right name for it.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie several days ago & she said Uncle Julius had gone to St. Louis to buy merchandise, but he didn't have much luck in getting any.

I am going to Belfast tomorrow on a 24 hour pass. It is one of the largest cities in N. Ireland & is very pretty. I'm really anxious to see it. Two other fellows & I are going together & I am sure we will have a nice time.

It is almost time to go to bed so had better close & get a little "beauty" rest. Hope you are getting fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 1, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just had supper so shall scribble you a few lines. I went to Belfast Monday. Got there about six in the evening, went up to the Red Cross & registered for a bed then went out to a cafe & had supper & walked around town. They have everything blackened out so you can't see much. We met three little kids & they took us around & showed us where everything was & sorta got our directions straightened. The streets don't run straight in one direction. They all run in curves & all sorts of angles.

We went to a dance & had a very nice time. They had a good orchestra & plenty of girls & some pretty nice looking ones. They had a bathing revue. You have heard about the Irish Rose. Well they had about fifteen of them & it wasn't nothing the matter.

The people dress very nice & seem to be more Americanized than those in the smaller towns. There are some very nice stores & theaters. They still use the old horse drawn carriages in place of taxis. What I liked best of all were the double decked street cars. If I every go back I'm going to get on the top of one & really look the city over. They have some beautiful buildings there. I am enclosing a few pictures that I bought there.

They have a nice Red Cross for the service men. You get a good bed & they have a cafeteria, a library & all kinds of recreation.

We really had a nice time, but the time passed a little fast. We left at noon Tuesday. If we could have another day, it would have been mighty nice, but maybe we will be able to go back again real soon.

How is everything coming along. Imagine the Xmas trade is in full swing now; that is what little there will be as don't imagine it will be too rushing.

Think this will be about all for right now as am out of any more news. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 3, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just a few lines to let you know I am getting along OK. I received two letters from Millie, Ruth & Leon dated the 12th & 22nd & surely glad to get them.

Last night I got a package from Zela with home-made candy, a fruit cake, hdkfs, & a tie. & I received a package from Aunt Haysie with candy, soap, shaving cream tooth powder, & wash rags. I really have a good supply of things now. The fellow that sleeps next to me built a locker & he & I have it filled with supplies & they certainly are coming in handy.

It is still raining here & it is fairly cool. I never saw a country that had so much wet weather. The ground stays muddy & sloppy all the time. They call in "the Evergreen Ireland" as everything is always green & the county looks like springtime all during the winter.

This is about all now. Not much news for this time. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 5, 1943

Dear Papa,

I received a Xmas card from the Fire Dept. with the signature of each member & a dollar bill enclosed. Really think that is nice & am surely proud of it. That old U.S. dollar bill certainly looked good as I opened the card. I'm going to try & keep it for good luck, as U.S. money can't be spent here, but we can get it exchanged.

I also received a letter from Millie, Ruth, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. I sorta feel like you do about V mail, they are too short, but we always haven't enough news to write in a regular. I can shoot the bull a little but you may get tired reading it.

I received a letter from Aunt Haysie. She said she received one of my V mail letters & she should get another in a few days as I wrote her thanking her for the Xmas gift. Uncle Julius went to Dallas to meet a salesman. She said salesmen don't come to the valley anymore. Imagine it is a little too far out of the way for them to go for the amount of merchandise they have for sale.

Just got a letter from Sara. They went to see Sam, Bessie's husband, stationed at Camp Barkley. Bessie is working at Frost Bros & Walter is going to school & Barkey is staying home now, so that is the extent of their family affair.

We went to a dance Friday night & had a real nice time. Had plenty of girls from the surrounding towns. Most of the girls work at a handkerchief factory. I asked if they would sell some linen hdkfs. but won't sell any. They are making all of them for the U.S. so not doubt you may get some of them. I went into one of the stores to buy some men's hdkfs as I was running low on them & they only sold me two. You have to have coupons to buy them. Think I will have enough now as Zela sent me some & we were issued several.

