

1944

Northern Ireland
January 1, 1944

Dear Papa,

Happy New Year to all of you. This may be a little late, but it still holds good. Hope by next year we will all be home to celebrate the new year together; better still to be home way before that time.

Received Millie's, Ruth's & Leon's letters yesterday. That was group (M) I think it is a good idea to number them, or mark them alphabetically, as you have been, as I can check & see that I get all of them & up to now, they are up to order. I also received a birthday card from Aunt Haysie & Xmas cards from Christine & one from Irma, Lee, & AnniBeth Prause. When you see them thank them for me, & I'll try & write them one of these days.

The mail man just brought me three letters of the 20th & 22nd & certainly glad to get them. Also received the clippings, so I'll have something to read this afternoon. I surely was sorry to hear of Mrs. Marks death. I certainly thought a lot of her. A couple of years ago when Uncle Julius had one of his spells & he called me over, Mrs. Marks was there & she told me of the bad indigestion spells she would always have.

I know all of you are happy that the holiday rush is over. I bet it really seems strange in the store with the stock as low as it is. I noticed in the paper the other day where the manufacturers are going to release goods for the civilian trade, so that should help the merchants a little. I have been noticing in most of the show windows here that baby goods is about the only thing they display. You find a lot of baby shops & most of the stores carry a large stock for babies & children. The Main Crop in this country is the baby crop & it is always bumper crop.

I went to a dance last night, but as all the new year dances run, it was jammed, but everybody seemed to have a good time. They are having another one tonight, so may take a run up & see how it is.

How is the car running? Do you think it will hold out until the next new models come out which I hope won't be very long.

We had another turkey dinner today. I had a piece of white meat about as big as my fist & it was really good. Imagine that will be all the turkeys we will get now. We'll go back to eating steak.

Saw Paul yesterday. He was in Belfast last Monday. He didn't go to dance last night as he had to work. Imagine he will go tonight.

I am sure I told you in one of my other letters that I received to air mail stamps. We can get the stamps & also the airmail envelopes here now. It has been two weeks since I have received a "Sticker" but the second class mail comes through much slower. I usually get three or four at one time. That is the way packages come through. Now since the Xmas rush is over, we should be getting our mail much faster & you likewise.

Think this will be about all for today, so will sign off. Hope you are felling fine & taking care of yourself.

Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

January 2, 1944
Northern Ireland - V Mail

Dear Papa,

It has been quite a while since you have received a V-Mail letter from me, so think I shall send you one now; being that I haven't any news will make this a very short note.

I went up town late yesterday evening, all the business places were open all day. They don't observe New Year's here, as we do. Then I went to the dance, but didn't stay but a few minutes. Thought about my soft bed & came on back & went to bed. Didn't get up this morning until 10:30, so I have caught up with my sleep now.

Received a birthday card from Aunt Haysie yesterday. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

January 4, 1944
Northern Ireland - V-Mail

Dear Papa,

I received the birthday & new years greetings yesterday & thanks a million. I certainly appreciate the remembrance & lets hope my next year our greetings will be by words of speech & be together again.

Was surely glad to hear that the Dr. was satisfied with the condition of your kidneys & that shows that you have been taking care of yourself & the thing for you to do is to continue to watch your diet & take your injections, & before very long your system will be normal & all you will have to do is watch your diet which everyone should do. Will write a real letter in a few days. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

January 5, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to get letters no. 15, 17 & 20 & surely glad to get them. It was rather unusual getting three at one time. That is sorta like old times. Sorry to hear that you have had a cold. Hope by this time it is entirely better. It is very easy to get colds & coughs this time of year. A person has to be plenty careful.

We really had a heavy snow fall last night about eight inches, it was really pretty out this morning & not very cold. Imagine by March, we will have plenty of it.

So Mike Lee is playing nurse maid now. It was too bad that Mr. Schaefer had to get...page 2 missing...So you cut the cows horn off. I was thinking about that old cow not long ago & wondering how her horns were, because I noticed them growing in when I was at home. How are the rest of the cattle doing? Am sure they are in good condition since there is plenty of feed for them.

Well this is about time for bed. We have been going to bed with the chickens here lately. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

January 7, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received 4 letters today from Millie, Ruth & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. They were marked O.V.W. & Y. I also received the Sticker, which was the first issue I have received in three weeks. Imagine the mail will start coming through much faster now since the holidays.

So you sold the hog crop. Thought you would butcher it, & have plenty of pork on hand, but am sure it would be a lot of trouble, & I don't imagine you are eating but very little meat now. I was talking to one of my Irish man friends this morning, & he told me each person was allowed one egg per month & a family couldn't have but twelve hens, if they had more they would have to sell all the eggs over their allotment, so they don't get many eggs here, that is fresh eggs. Where there are children, or a person that is ill, they can get a few more with a Doctors request.

Saw Paul in town today & he had quite a little chat. Also saw Pete he is one of the fellows you met when you came to see me in O. Has Mrs. Schlinder heard from I.J. as yet. I was near where he stays one day last week, I'm going to try & get a pass & go see him & see how he is getting along. Was glad to get Lewis Bass' address. We might accidentally get to see each other one of these days.

Tell Mr. Taylor Hello for me next time you see him. Glad he is getting along so well. Do you ever hear from Cosgrave? Saw some overshoes the other day & who do you think manufactured them, "Endicott Johnson." That name doesn't sound so good to you, but they are putting out pretty good mdse. now. I wore a pair of their shoes for over a year.

Don't know anything else for news right now, so will have to bring this to a close.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P. S. If you see Patsey tell him hello for me & hope he is getting along fine. I'll write him one of these days.

Northern Ireland
January 10, 1944

Dear Papa,

I received the box yesterday & we are certainly enjoying the good eats & those wool sox are just the thing as I was certainly in need of a few extra pairs. Thanks a lot for everything. It sorta seems like Xmas again; receiving packages.

I had a very nice week end. Went to a dance Sat. night & Sun. afternoon went up town. & ten went on a sight seeing tour to a few of the historical places. There is a fellow at the museum, Mr. Patterson; he is one of the old time Irish citizens & he had made a study of the different tombs & forts around here & a very interesting person to talk to. We got back from the tour about six & had supper at the Red Cross & then he told us different stories about the people over here as to their belief in giants, fairies & cats. He has written several books & now he is devoting most of his time to entertaining the soldiers & staying at the museum. He talked to us until about ten o'clock, then we had to go & have tea with him. These people really like their tea. I is awfully hard to get good coffee over here. Most of the people use a syrup to make coffee & it is very weak nothing like the coffee you make in the morning for breakfast.

I received a birthday greetings from Louise & Frank, so please tell them I certainly appreciate it & thanks a lot & will write them. I am going to have to get on a writing spree one of these days & write all the people when I have received cards from, or better still hire on of these Irish lasses to do my correspondence. I also received a letter from Aunt Haysie. It was written on the 26th of Dec. It was one of the longest & best letters I have ever received from her. Usually I have such a hard time reading here writing as she writes usually in such a hurry, but she wrote this at home & no doubt had more time. If I thought she wouldn't be offended I'd congratulate her on that letter.

Is Mollie still in Hallettsville? I was just wondering If Meyer was still in Africa. That is where he was stationed the last time I saw his mother.

So you are feeding the cattle. Hope you have enough feed to run you through the winter. How is the corn holding out? You remember I was at home when you had that gathered from the small field. That was a pretty good crop of corn to be grown in that much Johnson grass. That is something you don't see here, so you might enclose a few seeds of Johnson Grass in a letter sometimes & I'll throw it out in their pastures & give them a start of a grass that grows a 100% on the "Lippman Ranch" & it should do the same on these farms. The average farm around here is around 40 or 50 acres. People with 100 acres have a regular ranch. But you should see how they take care of the land here. The pastures & fields are all fertilized each year. There is on an average of 70 inches of rain fall a year, but they never have a very hard rain. It is mostly light showers & you never see land here that is washed or gullies in fields as we have & each field has a growing fence around it which is not more than a bunch of shrubs & small trees & that also keeps the land from eroding. But I will still take the old USA soil anyway, as it is still the best of all.

It is way past my bed time & I had better stop this scribbling as it is no doubt hard on the eyes.
Thanks again for the nice box of eats & the sox.
Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
January 15, 1944

Dear Papa,

Tonight is movie night, but I don't feel much like going, so being usually quiet here while everyone is at the show, think I'll scribble you a few lines. Thought I would have a letter by today, but there has been very little mail coming in this week. It will probably come in at one time as it usually does. Any way, or any time it comes, I'll be satisfied, as I am not "fussy" about getting mail.

Yesterday, I took a little time off & went through the linen factory. There is very little linen made there now. They make more domestics & shirting. Their shirting look very much like the cotton suitings we had. They make all sorts of domestic in all widths. All of that is used only by the govt & also the linens. The only thing made for domestics use is the shirting. It was very interesting in watching them make the cloth from the time they bring the flax in & put it on spools & wave it into cloth & run through revolving blades that cut all the loose particles. They ship it to a bleaching mill.

Last Sunday when we went on a sight see tour, we went to a "Scutching" mill. That is where they run the flax plants through hammer mills, very much like the old corn grinders & the bark is beaten off the plant, leaving the strands of flax & that goes through a process & put into hanks. This bark has to be rotten before they run it through the "scutching" mill, so right after they gather the flax from the field they put it in holes filled with water & they let it soak for fourteen days & they say this gives off an odor that person can hardly stand, but the Irishmen can take anything. Then they take it from these holes & place on the ground to dry. I often wondered why the Irish linen was the best lines & I asked one of the fellows at the mill & he said it was the dampness in the "dam" country that causes its strong texture & also there has to be a certain kind of water which they have over here.

Just got through eating some Irish pastry. Their pastries & cakes are made of this dark heavy flour, but they taste good when a fellow is "houngrly."

Sunday -- Shall try & finish now. Got sleepy last night & dozed off while writing this. Imagine you are spending the day out at the farm today. How are the cattle looking now, since you have been feeding them?

It is almost time to eat so will have to bring this to a close. Will write later in the week. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Northern Ireland
January 17, 1944

Dear Papa,

Thought I would scribble you a few lines before I went to bed. I probably won't be able to write you tomorrow, as am going to Belfast to see Ervin Berlin's show "This is the Army." It is a stage show of an all soldier cast & they say it is very good. They had on Broadway in New York for quite sometime, & it went over in a big way & it has been in England for several month. It will be in Ireland for two or three weeks. I got a complimentary ticket, so think I will enjoy it, as the trip to Belfast is worthwhile itself.

Saw Paul this morning, said he is taking a sight seeing trip tomorrow. Don't know exactly where he is going. Am sure he will have a nice time. I believe I mentioned in one of my other letters that he surely was glad to receive the letter from all of you.

I received a letter today from Millie, Ruth & the both of the Leon's & surely glad to hear from them. Seems as if you are having your share of rain & bad weather now, but that is to be expected this time of year.

How is Joe getting along on the farm doing the work by himself? Am sure he will do alright, as he seemed to be a good Mexican; but the other fellow didn't seem to care about working.

How is Middie Lee feeling now? Hope she has gotten over her illness. Tell her she had better drink a little more beer. I would like to send her some of the beer they sell here in Ireland, & see if she could drink it. It is as bitter as any thing I have ever tasted & I don't like it. They say is supposed to be very healthy, but I don't care to be any healthier, so I'll leave the beer off my menu. They have several kinds here. The "Guinness" is the most popular; that's the bitter kind. It is as dark as molasses & tastes like it. These Irishmen drink it along with whiskey. That's what makes their "noses" so red.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Belgium
January 19, 1944

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 22 yesterday & surely glad to get it. It really was a long time waiting for that one & surely hope the mail will start coming regular. We didn't get any mail today, because the road were too bad. There was strong wind blowing this morning & blew up a lot of snow drifts. It was awfully bad this morning, but it is a lot calmer now. It wasn't so cold, but that wind was really ruff.

How are you coming with your teeth? Hope they are not bothering you any more. If they are, I'd have them worked on now.

Have you been getting the allotment check each month. You are supposed to get one each month, so let me know if you have been getting them.

I got an issue of the "Sticker" several days ago. It was a Sept. issue. They have been coming through rather slow, but they eventually will get here.

Did you go to S.A. to buy merchandise? I imagine it is fairly hard to get any now, but taking a trip there or to Houston every now & then will be about the best way to get any merchandise now.

This is about all for this time. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly
Leslie

Northern Ireland
January 20, 1944

Dear Papa,

We had a very nice time in Belfast. Another fellow & I went together. We got there at 4:30, just in time for the 5:45 performance. It really was a good show, to have all men actors. There were 150 soldiers both white & Negro. It was more of a musical comedy & something a little different than we have seen. We usually see the girls put on the "DOG," but this time they gave the men a chance & they did very good. For a little feminine atmosphere they had a few of these fellows dressed up in dress. I am enclosing the program, so you can get a pretty good idea of the show.

After we got out of the show, we had supper, then went up to Albert White's dance hall. That was the first time I had ever been to that particular place. We have been hearing how nice a place it was, so we took a chance & were really pleased. They have a good orchestra, & it is really a "swanky" place. It looked like the places back in the States. All streamlined & most important they have the bushes there that these Irish Roses grow on that we hear so much about. The girls are really pretty, they dress up to the minute. Another good thing about that Hall, they don't allow Jitter Bug, or allow any drinking. It really is a clean place. There are two bouncers at the door & if anything goes wrong they should be capable of bouncing them out; but we didn't see a drunk, or any sort of argument, we really had a nice time. The weather was perfect, like a spring day, but it turned cold this afternoon & started raining again. The Irishmen call it "dirty, bloody" weather. It doesn't get very much below freezing here, but is so damp you feel the cold more, than in below zero weather in a high altitude, but one good thing these cold spells only last a few days & then it turns warm.

I received a long letter yesterday from Tubby. She said she doesn't hear from Albert very often. Probably the mail is delayed.

Don't know of anything else so had better close. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

January 26, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

I really hit the jack pot at mail call yesterday. Got a lot of xmas & birthday cards, a bit late, but surely was glad to get them. They were from Mr. & Mrs. Steiber, Chief & Mrs. Speckels, Marth Max & the boys, Dr. & Mrs. Money, Millie & Folks, Ruth, Leon & family & yours. So now I am going to leave it to you to thank all these people, as I won't have the time to write them all individually, however I only wish I could, but I am sure they will realize.

Was surely glad to hear that you got another tire for the car. Now you should have pretty fair tires all around, & they will no doubt last until you will be able to get one of those new model automobiles that they are going to have on the market after the war which we hope won't be too long off. How about me bringing back one of those automobiles with the steering wheel on the right hand side & be a little different? I have ridden in them several times & they are very easy riding & fairly fast. They get around 20 mi. on a gal of gas on larger models & the small ones get around 35 or 40. They are rather economical, but the tax is very high. They pay so much per horse power, that is the reason there are so many of the small six cylinder cars over here & yet the tax runs to around \$50.00 on them.

How many cards of wood will you have cut this year? Am sure it is hard getting anyone to work now, but if I were you I wouldn't worry about it. Wait until I get home, as I will need something to keep me in condition & that should be just the thing.

Don't know a thing else for right now, so will have to ring off.
Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello & also be sure & thank all those people for me.

Lovingly,
Leslie

January 30, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received in the past four days letters X, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 & surely glad to get them. Am still looking for no. 4. It will probably come in a few days. It seems as if the service is getting a little faster now & we should be getting our mail in about ten days now & that won't be so bad.

You certainly must have had a lot of cold weather. How did the cattle stand it. Am sure they are taking plenty of feed now, but there is a lot of brush that they can eat & help them along.

We had an exceptional pretty day today. I had better not brag too much because it rains out of a clear sky here. But a fair day here is something very unusual. When these Irishmen see the sun shining, they get scared & go back into the house. I took a little walk out in the country a short way this afternoon to take in a little of this sunshine & also took my camera with me & snapped a few pictures. No - I didn't take any of any girls, as I didn't meet any, as I said before they are scared of the sunshine. On the side of the road I noticed a cute little farm house with a wheat straw roof, so I snapped & took a picture of it & as I was leaving an old man stepped out of the door & called me over & asked me to come & have a little chat. He was about seventy & his wife was about the same age. They still farm a little on about 25 acres of land & they raise a few chickens. They have a nice little home.

The thing I admired most was their fire place, a large one built of brick & plaster & it had a "Fawn Blast" which is nothing more than a fan turned by a large wheel & as you turn it blows a draft through pipes under the fire & that makes the fire burn faster & gives it a large flame. It is a pretty good outfit. And they wanted me to drink a cup of tea, but it was almost time to go back for supper & the lady was so old I hated to put her to that trouble, but any time you visit them at their homes they always want you to have tea with them. That is an old southern custom in Ireland.

They told me to be sure & come back to see them. They promised that they would let me have a few fresh eggs, so I'm going to make it my business to go back, as fresh eggs are as scarce in this country as the sunshine.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

P. S. Probably the letter that I told you I received the air mail stamps hasn't arrived, as I told you I had gotten them. Infact I have used all of them. We like to buy them here now.

Saturday, February 5, 1944

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to receive Ruth's, Millie's, & Leon's letters nos. 2. From that group of letters it seemed that stock taking was almost completed & now all of you were happy that job is completed for another year. I have been going into one of the stores every morning to read their paper. Sorta chiseling, but they always ask me to come by & get warm & we always have a little chat & they have been taking inventory for the past week or so. I noticed where they unfold all their piece goods & measure it. You can imagine what a job that is, & they have a large stock of dress material & a very large stock of wool suiting for mens suits. I told one of the fellows about our measuregraph. He had never heard of one, but said wished they had one, as it would really save time & a lot of extra work, but most of these people don't care about saving time, as they have plenty of time for everything, they don't care about hurrying

through life. In some of their ways they are forty years behind us & there is no one that will change their ways. They are happy so why try and change them. We have noticed the farmers around here never use a four wheel wagon. They all use these little carts (2 wheels) & they have horses here big as elephants, but they take care of them, & you never see one of the fellows riding in the wagon, they usually walk along the ride. Guess its just one of the old "southern customs."

Has Mrs. Schlinder heard for I.J. lately? I haven't seen him since he came out to see me right after he got to Ireland & I never get to see Otis Kent. Do his folks hear from him very often?

Last night we heard a radio program from the States dedicated to our organization. Imagine you heard it too.

This will be about all for right now, so hope you are feeling fine and taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1944

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 10 yesterday from Millie, Ruth & Leon & very glad to hear from them. Sorry to hear that your side had been giving you trouble. Hope it is entirely well now & you are feeling fine again. I guess it was a sort of a "misery" like Middie calls it.

Have you heard from "Patsey" since he has been in Washington? Bet he is having a big time up there. I wrote him a "V" mail letter this morning.

Have you been back to San Antonio to try & get more merchandise? We have been noticing in the papers where merchandise will be more difficult to get this year than it has been in the past. That doesn't sound very good. People will have to get in the habit of wearing less clothes. Maybe shorter dress & short pants for men. We see quite a few of the Scotch soldiers with the "kilts" on they are skirts like women wear. To us they seem rather odd, but they seem that they require less material than trousers.

Just received the letters from Ruth & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. It was mailed on the 26th. I haven't received any letters yet saying how you hurt your side. Imagine will get them in a few days, as they skipped from 6 to 10. Those inbetween letters must be traveling by the "Pony Express."

Has Mrs. Schlinder heard from J.J. as yet. I haven't seen him since he came to see me, but his organization is still here as I saw one of the fellows from his outfit several days ago.

Thursday morning. Got sorta sleepy last night, so shall finish this morning. Had a fair breakfast, pancakes, hot cereal, tomato juice, & coffee, & we are going to have pork chops for dinner. I'm waiting for that package with the good old country sausage in it. I can just taste it now. Hope it comes real soon.

This will be about all for this time. Surely hope you are feeling alright & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello & hope they are all tip top.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Am enclosing 4 - 3 pence coins for each of you. They call the "Thruppence" or "thrup-ny bit."

February 11, 1944

Dear Papa,

I just finished writing a letter to the Fire Dept. thanking them for the Xmas gif & greetings. It is rather late to be thanking people for Xmas things, but better late than never. Writing letters seems to be everyones most difficult job, as there are so many things we can't mention in our letters. I wish I could write every one that sent me a Xmas & birthday card & I started to do that, but since so much of that back mail came in with most of Xmas mail it will be almost impossible to write every one. I believe I told you in one of my letters that I would like for you to do the "thanking" for me.

How is Russell getting along? Tell him hello for me when you see him. Surely hope he gets along alright. Don't think he is so bad off if he got away from the hospital & went home. Any body that does that has pretty good sense. All he needs is a person to talk to him.

I went to an auction sale several days ago. They really had some pretty cattle. The Govt. buys most of the cattle over here. They carry on their Auction right in the middle of the street, they don't need stalls, as the cattle are very gentle, & stand wherever they drive them. They are not like our bramah cow.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Wed., Feb. 16, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 13 today & also the letter from Millie, that she wrote while in Houston & also the letter from Ruth & Leon & surely glad to hear from them.

I got a valentine from Aunt Haysie today & she wrote a little note saying that Uncle Julius went to Dallas to try & get a little merchandise & also got a valentine from Mrs. Money.

Last month I was near where the Lacina boy stays. If I would have known he was around, would have inquired about him.

I imagine you have been plenty busy feeding the cattle. How many head are there in the pasture now? & do you have many calfs?

So Aunt Helen had a swell supper for you. She can really put on the "dog". I mean she treis to. I really don't like meals served in courses. I'm too much like a dog. I like all my food together. She probably knows that you have to be careful with your food, so she served you in style.

I am enclosing 4 more of the coins. They are the same value as the others I sent.

This isn't much of a letter, but there is not a thing here for news right now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Wed., February 23, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received two letters yesterday from Ruth, Millie, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. They were letters marked 12 & 14. I got no 13 last week, so have all the back letters now. Tell Mr. Davis was glad to hear from him, that is if you see him before he is inducted. They really are taking a lot of the fellows now. There won't be hardly anyone left before long. Have you heard from Patsey. In one of the letters, it stated that he was in the hospital. He must have had a "misery."

I went to see my Irish friends last night & had tea with them. They had three kinds of cake & bread & butter & they really like to see one eat. They also had some hard boiled eggs & boy they certainly were good. The fellow reminds me of Mr. Gilliland. He is about the same type of person, very jolly but he doesn't drink any kind of liquor. Says he doesn't care for it.

Have you been getting my bonds? There should be about seven that I have paid for. Whish you would check on that sometimes, as they want to know if our folks are receiving them.

I imagine you have received the letter telling you that I broke my glass & want you to send the prescription to me so I can have them fixed. I have a pair of the issue glasses, but they are too heavy. When you get accustomed to wearing one pair it is awfully hard to change to another pair.

Paul came by to see me today. He asked me to go to a dance with him tonight, but didn't care to go since I was out last night. & I want to get this letter written. It is not much of a letter as don't have very much news. We went to a dance Sat. night to one of the neighboring towns & had a very nice time. It was very crowded & couldn't do much dancing but we had a lot of fun.

I was in town this afternoon, but every place of business was closed just like on Sunday. It is that way every Wed. afternoon. I guess they rest & drink "tea." Most all the places close everyday from one to two, no matter how many people are in town. They take time out.

This will be about all for right now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Sat. Feb. 26, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 17 from Millie, Ruth & Leon & surely glad to get it. It really made good time only eight days. I also received five issues of the Sticker so I have plenty of reading material now. We also have a bunch of San Antonio papers. I wonder where they have been all this time. Probably coming on a row boat.

I received a "V" Mail letter from Ralph this morning. That was the first time I have heard from any of the Houston folks since we have been here. Ralph said he has written me several times before, but I have never received the letters. He said they were all getting along fine. Sadie is still working & that you had phoned them & were so glad to hear that you were getting along alright.

The mailman just brought in letter no. 15, a letter from Aunt Haysie & one from Mrs. Farmer. Surely glad to get all of them & oh, almost forgot also got another issue of the Sticker.

Aunt Haysie said she had a letter from Uncle & was about the same & Aunt Pauline had been ailing. They are certainly having a tuff time.

Sunday. Went up town last night & visited my Irish friends. Had supper with them & then had tea at eleven o'clock. They really believe in their tea. I am getting so I don't mind drinking it. You have to learn to like it because they fill the cup soon as it gets a little low. They gave me a cute little hand embroidered scarf. I am going to send it to you & a few other things in a few days.

The weather really turned cold, & it has started snowing. I reminds me of Wisconsin. The sun came out really pretty this morning, but it is still plenty cold. Mrs. Farmer told about one of her boys being one in Ireland. Will try & find out where he is stationed & maybe we can get together sometimes.

Has Mrs. Schlinder heard from J.J. lately? I haven't seen him since the time he came out to see me. I'm going to find out about making bus connections to where he is & if I can make any sort connections from here, will go up to see him one of these days.

Was sorry to hear Cosgrove is not working for A.B. Frank as he is a very nice fellow & I always thought he was very faithful in what he said. Have you gone back to San Antonio to try & buy more merchandise. Don't you think it would be a good idea to go to both S.A. & Houston at least once a month, as you can always pick up more in the house. I think most of A.B.'s stock goes to Joske's & most of the other large stores in S.A. as they always sold them quite a bit of mdse. during normal times. I don't believe Hogan's do that very much as old man Hogan told me one time when I was in their store that Foley Bros. wanted to buy them out on a certain article & they refused to sell them as they wanted to take care of their regular trade & I am sure they are still running their business the same way now.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. I am enclosing four pennies.

March 4, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 18 from Ruth & Leon & also letter from Millie & surely glad to hear from them. Tell Leon we pasted the Pear label up with our "Pin Up Girls" & it sands out among everyting we have. Everyone really felt homesick when I showed them that label. A case of Pearl would certainly satsify us, but we will have to do without it until we get back. I drink a bottle of Guinness beer once in a while, but don't care fro it very much. We get coca cola's about once a week from the PX & they beat all the drinks.

How are you coming along with leasing the farm? Is it the same outfit weleased it to before.

We have been having quite a bit of cold weather for the past week. It snows alittle everyday. They say that it the sign of spring. Will be glad when it gets here, but it never gets so very cold here. They say there are a few days in summer that you can do without your coat.

I would like for you to send me a little more writing material & a few little things to eat.

My mouth is watering for that good country sausage. I told the fellows about the sausage that you were sending me & they are as ready for it as I am. They are all sausage eaters like I am.

I am sending a couple of little booklets of pictures & a calendar for each of you. I am also sending a picture of myself. It was taken the last week I was in the States. I have sent some of the films off to be developed & as soon as I get them back will snd them to you.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Thursday, March 9, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 16, 21, & 22 from Ruth, Millie & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. I also got another issue of the Sticker Dec. 24th issue. About three months late but always glad to get it. I know most of the news before I get the Sticker as the letters have all the news.

We are listening to Fibber McGee & Mollie, the first time I have heard them in quite a while. Think they still are very good. They showed Coney Island at the movie the other night. Saw it back in the States, but enjoyed seeing it again. I haven't seen "Pistol Packin Mama" yet. Bet it is good, they really play the song a lot on all the programs.

Went to see my Irish friends last night. Got there about 7:30 & we had tea & had supper at 11:00. That is rather late to eat supper, but they eat about six times a day. They want me to come back tomorrow evening for Mrs. Maynes birthday supper so will have to go, because I promised them I'd be there. She is very good cook. I weigh over 200 now, so you see Ireland agrees with me. Most all the fellows have gained quite a bit of weight, since we have been here.

We have been having some very pretty weather for the past couple of days. The farmers here need some dry weather as it is getting about time to plant oats. I saw quite a few farmers plowing today. You should see how they plow. Its like "nigger" plowing. Just scratch a little on the top soil, but that is the way they are supposed to do it, as all of them do it that away.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

March 10, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 19 & 20 today from Ruth, Millie, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them.

One of the fellows bought a bicycle & I rode it for about an hour this evening & boy I'm really dragging "it" down low. That was the first time I have been on a "Pedal Cycle" (as these people call them) in a couple of years. I really enjoy riding them & will have to ride again tomorrow to try & get rid of the soreness.

Shirley Ray got a double order didn't she? That is surely nice & only hope they will pull through alright. I know Sara & Fannie will have plenty on their hands now. Be sure & send them a gift. Have you sent Rheinstrom's a gift yet for their baby? Thought that was a very cut announcement that they sent.

I went up to see about having another pair of glasses made, so Monday I'll have my eyes tested. I have been wearing the glasses that I got from Dr. Klein when he was in Sch., but that has been quite a while.

This is going to have to be a rather short note, but there is very little news around here now. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

March 11, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received the box of sausage, books, candy & film today & am certainly enjoying everything & want to thank all of you a million. That was a swell box. We are going to do justice to that sausage tonight. That will be about the best way to celebrate a Saturday night in Ireland. It is just as nice as it can be & it has a wonderful flavor.

Also received letter no. 23 & two issues of the Sticker. I have just been wondering about the newsreel that Miriam saw. It was probably taken as we were coming into Ireland.

I got a postal card from Russell from Houston. He sent it to McC. as he probably didn't know I had moved. From the way he writes, he must be getting along alright & am very glad of that. I am sure he will be satisfied there, as he always like it around that part of the country.

I think it will be a very good idea for you to send me the lenses for my glasses & I can have them put in my frames here. They say they are going to give me two pair of glasses, so I'll have a good supply on hand & it won't be a bad idea to have a couple of extra pair.

Well this is about all for now. Will have to see how my box is coming along.

Thanks again for everything & hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello & thanks for everything.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Tell Myke K. I surely appreciate the card he sent & also that Mr. Taylor for the note he sent.

March 15, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Well how is everything coming along? Fine I hope.

Had a letter from Aunt Haysie yesterday. Said she certainly enjoyed the box of sausage & pecans you sent her & she also mentioned something about M. Meyerhoff getting married again. He certainly is a "go getter," & must have something women want.

We really enjoyed the sausage you sent. Boy, it hit the spot & you would be surprised to see how nice it was to be sent that far.

I sent you a small box yesterday, so sorta be on the lookout for it in three weeks or so.

Had my eyes checked the other day for glasses. It is going to take over a month to get them, so hope in the meantime you will get the lenses that you are sending me. You had better get Dr. M to pack them real well, so as they don't get broken.

I am going to Belfast tomorrow on a pass & take in a bit of the city.

There is not much news to write about now, so will sign off for now. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Auntie H said Mr. Bailey was there & is now traveling for Butler Bros, but doesn't seem to be very pleased with his job, as they have so little to sell.

March 19, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 24 & surely glad to hear from everybody. Received it just before I left for Belfast & that made my trip more enjoyable. Had a nice time there. The days are getting much longer now & that makes it so much nicer as one can get around more & get to see a little more.

Friday was St. Patrick's day & that is a great day for the Irish. They all had on the Shamrocks & they were selling in on the streets, so we had to buy some too & wear it along with the rest of the Irishmen.

Had a letter from Aunt Haysie several days ago & she wants me to request something. So I had better write her requesting something.

Have you been keepin up with battle in Poland? They are getting close to your home now in the Northern part. Those Russians are certainly doing a wonderful job. You are right about what you have said about "Russ." Have you ever heard from any of your folks over there? Maybe if you would send me the address I could probably get the Red Cross to locate them, as I believe they would be able to do that, as they do some very good work in locating relations in the war zones. So send me the address & we will see what can be done. It would be interesting in learning about them & if anything could be done I am sure the Red Cross would be able to do it.

This is about all for right now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Friday, March 24, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 27 & surely glad to hear from everyone. I also received a "V" mail letter from Celie & Sam today. Said she had seen you & she asked me to request some cake & candy. She asked me to do that before Xmas, but never did, but think I had better as she is a very good cook & could go for some of her cakes. She said Mollie R. just went back to Chicago. She really had along stay in Texas. It's a wonder she didn't go back to be with her grandbaby. She also told me you had sent the baby a check for War Stamps. I think that is a nice gift, about the nicest one could send at this time.

We have been having some nice weather here for the past week. The sun has been out most of the day & it really feels good.

Have you gotten the field plowed yet? Know you are anxious to get it plowed, but if you don't you can just let the Johnson grass grow & make a good crop off of that. How is the new renter getting along. Am sure he will do alright. I'm glad you go rid of Frankie S. if he is that sort of person. I think the whole reason is was that you wouldn't sell him that farm, but I certainly wouldn't let a little thing like that worry me.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

March 27, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 25 & 26 from Millie, Ruth, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them I also received the lenses for my glasses. They made very good time I thought & I am plenty glad to get them. When I go to town tomorrow will stop by the jewelers & have them installed. I asked them the other day if they did that kind of work & they do. Maybe later on I'll ask you to have Dr. Money order me a pair of those rimless glasses. Believe I would like to hae a pair, but for the time being these will do. Am getting two pair from the army so will have them for extras.

Also received a letter from Patsey. He didn't have much to say. Said he had heard from you all & that his Daddy was to see him. He mentioned that old saying J.R.V.S. & his closing was "your old road buddy."

So you didn't have much luck in getting merchandise. I imagine it is plenty scarce now. Why don't you take a trip to Houston & visit Hogans. They usually have a few items for sale. I wouldn't give up hopes. I'd take a trip to San Antonio & Houston every month & see what they have. If nothing else you can visit the folks.

Tell Leon I'm going to scatter that seed he sent me out in some pasture around here & in a couple of years these Irishmen will be trying to locate me & scap me for starting a growth of Johnson grass in Ireland.

Know Mrs. Schlinder was gald to get a letter from J.J. I would like to go see him sometime, & will when I get a chance. He isn't very far from Belfast, but when I go there, only stay a short time.

I haven't been to see my friends for the past week. Will have to go by & see them tomorrow night. Think you have the wrong idea about why I go there so often. The lady is rather nice looking but that doesn't cut any ice. I like the husband too.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

April 2, 1944
Northern Ireland

Dear Papa,

Well how is every little thing? Hope fine. Things here are running along about the same. We had a couple of days of real warm weather & yesterday it turned real cold, about the coldest day we have had, but it has turned warm again. The weather changes here about as fast as it does in Texas. During those few warm days, it was swell. That old sun was really coming down strong.

We ran our time pieces up an hour today for what they call "double summer time." They say in midsummer the sun is still out at 10 o'clock at night. The days are very long during the summer.

I'm going to go by and get my glasses tomorrow. The lenses were about a 1/4 of an inch too large, so they are trimming them down to where they will fit in the frames.

Jack Benny is on the radio program now. He & Mary are still having their rounds. They are very good. They just announced that next Sunday will be their last program.

This is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

April 4, 1944
V-Mail

Dear Papa,

Am taking a short furlough. Leaving this morning & will write you soon as I get back. Have been wanting to take one for sometime, so have a chance now & am really glad to get it.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

April 10, 1944
Norther Ireland

Dear Papa,

Received letters 28, 29, 30, 31, 35 from Millie, Ruth, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. Also received the package & am really enjoying everything. Thanks a million. Was sorry to hear of Uncle's death. Poor fellow must have been in bad health.

I got back from my furlough yesterday & had a very nice time. Went up to Portrush & stayed there Tues. & Wed. It's a summer resort, very much like Galveston only a little smaller town, but a very clean town. It is right on the Atlantic & its a beautiful country all around. I went to the Giants causeway about 20 miles from Portrush. I am enclosing some pictures that I bought there. It was a cloudy & damp day, so couldn't take any pictures but these are rather good. They give you a pretty good idea of what it is like.

Then Thurs. I went to Belfast. I took a Red Cross Tour Thurs. evening to the House of Parliament. They took us all through the building & then to the dining room & had tea and sandwiches & four or five kinds of cakes. It was very nice. That was on the King.

Friday evenig I wnt to Passover services. Had Matzos, wine & a good supper & servcies. Had over 300 people there & they also had services Sat. evening for the ones who didn't attend Friday. I got my furlough just in time for the Easter holiday. The people here celebrate for five days. Most of the business houes are closed.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello & thanks again for the box of nice things.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. I was intending on going to see J.J. but during the holidays they discontinue the buses, & I couldn't make connections.

April 19, 1944

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 32 from Millie, Ruth, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. glad to hear that my mail has been coming through fast. Six days is very good time. Hope they continue to make that good service. There probably won't be very much news, as there isn't much going on now. I have gotten over my furlough & very glad I took. Had a nice time. I got it just at the right time for the holidays. That was worth while itself.

So you are getting a good crop of calfs. Hope you have good luck with them. If I were you I would sell the cow that you usually have trouble with, as it is not worth it. I bet the little colt is really pretty. Are you going to let Bill Polk break him for you? I imagine you still have plenty of time to have him broken. Wish you could see the big horses they have over here. Look like elephants. They use them mostly in the timber to pull logs.

This is about all for now. This is a rather short letter, but will write again in a day or so. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Sunday, April 23, 1944

Dear Papa,

Today is your birthday & only iwsh I could be at home to celebrate the occasion with you, butlets hope by next year we can all be together again & make up for the time we have been separated.

I received letters no. 33, 34, 36, & 39, so I am getting caught up with the home news & scandle. Was certainly surprised to hear about Cosgrove. He seemed to be a swell fellow & thought a lot of his family. Had two cut little girls. I saw them when they lived across from Levinsons on Delaware St.

The picture enclosed was taken in Belfast while I was on my furlough. I was going through Woolworth's store just looking around & saw a studio, so had my picture taken. Take it out & show it to "Domino" & see if he remembers me.

I received a letter from Margaret & she asked about you. Also received a letter from Mollie. Said Meyer is still in N. Africa. She ask me to write her requesting a box of candy so think I shall as it will come in very handy.

How is the oil well coming along at Mr. Kusey's farm. Surely hope they can develope some sort of a well there as it should help that part of the country out in every respect.

This is about all for now. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.
I may run into "Berry" Baas one of these days.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Monday, April 24, 1944

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 37, 38, 40, & 41 from Millie, Ruth & Leon today & certainly glad to hear from them. Glad you got the package. It is almost impossible to get any kind of linens nows. ONe can't find any thing in the stores, as they are not manufacturing anymore as all the factoreis are making gov't material now.

I also received a letter from Aunt Haysie. said she was so glad to see you & also told me how well you look. Surely glad to hear that & hop you continue to keep up so well.

That was too bad about Joe Veceria's wife. Surely feel sorry for the family & he is a very nice sort of fellow.

Was surprised to hear of eggs being so cheap. You can't blame the farmers for feeling the way they do, but that is the way a lot of this business is being run. The pay from 3'6 to 4 shillings over here.

That's 70 to 80 cents & they are rationed to one or two eggs per week to each individual & all their other food is rationed. 1/4lb of margarine per week. Butter is impossible to get for the people living in town.

Would certainly like to have a little of that country sausage that you have ready to send me.

I got a good laugh out of Patsey requesting some cookies. Guess the poor fellow has a hungry headache. Has Middie made them for him. I'll have to write him one of these days.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Friday, April 28, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 43 yesterday & very glad to hear from home. Was glad to hear that you sold the hogs & chickens. That was a good price you got for everything, but it is just too much work & worry to have to attend to all of that. The cattle is enough & if I were you I'd get rid of some of them. This is the ones that have been giving you trouble, such as the one that had the dead calf & one or two of those wild ones.

I imagine you will be rather surprised to hear that we have been transferred to England. We are all satisfied as it is a beautiful place. Have a very nice place to stay & there are some fairly nice towns around. We went to a dance last night & they are having another one for us tonight, so we get a little recreation. Along with our work.

Saw Paul in town the other night so we had a couple mugs of beer. The beer over here is fair. I can't drink much as it swells me like a "toad." they only charge a shilling (20cents) for mug & a couple of those are about enough to take a bath in.

So you leased the land to the oil co. Think you are getting a good price for it. How are they coming with the well at Kusey's farm. Surely hope they can bring a good well there.

This is about all for now. Just want to let you know that I am in England now & well satisfied here.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Monday, May 1, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

How is everything coming along? Hope fine. We are getting to where we like this country better all the time. The country around here is beautiful now. All the hills are green, & the apple trees are in full bloom now. They really should have a wonderful crop of apples this year. There are also a lot of chestnut trees here they are blooming. The weather has been very warm, just like summertime.

We had a very good Battalion dance Friday evening. The Division band furnished the music & these people thought it was wonderful. They like the American music a lot. I met some people there & they ask me to come to their home. So I never refuse an invitation & went to visit them yesterday afternoon & had tea with them. Their daughter who is a nurse in London was home on leave, & now if I ever get a chance to go there I'll have some one to guide me around the city.

Today is pay day which is one of the most important days of the month. Think I'll go to town tonight & see "what's cooking." The town is rather small & it doesn't take many soldiers to fill the streets, but it is a clean little place & the people are very friendly. Every child we meet ask us for "gum". That is something they can get over here.

Will this isn't very much of a letter, but there is not much that we can write about right now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

May 5, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 41 from Ruth, Millie, & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. Was glad to hear that you got rid of Joe as if he caused that much trouble he wasn't worth having. Who are you going to put out there now? I would be nice if you get someone like Joe Polk as he is a very good worker & not lazy, but there won't be too much to take care of now since you sold the chickens & hogs. I am sure you will be able to find some one to live out there & see after the cattle.

I bet the gold fish are really pretty in the trough. I went out in the country the other day & saw some gold fish all over twelve inches long. The largest ones I have ever seen. I didn't think they grew that large. This is a great country for fishing. They have spring water here & it flows from these hills all year round. They catch nice salmon, trout, & bass.

I got a letter from August Watzlavick a couple days ago. He said he had been by the store & visited you.

Just got letters 44, 45, 46, & 47 from Millie & Leon & surely sorry to hear that Ruth was home ill. Hope she is well by now. Was too bad about Joe Hvirda's boy getting killed. I have been trying to place but just can't, no doubt I know him. I was glad to get "Patsey's" address, as I wanted to write him. He is sorta getting around the country too. Wonder how he likes the army?

I just had my Saturday night shower, so think I'll go to bed when I get through with this letter. Went to a dance last night & am a little sleepy now. I never saw a place to have so many dances. They have one some place almost every night but Sunday, then everyone spends most of the day in church.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

May 9, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Just a short note to let you know I am getting along just fine. There is very little news to write about. Notice on my return address, there is a slight change. I am in Headquarters Btry now. As far as the mail is concerned I'll get it if it is addressed to Serv. Btry. as it is still in the same Battalion. I sorta hated to leave Serv. Btry as I have a lot of good friends there, but there are a bunch of swell fellows over here, & I know quite a few of them, so I know I'll like it here.

I went up town Sunday evening & walked around. Nothing going on on Sunday. I went to see some people I met & had supper with them. These people eat mighty good over here too. They have a lot of home cured ham & plenty of fresh eggs. Not bad at all. They don't smoke their ham here -- they cure them in salt, but they taste mighty good.

I got a letter from Miriam yesterday. I sent her a little scarf, so she wrote & thanked me for it. Said her mother made her a pretty dress of the silk material you sent her for graduation & she said she was going to make a dress her self.

How is the oil well coming along out at Kusey's farm? Hope they have something besides water.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

May 11, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Received lette5rs no. 48 & 49 from Millie & Leon & surely glad to hear from them. Sorry to hear Ruth is still on the sick-list. Hope she is feeling better now. Glad you finally got one of my letter after so long a time. If you every happen not to get a letter from me it is because the mail is held up some place.

I know everyone is glad to have a little rain. Bet the crop looks nice now. Everything is really beautiful here & is a little cool. A jacket feels rather good in the morning.

They had a big day in town yesterday. They had a fair, they hae one in Sept. & one in May. Those are two of the greatest days they celebrate over here. There was a carnival & all sorts of amusements. It is only a small town, but the people really turn out just like the trades days' we used to have at home.

Well this is a very short letter but it is about all the news I know for now. & I have some work that I want to get done this evening.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

May 22, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Just a few lines to let you know I am getting along OK. The weather is still cool. We took a little work yesterday & looked part of the country over. It certainly is beautiful here. Have never seen so many pretty flowers & trees & "girls" stack up just about like our American girls.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

May 24, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Just received letter no. 54 from Millie, Ruth & Leon & surely glad to hear from home. That was the first letter I have received in over a week. Wish I could be there to help to take in the potatoe crop. Have you gotten the special side track built to the farm yet? Really is a beautiful day. Still a little cool, but the sun is shining. Think I had better go outdoors & inhale a little of it. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Wednesday, May 24, 1944

Dear Papa,

Have just a few minutes before dinner, so shall scribble you a few lines.

Went to a show last night saw "Ali Bab & Fourty Thieves." & Sunday saw "In Old Oklahoma." Both of the shows were very good. They have some beautiful movie places here. Prices are rather high from 1 & 9 up to 4 shillings, that from 45 cents up to 80 cents & the 45 cents tickets are for standing only. They have beautiful cafes but the food is very scarce & high. Any normal size meal cost around a dollar. There are four Red Cross organizations here & you can get just as good a meal there as you want & that is where we usually eat & they also have good dances there & night before last we heard a fellow make a talk about Poland as to the way they are prepared for the war. Was very interesting & am sure you will read all about it in the papers when it is released if it has not yet been published.

I haven't gotten the package yet, but am sure will come in pretty soon with the rest of our mail.

Am enclosing some coins for you. Will send some more in a few days.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,

Leslie

Thursday, May 25, 1944

England

Dear Papa,

As I was walking up town yesterday evening I heard a soldier calling me & I stopped & he asked me if I was from Texas, so I looked at him again & he was one of the Berger boys from around home. I don't know his first name, but I remember his coming to the store all the time. We talked for a while, said he came over in March & likes it pretty well over here. Then this morning I was talking to a soldier and as a usual question we asked each other what State we were from. He comes from Flatonia. His name is Maris. He is a very nice fellow. His Dad is the cattle business in Flatonia.

Well this is about all the news I know for now. Went to a show last night here at the Red Cross & saw "Mexicale Rose." One of Gene Autrey's shoot em shows. It was fairly good.

This is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,

Leslie

Monday, May 29, 1944

England

Dear Papa,

Surely glad to receive letters 51 & 53 from Millie, Ruth & Leon. My mind told (one of Patsey's expressions) that I had some mail from home, so I went over to see & there were two big fat letters laying up there big as you please & surely glad to get them. They came in yesterday afternoon, but I wasn't in, as I left after diner & took a little walk. It was a beautiful day & about as hot as it gets in Texas. So I must have walked about five miles. From the way I was perspiring I looked like I had been doing a days work, but it makes one feel good to get out like that. Then I went to the Red Cross & took a good hot shower & that made me feel like a new man.

Then I felt a little "Fraum" & went to the synagogue where they had services & after services they had a social. Gafualta fish, hall, & salads. Had a very nice spread & a large crowd of fellows. Had a very nice time.

You really have a nice size calf crop now. Bet they are pretty. What kind of feed are you planting this year. Don't imagine you have to plant much of anything with all the Johnson grass in the field.

So Mr. "Puty" of Calif. got a little fresh with you guys. He no doubt thinks the Texans haven't any sense, but he certainly showed his ignorance by the way he acted. It's a wonder he didn't get the hell knocked out of him, but I guess the best thing to do is just let him ride on & by & by he'll get his medicine.

So beer is getting scarce. I would like to taste some of that Mexican beer. Bet it has a kick. The pubs open here at 700 & close at 900 & usually before 900 they are sold out & they don't have enough glasses or mugs. They like for their customers to bring their own drinking vessels. You see some of the soldiers bringing their canteen cups to drink out of. It takes a "Dog Face" to think of something like that.

This is just about all the gossip for now. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody Hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. I received a letter several days ago from Market Hill, N. Ireland from the people I used to visit. It was very nice letter. They asked me to write them, so I wrote them a card.

Am enclosing some coins from S. Ireland for each of you.

June 1, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Received letters 51 & 56 & surely glad to get them. Sorry to hear that the sausage had spoiled. I was thinking about it several days ago when we had a couple days of real hot weather if that sausage wouldn't spoil on the way. Anyway I'll be more than glad to get the box of other things & know I will enjoy them.

I got a letter from Aunt Haysie yesterday. Said she hadn't been feeling very well, but alright again, & she also had company, so no doubt she had been rather busy.

Also got a letter from Russell. He wrote me a long letter & told me all about his visit out to the farm with you & how much he enjoyed it & he also sent me a picture postal card of a view in California where he was visiting.

Yesterday the "Eagle flew" in other words pay day. You should have seen the soldiers in town last night, couldn't steal with a stick. I went to a church dance. Had a nice time & night before last saw a good show "A guy named Joe." Spencer Tracey played & it was very good. They are showing "A Song of Russia" now. That is a good show I hear. May go see it one of these nights.

Well it is almost time for supper so had better bring to a close.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

June 5, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Surely glad to receive letter no. 55. The mail seems to be coming through fairly good now. That package should be in in a few days, as it has been quite a while since it was sent. I also got two issues of the Sticker last week.

I wrote "Chief" Speckels a letter the first part of Feb. thanking the Fire Dept. for the Holiday Greeting & the \$ bill they sent me. Have been wondering if he ever received the letter.

I imagine you spent most of the day out at the farm yesterday. Am glad to hear you are getting to be a fisherman, but don't catch all the fish, as I would like to get a few of them when I get home.

Went to see a good show yesterday, "Atlantic Convoy," * they also showed "Born to Sing" had seen it before & Friday went to see a stage show "Cavalcade of the British Army." Had some very good acting & singing.

June 6. Didn't get to finish this letter yesterday, so shall try & finish it now.

Went to see "Atlantic convoy" last night. It was a pretty good show. Then I went to Bobby's restaurant. That is one of the nicest places to eat, although all they had on the menu was chips & beans & fish. & plenty of silver ware & dishes. They have a very good orchestra & that is worth the trip up there.

Well this is about all for this time.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Thursday, June 8, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Well how is every little thing? Had a dream last night about your watermelon patch. This is getting about the time of year for melons to get ripe, so my "belly" must have been thinking about them. I don't believe they grow many over here. Believe I told you in one of my other letters that I had some fresh strawberries. They were very good the few they served. Will have to go back again & see if they have any more. It was too bad that all the berries were ruined around home. That was a great loss for some of the people as they used to depend a lot on their berries.

Has Mrs. Schlinder heard from J. J. lately? Saw in the paper this morning where his organization is now in France.

Well this is about all for right now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

June 11, 1944
England

Dear Papa,

Just finished supper so shall write you a few lines. This has really been an ideal Sunday. It has been cloudy & dreary all day & a good day to stay in & catch up on our sleep. May go to town this evening & go to a show, was thinking about going to church so I'll see what my mind tells me after I get to town.

Went to town yesterday afternoon & walked around & went to the park & watched the people pass. They really have beautiful parks around here, & they are very nice to spend an afternoon in.

Paul just came in & wanted to know how all of you were getting along. He stays next door, so we get to see each other quite often.

Well this isn't much of a letter, but only a few lines to let you know I am alright & don't worry about me.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie