

80 Dickinson Street  
Binghamton, N.Y.  
June 1, 1943

Dear Leo:

I suppose by the time you receive this letter, you will be settled, and will know what your duties are, and what kind of guard duties, you will be doing. I have been trying to explain to Jean and Mamie but I am just trying to put 2 and 2 together and I am not getting very far. Maybe you can help me out.

Everything is pretty dead here. There is no pleasure driving, and for two Sundays in a row, my care has been

(1)

in the garage. We just sit on the side porch killing time. I went up the hill to play golf, and it was so wet we couldn't walk on the greens. And here it is the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. "Some fun." If we want to go to show, we walk. If we want to play golf, we walk. If we want to go visiting, we walk – again I say, "some fun."

How is the gas rationing out that way, is it any better than it is here? We are getting 1 ½ gals. On the A coupons and 2 ½ gals. On the B & C. I have now four gals. Of gas for the week but it is alright, I think I can manage pretty good on that.

Say, did you get your uniform for up to fit you.

(2)

If you had, how about having a picture taken. We would like to get one of you, as a buck private. You know in a little while, you will be getting a couple of bars, "is that good." But we would like to have one in your big uniform.

Your wife owes me too bucks. She had a dream the other night and just because she is my sister-in-law, is no sign that she doesn't have to pay her bills. You write her, and tell her to cough up or else, she might have worse dreams.

Mamie is pretty good but is pretty tired out. She did have four days off this last week and so got a little rest, but you know how she is. She does what

(3)

she wants to anyway. She is also worried over you, so you write me, so I can explain to her about your duties. I guess Jean is kind of worried too. Don't write this to Jean because she will worry more. Outside of that, I got everything in control.

Lovey is getting all tanned up and in about two weeks, I am going to have a nigger wife. DO you suppose my luck ought to change? What would you do if you woke up in the middle of the night and saw a dark woman besides you. Well, "I did it." But I don't see any difference. Anyway, she gained a few lbs.

I guess that's all the room I have for now, so take care of yourself and lots of luck.

Fred & Lovey

(4)

Tuesday June 1, 1943

My Darling Husband

It's very warm today. I guess summer is already here.

Honey I don't care how far it is. I wish you would find out how I could get there. I'll have my things packed in no time and be on my way. I mean it. So, let me know as soon as you can.

I'm glad you went to the dance the other night. I hope you had a good time. I'm trying to enjoy myself without you. Although I rather just sit around with you. Even if we were on a desert.

Darling I just couldn't go out with another man. I seem to find fault with all of them. They can't compare with you. I guess I think you're tops.

Do you go to church up there or don't they have any?

I Understand there are some fellows from Binghamton at the

(1)

same camp.

I'll write to you every day even if it does take a little longer for mail to reach you.

I can't wait till I see you. I have so much love for you. I keep wondering how I will act.

Well my sweet take good care of yourself. I love you and miss you very much. I'll write often.

Your affectionate wife

Jean

P.S. Here's Johnny's address

Pvt. John Hojsik Jr.

C-9 M.R.L.C. Bks 827

Cape Pickett Virginia

I gave Marie your address to give Johnny

(2)

Monday June 1, 1943

My Darling,

I would like to know if they have a guest house for visitors. I called up Lackawanna Station to find out what the fare is – it's \$19 round trip. That isn't so bad. There is a train leaving on Friday afternoon at 2:35 and arrives in Battle Creek at 8:15 Saturday morning that doesn't sound too far.

How did you make out with your I. I test you didn't say.

Well my darling you say the word and I'll be on my way.

Marie is going to see Johnny in about 2 weeks. She says that Johnny has to take some kind of salt tablets for the heat. I guess

(1)

it's pretty warm in Virginia.

I don't think you would like the warm climate. You won't have to get used to the weather where you are now.

Well sweet till I hear from you

Xxxxxx

I love you too

I remain your  
devoted wife and  
sweetheart,  
Jean

(2)

Wednesday June 2, 1943

My Darling,

I am sending all the stuff you asked for. If you should need more hangers or something else that you forgot, I will bring it with me when I come to see you. I expect to leave a week from this Friday so you better be expecting me. I mean it so please try and get a pass for 11 of June. Honey, I don't mean to be a pest always at asking you when I can come and see you but I think it would be better if you didn't meet me in Buffalo unless you get a longer pass and try to come home. I will send you more money if you need it. Either way I want to see you.

Looks like you're going to get a tough training, don't try to be too good at it. Maybe they will give you something

(1)

else later on.

There is a girl that works with my Mother. Her husband as been at Fort Custer for 7 weeks. She went up to see him the first 2 weeks he was there. So, if she can do it so can I. Maybe I could get her t take another trip so I could have company.

Please honey, see if you can get time off when I get there, so don't forget to let me know.

Darling if you miss me like I miss you, I know what you are going through. It's hell sometimes isn't it? Just remember that I love you and I am waiting for you to be home with me soon like old times.

XXXXXXXX

Your devoted wife

Jean

P.S. I costs \$19 round trip and takes 18 hours to see you. That's almost half for it is for Marie to see Johnny.

(2)

Thursday June 3, 1943

My Darling Husband,

It is very warm today. I've been sitting in the sun for a little while. I only worked a half a day. Pretty soft.

I sent in your name to the Worker's Page for them to send you the Binghamton Sun. I hope you get it soon.

Honey don't feel that it's a lot of bother for me to send you what you ask for. Believe me I'm very happy when I can do something for you. So, anything you need don't hesitate to ask. After all what am I your wife for.

I hope the army doesn't discourage you. Please don't give up hope honey. Make believe you are doing it all for me and I know it will be easier for you. Just remember that I love and I'm waiting for you.

(1)

I think Amelia came home last night so I think. I'll drop down the house tonight.

I also washed the car today. It seems to get awfully dirty.

I am looking forward in seeing you soon.

Mamie and the rest of the family are all fine. So, don't worry too much about home.

I think Leon will be home in about a couple of weeks. I don't know for sure but I'll let you know if he does.

God bless you darling.

Write me more about what you do.

Xxxxxxx

Your sweetheart

Jean

P.S. I love you.

(2)

June 3, 1943

Dear Leo:

I am glad to hear you are in a cooler climate. The temperature is only 102\*. Not bad, eh? I can't get cooled off. I sweat constantly. Quite a change from Niagara. I am in the Medical Corp. in the Clerk's School. I only have to drill for about three weeks and then for nine weeks I go to school. Not bad, eh?

I know of some new places than this but what can I do? I like to be in Pine Camp where it is cool. The boys drop left and right but I'm still hanging on.

Tomorrow I go on my first hike. I don't want to think about it.

I wish you were here because you would fit in this school. I got 136 in my I.Q. so I'm going today for officer's school. They have a prep school here.

How are you getting along? Fine I hope. The food is excellent here, not like Niagara. Eat like people. Plenty of milk and potatoes.

(1)

Write to me often and I'll keep on writing to you. Don't let's lose touch of each other. We may meet sometime you can't tell.

Till I hear from you I remain

Your best friend

Johnnie

I'm going to take a shower. I need it.

(2)

Fri June 4, 1943

My Darling,

Today is another hot day. I've been very warm all day I can't seem to get cooled off.

I didn't receive any mail yesterday or to - day although some days I get two letters so that makes up for it. I know you write me every day but the mail doesn't get through always the same way.

Amerea & Nancy are home for the duration I think. She says you sent her a card from Fort Niagara

Darling I hope you aren't worried about me stepping out. I know we belong to each other and no one can change that. I can't hardly wait till I see you so we can make up for lost time.

During the day while I work

[1]

I guess I day dream all day about how things used to be when you were home Then sometimes I even think that when I get home from work you'll be waiting for me.

I haven't given up hope so please don't you give up. I know how you must feel at times

It's pretty awful isn't it. Just remember that I love you and am proud of you. So be a good boy.

I'm supposed to go to a shower tomorrow night some girl I work with is getting married.

Well sweet I hope you dream of me Something good I hope.

xxxxxx

Your devoted wife

Jean

P.S. I am still planning on going to see you

I love you



June 5<sup>th</sup> 1943

Dear Leo:

Don't let 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Scare you. Most of them use the same line about making or breaking and all of them want a crack outfit. He must be Irish.

We completed a 3-day bivouac on which we marched a total of 26 miles and the temperature here averages 98\* at least. I smelled like an old goat when I got back to camp! Hadn't had a bath in 3 days.

I imagine you will be trained to guard Prisoners of War or maybe bring prisoners on trips from posts or camps to Prison camps. You will probably do a lot of traveling so it doesn't sound bad to me. Keep me advised as to what you are doing.

I have been Company Commander for a week now. So

Best regards

Bill

P.S. DO you know your General Orders yet?

(2)

Saturday June 5, 1943

My Darling Husband

I am very happy today. I received 3 of your letters. They mean so much to me. The reason I didn't get any mail the last 2 days because we have anew mailman. So, I feel much better today.

Honey, please find out as soon as you can when you will have time off. As for me, I can come anytime, we don't have much work so I can get a vacation any time it's convenient for you so please let me know as soon as you can. I don't care what it costs. I have almost a, so dollars to go with. When I called the station, I asked what the fare was from Binghamton to Battle Creek and they said \$19 round trip. Anyway, I'm very anxious to see you Sweet.

(1)

I'm glad you like the Army life. The better you like it the easier it will be for you. I don't want you to be miserable. You mean so much to me if you suffer than I suffer too.

It cooled off a little bit today. We have a nice breeze.

Rene just came down. I think we will go over town.

Bobby Kocik has to go to Syracuse today for another test. I guess his nose is healed. Rene said he looked like Dracula when he had the operation.

Well, my sweet, I'll say so long for now. God bless you. I love you too and miss you.

XXXXX

Your devoted wife

Jean

(2)

Sunday, June 6, 1943

My Darling Husband

Last night I went out with [*Illegible*], Vi, Monica & Lillian. We had a lot of laughs. At first, I wasn't so keen on going but if I stayed home I have too much time to think. You know I'd rather be with you than anyone else if only it could be possible. Maybe it will soon anyway I'm hoping and praying it will.

I am down to my mother writing this letter. I've been sitting in the sun part of the afternoon. I don't think I'm getting much of a tan.

(1)

Anyway, I'm trying. I have a lot of time to myself. I dreamt of you again the other night that you came home but you had on a blue uniform. You were a lot thinner and taller. You also made love to me that's the part of the dream I liked the best. I only hoped it was real. I'm not worried about you not being able to take the army life because I know different. I know you will make a good soldier. You know how much you mean to me. I'd rather tell you in person than in writing. Although this way will have to do for now my sweet.

P.S. I love you

Your devoted wife  
Jean

(2)

80 Dickinson Street  
Binghamton, N.Y.  
June 7, 1943

Dear Leo:

Received your letter and was glad to know that everything is going alright with you. You know that I am not worrying, because I know you can take care of yourself. However, I believe that I can convince your family, but you know how Mamie is. She still thinks you are still her little boy. However, everything is coming along nicely.

Steve is home on a furlough this week, but he doesn't know what to do. There is nothing to do here, and only old farts like Bob and me are around. You know Steve is in the Air Force Medical Corps, and he likes

(1)

it very much. The first few months were very tough, but after that was over, everything turned out alright. The only trouble is that his camp is so far away.

The weather is about the same here. It is hot as hell for a couple of days, then it rains the rest of the time. I've played golf only twice this year. The golf course is soaking wet, and the greens are too soft to play on. Maybe by 4<sup>th</sup> of the July, it might dry up.

You know Leo, from what I understand about your job in the Army, I think it is damn good training for a state trooper, when this war is over. The only thing I, don't try to be too tough, while training. I know you too well, and I know that you will try to excel in your training.

(2)

take your time and don't forget you have only one head, so use it. You are more apt to get ahead by using that, then brawn. That's what the Army needs. You probably thought a lot about that yourself, but I thought I would just remind you.

I was talking to a few people here in Bingo, and there are some Bingo boys at your camp. Have you seen or talked to any of them? One is a boy on Everett St. and one on Colfax Ave. I really don't know what their names are. Anyhow, you have some Binghamton atmosphere there.

There isn't anything new here. Lovey is getting to look like a Palm Beach debutant, if she gets any blacker, I will be scared to go to bed with her, but I'm not when

(3)

I get up. I usually have to chase her around the house, by that time, I go to the bathroom, and my anticipation is all over. No wonder the Army don't want old goats. That's what Lovey calls me. I eat and then I s----. Well anyway, I have a lot of fun.

I am still working for John H. and things are the same, maybe in a couple weeks, I will know definitely whether I will be a life insurance agent or a bum. Or start anew on a new job, or maybe Uncle Sam may put a bid in for my services, but he will have to pay me more than \$50 a day, once a month, or I'll squabble.

Maybe I better quit before I won't know, what I am talking about and you won't either so I will say, so long, and lots of luck. Take care of yourself and write.

Fred & Lovey

(4)

Monday June 7, 1943

Dearest Leo,

It's been raining all day to day. I got a nice sunburn yesterday. My face is so red it looks as though I've been drinking especially my nose.

I sent you my picture today. I don't think it's very good of me. I hope you like it anyway. Did you say you had a picture taken or did I read about it in some book? I know how you hate to take a picture. I think Marie was saying something about Johnny having his taken. I guess that's where I got it from.

Honey, I'm planning on coming to see you this weekend, maybe it would be better if you could get me a room or somewhere to stay. Let me know about it. If there is anything you want me to bring with me don't hesitate to ask.

Do you still want those woolen socks? I receive the policy you took out

(1)

from the Army. Also, Mamie and I got the dependency cards that we have to keep. I didn't think they would send them so soon.

I am going to pay the car insurance this week. I have enough of money so don't worry about it.

I worked all day today. Last week I only worked 3 days and had \$27.00 pay. Not bad. I don't care if I work all week if I can make that much money especially now for the summer it's too hot anyway.

Bobby Kacik passed for the Air Corps. He expects to leave the last of this month. I don't think we will make the grade after he gets in. Maybe I'm wrong. He just thinks he's pretty smart.

Good night darling and pleasant dreams.

xxxxx

Your sweetheart  
Jean

P.S. I love you

(2)

Tues June 8, 1943

My Darling,

I received two letters from you to – day. I guess one of them I should have received yesterday It doesn't matter how I get them as long as I do.

I don't think that you will be able to stay with me nights when I come down after all you are still a Private It would be wonderful if you could although I'll be satisfied just to be with you no matter where it is.

Mamie, Anne & I went to the Ritz last night saw a couple of spooky pictures. They weren't too bad.

I only worked till 2 o'clock to – day. I'm beginning to get lazy. I hope it stays like this for the summer. It feels pretty good to loaf for a change

You know honey sometimes I don't know what to write about when I write every day. I suppose it's

[1]

for you too. I want to write 2 twice a day I seem to want to devote all my time to you

When I get a letter from you it means so much to me so I know how much my letters must mean to you

I am looking forward in seeing you soon. I pray every night so we will be back together very soon.

I also kiss your picture every night before I go to bed.

I love you

Your devoted wife

Jean

I hope you don't laugh at my letters

[2]

Wed June 9, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Darling I am ready to go just as soon as you make reservation for me.

Any time you make them will be alright with me only I hope its real soon. I don't care if I have to sleep in a barn

I'll make the trip, anyway. When I get home from work I'm so anxious to read your letters to see when I can come to see you every day I feel a little disappointed. I'm sorry to be so impatient sweet I know you're just as anxious as I am for me to come down I would be down this week if I was sure of getting a room. I was sick this week if you know what I mean. I don't want to disappoint you - you mean so much to me.

Only hurry and find out when I can come down. If you don't let me know I'm warning you

[1]

I come and surprise you there I'll have to sleep in the barracks with you fellows.

I think I'll go down to my Mother's tonight

By the way the girl I was telling you about her husband being at the same camp with you. She was saying she had a hard time to find a room that's why she told me it would be better if you could get me a place then let me know and I would try to make it. Don't ask me when just get a place and let me know. after all I have all the time in the world. I want to devote it all to you I love you so that sometime it makes me miserable. Take good care of yourself until I see you

xxxxxxx

I remain  
Your devoted wife  
Jean

[2]



Thursday June 10, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I feel pretty good today. I got 2 letters from you as long as I get mail from you that's all that matters. When I read your letters, I feel as though you were talking to me aloud.

I went to see Steve Ondrako's wife. I thought maybe she was planning on going to see her husband but I'm afraid it's impossible. She is expecting a baby so I wouldn't advise her to take the trip.

Darling, I'll plan on  
(1)

coming next week. I would leave here on the 18<sup>th</sup> and would expect to be in Battle Creek Saturday morning. Is it agreeable? If no, let me know.

Those shoes I sent you I thought they would be too heavy to wear. I'll send you more as soon as I can. If you don't need the others, send them back. Anything else you would want let me know. I'd be very happy to send whatever you need. I was thinking today if you should come home on a furlough sometime. How I would like to do things for you. I'd like to see you sitting

(2)

in an easy chair and I would get your pipe and slippers and then sit on your lap and make a fuss over you. Wouldn't that be heaven. If God hadn't given me strength to be a brave girl, I'm afraid I'd be to pieces long ago. All I do is hope and pray so we will be together soon. Darling, you don't suppose you would have a picture taken for me. I know how you hate to pose for a photograph and I wouldn't ask but it would mean so much to me. If you

(3)

don't feel like it, don't bother. I won't be angry. I love you too much.

My Mother received a letter from Leon. He is being shipped to Paris Island where he didn't want to go. He says he didn't care where they shipped him but there. As soon as he gets settled, I'll get his address and send it to you.

Mamie had the furnace cleaned yesterday. She bought all her coal and it's all paid for. I guess we're all set as for the heat situation for next winter.

It's been pretty cold  
(4)

this week. You must be having the same weather as we have.

Johnny Hojsik keeps writing to Marie how hot it is in Virginia.

Haven't you got the spring cleaning done yet at camp? Every time you write you're either scrubbing or washing something. They certainly keep you busy with the dirty work don't they. I think your man enough to take it. Lately I don't know what I do with all my time. The days go by so fast. It will probably be no time

(5)

for this war to be over with. Any way I hope so.

Well my sweet I think I'm running out of news for now. I think this is the longest letter I've written to you.

Good night and sweet dreams until tomorrow.

xxxxx

I remain your devoted wife

Jean

I love you.

(6)

Friday June 11, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I just finished packing your mocs. I also put in a couple of hangers. I didn't think the other two would be enough. I don't think you will need the other shoes I send – they're too heavy. If you get a chance, send them back.

Remember Frank Johnson? He is in the Navy in action. His wife called Freddie and told her that Frank captured an Italian flag. He sent it home. I think they will take pictures of it and put it

(1)

in the paper. If they do, I will send you the clipping of it.

Lovey's brother Steve is going back tomorrow. I guess Freddie will write you about that.

Remember Larry, my old girl friend that lives by my Mothers? Well she had a 11 ½ pound baby boy. Some size, huh? It probably looks like a 6- month old.

Last night I stayed home and went to bed early. I was thinking of you hoping you were with me. That's all I hope for. Sometimes

(2)

I wish that you would get discharged from the Army. Some fellows do? I have quite an imagination.

As long as you write me every day, it makes me a little happy.

Well my sweet, I love you and miss you. Until I see you

xxxxxx I remain your  
devoted wife  
Jean

(3)

Sat June 12, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I just came home from town I looked all over for a pair of shoes for myself. I didn't buy any. All I got was sore feet from walking. You know how fussy I am

I came home and was thinking of you so I made myself a sandwich and I thought I'd drop you a few lines.

I called up Marie I usually do every day to ask her if she received any mail from Johnny.

Then we gossip a little

[1]

You know how we women are

I think I will got to the show to – night I wish you could go with me.

You know I enjoy your company better than any thing

I can't [*sic*] think of too much to write I wrote all the news in the first letter

Anyway, I can always say I love you darling

I know you like to read that part better anyway

I write to – morrow again

xxxx

Your affectionate wife

Jean

[2]

Sat June 12, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I received 3 letters from you to – day. Thanks honey.

I'm glad to hear that you got paid. What are you going to do with all that money. Don't spend it all in one place.

I'm glad you liked the picture and card. I wish I could do more for you. You're always on my mind.

So, you're really going to be an M.P. I hope you will like it. Marie was saying something about Johnnie might go to O.L.S. I saw Bobby & Mary. you should

[1]

Hear him brag. If he does make the grade which I doubt you won't hear the last of it. He has his future all mapped out. I almost fell asleep in his face to hear him talk.

Amelia was saying they have a Cadet school in Texas and even some of the college boys don't make it. So I imagine it's pretty tough.

I get so disgusted with these men around here. maybe it's because I think you're tops. I love you so much and I know you love me.

[2]

Which is all that matters.

I hope nothing turns up that I won't be able to make the trip next week. I'm not planning too much because I don't want to be disappointed, I guess it's best not to plan too much. I'll be ready any time to go. I am enclosing the picture of the Johnsons. I thought you would like to see it.

You received a letter from E.J. they wanted your address so they could send you the money for the paid

[3]

holiday you will have coming. I sent in your address also for the Binghamton Sun.

Well my darling I'll close for now. Until I see you I love you and hope to be with you soon.

xxxx

Your affectionate

wife

[4]

Sun June 13, 1943

Dearest Leo,

It is very hot to-day

I would like to go swimming but I don't know whether or not I will go I guess I'd rather loaf.

Last night I went out with the girls but I'm getting fed up. You know how I sleepy I get.

To-night Marie & I am going to Pandiches house to see some pictures he took when you fellows went away There supposed to be in techno-color I'm kind of anxious to see them.

[1]

I hope next Sunday at this time I will be with you. I will leave on Friday You let me know if it will be alright

Honey write an let me know what kind of a job this M.P. [business] is. I hear so much about it and it's always something different. Will they send you across soon You must have a rough idea about it. I would rather if you told me. You never know what to expect from the army.

I am hoping and praying for the best.

[2]

You know I will try to be a brave girl

I don't want you to worry too much about me. You have enough on your mind. I want it to be easier for you.

Just remember how much I love you it will make you feel better.

I write every day I know how much my letters mean to you.

xxxxx Your affectionate  
wife Jean

P.S. Even twice a day.

[3]

Monday June 14, 1943

Dearest Leo

Johnny Jurena's girlfriend came over tonight to talk over the trip. I'm glad that we can go together. It will be company for both of us. She is very nice. I hope nothing will upset our plans. She decided it would be better for us to leave on the 9:30 p.m. train on Friday night the 18<sup>th</sup>. It arrives in Battle Creek at 10:20 a.m. Saturday morning. I'm glad to have company

(1)

to go with. She is about my size only a little younger. I know you and Johnnie will be please that we will be able to travel together.

Until I see you darling. I love you and pleasant dreams.

xxxx

Your affectionate wife

Jean

(2)

Mon June 14, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Last week you wrote not for me to come Fri. on the 11<sup>th</sup> so I'm planning on leaving on the 18<sup>th</sup>

I hope you won't write back and tell me not to come on the 18<sup>th</sup> I usually expect most anything from that army.

I bought myself a pair of shoes just to use my 17<sup>th</sup> coupon I'm afraid I'll have to change them I think they are a little too small

I think I'm getting big feet like your family and I don't care

[1]

I went to the movie last night with Monica she was saying she wrote to you. I'm glad you receive a lot of mail I hope you always will

I am looking forward in seeing you soon I was thinking how I will act when I do.

Anne just came home from work I guess she is hungry so I'll close for now sending you all my love

xxxx Your affectionate

wife

Jean

[2]



Tuesday June 15, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I'm sitting around in my shorts trying to keep cool. I haven't been swimming yet. I suppose it's a little early. We are not supposed to pleasure drive. There were 19 motorists picked up by the O.P.A. Sunday. Some were parked by the C.F.J. Park.

I tried to get some gas today but the stations are empty. I'll be by on what I have. I'm not complaining after all there are plenty

(1)

of buses to ride. Freddie seems to be complaining all the time. You know Fred. He hasn't changed a bit.

I think Anne and I will take in a movie tonight. "Edge of Darkness" with Errol Flynn is playing. I sure like my movies. I feel quite excited about coming to see you. I miss you so much and love you darling. I guess I will never stop saying that I love you.

Your affectionate wife

Jean

P.S. I am bringing your swimming suit. Maybe you will need it sometimes. Also the other things you asked for.

(2)

June 17, 1943

Dear Leo:

Received your letters, but I didn't know what to write but however I hope this will prove interesting.

First of all, your wife – Jean, wanted to take a glass of s'---- with her, this weekend, but I told her to take two. One for good measure, but here's what you want to do. Get yourself about two or three dozen oysters and lot of raw eggs. Then I think she won't have to bring any back. Don't forget, do what I tell you.

You know Leo, I think that if you go after stripes, it will be worthwhile. I know it is damn hard work for you now, but I think it will be a hell of a lot easier later. As I understand your status as a M.P., you will have to guard prisoners from one plane to another, and if you have stripes, you won't have to do the dirty work. I think it is worthwhile, and I have the confidence in you and that you will be able to make it.

(1)

If things are getting tough, just think to yourself. Remember, Warsaw, Rotterdam, Lidiee in Czechoslovakia, just think they are a few Germans that you would like to use your head bashes on. "Just a little pep talk." Remember.

"Now something more pleasant than work! Everything is going all right at home. I had to cut the hedges around the front porch, because, they were all frozen. The new ones are coming up fine.

Lovey, bought an American Flag and we hung it from the attic window.

Everything is going along nicely here except, that it is still raining, and when it doesn't, it is hot as hell. Some weather. How is it where you are.

Maimey is feeling fine, and I hope she keeps it up. She still does just as much work as ever. Maybe, that is what is, keeping her up.

Well Leo, I guess I'll say so long for now take care of yourself, and I hope you have a nice time, when Jean arrives. as ever,

Fred & Lovey

Thursday June 17, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I really can't think of much to write. All I have on my mind is the trip.

We had a little thunder shower today. I hope it cools it off a little.

I went over to my Mother's last night. My Aunt Sophia from Buffalo is in town. You know how she can talk. I didn't get home till 12 o'clock. Anyway, I had a few laughs.

(1)

I also bought the Lux stamp for the car.

I 'm so anxious to see you so I better save some of the news so I can tell you then.

I love you darling.

Your devoted wife

Jean

P.S. Everyone at home are in good health including me.

(2)

June 20, 1943

Dear Leo:

You old shitter. So, you are beginning your Basic. Tough Isn't it? I have completed my three week's course and I had an P & T's exam. I think we made out alright.

Monday, I begin my business schooling in Medical Business Administration. I begin by improving on my typing.

I hear your wife is coming to see you. You lucky dog. Are you sharp? If not let a man take over.

My wife may come down in a couple of weeks. Boy! What a time. I eat any old shit they feed us here no limit on how much I eat. Every time a fellow gets a package I eat most of it. I have a nose for it. Well have a good time and write. Make any new buddies? Share a few.

Johnnie

(1)

Mon June 21, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Stefie & I are sitting in the Lobby writing letters so we thought we had better drop you boys a line. We seem to have a lot of time to ourselves.

We went over town shopping this afternoon. You know how women are always spending money. I bought myself a new dress just so I would look nice for you so you could be proud of me.

It was like heaven being with you. You

(1)

know how I feel. I wish we will be together soon.

Until I see you again.

I love you  
Your devoted wife  
Jean

P.S. This pen scratches awful.  
It belongs to the hotel.

470 Grand Ave.  
Johnson City, N.Y.  
June 21, 1943

Hi Kid;

We were glad to hear from you and to hear that you are happy in your new life. Good for you.

Well, it seems that the gang at the store since you have gone hasn't been together at all. Rucky has found new work and quit the store. She now works in a real estate office. Louis is in the hospital. He had an operation and me, here are at home for the third week with a sprained ankle and all this during the rush of the last

(1)

days of number 17 starup. Poor Podgy. What a time he had of it.

Well, things at home are going on same as where you left. No one left as you say but the 2.D.O. But they are doing a swell job on the home front.

Hope that your wish to see Jean soon will come true and yes, I still talk as much as ever. So there! Only for the last three weeks I been talking to myself.

So, you landed as M.P. By the way if sometime you need two nice golden initials for your arm band, I can land you mine. Remember them? How's the weather. Is it warm enough for you. Down here it's been hot the last few days especially.

(2)

By the way, did they really found a pair of pants big enough for you or did you had to put side patches and make them large. Ha. Ha... I told Louis that you send her best regards but she didn't answer me. Why?

Well this will do for a while. Joe says hello and so do I.

As ever

Mary Puleo

P.S. I heard you were a bad feller but I didn't think you were this bad. My name spells P-u-l-e-o.

That's all

Mary

(3)

Tues June 22, 1943

Dearest Leo,

So, you finally went on a hike after all. Stephie and I were up about 8:00 o'clock to – day. We had breakfast at the Hart Hotel.

I wrote a couple of letters one to Mamie and the other to my Mother. I believe I sent out cards to everyone I know.

I don't have to rush around like I do at home At least I feel relaxed up here. You can come and go as you please.

Darling it would

[1]

be heaven if you were with me I suppose we can't have everything we want

I am hurrying so I can get this out before the mail man get here.

Remember that I love you. I hope I'll see you soon.

Your affectionate wife

Jean

[2]

Wednesday June 23, 1943

Hello Leo,

Why don't you write and tell us all the dirt? It seems funny not to have any letters to read when I get home from work.

We miss Jean too. We still have that cake that was here when Jean left.

It's been hotter than an old bitch here. Jean picked a swell time for a vacation.

We hope that you both are having a good time.

Molly spent day here for her vacation and she slept in Jean's bed. She and Corky [*ripped page*]

(1)

spent a week in Syracuse. They will stay at their Aunt Bertha's cottage.

We are drinking too much around here, a case of beer won't even last a week. I had to buy 2 cases this week.

It's a good thing you aren't around, the stores have been very busy and you would have been, all worn out. We have been so busy that I get tired looking at people.

The men have gone crazy buying clothes, they are worse than the women.

I haven't been wearing slacks lately and all I hear from my customers is, "Where is your [*ripped page*]

(2)

If somebody hear them and didn't know what they were talking about, they would think they were getting fresh with me.

Fred and Lovey have been keeping the yard in good condition. We haven't cut the hedges yet, we are trying to let them grown higher. We are still trying to keep the kids out of the yard. We haven't many cherries on the tree what there is there the birds are enjoying them. The pear tree is empty this year too. But we have a [*ripped page*] garden. We only got

(3)

3 radishes so far.

Mamie isn't working too much. She only goes out 3 times a week. I'm trying to get her to stay home for the summer at least, but she won't do it.



We are all well and things is going smoothly we even have our coal bin filled up and almost paid for. It will be paid by the end of the month. Oh, I forget, Mamie bought herself a coat. You ought to see her all dolled up. She looks like a young chicken.

Nozesuch little girl died a couple of day ago. You know the little girl that was sick they would [ripped page] have the casket open she was so bad. Write soon [ripped page] going to bed after I have a bottle of beer.

Lots of Luck and Kisses

Anne

(4)

Wed June 23, 1943

Dearest Leo

The clerk at the desk gave me your message. I didn't think I would see you tonight. When Johnny called at noon, he said you probably would be on guard duty tonight.

I'm still hoping and praying that you get a pass over the weekend.

Stephie and I woke up about 11 a.m. We had our lunch at the hotel. We had delicious punch, grape juice, vegetable soup, rolls, vegetable salad, walnut loaf, scalloped potatoes, string beans, apricot and prune cake and a glass of milk. I almost forgot they passed the finger bowls. Talk about service.

(1)

Someone would think we were vegetarians. Tell Joe I won't forget that steak he served us last night.

Well my darling, I hope I'll see you soon. It was wonderful being with you last night.

I can't think of anything else to write except that I love you.

Your devoted wife

Jean

(2)

Thursday June 24, 1943

Hello Leo

I'm sitting here drinking a bottle of beer and trying to think what to write to you.

You received a package from Deutsch & Marks Inc. I thought you might like to know about it. I didn't open it. I think it's the strap to your watch.

Tell Jean she received her bond from Endicott Johnson Corp. and I thought she might be worrying about it and she also received some kind of an invitation card from somebody at least that what I think it is.

(1)

We received a letter from Jean today. I thought she might have forgotten us.

I'm listening to some good music. It some of that light opera. I used to like it sound very good to me. There is nobody around to make he shut off the radio at 9 o'clock, so I'm enjoying it very much.

Mamie just opened another bottle of beer for me. What do you think of that.

You remember Charles the man that Lovey's sister goes around with. Well anyway, he's home for ten

(2)

day. He is an M.O. too and he was telling us some of things he has to do. He is stationed in Florida.

We had some home-grown strawberries today and were they good. I bet you would have enjoyed them. They were freshly picked.

I hope you can understand this letter. I listening tot the radio and trying to write and I get [*unintelligible*] up. I have a one-track mind and I can't seem to thin or maybe it's the beer that I'm drinking.

I'm still the sub in the store. It seems that I have

(3)

more work to do every day and boy am I lazy and maybe it's the heat. I don't know which.

They will be taking 20% out of our pay starting July 1 and I put Mamie down as independent. Maybe I won't have to pay so much I hope.

I think I will have another beer and go to bed.

Good night and Lots of luck and kisses

Anne

Monday  
June 29, 1943

Hello Leo

We received your letter and I was going to give you hell for not writing.

It's been hot as hell here but we had a change of weather and now it's kind of chilly.

We read in the paper that Bob Kocak is drafted. I think it's the same guy you know because the address is J.C. I forgot the address. I think I would remember it if I heard it.

I told you Corky's foot is infected, but we didn't think it was as bad as it

(1)

is. HE had to go to the doctor every day to have it drained out. So, the kids didn't go to Syracuse this week.

Our radio went on the blink so I thought I would money around with it and the darn thing plays better than it did before. We can even get outside stations now.

You should have seen us. Sunday, Lovey, Fred and I spend the day in the yard. Love and I had our grass skirts on Charles and Anne and Lovey's sister came over too. The Tops were here too. We drank up 1 case of beer and

(2)

13 quarts added to it, so you could imagine how we all felt. We went up to Tops' later and drank some more beer and saw some of the colored slides Bob had. He had a lot of new ones. They are planning to go to Canada for a vacation this year. I have my vacation the same time, but I don't know whether I will go with them or not.

Some girl called up today to see if Jean was home. She said they had a lot of work, she said she

(3)

called up on her own hook but I don't believe her. I think the forelady asked her to tell Jean the weather is quite cool now so it won't be so bad working now. Boy it was hot last week and we all sweat like an old horse. My favorite program is on again and I think about anything else to tell you.

I guess I will have my bottle of beer and go to bed.

Lots of Luck & Kisses

Anne

(4)

Wednesday June 30, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I arrived home at 2 p.m. I'm not a bit tired. It seemed a little strange to come home alone. I was thinking of you during the whole trip.

I suppose you feel a little tired only having 3 -4 hours sleep. How did you make out at the rifle range? I'm mostly concerned only of you.

I think I will go to work tomorrow. If I stay home I get a chance to think too much, besides I want to earn some money so I can make another trip as soon as you think it will be alright.

I received an announcement card announcing the birth of a baby girl to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Taylor. I think I'll have to go up and see her when I get a chance. She didn't say anything about Harold being in the Army yet.

Mamie and the folks were

(1)

a little surprised to see me home so soon. I've been telling them all about Fort Custer and how well you look.

I'm anxious to have those pictures developed. I'll send them to you as soon as I can.

I also gat a card from Mary and Bobby Kucik. They were spending their vacation at Lake George. He also was inducted last Thursday. He is waiting to be called any day I believe.

I don't suppose it has warmed up any in Battle Creek. IT is pretty cold here. It looks more like fall weather.

Darling I think you are very brave. Don't get too discouraged. I love you and think of you always.

Your devoted wife

Jean

(2)