So you are going to have some of your own pork sausage prepared at the Lippman ranch. Who is going to make it? Let Joe & Raymond make it -- I bet they can really make "red hot." When I was in Belfast the other day as I was passing a market I noticed dead ducks & squabs on one of the counters unpicked with their head still on & they had some sort of large fish with fins that look like wings. I never saw anything like it & they had a lot of eels as thick as my arm. I don't see how they eat that food after seeing it all displayed the way they have it. Sanitation is something they don't follow. When the butchers get ready to deliver their meat, they throw a couple of cows on a truck and carry them around uncovered & when they carry it into a customers place they throw the piece of meat in a basket & take it in.

It is about bed time, so had better close this chatter. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 11, 1943

Dear Papa,

Received F & G letters from Ruth, Millie, & Leon & surely glad to receive them. I haven't received any issues of the Sticker since we have been here, but I think I am pretty well lined up on the news from the letters I have been getting.

Was glad to hear you finally received the picture. Most all the other fellows folks have received theirs, so they must have been swarmed at the studio with business was the reason they were delayed. I really don't think it is a very good picture, as there is too much light in the background, but anyway I wanted to have one.

The organization that J.J. was in, or is still in has moved here & I have been wondering if he is still with it, so next time you see Mrs. Schindler ask her about it. If he is over here I surely would like to have his address & I would try & look him up.

You are surely doing well with the pecans this season. I bet Bill T. is in heaven now since he is getting a little money. How is his little bull calf doing?

So you had dinner with Aunt H. & U.J. Bet they had a fancy dinner prepared. How are they getting along? Where is Hirsh now?

Will have to finish later as am getting sleepy so had better go to bed.

Sunday afternoon -- Four of us went to town yesterday afternoon. We went up to the Red Cross -- they have a very nice place there, a three story building & they serve lunches & have a reading room & a game & amusement room. We were certainly glad to find that we could get lunches & meals there, as about the only thing you can in town are chips & one gets tired eating the same thing all the time. We went to a dance last night while in town & had a good time. I saw the boy there that lives near Moravia. You remember we saw him at Frank's Place one Sunday afternoon. We had quite a nice chat. It seems no matter what part of the world you go to you see someone from home & it certainly makes one feel good to see a home face. He said he sees Otis Kent almost everyday.

I believe I told you in one of the other letters that I received the cablegram you sent. You probably haven't received that letter as yet. I believe I received it around the 8th of Nov.

Well this is about all for this time. So will ring off. They are having a movie here this afternoon, so think I'll go see it. It is "Swing Shift Mazie." I have seen it once but don't mind seeing it again.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 13, 1943

Dear Papa,

Had a very good surprise today. One of the fellows from our organization came in & put his hand over my eyes & said guess who's here. I thought he was only pulling a prank as soldiers usually do & didn't pay much attention to him & as he removed his hand who was standing in front of me but J.J. I was almost stunned for a second, as I was really surprised to see him. He only had but a few minutes to stay, so he asked all about what I have been hearing from home, as it has been quite a while since he has heard from home & he hasn't had an opportunity to write. He said he wrote home yesterday, so his mother will hear from him about when you receive this note. He looks fine & still is fat as ever. He looks as if he has been eating regular, so when you see his mother & Miss Emma tell them that we met.

I received three issues of the "Sticker" this morning & certainly glad to see them, but after reading them, I find that I am not far behind in the news, as the letters have kept me very well posted on the news.

It turned rather cold here this morning. Have had ice on the water all day. I had rather have the cold weather than all the wet sloppy weather we have been having.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 14, 1943

Dear Papa,

Received Ruth's, Millie's & Leon's letters this evening of Nov. 24th & surely glad to hear from them.

Did you go to Houston Thanksgiving? If you did, I know you had a nice time visiting the folks. How are they getting along. Did you go see Uncle? Aunt Haysie said that he wasn't doing any better. I'm going to have to write to Zela & thank her for the Xmas present she sent me.

