

Sunday morning. It got kind of dark last night so didn't get to finish this letter. It really is a pretty day -- the sun is bright. Hope it stays that way for a while.

Wish you would send me a few air mail stamps. I am completely out of them & don't know if we will get them here or not.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine and taking care of yourself & please don't worry about me, as I am getting along alright. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

June 26, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letters 35 & 38 yesterday from Ruth, Millie & Leon & certainly glad to hear from them. Hope you are getting my letters right along. The service will probably get better all the time & maybe before long there will be a twenty-four hour mail service between Berlin & Schulenburg.

You certainly gathered in a good potatoe crop this season. What are you doing with all of them?

That was too bad about Mr. Sternadle passing away. Had a hard rain here yesterday & it has been showering off & on today. I think the farmers around here needed rain. They raise a lot of ducks and geese around here. Almost every house has a big pond for them to swim around. I was at one of the farms yesterday & went to the barn & the farmer was weaving hemp into bundles. Don't know what they do with it & couldn't ask him because all he spoke was French & all I know in French is "Bonjour & Wee."

They drink a lot of cyder in place of water. They keep it in big barrels they must hold about 300 gallons. I haven't tasted as some of the fellows that have say it is bitter.

You should see the shoes these people wear. They are made of wood. They use them for work & wear them to town. They should wear a long time & you can't tell the boys from the girls, as they all wear dresses.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

June 28, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received the package yesterday & I am surely enjoying everything. It was really a nice package & everything was like it was when it was packed & many thanks to all of you. It was good that you didn't send the sausage as it wouldn't hold that long. Although I hate that it had to spoil.

This afternoon I got letters 66 & 67 & very glad to get them. It seems that they always come in pairs, & I can tell those big fat envelopes a mile away. Also got an April issue of the Sticker yesterday. The Stickers haven't been coming in so regular. I imagine second class mail is held up.

Did you get your radio fixed? Hop you did, so you won't miss out on any of the news, as it is going to be a big show.

I really wish I could be there to help you put up the hay, but lets hope by next year I can be there.

Well this is just about all for now. Thanks again for the package.
Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Am enclosing 4 French notes for each of you.

June 29, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Just a few lines to let you know I am getting along just fine. Am still enjoying the box that I received. I might gain a pound or two. Was sorry to hear that Teddy was in the hospital. Have you heard how she was getting along? Everything here is running along very well. Had nice weather today & hope it stays that away. Hope you are feeling fine and taking care of yourself.

Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 1, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Today I got a big box of candy from Mrs. Rheinstrom. While I was in England, she wrote me & asked to request a package & it really made good time in getting here. I wrote her a letter right away thanking her.

Am enclosing some pictures that I took on my furlough in North Ireland. They turned out very good I thought. The one of the castle is the place where we stayed while in N.I. You remember I wrote you about a castle while we were there.

This is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 2, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Just had dinner & feel sorta full, so shall try & write you a letter on a full stomach. We have been having fairly good food here considering the large number of people over here to be fed. Several days ago we got some fresh onions out of a near by garden & were they good along with our beans. A lot of the French were taken as prisoners by the Nazis & they had to leave everything they had. One of the fellows in our organization is French & speaks the language very good, so he gets a chance to learn a lot about these people. He said they were really happy that the Americans are here & one can tell it, as the other day we passed a group of children & they threw flowers at us, that is one of their friendly greetings. One of the fellows said he had a man come up to him & kiss him. That is another form of their greeting. Believe I'd rather have the flowers, or if it was a good looking girl, it wouldn't be bad.

Well this is about all for today. Hope to have a letter from home this evening. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 4, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

I imagine you are spending the day out at the farm since it is a holiday. I was just thinking a while ago what I did last 4th. I spent the day in Milwaukee. These years certainly go by fast. Will be glad when this one is over, maybe this war will be about ended.

Today was the first day that we haven't had any rain in over a week. Surely hope its stays clear. We had white bread for dinner today & it really hit the spot. They are probably baking it over here as it was right fresh. We had white bread on the boat coming over here from England & there were a bunch of Negroes on the boat & did they go for that "light" bread. We had to stay in the channel.....

July 7, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letter No. 73 from Millie, Ruth & Leon & surely glad to get it. It made better time than any of the letters. Surely hope there has been some rain at home, as am sure the corn is badly in need of it. Wish we could send you a little that we have been getting. It was like a fall day today, rather cool, so I put on a heavy U. shirt. I'm using the old Negro system. When I start getting warm I'll start shedding my clothes. I think those little O.P.O. chips are rather cute. A packet of them should make one feel rich.

So they are going to start drilling on Walters place. That is getting rather close. Hope they find something also besides water. That was supposed to be oil land quite a few years back.

This issues of the Sticker haven't been coming through very good, but I am sure they will catch up with me. Second class mail usually takes a little longer, but I am well up on all the news from the letters.

I received an air mail letter from Market Hill, Northern Ireland & they told me all the news in & around where we used to stay.

Well I haven't any thing else to write about now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 9, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

I imagine you are spending Sunday on the farm & we are spending a rainy Sunday in France. The sun come out just as pretty as you'd like this morning & now it is starting to rain again. This country is about as wet as Ireland. We had a very good dinner today. They bought a calf from a farmer around here & we had a regular feast, fried steak, butter beans, potatoes, peaches, light bread & coffee. Not bad is it. These people really get a price for their cattle. The little calf was about four months old, & they paid sixty dollars for it. That's a very good price, at home they would throw a cow in with it. They really have beautiful cattle over here. Just as pretty & fat. They have very good pastures here, the grass will grow on a rock. I sent some picture postal cards home several days ago. Hope you have them by now. The ones of Carmarthen was where we were for a month after coming from Ireland & after we left Wales, we went to Bournemouth, Enlgand. That was really a beautiful place. It is one of the most modern cities in England. Before the war it was a ummer resourt. They have some beautiful hotesl there. You will natice on one of the cards an arrow pointing to one of the hotels that is where we stayed. The city was planned by an American. A lot of tourists from the States would spend their summer vacations there.

What do you think about your Russian friends? I noticed yesterday where they almost are up to Vilna. Surely hope they keep that up. Just received two letters from home, no. 71 & 72 & certainly glad to get them. Glad you have been getting my letters & hope they are coming through alright since I have been here in France. That was really bad about James Nevels & his family. Did you sell the calves at the auction sale? I think that would be as good as taking them to market, as I imagine large trucks are rather hard to hire now, & since there is an auction at home you should take a few head there too.

I got a box from Celia today. Had some good cookies, candy & gum. War isn't so bad after all, if one can get packages every once & a while.

We are going to have another calf for dinner tomorrow. A big calf got injured, so someone killed it & brought it in. That won't be bad at all.

Well I had better bring this to a close. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 9, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 79 yesterday. It must have come on a slow boat as I received several letters before it that were mailed later, but anyway was very glad to get it. You people must be having some hot weather there. We have been reading in the papers about the extremely hot weather. It is fairly warm here now especially during the day. I'm getting about as dark as Patsey. If both of us were marching down the street together you wouldn't be able to tell us apart. Have you heard from him lately? Was glad to get Walters address. I'm going to write him one of these days when I get a little time. Bet Mrs. Lester was happy to have Walter home with her. How is Russell getting along? Do you see him very often. Guess he is on the go most of the time now since he has a car.

Wish you would enclose a couple of sheets stationery in the letters every once in a while, not necessarily in every letter. I can't get to the place where the stationery is all the time & run low some times. We can get plenty of stamps & air mail envelopes here & I have plenty of them.

I am enclosing some picture postal cards that I located deep down in the bottom of my belongings. Had a sorta of Spring cleaning this afternoon & I ran across these cards. They may be duplicates that is some of them that I have sent home before. I got this envelope from the House of Commons in Northern Ireland while I was on my furlough. It was also down in the "duffle bag."

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 12, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to get letter no. 74 yesterday. I have been getting the letters fairly regular for the past week. Hope you are getting mine now. Think you got a good price for the three calves. Think this time of year the market is usually a little low. Do they have many cattle there? Hope they do make a success of it, as most all the town around have auction sales, & there is no reason why Schu. shouldn't have one with cattle men like I. L.

So you people haven't had any rain yet. You had better start going to church a little or maybe pay the preacher.

We have a regular four ring here. Kids by the dozens come around & they hang around the kitchen waiting for something to eat. Our food is a novelty to them & can they eat. It is not only the kids but the mama & papa comes around to see us as well. As long as we have anything we are glad to give it to them, as they have been denied of so many essential things for the past four years. They are very generous too as they bring us cider, wine, & every once in a while a kid will come running up with a loaf of bread under his arm & give it to us. He may snatch it out of his mothers kitchen for all we know, but anyway it tastes good. It is a dark bread real narrow loaves. Most of their cider & wine are very bitter, on account of their not being able to get sugar & they all smoke cigarettes, the old & young & even small kids. They don't get behind the barn to do their smoking. They'll puff on a cigarette right on the street in front of grown people. We have been getting all the cigarettes & matches we want. Got two cartons a piece yesterday. Our rations of candy are usually fruit drops & one pack of gum. It is strange over here the kids don't ask for gum very often. They had rather have something to stick to their ribs. Over in England they were really after us about gum. Most of the trucks had a little sign on the windshield "no gum chum" & "no candy handy".

I got a letter yesterday from Margaret. She is visiting her aunt & uncle in Bridgeton, N.J. near Philadelphia. She asked about you. Said she had been there three weeks & expected to stay about two weeks longer & she was also going to New York. That's a nice vacation to take.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

P. S. Wonder if it is possible to get any more verichrome films No. 127. For the amount of cloudy & rainy weather over here they are the only kind that will take a fairly good picture.

July 18, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 75, 76, & 77 yesterday & also the Sticker, so I am pretty well posted on all the happenings in & about the city. So you have part of your hay cut. Hope you have had good weather for it. That Pilsner beer label looks might good. Think I could down a couple of bottles of it right now, because it is exceptionally warm. Feels sorta like texas weather & hope it stays that away for a while. Don't believe they have beer over here. They have plenty of cider. Most of it very sour. They don't have the sugar to put in it, but we usually add the sugar ourselves & it tastes fairly good. It doesn't have any kick to it though.

I had a misery in my leg as Middie calls it, so I went to the medics to have it look after & while I was there, two photographers came up & took our picture, me lying on a stretcher & the Dr. & medics around, so if you see the picture in a magazine, don't get frightened, as my leg is almost well, infact it feels just fine now. Don't know what caused it to start hurting, probably the damp weather we had when we first got here.

Thanks for the stamps. They will come in handy.
Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 21, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Had a very good rain today, so that should be good for the apple crop. The apples are getting large now & they will probably be making them into cider before very long. We have noticed some of the farmers around here getting their barrels ready. They hold about two hundred gallons -- that should last them for a year or so. I would last me for a might long time because I don't care for it. It's too sour.

My leg is getting along alright. It is feeling alot beter now. I don't do very much walking & give it a chance to get well faster.

Saw Paul yesterday & he asked how you were. We had a steak supper, so he came over to get some of it. It really was good, wouldn't mind having some more of it today, but today is Friday, so we'll have fish. Salmon probably. Are you still getting fish a home? or do you have to go down to the creek & catch them when you feel like having a fish fry?

I got an issue of the Sticker yesterday. It seems taht the War Bond drive & Plasma drive are really going over in a big. That is mighty good. What do you think about Hitler's own men trying to put an end to him? Hope they have better luck next time & get him.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 24, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Not very much news going on around here. We have been listening to the radio quite a bit & the news sounds very good. Hope it keeps up that a way & am sure it will.

Saw an old Schulenburg boy today. You remember Joe Winkler who used to have a barbershop at home -- it was his boy. Said he had moved away when he was a small fellow. I imagein he used to visit around, as he knew me. Said he had been in the army for five years. This is a small world after all, one always runs into some one from home.

The Band came out & played a few tunes for us today. Guess they sorta want to keep things pepped up.

How are things coming along at the farm. Have you had any more hay cut? Surely wish I could have had a slice of that big watermelon. Know it was good. They don't grow melons here in France, but they do have cherries. There is a cherry tree near where we stay & they are real good.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

July 28, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 78 & surely glad to hear from home. So you have been making hay. Bet that old barn is really packed. Hope you didn't work too hard because it gets plenty hot in the barn. The apes must be getting tuff around home, killing one another.

July 29. I started this letter yesterday but as you as I got very little done so maybe I can finish up now. Got a letter from Mollie yesterday, said she was going to take a little vacation up at one of the Lakes in Wisc. that she was expecting some of her relations from La. after she got back from her vacation.

We are having a little shower now. It has been real pretty all day, but a little dampness always has to appear during some part of the day in France. I am still wearing a woolen shirt & everytime I look at it I think of Joe York. He used to wear a heavy flannel shirt during the hottest summer days when he was working out at the farm & I often wondered how he stood it, but it really is a lot cooler here. Of course, where the Nazis are backing up it's rather hot & according to the radio & papers they are really losing out.

I am enclosing some negatives. The Signal Corp does not develop films anymore. They are making other arrangments, so have them developed & see how they come out. The one taken of building with a small structure in front of it is an air raid shelter. That was taken in Belfast & one is of the castle

in Ireland. Several of them show the short box & flat cars they use & the rest of them are of some of my friends.

This is just about all for today.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

August 4, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 79, 80, 81, & 82. & surely glad to hear from home. Thought the picture of Nellie & the race horse was real good. The colt has grown a lot. I didn't have any idea it was that big. What are you going to break him for a race horse or saddle pony?

I know you were glad to get all the hay in. That's a big job & a hot one too. Did you pit it all in the barn, or make stacks?

We had a real hot day today. It felt like Texas weather, but it is starting to get cloudy now. Surely hope it doesn't rain.

Got a letter several days ago from my friends in North Ireland. They asked how you were getting along. They said they would very much like for me to come visit them. Wouldn't mind going over there now, but I'd like to see a little more of France, too. I talked to some French people yesterday. Said they were moving back to their home. Their house & barn was completely damaged & they lost everything but they seemed glad to be back to what was once their home. The Nazis go into the home & take what they want, drink all the best cider & wines & it seems like they tear the place up when they leave. They probably throw a wild party & raise a little H.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

August 7, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letters 84 & 85 & surely glad to get them. Guess there was quite a bit of excitement around during the election & now since it is over guess you will be able to get more & better beer. Everytime I hear the word beer my mouth starts watering. It has been rather hot here during the day & a bottle of beer wouldn't be bad. The first part of the week we were around some British soldiers & they get a bottle of beer in their rations each week. But one bottle is only a teaser.

Got a letter from Aunt Haysie several days ago. Said they were doing just fine, but it was awfully hot in the valley.

Have you heard from the Houston folks lately? Aunt Haysie said Teddy was getting along alright.

Had to leave this for a few minutes & eat supper. Had fried potatoes, steak, corn, pears & custard, so I feel a lot better now with something under my belt. We have been getting good food here lately. I haven't seen a scale around here to weight, but I believe I have lost a little as my clothes seem to be a little loose on me.

Have you heard from Sara or any of the folks in S.A. lately? I wrote Sara when I was in England, but haven't heard from her yet.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

Saturday, August 12, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received no. 87 yesterday & surely glad to hear from home, also received the June 30th issue of the Sticker, so have plenty of news to read.

We are at a very pretty part of the country now. Are staying at a farm, & they really do have a nice place, beautiful pasture with apple trees planted all over it & plenty of green grass & a lot of cattle. They have a large barn & the other night there were seventeen people sleeping in it. They were staying there only for the night for protection. There was a lady in the crowd that could talk a little English & she told us her home was in Paris & she left there on "D" day & just got here three days ago with her little girl. The distance from here to Paris is about the distance from home to Corpus Christi. She told us the reason she came here was to get milk for her little girl. Food in the large cities is very scarce. Her husband has been a prisoner of war for four years & her brother was captured not long ago & her parents live not very far from here, but their home was burned, so that is the condition of hundreds of families over here, but with all of that they seem to be happy in knowing their country was being feed. Everyday we see families moving back, with their belongings in a wheel barrow, or a wagon & leading a cow or two. They have a good apple crop this year, so they will start making that cider & drinking it & they will have things in full swing in a very short time. We passed a place this morning where three men were working on a wagon & the fourth one was keeping the cider glasses filled. The latter probably had the hardest job.

It is almost dark & had better stop now, as I'll pity your eyes when you'll start reading this.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

France
August 24, 1944

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 86, 88, 89, 90 & surely glad to get them. Received all of them last week & I wanted to write sooner than this, but things have been rather rushing for the past few days & we have had very little time to ourselves. I also got a letter from Sara, said she had lost my address which was the reason she hadn't written me before. She wrote the letter the same day you were there, said she was so glad to see & thought you looked very well & was happy to hear that.

We have really been putting on a show for the French people. They start coming around to our place early in the morning, & there are still a few around at dark. Last night after I went to bed I heard them walking around. They stand around the kitchen & watch the cook & then when everybody starts eating you should see them gang around. We had to put ropes around to keep the people out. If you go down to the creek to wash, they will even go down & observe every move you make. It isn't very safe to take a bathe here. We know exactly how the monkeys feel when they are in a cafe & when we go through town that is the towns that haven't been mined by the war; they stand out on the street like the 4th of July celebrations at home & throw flowers & they bring out drinks, cognac, cider & give everyone a drink. When we drive along the country roads, they bring out eggs along the side of the road, & we really go for them, because fried eggs for breakfast is like a chicken dinner on Sunday. Naturally they expect a little something in return such as candy, gum or cigarettes. Any thing that comes from America, they think is

great & they think America is overflowing with everything. It seems funny to them to hear that the civilians are rationed clothing & food. There are quite a few French people here that speak German and we had found alot of them that speak a little English. Most of the younger folks can speak a little English & German as they say they take in school. They really have some nice looking girls over here & they dress fairly nice. Sunday we saw the people going to church, & do they put on the dog. Most of the older ladies wear a black dress with a little white cap sitting on the back of their head. That seems to be the style like grey suits in High Hill.

Did you have any luck in getting any merchandise in S. A.? That must be a great problem now. According to the papers the first part of the year they were supposed to release quite a bit of goods. Probably that was another one of the good will statements to try & make everyone feel good.

Well think had better stop this scribbling. Hope you are feeling fine & taking care of yourself. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. Tell Pinky I was surely glad to get here note. Have you heard from Patsey lately. I will try & write him soon as I get a chance.

August 26, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 91, 92, & 93 this morning & surely glad to get them. Think I must be mixed up on the no of a few letters, as I told you in the letter before this one that I had received no. 90, but one of them wasn't numbered, but am straightened out on all of them now. Those numbers really do run up, it won't be long before they will reach the hundred mark.

There is quite a lot of news around town now according to the letters. Was sorry to hear that you couldn't get much merchandise, but when there is none on the market, one just has to do without & maybe it won't be very long there will be plenty on the market.

I really think the papering of the kitchen of the rent house can wait, but the steps can be fixed now. I think most everyone is waiting until after the war to have their decorating work done & am sure she will wait.

It is too bad you haven't had any rain, am sure it must be awfully hot & dry. You had better be careful when you go out to the farm & not try & do too much as the hot weather will really weaken a person.

I really can't think of any thing right now that I need. I would like to have the Readers Digest & a few other magazines if you can still get them.

This will be about all for now as the mail man just came & want to give him this letter so it will go off in tomorrows mail.

August 30, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Surely glad to get letters nos. 94 & 95 but sorry to hear that you had not been feeling very good, but imagine the heat that you have been having will get anyone. We have been having a little of the "Irish type" weather for the past four days, "rain". They say here in France when it starts raining on the first of the month, they will have rain for the next fourty days, so we are in hopes it will be nice on the first. I

really doesn't seem like the first of Sept. is approaching -- time has been passing rather fast & the faster it passes the better it is.

I received a letter from Margaret a couple days ago. Said she had a nice time on her vacation, but was glad to be home again. I also received a letter from my friends at Market Hill. Tommie's mother passed away. She had been in bad health for several months -- she was 90 yrs of age.

Just received the June 2nd issue of the Sticker. Wonder where it has been all this time. Have received quite a few later issues than that. Would like to follow one of those strayed papers or letters & see just where they do go, but as a whole I think the mail has been coming through very good.

About the picture of the fellow with a pipe in his mouth. I can't say who it is as there were two of us that had pipes when the pictures were taken. They were taken back in Ireland.

I bet the cattle were having a great time in the corn patch. Glad to hear they are looking good although it has been dry.

Well this will be about all for now.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

September 6, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received no. 96 & 97 yesterday & surely glad to get them & also glad to hear from Elon and Leon. Bet they are having a time with their goat. Hope it doesn't get as mean as the billy goat I had.

Know everyone was glad to have the rain since it had been so dry for so long, but the people that had cotton in the field didn't care to have any rain, but that is just one of those things. The cattle are going to eat good this winter with cake and hay, that makes mighty good feed.

I had a letter from Aunt Haysie yesterday. Said Uncle Julius was surely glad to have seen you in S.A. Said he didn't have very much luck in getting merchandise. She also said they had a good rain, that was needed very badly. Seemed there was a drought all over the country.

I'm going to have to cut this letter very short, as I have some laundry I want to take up the road & have done & I want to go before it gets dark. There are some people there that do a very nice job with our clothes. That beats doing it ourselves.

Will write more later in the week. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

September 8, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

I didn't get to write much of a letter yesterday, so shall try & do a little better now. Received no. 99 today & surely glad to get it. 98 got a little delayed, should be coming in this evening. We took our laundry out last night, and had a little visit with some French folks last night. They are the people that to our laundry. Their home is in Brest but they are staying here for a while. You should hear them speak German, they can speak it very good, so I get along with them very well. There are four brothers & a sister & their mother. Most of the people around here can speak a little German, as they were in France for four years & most of the children take it in school & they also take English & we run across quite a few kids that speak very good English.

You should see how these people live. In a barn, all they have is a stove, a few boards for a table & very few blankets. They all live in the one place. They couldn't bring any food with them, one reason food was very hard for civilians to get & they couldn't carry much, as they had to walk most of the way.

Boy when they tasted some of our white bread, they said it tasted better than cake, that was the first white bread they had in four years. They have been getting this real dark rye bread -- big round loaves, weigh about five lbs & they are rationed it, they can get it three times a week. They say before the Americans came, they could only get fourty cigarette a month, 2 pks & they get no sugar or coffee. They use rye seed for coffee. It is roasted & ground. Now since the Americans are here they can get a little something good to eat & do they like the American food. They think anything that comes from the States is great, & they are right about that too.

Have they found the fellow that escaped from Kenedy? We have seen plenty of them here.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

September 12, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Just a few lines to let you know we are getting along just fine -- the nights here are getting fairly cold, but it warms up during the day, as long as the sun is out it is comfortable.

Saw a good show last night, "See Here Private Hargrave." Was really a good comedy & night before last saw "News of Tomorrow." It was pretty good. Any sort of show we see now is good as we haven't the opportunity to see too many of them. We have a loud speaker now & that is a lot of entertainment. Get to hear all the good programs now. Bob Hope is on now. He is pretty good.

I got a new pair of shoes this morning. Wish could see them. You remember the Mexican shoes we used to get with the fuzzy side to the outside. They look like cannel boats. When they get ready to send me back to the States. I'll put motors on my shoes & have my own transportation.

I haven't gotten an issue of the "Sticker" in quite a while. The latest issue was June 22nd. 2nd class mail is coming through regularly now, as the other fellow have been receiving their home-town papers. If the subscription has expired I hardly believe they would discontinue sending the issues. Maybe they have started rationing it like most everything else, if that is the reason, it is alright. Just anything to help the war cause.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

September 15, 1944

Dear Papa,

Received letters no. 98, 100 & A & surely glad to hear from home. Know everyone is glad to have had a little rain. The cattle should be getting in fairly good condition now, since the grass is coming out. Imagine you will have some for market.

How is Russell getting along? Was sorry to hear about his condition. He has really had a tuff time of it.

I am sending two packages home. One has a Nazi bayonet & a belt buckle & the other has a pair of small wooden shoes like these French people wear here. I believe I told you once before about their shoes. And there is a linen scarf that Mrs. Maynes gave me while we were in Ireland & a couple of piece of linen that I got from the linen factory. The paper weight came from the Grants Causeway & an Irish

Pipe. Have been having some of these things for a long time & have been looking for a few other things to send, so hope you get them.

This is about all for right now. Hope you are feeling fine Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

September 16, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Received letter B yesterday & surely glad to get same. I also received tow issues of the "Sticker" of which I was very glad to receive. I really thought they took me off their mailing list. They were issues of July 7th & 14th. Most of the news was rather old, as I got most of it from the letters from home, but I enjoy the paper just the same. There seems to be quite an interest over the election. Hope it turns out alright; of course as far as satisfying everyone, this is impossible, so as long as the best man get it, it's alright by me.

It was too bad about James Quitta getting killed. I believe his wife had a baby not so very long also.

You are really going in for farming in a big way this year -- planting all those potatoes. Hope you have good luck with them & am sure you will, since you had such a nice rain. You will probably run a track from Engle to the farm after all.

Have you heard from Patsey lately? Have been wondering how he is getting along. I'll write him one of these days.

Have you ever heard from the Realty Co. in Houston as to whether they made the repairs on the house. Am sure they took care of it, as I think they are reliable.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

September 24, 1944
France

Dear Papa,

Well how is every little thing? Haven't had any mail for a week. Our mail is being held up somewhere, but am sure it will come through pretty soon. My mind tells me we may get a little today.

We went into town yesterday & took a hot shower, which certainly was a treat. It was a public shower, women used to go there too, but now they have different arrangements where we go on certain days & won't be bothered with the ladies. It is a fairly nice place. They have individual stalls with a shower in each one.

In the towns they have a building with a concrete affair about three feet deep, it looks very much like a swimming pool & the people go there to wash their clothes. It really is a sight to see & in the country they have these troughs near a creek. It seems like they all go on the same day, as it looks like a feast around there sometimes with the drawers etc. flying around.

Notice the brand of milk we are getting now. It tastes very much like our own milk. We also have some of their canned pork, beef, celery, asparagus. & few other vegetables. They taste fair, but none of them beat our own food.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 3, 1944

France

Dear Papa,

I was in Paris for a short time several days ago & that is really a city. I was rather surprised to see how modern it was. It really has some pretty modern buildings & good streets. They are noted there for the cafes & drinking joints -- each one have the tables & chairs out on the side-walk & you can sit around & eat & drink. These French sit & eat & drink there for several hours at a time. We got some good beer. It is not strong at all, but it has a good flavor -- better than any of the beer we got in England. They have some beautiful stores, that is the fronts are pretty. Most of the people dress real nice & seem to be up to date. You don't see any wooden shoes there. There are some very nice automobiles there. Most of them have some sort of oil engines in place of using gas which they can't get. I really enjoyed seeing what I did of Paris & am in hopes I can go & stay for a while

How is the weather at home now? We are having a little taste of winter weather now. It has been fairly cool & rather damp. Hope it clears up real soon.

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

Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,

Leslie

October 8, 1944

Germany

Dear Papa,

Received letters G & H today & surely glad to hear from home. It was about three weeks that I hadn't received any mail & no need to say I missed it as you know I did. Am sure you enjoyed the services & dinner in Hallettsville.

I am sure you read about the battle of Brest. Well you should have seen the place after all the fighting was over. It was a fairly nice city before, about 80,000 population & they had some fairly nice modern buildings in the new part of the city, but there isn't a thing left now but a bunch of beat up walls. They call it Halliwood city because all you see is a bunch of walls. If they ever want to rebuild it they'll have plenty of bomb & shell holes that can be used for foundation. Brest was one of the largest & best submarine bases they had in Europe. & they really had it fixed up. It was all bomb & shell proof & from the way it looks on the outside it wasn't damaged at all. They had gobs of cognac & wines stored away, so the Americans got all of that & it was fairly good, but I enjoyed the beer we had the other day. Haven't had a chance to get anymore. It doesn't have any "kick" to it, but the flavor is very good.

I received letter from Aunt Haysie & she is sending me a package too, so I'm on the look out for them now. As you have noticed by the heading of this letter, we are in the "Fuehrers" country now, but we haven't received our welcome address from him as yet. It makes a person feel good to see him lose all the land that he held & yet he wasn't satisfied & now what is he going to have?

Well this is about all for today, so had better sign off.

By the way today is a year that we left the New York Harbor. We have covered quite a bit of land & water in the past year & surely hope most of this is over real soon. It seems like we are on the home-stretch now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,

Leslie

October 14, 1944

Germany

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. K yesterday & surely glad to hear from home. Don't know if I can write much of a letter now, because there is a raid blairing out loud, but shall try & scribble a few lines any way. There are a bunch of German radios around, so se get to hear quite a bit of news & catch some of the programs from America. Heard Amos & Andy the other night. First time have heard them in quite a while. Had a fellow talking Polish a few minutes ago & of course Hitler has the properganda programs on & according to them they have already won the war. It really is a joke to hear them.

The place where we are staying has a Russian girl & boy working. They speak fairly good German. They said that Hitler wanted to take them to work for him in one of his labor camps, but they escaped & when the war is over they are going back to Russia.

Was glad to hear that the Realty Co. had the steps fixed even though it was expensive, but one has to expect that now. We will just have to wait with the rest of the work such as wall papering.

I hardly believe I can use a pair of dress shoes now although a pair of oxfords would certainly feel good, but during the winter months a pair of high-tops are about the best thing to wear. When the warmer weather begins, I'll write you for a pair of oxfords. I really don't want to carry too much around, I have about twice as much now as I am supposed to have, but I like plenty of clothers for wintertime.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

P.S. I received a letter from Chief Speckels a couple days ago. He told me about the State convention & said the next one was supposed to be held in Waco but since it is a dry town they are in favor of moving it to Houston.

The leaflet enclosed was dropped over France by the Allied planes.

October 14, 1944

Germany

Dear Papa,

Don't know very much to write now, but shall try & scribble a few lines. Haven't received any mail for a couple of days, but am in hopes before I finish this letter shall have a letter or two. Have a couple of back letters that I should get & my package should be coming in before very long. Don't believe anyone has received any packages since we have been here in Germany.

Imagine the people are keeping you busy now asking about wood. If I were you I'd try & sell it to one customer & put a high price on it to the other & then they wouldn't bother you as much. I noticed here the people put all their wood out next ot the road & sell it that away. Am afraid that wouldn't work too good at home. They really have some beautiful forests here. Mostly all large pines. It reminds me of the country around Houston, but the trees here are larger & more of them. It really is easy to get lost, especially at night, as you can't see your hand in front, it is so dark. We hear they have a lot of deer & wild hogs here, so maybe we will eat a little venison this year. Haven't had any in a couple of yea4rs.

Didn't get any mial today, so in hopes will get some tomorrow.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 18, 1944

Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to receive letter J today also received two issues of the "Sticker." There seems to be quite a bit of news around the "burgh" with the opening of the new hospital. They must have had quite a reception. Hope it works out alright, as they always needed one at home.

We are in Belgium now as you will notice by the heading of this letter. It has been under the "Fuehrers" control since 1940, but now it is Belgium. Most all the people speak German, & some French. I can get along with them fairly well with them when they speak German. I haven't spoken it in quite a while, but the words come back to me when I start "jabbering." I told you in one of the other letters that there are some people here from Russia. The town they come from is Poltawa. I asked them about the place where you came from & they know where it is but have never been there. They speak good German & of course Russian, but I can't "savey" that, some words & pharses are like Czech.

I saw a fellow a couple of days ago & he said some one from home asked about me & from the way he described him to me he is probably Otis Kent. He said he was getting along alright.

It has been raining here for the past four days, not hard but just enough to keep it muddy & sloppy. We hear they have snow here around four feet deep. That will be a lot like Wisconsin.

Just heard Eddie Cantor on the radio. The first time I have heard him in a long time. He still talks about his wife Ida. He is still good. Also heard Amos & Andy. They are still in big business.

It is about time to go to bed, so had better close for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello. Am enclosing some Belgium money for all of you.

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 19, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Received letters L & M today & surely glad to get them. It seems that our mail is starting to come through fairly good now. Hope it continues. Am anxiously awaiting for the packages. They should be here before very long as they have been on the way long enough. Heard yesterday they had four car loads of packages & I thought sure my packages would be in the bunch, but I haven't seen or heard of them as yet.

Was sorry to hear of Aunt Pauline. Have you heard how she is getting along? Where is she in Houston or Hallettsville?

So you are having a good pecan crop this year. Am glad to hear that, as that helps the farms out a lot.

Yesterday the 18th was a year that we landed in Ireland. We stayed in the harbor for a day from the 17th to 18th. We disembarked in Belfast & got on a train & went to Armough, then from there they took us to Gasford Castle (you have a picture of the castle) at Market Hill. By the way I got a letter the other day from the Maynes at Market Hill & they asked about you & wanted to know how you were getting along.

We saw a good show last night, "Once Upon a Time." It was a story about a worm, a sort of fairy tale, but it was pretty good & interesting.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 21, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Received letters J & M today & surely glad to hear from home. I wish we were having some of your warm weather. It has been raining so much & the ground is so soaked with water it is like walking on sponge. They say we are having an unusual wet autumn. It is usually warm about this time of year. Guess because we are here, they are having a little more rain. Maybe the winter months won't be so cold.

I had a hot tub bath today, the first one I have had in quite a while & did I appreciate it. I just sat up there & soaked my hide & really hated to get out. That was one tub bath I appreciated.

We have a big keg of German beer. It is some of that "P40" stuff. It is dark & sweet, a lot like root beer. If you drink it with the idea that it is root beer instead of regular beer, it taste fairly good. It must be about 1% alcohol. When we first got to Belgium some people gave us several bottles of beer & it was very good, but we can't get any of that kind around here. It really had a beer taste.

I received two more issues of the "Sticker" today, one July issue & one August issue. I noticed in one issue that you were a business visitor in San Antonio. I should be about time for you to go back for a little visit. Sara wrote me while you were in S.A. & I haven't answered it yet. Will have to get busy one of these days & write her. She sent me the address of Bessies brother-in-law who is stationed over here. She said maybe I'll have a chance to run into him sometimes. I saw a fellow who used to live in Boernie & he knew some of the fellows I knew at Kerrville. He has been in the army about five years & has forgotten quite a few of the people.

Bet is seems strange not to have any work shoes for sale. Guess you will have to cut some of the large trees at the farm & build some of those wooden shoes like they use in France.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

Tuesday, October 24, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to get no. P today, & also an issue of the Sticker. Here lately I have been getting my mail pretty good & hope it keeps up that away. Am still sweating out the packages. Maybe Santa Claus is holding them up.

Know Billy was glad to get home after being away for a couple of years. Am sure the old U.S.A. looked mighty good to him.

I went to town Sat. & looked around went into the stores, but they are a lot like the stores at home, they have very few things to sell. They say when the Nazis were here they bought everything they possible could & sent it to Germany. Some of them had as many as ten rings & all sorts of watches & hose & underwear. It seems that they didn't want to leave anything for us. I found a few little things that I will send home in a few days. I bought this stationary there. That is one thing they have a lot of & we ate dinner there. Had steak, potatoes, beans & a pear. That cost 100 Franks which is \$2.28 that isn't bad, but you didn't get any bread with a meal. Bread is very scarce over here. A family over here gets about three loaves of bread a week & when they eat all of that, they make waffles, & they are very good especially when they are taken right off the griddle. They get a half a pound of butter a month & about a 1/4 pound of cheese, so you see they have fairly strict ration of food here.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

October 27, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to receive number D, E, F & O & I also received the package & am surely enjoying everything & want to tahnk all of you for everything. It took it a long time to get here over two months, but everything was in good condition. I was surprised too because the continuous rocking of the ship sometimes tears the package up.

Think I'll send a package off tomorrow. Would sent it today, but don't believe the mail man will be here today since we got our mail last night. Those three black leather pouches are Nazi ammunition puches & you will find an aluminum chain like affair & that is one of their hose clearners for rifles. Throught I'd tell you what they are so you wouldn't be guessing.

You did quite well with the pecan crop this year. Must have had quite a few pounds. That was too bad about Ed Kainer. I beleive I can place him. That is dangerous business climbing those trees.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 2, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Received "J" several days ago & surely glad to get it. I am afraid you are going to put on your specks to read this as this hard leaded pencil doesn't show up very well.

Well this is Nov. This year is really rolling by & hope the next few months go twice as fast & have this war ended. When we were back in France it looked like it would all be over my Nov. But Nov. must have come just a little quick.

We built us a little house just large enough for two people & we have a good heater, electric lights, a table & a double decker bed & we are really living. The outside is covered with tar paper, so it can get at cold as it wants to, we can stay warm, as long as we have all these forests around.

Today the people had decoration day. It was a regular holiday to them, it seems like as they didn't work & I wnet into their kitchen & they had a big spread out on the table & they gave me some pie & asked them what the occasion was & they said it was decoration day.

I am enclosing some pictures. Some were taken back in Ireland & some in France. I sent the film off about two months ago to be developed & I got the pictures a couple days ago.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 6, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to receive letter no. K & glad to hear that you had received the package. Think it made fairly good time, little over a month. It a couple of week be on the look out for another one. Wish I could send more, but there are so very few things one can find around here. Hitler's boys took most everything while they were here & they were around here for four years.

Have you gathered the pecans from the trees at home. Bet you have some nice ones on the trees. I though Charlie made a good crop. That is about the most that place ever produced.

We are listening to Charlie McCarthy now. He & Edgar Bergen are still pretty good. Wish you could hear some of the Polish programs. They had a play on last night. I could understand a few of the words, but not enough to know what it was all about. There must be thousands of radio stations in

Germany, as the whole dial is filled with their programs. They go in a lot for the "goose step" march, then they have Catherine who shoots a line of progerganda & their "Bruno & his swinging tigers" play a couple of popular numbers. It really is a joke.

I wonder if you can find me some sort of a watch either wrist or a pocket watch. You remember the watch you sent me while I was at Fort Sill, the winding stem came off & I sent it in to town, but they can't fix it on account of not having the equipment for American watches. Then I tried to buy one & that was out as they are sold out of watches just as they are most everything else. If you run across anything I think if you send it air mail, I'll get it much quicker.

This is about all for this time.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 7, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to get letters S & T & hear everybody is getting along alright. Was sorry to hear about Bill Johnson. Everyone will surely miss him especially at the bollingalley - he really kept the place in a good order all the time & he was one of the oldest firemen, but I don't believe he has been active in the organization for a couple of years.

So you sold some of the cattle. Think it is a good idea to get rid of them before the cold weather begins. Are you going to sell any more any time soon? this must have been a rather hard year for cattle, since there was such a long dry spell. Wish you could see the pastures here. The grass is as green as in spring. It is really beautiful., but probably in another month it will all be covered with snow.

Well guess today was a rather exciting day, since the great election was to take place. Just heard over the radio where they estimated 50 million voted. That is quite a few.

Well not much going to write about now, so had better close. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 13, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to receive letters U & Y. Seems as if I am getting every other one now and sure will get the back ones soon.

Well it started snowing here a couple nights ago & it really is pretty & it is not too cold, but awfully muddy as the ground isn't frozen & quite a bit of the snow is melting in fact all of it in the forests has melted. The first morning it was a beautiful sight & it really looked like a "White Xmas."

So you had a good rain around home -- hope it will help the pastures & gardens. I imagine it is almost too late now for grass to grow out very much. Do you have all your pecans gathered? You really went into the pecan business in a big way this year. Was glad that you got Bill Gylich to gather them at home. Could he handle the large poles alright? I am sure he did OK.

What do you think about the results of the election? Think everyone is sorta glad that is all over, now maybe they can concentrate on the war a little more.

Are the hunters getting many deer this season? There are quite a few of them around here. Am in hopes some one will bang one of them so we will have a little venison.

Well this is about all for now.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 18, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely glad to get letter X several days ago. Those letter numbers really ran up in a short time. Believe I started getting them when we were at Brest. Was surprised to hear that the weather is still fairly warm at home & this being Nov. no doubt it will turn cool pretty soon, then the customers will start asking for heavy clothering, rubber boots, etc. & that no doubt will be a regular joke, since everything is so hard to get. Wonder when the time will come when you will be able to get everything as you did before the war. That is a good question I guess.

So they had a big Halloween celebration at home with all the excitement. They are starting the Halloween pranks nowlike they did years back.

How is the little colt getting along? It is probably about as big as its mommie by now. Wish you could see the pretty horses they have here. This is the country where the big horses originated. They grow them with the real subly tails. They make a hourse look sorta strange, but after you get used to see them you don't notice is so much.

Well this is about all fo now Although it isn't much of aletter, but only a few lines to let you know everything is coming along alright.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 21, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Just a few lines to let you know everything is OK. It has been raining a lot for the past 24 hours & the mud is almost up to our knees. It has gotten a lot warmer, & all the snow has melted. If we would get a freeze now there would really be plenty of ice.

I received a letter from Aunt Haysie today & she said they wee both getting along just fine. U.J. had been to Dallas trying to buy mdse. She said no more salesmen come down to the valley any more, so they hae to visit the house now. She said she had aletter from Houston saying Aunt Pauline wa in a very bad condition. She doesn't seem to know anyone now.

Well I imagine the farmers are getting their turkeys ready for Thanksgiving since it isn't very long off. We have turkey & chicken every once in a while (from the can) it really isn't bad at all -- it is all white meat & that is one of my favorite meats.

How is Leon's mustache coming along? Tell hime I would like to have the remedy he used to make it grow. (I can just about guess what it would be.) So if I ever decide to grow one I'll know what to use. When we were in France we noticed most all the men wore mustaches & a lot of the G.I's got the idea they had to grow one.

One of the fellows whose home is near LaGrange sent me twelve issues of the "Fayette County Record." he always saves them for me, so I have been reading all about the county news. Most of it pretains to the election. They must have some fairly hot races according to the paper.

Well don't know of anything else to write, so had better bring this to a close.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 22, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to get letter Z today. Seemed like it took forever & a day for it to get here, but it will probably be that way now for a while. We noticed in the paper today where most of the air mail is coming by boat now since they are using the planes to bring medical & other essential supplies.

So they treated Pappy Daniels rather rough when he was in Houston. Guess the people are getting tired of his line of hot air & he has been spreading it on for quite some time just as a lot of the others.

That Lone Star label looked mighty good. I think we are getting a keg of beer tomorrow, so I'll paste it on a beer mug & just imagine it is Lone Star. One of the fellows got a package from home the other day with a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer in it. That is just a teaser, one can't get a good taste from those small cans.

The picture of Mr. Bowlands sone looks natural. I believe he stopped over for a while at home one time & visited with me. Does Mr. Bowland still come around? His house probably doesn't have anything to offer now since the war.

Am enclosing some Belgium coins. I sent some Belgium bills home last month & wonder if you got that letter.

Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

November 26, 1944
Germany

Dear Papa,

Received letter no. 4 yesterday and surely glad to get it. It really made good time - no doubt it came by air, probably the others will be along in a day or so, & I understand quite a bit of mail came in today, so we are in hopes that the mailman will flood us with lots of mail tomorrow.

Well How was Thanksgiving? I imagine you spent most of the day at the farm. We had a very nice dinner. The turkey was good only I believe everyone ate too much. When supper time came it didn't look good at all.

Surely was glad to hear you got the pictures. I am having some developed now that we took during the snow, surely hope the turn out good. Snow pictures usually do make good.

Did the cold spell finally hit Texas? It is just about the time of year for a little cool weather. Know the farmers are wishing for it so they can butcher the hogs. It isn't so cold here now, but it is awfully wet. We have a good stove in our little "shack", and we have plenty of coal so we are set for the winter. Here they have the pressed coal bricks. They are made of coal dust and oil & they really put out a good heat. We can fill our stove when we go to bed, & in the morning we still have a good fire.

Well this is about all for now. Not much excitement going on now, just a Buzz Bomb coming over now and then.

Hope you feeling fine and taking care of yourself.
Tell everybody hello,

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 1, 1944
Germany

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to receive U, W, & No. 3 letters yesterday. It has been quite a while since I have gotten three letters at one time.

I saw Paul yesterday & he asked about all of you. That was the first time I had seen him since we have been here.

What is Christines's husbands address? He must be in the same sector I am in. There are several hospitals around here & it could be possible that he is stationed at one of them.

Have you gone to S. A. yet to try & buy mdse? It is almost useless to go, but probably sometimes you can pick up a few things & the trip would do you good. Do you ever hear from any of the S.A. folks? I wrote Sara a letter about six weeks ago. It probably is still on the way.

Saw the show "Devotion" the other evening. The acting was very good, but that was all. The costumes & scenery was ancient, so I wouldn't say the show was too good.

Well this is going to be a very short letter for this time, as there just isn't any news to write about. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 2, 1944
Germany

Dear Papa,

Surely was glad to receive no. 6 today & also to happy to hear that I am going to get a watch. Hope it doesn't lose any time in getting here. So you have been having quite a bit of rain. Guess the people are really calling for rubber boots now. Imagine a lot of them will be disappointed since they are rationed. It seems that they would issue a larger allotment of rubber footwear in the districts where the farmers almost have to have them for their work especially where there are so many dairies, & that is one important business now during the war. We are having more rain now too. It was pretty & clear early this morning, but about noon it started getting cloudy, & now it is raining. It will probably keep it up for a couple of days.

Was Mr. Bullman on a friendly visit, or was he trying to sell clothing? Tell Mr. Davis I surely enjoyed the letter he wrote me. He said he was getting tired of just riding around for his health with a handful of mdse to sell. During the time of war you can't expect to have everything the way you would like to so the only thing we can do is wait until is all over & then hope for the best.

Do you ever hear from any of the Houston folks? The last I heard of them was through Aunt Haysie & she said they were all getting along just fine.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 3, 1944

Just received one of the packages today, the one with the Gebhardts' products in it, & it really looked good seeing all those home products. Have already eaten one of the sandwich spreads & it very good & know the est of it is as good. Thanks a lot for the nice box.

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 6, 1944
Germany

Dear Papa,

Received another of my packages today, & we are enjoying everything just a lot. It was all in good condition, & I want to thank everybody for everything. We have a radio in our house now, & it is a lot of company to us. It was one of the Fuehlers' sets, but we can get good programs on it.

I received letters 5 & 7 yesterday, so you see I am kept rather busy getting mail these days & that is the way I like it. Know you miss your box & hope it has been fixed. It is better to have it go out during the cooler weather, than it would be during the summer months when things won't keep as long.

Did you go to Houston for Thanksgiving. Hope you did & know the folks enjoyed having you.

Bet the store seems strange with so little mdse. but I am sure everyone is having the same problem now. Why don't you cook up a botch of good whiskey & put in as a side line. That would be something a little different. Ha

I am fixing up a box & will send to you in a few days. Hope it arrives alright, as I know all of you will get a "kick" out of it.

Well it is almost time to go to bed so had better close. Thanks again for the nice box. Hope you are feeling fine. Tell everybody hello.

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 7

Just received letter no. 10 & surely glad to get it. It has really been raining here to day. The mud doesn't have any bottom to it now, but it isn't very cold -- if this would all freeze over there would be a lot of ice. I bought myself a pair of combat boots. They are regular shoes, with an extended piece of leather sewed on the top. They should be a little warmer.

Will write again in a few days.

December 16, 1944
Germany

Dear Papa,

Shall attempt to write you a letter now, have been wanting to do that for the past couple of days but haven't had much time.

Received letters 9, 11, 12 yesterday & today I received 1 & 2, so I am sorta getting some of my back mail now, but never the less if it is late I am glad to get it & I also received 2 issues of the "Sticker." I got a package of eats from Aunt Haysie yesterday, & also a Xmas card & a letter from my friends in North Ireland. That was the first time I had heard from them in about six weeks. The mail from there has been delayed too. They asked about you & wanted to know how you were getting along. They say they were thinking about moving to England after the war.

Was glad to hear that you went to Houston for Thanksgiving. Know the folks enjoyed having you. Bet Sadie fixed a good dinner.

Am glad to hear that you have located a watch for me. Will surely be glad to get it.

Was too bad about Aunt Pauline death. She surely passed away in a hurry. I didn't know she had passed away until I received the letters today.

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

Lovingly,
Leslie

December 28, 1944
Belgium

Dear Papa,

I haven't had a chance to do any writing for the past week or so that is rather long story, that I will have to tell you about when the time permits. It's a good one.

I received two letters yesterday 13 & 14 & surely glad to get them. I imagine all of you were kept rather busy before the holidays, & now the taking of inventory, that's another job, but I imagine it won't take as long this year sine the stock is low.

I also received tow more packages & everything was surely nice & enjoyed everything a lot. I got a package from Aunt Haysie & also a birthday card, so you see I have been doing alright. I got the Xmas card from you & thanks a lot it was really nice. Tell everybody I will write them as soon as I possible can.

We had a pretty nice Xmas dinner or I should say supper because we had turkey & it was very good, also had some more today for dinner.

The weather has been pretty cold especially during the night & early morning, but during the day it gets fairly warm & clear. Surely hope the weather stays clear because that is what the Fuerher doesn't like.

I got a letter from Margaret a couple of days ago. She asked how you were getting along.

Well this is about all for right now.

Hope you feeling fine & tell everybody hello,

Lovingly,
Leslie