I am sure you all are busy at the store now. I noticed in the "Sticker" that prices are fairly high on farm products & farmers should have quite a bit of cash now.

Today was our ration day which is one of the days of the week we look forward to. We can get a weeks supply of candy, cookies, toilet articles, cigars, cigarettes or tobaccos & stationary. & once in a while we get Coca Cola. Don't bother about sending me any stationary, as we can get all we need now.

How is the little "Eumbry" getting along at the farm? Imagine you will have to build another extension on the house for the increase.

Mail coming from the states is not censored.

I haven't anything else for news right now, so will bring this little note to a close. Hope you are feeling fine. & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 21, 1943

Dear Papa,

Received three letters from Millie, Ruth, & Leon & certainly glad to hear from them, also received three issues of the "Sticker" today, so that makes me almost caught up with the issues. I noticed in one of the issues where you have another duck added to your flock. That's a pretty good way to get them.

Know you are glad to have the rain, as the pastures must have been awfully dry. How are the cattle now? Wish I could send you a little rain from Ireland. As it rains & snows & sunshines a little each day. We drove up the country today & as we were passing through one of the towns we saw some of the prettiest steers & sheep. They just drive them right through the business district, no matter how much traffic there is --- they stop the traffic & let the cattle go by. One Saturday evening while I was in town I saw a big white hog running up the main business street. We got a big laugh out of that as it did look funny to us. They only have hedges for fences & when Mr. Hog feels like going up the street he just pushes through.

I surely was sorry to hear of Uncle Julius' death. We surely will miss him a lot. Is Hirsh still at home? I tried to get a card of sympathy Saturday, but they had none in stock. One day this week I'm going into another town & go to one of the printing shops & try & get one.

We were planning on going to Belfast on pass Wed., but Wed. all the business places are closed & they call it the business man's holiday, so I imagine we will have to wait until after Xmas.

Have you heard from Patsey lately? If you have his address, send it to me as I would like to write him sometimes. Wonder how he likes the army. Bet he will have a big time after he gets used to it.

Surely glad you went to Houston & know the folks enjoyed having you. Glad to hear everyone is feeling fine. You were lucky you know the conductor, so he could stop the train for you. It would have been pretty nice for you to go in to S.A. & visit there for the day. Think I would have done that anyway just for the ride.

Had better bring this to a close as it is about bed time. Hope you are feeling fine & tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 22, 1943

Dear Papa,

I imagine you all are plenty busy now since there is a few more shopping days left until Xmas; then after Xmas you will have the annual job of taking inventory. I was in town yesterday afternoon on pass & they really had a mob. You could hardly get by on the sidewalk, they are so awfully narrow. So most everyone walks in the street. Most all the stores are decorated with holly & Xmas trees & they look very nice, but they have very few things for the customers. It seemed like most of the food shops & meat markets were about the busiest. I noticed that they have plenty of meat on hand & also turkeys & chickens, so the people should have enough to eat, that is if they have the points to buy them with.

We ate at the Red Cross. Had steak, fried celery, pie, bread & coffee. It was pretty good then we went to a dance but didn't stay long.

I received the Xmas cards & thanks a lot. They surely are nice also received one from Tubby, Mrs. Farmer & Martha Kahanek.

I tried to get a card of sympathy, but you can't get one any place. They have a lot of bookshops & print shops here. They say they print them sometimes, but right now they haven't any.

Glad you paid my taxes on the house in Houston. Is the Royalty Co. still sending the rent? Think the insurance will be due before long. Chromcek will probably let you know.

This will have to be a very short note as it is time to put this in the mail now. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 25, 1943

Dear Papa,

Just finished our Xmas dinner & it was very good. Had turkey. Got a drum stock about as long as my arm & it really tasted good. Also had potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, dressing, gravy, peaches, candy & each fellow got a pack of cigarettes. Now I feel plenty full so shall relax by writing you a letter.

Received the letters of Dec. 3rd. (M) from Millie, Ruth & Leon this morning & also Xmas card from the Klecker family. Hope you have gotten some of my letters. They have not been coming through as fast now as they were when we first got here. Imagine it is on account of the Xmas rush. Mail service is usually slowed down considerably this time of year.

Paul came to see me this morning, but I wasn't in. I saw him several days ago & he said he received an Xmas card from you & had written you a letter. I went to church services in town this morning. All the churches are having services for the service men today. It was a very short service & then we walked around town for a while; everyplace of business is closed today. They observe all religious holidays very strictly over here. The Red Cross was the only place open, so we went in & had a cup of coffee & some cake. They are serving turkey for supper there this evening. Think I had enough turkey for today, as I couldn't eat all my drumstick for dinner, so the fellow sitting next to me helped me out by chewing a little on the bone.

Yesterday we had quite an experience. They had several hundred children from 6 to 11 years old, & part of them were orphans whose parents were killed in the bombing in England. They had dinner with us. Each of us had a little child to take around & we took them into our barracks & each one got a Xmas gift of chocolate bars, gum & an apple. You should have seen how proud they were to get the gifts. Probably some of them hadn't had any candy for a long time, as sweets require coupons & they are rather hard to get. Then they had a movie for them & they got a "big kick" out of that. It was real nice for them. The little boy I had was eleven & he said he was in bed all day the day before with flu & fever but he wouldn't miss this trip for anything. He couldn't eat anything but he seemed to enjoy his self.

Our Battalion adopted a child whose parents were killed in the bombing in England. Each of us donated towards the fund & they are going to have enough to keep the child in support for a couple of years. We don't know if it will be a boy or girl. Everyone thinks a girl about 18 or 20 would be very nice.

The other day one of the fellows told me he wished I had some of the good "country sausage" like you sent me last year. I have been thinking about that for a long time. In fact so strongly that my appetite has forced me to ask you to send some of it. I know it will certainly "hit the spot" with the "Irish Rye Bread."

This morning while we were drinking coffee at the Red Cross we had some cakes made of the rye flour & they were very good. Not very sweet & they also have raisin bread & it is better than the plain rye.

I noticed almost everyone is stretched out on their beds taking a nap & I believe that is what I need as I am getting a little sleepy. That turkey is probably starting to digest.

Surely hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello & want to wish all of you a Happy New Year & lets hope before the next year we can all be together & celebrate a victory that everyone is now looking forward to.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
December 29, 1943

Dear Papa,

Received three letters today from Ruth, Millie & Leon of Dec. 10th, 17th, & 18th. R, S & P. Surely glad to hear from them. Three of us went to Belfast on pass & had a very nice time. For an unusual change the weather was very nice. No rain, it was little cool, but we didn't mind that. It was really crowded there, being Xmas week. We went to a dance & stayed there a while, had a nice time. We stayed at the Red Cross & they had a big crowd of soldiers there. Saw a lot of fellows from the outfit. J.J. is in, thought I'd see him. Has his folks heard from him yet? Had a good breakfast, fried bacon, toast, jelly, bread & butter. It was a real good meal. Couldn't get any eggs, they are very hard to get. Al we can get over here is powdered eggs. They are good if they are prepared right. We walked around town most of the morning & looked at the sights. It doesn't get light here until about 8:30, so the mornings are rather short.

Was sorry to hear of Mr. Jaresh being in such a bad accident. Poor fellow has had his share of hard luck.

Think you will be doing a wise thing by letting Raymond go as from what I saw while I was at home, he didn't seem to take much interest in the work. Think Joe could handle the work much better by himself & if there is any extra work to be done, you can always get Mike to run out there.

Surely glad you are sending me the socks. They will come in handy & also the other things to eat.

This is a rather short note, but will have to bring this to a close as am out of news.

Will write more later in the week. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie