

July 2, 1943

Hiya Leo:

Was certainly glad to hear from you and that everything is okay with you. I am glad to hear Jeans is out there and thus making it more homelike. Things are about the same here except that Mickey, my brother-in-law came home Tuesday and will stay a week and go back and God knows where he will go from there.

He looks like a million bucks, tanned and they cut him down in the right places and he is in the pink of condition. He sends you his best regards and wishes you lot of luck in your new duties. HE said to me to stay out of the Navy for it is for the young boys, because they get all the breaks as far as going to school is concerned. You asked me about the Prof., he is still the same and makes his nightly visits to the Tavern.

All of us Markos are in pretty good health at the present time and send you their best wishes. My father certainly misses joking with you and can't wait to see you in a uniform. He said that you will look like a real soldier should look. He always rated you highly and always will, same goes for me rating you highly.

By the way before I forget say hello to Johnnie Jurena and tell him my dad, brother and I wish him a lot of luck and give him our regards.

(1)

My brother Joe is still in Okla. and hates the place. Since they changed the system of giving ratings when they finish school, he is really disgusted. I only hope he doesn't quit studying and gets sent out to sea.

I receive a letter from P. Hodanick, who is in Africa and he is okay so far. Also, he said hello to you and asked about you.

The weather out here the last 3 or 4 days has been ideal, warm during the day and cool at night, great for sleeping. Up until these cool nights, I didn't get a decent nights' sleep for it was extremely hot. Richard couldn't sleep on account of the heat and he kept us up.

Richard is certainly a card, it's getting so he occupies most of my time, although I really enjoy it. HE gets into a lot of mischief and has to be watched. The other day he fell on the sidewalk and bumped his forehead and has a big bump. Yesterday he fell and skinned his chin, so you can imagine how active he is and how close he has to be watched. I guess I will close now so best of luck and hoping to hear from you soon. Say hello to Jean, if she is still out there.

So long

George

(2)

Fri July 2, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I received your letter today. If you hadn't written the district number I probably wouldn't get it till tomorrow.

I am pleased to hear about how you made out at the rifle range. In a way I wish you wouldn't use a gun. They certainly believe in keeping you fellows out in the field long.

Mamie was pleased how you flattered her in the letter. I'm glad you didn't call her a jerk again. I know how you mean it. You know I understand you better than anyone.

I saw Mickey Pirus last night he wanted to know all about you. It seems everyone keeps asking me about you, so you see I'm not the only one who thinks you are wonderful.

When I left Battle Creek

(1)

I had the blues all night.

I hope your basic will be over with soon then maybe I'll be able to see you.

Darling I love you so much sometimes it's so miserable having you away from me.

I can't think of anything else to write about right now. I don't write very long letters do I.

My love always

Jean

(2)

Monday July 5, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Today I received two of your letters which makes me feel good.

Last night I went out with Irene and Tommy, the Kociks and Nedlecks. I tried to enjoy myself but you now me. I kept thinking of you all night.

Tommy told me to say hello to you. Bobby and Shrak asked about you. Bobby is int eh army but he is like in the reserve. He is going in the Air Cadets as soon as they call him.

In a way, I'm pleased to hear you made it with you rifle practice. I'd probably be pleased if you hadn't. You know anything you do pleases me anyway. I always feel proud of you.

Nick Sanctona came home on a three-day pass. You probably could come home if it were closer. Maybe you will get a furlough soon.

I'm not working today. It's supposed to be a holiday. I'm getting paid for it so you will probably
(1)

get a check from E.J. too.

Tell Lesko that I am planning on coming to see you again. I hope that I can get his wife to come along.

I think I will go to visit Steve Ondrayko's wife. I guess she quit working already.

Darling, most of the men that are home all step out on their wives. You don't know how thankful I am that you don't step out. Al Lesko goes quite a lot without Julia. He's been deferred and makes good money but what doo is it. She looks very run down from worrying about him. She says she would rather have him in the army at times

I fell that happiness is more important at least we have some beautiful memories. I keep praying that we'll be together soon.

Well my darling I'll close for now sending you all my love and kisses. Mamie feels very good.

Your affectionate wife

Jean

P.S. Bubby and Mary sold all their furniture. They are living at her sisters at 83 Virginia Avenue, J.C.

(2)

Tuesday July 6, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I just came home from work. What a lazy day. It was kind of hard to get back to work after taking it easy for two weeks. In a way I was anxious to get back.

Last night, Anne and I went to the Ritz. The pictures were pretty good for a change.

I suppose you're all through with rifle practice or was that just the beginning.

I saw Helen Smetana, Nick's wife coming home from work. Nick expects to be transferred. She doesn't know where but I suppose it's a military secret.

I called Steve Ondrayko's wife last night. I sure get enough use out of the telephone. We talked for at least a half hour. I guess she expects here baby any day. She isn't sure just when. She hopes that Steve might get a pass to be with

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her when she has her baby. I hope so for her sake. It must be pretty tough going through it alone.

According to your letter you must be taking it easy, Goldbricking all the time. I hope you don't get caught. So be careful darling.

I have you on mind so much lately that I'm foggy at times. Well my sweet I'm running out of words so until tomorrow

All my love

Jean

(2)

Wednesday July 7, 1943

Dear Leo,

I received two letters today. I don't think the mail gets here any sooner even if you do write the district number down. As long as I get them that's all that matters. The letter you wrote Sunday just came today. So, it takes just 3 days.

I'm enclosing the snapshots. They are very good. You look exceptionally well. I am pleased they turned out so good. The ones you want pic out and send the rest back. Everyone wants a picture of you. I had another set made. Mamie looked at them about times. I must have looked at them about a half a dozen times so you see, we are quite proud of you.

Rudy Lesko's wife called me. I guess she was very disappointed not seeing Rudy very often. Then to top it off, you fellows had to get quarantined. I hope it isn't contagious. You never know

(1)

what the next fellow might have.

So, take good care of yourself darling. Rudy's wife is planning on going back next weekend. She is leaving Friday night and coming back Monday. I imagine it will be quite tiresome. Do you think I should make the trip with her? Let me know. Maybe after your basic you might get a 3- or 4-day pass. It would be better if you could get home. Try and find out. It wouldn't hurt to ask. It would be like heaven having you home. You know darling you mean so much to me.

I think I'd better close for now. Anne is washing the dishes so I'd better wipe them before she does.

All my love
Your affectionate wife

Jean

P.S. I love you

(2)

Thursday July 8, 1943

Dear Leo,

According to the letter I got today it takes about two days to get your mail. I'm happy all over when I get your letter.

I went over to see Marie last night. I've got more women to visit. Johnny Hoysik has poison ivy all over his can (ass) they put him in the hospital so Marie don't know when she will be able to see him.

Bobby Kacik hasn't been called yet. If they don't call him pretty soon I'm afraid he will have to spend some money for a new suit. He still wears his old one. The coat runs into a curve over his seat. He looks so funny. Whenever I see him all he does is talk about a new Buick he would like to buy. Marie told him he ought to buy a new suit for all the money he has. But you know Bobby. I don't think he has grown up yet.

I am going to see Rudy's wife Saturday. Maybe we will go to the

(1)

movie. I don't go out with Renee. I guess she thinks I'm too slow for her. It's just as well. Some people don't believe in love like I do.

I hope you might get a chance to come home soon. How is Johnny behaving. I should go down to see Stephie. I don't know when I will be able to visit all these women. I'll have to take them by turn or in alphabetic order.

I'm glad you were able to take in easy over the week end. I know you must be awfully tired out at times.

So, you think some of the stuff I write is just a line. I thought all the time you understood me and everything I write is sincere. Sometimes I get a lump in my throat when I think of you. I know you feel the same way I do.

All my love
Your devoted wife
Jean

(2)

Friday July 9

Dear Leo

I just saw the pictures Jean brought back with her. They are swell. I do believe you have lost a little weight. You don't look as chubby as you used to. What's the matter? I understand you get good grub.

A guy in our neighborhood got mad at his wife because she went up to Fort Custer to see her boyfriend, so he came home, took an ax and proceeded to chop up the house. He did. He turned over the stove, chopped up all the furniture, ripped mattresses, burned her clothes and then on top of that, he started on her car. He smashed all the windows and slashed the tires all instrument board and upholstery. The cops came up but didn't do anything about it because he only damaged his own stuff. The next night he set fire to the house, so now they are

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after him for arson, but can't find him. Lots of fun, huh? Who do you suppose she went to Fort Custer to see. I hope it wasn't you.

Our kids' area both at camp this week and it is like a morgue at the house. It goes to show you a person even misses the noise. I got a letter from Cork and he says they are having a swell time. He says never a dull moment.

Mamie got her allotment ok and it will help her out a lot. That will pay all her current bills and Jean and Anne give her enough to buy the groceries for them all.

When do you expect to get a furlough? They usually pass them out after you have finished your basic training don't, they? I read in the American magazine that M.P E. G. is a new company now being formed to guard prisoners of war and to deliver them to the camps where you are to be stationed. IS that what you are supposed to be?

Write when you can.

Billie

(2)

Friday July 9, 1943

Dear Leo,

This week was a lucky week for me. I already got 4 of your letters. I think it takes 3 days according to the letter you told me to keep track of. I don't think by putting the district number down helps very much. I suppose it don't hurt any either.

I only worked a half a day today. I went down to my Mother's at noon. I read your letter you wrote to them. You write awfully cute letters to my family.

Theresa went to the hospital to see George. I guess he is about he same. They are going to give him treatments after he that he might be alright I hope.

Bobby Kocik got his notice. He is leaving next Tuesday for Miami, Florida. It's quite a way from home. I wonder how Mary is going to take. To hear her talk, she wants everyone to

(1)

Think she doesn't care. But It will be a lot different when she realizes she can't see him often.

How was the beer party? Did you get tight. I wish I were there so I could get stinking like Ann always calls it.

Last night I saw Stephe. We talked about our trip as usual. I also went to see Audrey [*unintelligible*] wife. And tomorrow I am going to visit Lesko's wife. So, you see I've been pretty busy visiting all these women.

Mamie just ran out to church just to get out of doing the dishes I think. Anne and I are used to it.

I can't think of any more news for now darling except that I love you and wish I were with you. Since I got back it seems as though I miss you more every day.

All my love
Your devoted wife
Jean

P.S. Mickey Yucko came home yesterday for a few hours. Joe's been pretty lucky.

(2)

Saturday July 10, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Your box came. I put all the letters away. Sometime you might enjoy reading them again.

You know the snapshot of you where you are saluting? I am having it enlarged and painted. It costs only 45 cents; besides, I think it's a grand picture, you look like General McArthur, not that I want to flatter you darling but I'm not the only one who thinks so.

It is very warm today. All week was kind of cool. Gosh, I haven't even been swimming this summer.

I'll probably go over town this after. I guess it wouldn't seem like Saturday if I didn't go.

I washed the car yesterday. It seemed to get awfully dirty.

(1)

I am going to try to chisel some gas from somebody. I don't know if I'll get any. I guess I'm losing my technique. I don't seem to care.

I would like to come up to see you before they move you to some other place. I'm still hoping you might get a chance to come home. I don't think I'll ever give up hope. I don't want to either.

Well darling, I seem to end all my letters in the same way. I'll write you again.

All my love
Your devoted wife
Jean

P.S. I love you very much and miss you.

(2)

Sunday July 11, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Last night I went over to see Rudy's wife. We talked till one this morning. What a night hawk I'm getting to be. She has a very nice apartment.

I've been using my car wherever I go. She is going to help me get some extra gas. IT costs a few cents more but I don't car as long as I have enough to get around.

Bob Topp got me a lock for you. He didn't charge anything for it, doesn't even want to take it out in trade.

I am also sending you some cookies. Mamie and I baked. I hope you like them.

I think I'll go over to my Mother's this after. Probably go to the show with Monica. I think Renee went to New York for her vacation to see [*unintelligible*].

Darling if you think you

(1)

can get a pass to come home, I think it would be a lot better. It would do you good. Please try and get one. If you would ask, maybe you'll be able to get one. If not, I would like to come to see you.

It is very warm today – not much breeze.

Remember that I love you very much and think of you always.

Your devoted wife
Jean

(2)

80 Dickinson Street
Binghamton, New York
July 11, 1943

Dear Leo

Yes, Jean told us most of the things that happened, and what makes a buck private stay a buck private, but Leo, if that's the way it is and you have to be a politician, tell them to stick the stripes. However, you know what is right from wrong, and so long as you do the things that are right, I don't think that you will have to worry, but remember, there are two ways of doing things, right and wrong. Like Lovey says, "use your cutarba!" means head. Ask Lesko if that is the right way to spell it.

(1) You don't have to worry about Jean, she is doing all right, and as far as the gas

is concerned, she has enough, if she runs short, I could help her out. The car runs alright and, in another week, I told her to have it greased and I will put new oil in it for her. She washes it about once a week so you see it is well taken care of.

Boy, will you know guns after your work out in the Army, but Leo, you know how it is here, no change. We don't go any place, as the pleasure ban is on, so we sit around the house, and it is so damn hot, the only thing to do is drink beer, and try to keep cool, but we still get hotter.

I have ben working around the house, filling in bare spots where the grass doesn't grow, trim hedges, and believe it or not, your

(2)

grape arbor looks pretty good. I set the bricks and stone and filled it with dirt last week, and this week, I planted some grass there. I think maybe it will grow.

Look, you never mind about Lovey not being taken care of proper. She is very well satisfied, and you know the old saying, "it isn't how bit it is, it's how you use it." Besides the older the buck the stiffer the horn. Bah.

Jean says she will be going up to see you again soon, I suppose it is damn good to see someone from home. She enjoyed the trip very much, last time.

(3)

I guess that's about all. Everyone is o.k. and are all working. Mamie sends the best regards, and you can expect the same from us.

If there is anything you need, or anything you want to find out, don't hesitate to write. Don't be bashful.

So, take care of yourself and say hello to the Bingo boys there.

Lovey & Fred

P.S. Did you find out what your duties will be when you graduate.

Fred

(4)

Monday July 12, 1943

Dearest Leo,

So, you finally had a steak for dinner. Or were you just kidding. I don't think you would say it if it weren't so.

Today I received 2 letters. Yesterday I had the blues I guess. I miss you more on weekends. During the week I work so it keeps my mind from thinking too much.

I am anxious to see you again. I do hope it will be soon.

I believe I did write you about Bobby Kocik leaving tomorrow for Miami, Florida. There were another group of fellows that left today, couple of men had children.

When you write about the different guns you are using I don't know one from the other, although I am very much interested in what you do.

(1)

The lock that Bob got me is quite heavy but he didn't have any other kind. I tried different places and you can't get them. I am sending it anyway. It looks more like a lock for a safe.

Julia Lesko is on her vacation this week so I have a lot of work.

Darling if you think I ought to come up to see you with Rudy's wife over the weekend I'd be very happy to. You won't get this letter in time to give me an answer with a letter. You can give me a call Friday or Thursday about supper time. That is if you think you can get a weekend pass. I'm still hoping you might get a pass to come home.

Marie left Saturday at midnight to see Johnny. She finally got down to see him. I'm glad for her. She was getting pretty discouraged waiting to go.

I can't think of any more news for now.

All my love
Your devoted wife Jean

(2)

76 Dickinson Street
Binghamton, New York
July 13, 1943

Hiya Pal.

I finally found time to drop you a few lines, so excuse the delay. I received your letter and it was great to hear from you and that you are doing fine in the army. I hope you make all the grades with flying colors.

Things around here are about the same except that the weather is very hot and boy it certainly is tough sleeping nights. Also, tough working in the shop. Boy is it hot in the barber shop, but what have we to complain about, what about our boys in action, so we should be thankful we are as well off the way it is.

I see Jean is back, but I haven't had the occasion to talk to her.

(1)

I hope you enjoyed her stay out there and it is certainly too bad that you are not situated closer so that she could visit you every weekend. But I guess you have no say so in the matter.

Smidge makes his nightly visits to the tavern, for now he has a bicycle furnished him by the U.S. engineers and it is certainly convenient for him to make his trips to the tavern.

Yacko was in town for a week again, but I didn't have the opportunity to talk to him. He certainly is lucky to get the chance and time to come home so often. He might just as well, for when he goes out, it might be a long time when he will see Bingo again.

My brother-in-law, Mickey, is still in Sampson. H will eventually get his orders. All his buddies have already left. Some have gone to Cal-

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ifornia, Norfolk, VA; Philadelphia and other places, but so far, he hasn't been sent out.

My brother Joe is still in Oklahoma and boy he hates the place. He writes it is so hot out there and they get sand storms and they are wicked, so he writes. I hope he finishes the course successfully. Boy it's ages since he was home the last time. He writes very often and worries quite a lot about things back home. He is more like me, the worrying type.

I haven't heard from Pete Hodanick lately and I'm worrying, but hoping he is okay. I'm pretty sure he took part in the invasion of Sicily. I'm going to drop him a few lines today and will send your regards to him.

My dad, mother and all the rest of the family send their best wishes to you and are anxiously waiting to see you come home in your nice uniform. My dad keeps saying that you are a good

(3)

looking soldier.

I guess I will close now.

So, the best of luck and health and hoping to hear from you.

As ever
Your Pal
George

(4)

Tuesday July 13, 1943

Dear Leo,

It's so warm, that my hand just sticks while I'm writing.

Bobby Kocik came over last night to say good-bye. He wasn't very cheerful about it. I guess none of the fellows care about going especially if they are married.

If you want to you can give that picture of Rudy and his wife to him. I don't care. I have another set anyway.

Thanks darling, for the beautiful rose. Mamie also thanks you. Your' always so thoughtful.

I'm glad you're not as busy as you were when I was up to see you. Maybe after your basic you'll have even more time to yourself. Then perhaps I'll be able to stay with you. I'm always thinking of you and I together.

Joe Debranchky's wife, Peg, had a baby girl. You know

(1)

Joe is at Camp Chafee, Arkansas. He was home on a furlough about 3 weeks ago.

It seems every time I write to you there's a new baby being born to someone.

I will send out the lock tomorrow. I was waiting for that [*unintelligible*] I had made so I could send it out in one box.

I think I'll jump in the tub to cool off a little. I wish you could wash my back. It's no fun to have Ann work it for me.

Well sweet, I still love you as much as ever. I kiss your picture every night. You know how I love to smooch just you.

All my love

Jean

P.S. Mamie said to tell you she paid her taxes. I had her put all our bonds in her strong box in the bank. She also bought a new hat. I think hats are her weakness.

(2)

Tuesday July 13, 1943

Dear Leo,

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All my love

Jean

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(2)

Wednesday July 14, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Another warm day. We had a [*unintelligible*] storm here today. It looked more like a cloud burst.

I see you had steak again. The old army must be treating you boys pretty good lately.

I called Rudy's wife to ask her if she was still planning on going to see Rudy. I guess she is all set if he doesn't change her mind. I guess I feel a lot like she does that is why we get along

(1)

so well.

Bobby Kocik's picture was in the paper tonight. There were 24 other fellows that left for the Air Cadets.

Gosh honey, I can't think of very much to wrote about today. I guess it's just one of those days.

Take good care of yourself my hero.

All my love

Jean

P.S. Please don't let anyone read these letters

(2)

Thursday July 15, 1943

Dearest Leo,

It was so good to talk to you over the phone. I felt so happy. I believe I could of jumped up in the air.

Mamie was all excited too, she said your voice sounded like Connie's.

My Mother got a letter from Leon. They put him in a maternity ward. What a deal he said. I don't think he likes it very much. Although he gets a lot of time off. If he were closer to home it wouldn't be so bad.

I am going to a movie

(1)

with Rudy's wife tomorrow night. She was a little disappointed not going this weekend to see Rudy. I was anxious to go too. We will plan on going next week.

I haven't applied for more gas. I'm not worried about it. I'm trying to get some without coupons. You know me.

I received a card from Renee. I told you she was in N.Y. I don't see what people see in that place especially in the summer. I guess she went down for Tommy's sake.

(2)

I knew they would make you P.F. Class. I know you got it because you deserve it. I am proud of you. Don't think it's that stripe I'm falling for. You know how I feel.

Well sweet I think I'll clean up a bit. I love you very much. I hope we will be together soon.

All my love

Jean

(3)

Friday July 16, 1943

Dearest Leo,

I've been pretty lucky lately. Every day this week I got a letter from you. I hope you get my mail as often. I do write you every day.

I hope I see you before they send you to another camp. I wrote to the Hart Hotel to make reservations for next week.

Rudy's wife also did the same thing.

(1)

If something turns up that you might be sent out let us know before we make the trip. If not, we will plan on coming the 24th of July.

I hope you ask for a pass. Maybe you will be able to meet us at the train, if not we will manage alright. We will probably leave about the same time on Friday night so we will be in Battle Creek Saturday morning about 11 a.m.

I'm glad all the boys enjoyed the cookies.

(2)

You should grab first, then what's lever you could pass out to the fellows. But I know how you are good hearted Leo.

I got a letter from Marie Hoycik. Johnny got his pass over the weekend. She said Johnny gained a lot of weight, he sure could use it. The old army agrees with him after all.

Well sweet I think I'll clean up a bit. I'm going to the movie with Lesko's

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wife. Every night this week I sat on the porch. I guess I'm getting old or something. Anielea came over last night to visit a while.

Until I see you, I love you.

Your devoted wife

Jean

(4)

Saturday July 17, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Last night I went to the movie with Rudy's wife. After that we had a big banana split just like a couple of kids.

Freddie is going to change the oil in the car and check it up for me.

You know that gasoline station by Proc's Tavern. Well the fellow promised me some gas. He didn't have enough over the weekend so he told me to bring the car over Monday and he

(1)

would fill my tank. Maybe I won't have to bother with a B book after all.

I think I'll run down to Stevie's later on. I don't see her too often.

How is Jonnie behaving and Joe to cook is feeding you well.

Well sweet I write again tomorrow. Some days I don't have much to write about. You know how it is.

Until I see you I love you and miss you.

Your devoted wife

Jean

P.S. Mamie thinks I should make the trip

(2)

Saturday July 17, 1943 Warm Sunny

Dear Jean:

I think we are both lucky. I get just about one every day. I received one of your letters tonight dated Friday and one this morning dated Thursday. Maybe the mail service is better.

I'm glad you coming out next week. IF you don't have any luck at the Hart Hotel I'll try next week to locate one for you. I'll try to get some time off.

As luck would have it, I don't have to go on guard duty Sunday. I don't have any other details for Sunday either. Now I'll worry till next week and wonder and hope I'll get my details during the middle of the week. I'll try like hell to get off. Of course, there won't be any guard duty till next month. So that will be off my mind for a while.

Today I didn't do much. Got up at 6 o'clock. Then went out on the field at 8 o'clock. Had drill practice. At 9 o'clock we came in to get ready for inspection, which didn't come. At 11 o'clock we went out on the field near the area and had

(1)

by the new 2nd Lt. He comes from Tenn. He's a lawyer and pretty smart. He's a peach. He's always telling jokes or stories. All the fellows like him. He's kinda fat and tall. Pleasant look on his face all the time.

In his lectures he keeps kidding the 2nd Lt.

This afternoon we had more lectures by him and the other Lt. Then we went over the obstacle course. We get that every Saturday. Then we have softball, football and volleyball games. Then we come in at 5 o'clock.

Tonight, I washed out my fatigues. My other pair is in the laundry. Sunday, I'll finish the rest of my laundry.

Well, honey give my best to Mamie and the rest of the family. I love you and am glad I'll be able to see you next week.

Cash check and buy something for yourself or Mamie.

Your husband

Leo

(2)

Sunday July 18, 1943
Warm Breezy

Dear Jean:

As I told you yesterday, or today, whenever you got sassy Saturday letter, I've haven't a thing to do.

Today has been quite busy. Got up about 8 o'clock, had chow, which consisted of pancakes, bacon, cantaloupe, cereal, coffee. All you wanted. Am I getting fat.

Then I came back to the barracks and straightened out my locker, hung up some clothes and washed a few things. Shined my shoes and just puttered around. Lot of time to do it in.

Then we had chow again. We had veal, potatoes, lettuce salad, gravy, ice cream and fruit salad. That also, was plenty. So, you see, we get pretty good food.

Then I'm sewing my little stripes on the sleeves of my things. What a job. It really spoils the looks of my shirt. Before I used to look like a German general. Now I look like a private.

I went to show last night and saw the picture "Spitfire." It was pretty good. I came in a little after 10 o'clock and ate

(1)

the sandwich I made in the mess hall. There wasn't a soul in the barracks when I got in. I was half asleep when a dog comes running clickety hell through the barracks. He bangs into the gun rack, which sits in the middle of the floor. Bans the locker. He made an awful racket. You know how it is at night when something drops. I jumped. I thought we were being bombed. The damned dog ran around the room trying to get out, which he did.

It seems that the screen door was partially open. That's how he came in. I found out this morning he was the mascot of the 470th.

Tonight, I'm going to the show to kill a little time. Most of my work is done now. SO I'll say so long until Saturday. Try to figure on staying a little longer.

Give my best to Mamie.

I love you angel

Leo

(2)

Sunday July 18, 1943

Dearest Leo,

It's 9:00 p.m. I just got back from Elmira. Joe Danick drove Mary, Cecil (Rudy's wife) and I over and back. Peg just came home from the hospital this afternoon. She has an awfully cute baby girl.

I was glad we went down. Something different to do for a change. I seem to get awfully bored. On Sundays it seems I miss you more.

I hope you get a pass when I can come down this weekend. I also hope you will be able to meet us at the train. It won't hurt to ask. I know you're just as anxious as I am to see each other. I feel everything will turn out for the best.

(1)

There is some guy on the radio singing love songs just when I'm trying to write to you. He sounds like Nelson Eddy. I don't think it is. I guess I'm not familiar with the radio programs lately.

I think I'll wash up and go to bed so goodnight darling. I love you and hop I dream of you tonight.

All my love

Jean

(2)

Monday July 19, 1943

Dearest Leo,

Today I received two of your letters. It makes me feel good.

That was Lovey's brother you saw in the paper. I meant to tell you that you would probably see his picture in the paper.

Bobby Kocik did get your letter before he left. He said he would write to you after he got settled so you will hear from him.

Darling, I wish you wouldn't worry too much. I know sometimes it can't be helped. IT would be easier for you if you didn't worry too much about different things.

(1)

I am listening to some wonderful violins over the radio. It gets under my skin. I wish I had more ambition sometimes but I guess I'm just lazy.

Mamie and the kids are sitting out on the porch. That's where they spent most of their time.

I hope you won't be too busy when I see you. I can hardly wait.

Well sweet, I have a few things to iron so I'll say goodnight for now and sweet dreams.

All my love

Jean

(2)

Monday July 19, 1943 Hot Sultry

Dear Jean:

Had kind of a tough detail today. It was the same old bunk. The Sgt. was told to pick out 25 of the best men in the company. Maybe I should feel flattered, but I don't. I know what they mean when they say that.

Well, we wound up giving a camp and bivouac and concealment with the whole battalion as guest audience.

The whole Bn. Marched up and after they were seated or located, we came up in trucks and immediately set to work. I had to jump off my truck as it left the road and follow the truck which was only 25 yards near a tree, with a branch of a tree. I had to whip up the grass so marks wouldn't show on the grass.

Then we proceeded to dig a slit trench, 6 ft. long, 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep. What a job that was with those little shovels and picks. We had to carry all the dirt we dug up and hide it in the woods.

And was it hot. The sweat just

(1)

rolled.

After that we put up shelter tents, and cut branches from trees and placed them around the tents.

It had to be just so, because the whole outfit came down and looked it over.

Then we had booby traps and gas as a little liver-upper. It was funny to see them all run for their gas masks.

And was I pooped.

And tonight, we have another hike. There won't be many more now. This is our 7th week and only a few more hikes.

Now Jean, please try to stay longer. Think about it.

Oh, I received the package. The ink bottle broke and spilt all over everything. I got the lock and keys soaking now.

Well honey, I hope I see you Saturday and sow with loads of love and kisses.

I remain your husband
Leo

Tuesday July 20, 1943

Dear Leo,

I just finished having supper. We had baked beans for a change – one of your favorite dishes.

Marie Hoycik got back from Virginia. She said she had a wonderful time only it was a little too hot for her. Johnny is closer to home than you but the train connections are awful. It took her 21 hours to get home. I told her I was planning on taking another trip to see you.

I got some gas today. The fellow filled my tank without coupons. You don't mind if I change gas stations, do you?

Ondrecjko's wife called me to tell me that Heinz

(1)

might get a three-day pass to come home. She is going to have her baby soon I think so it's sort of inconvenient for her to travel.

Anne and I are going to the Ritz tonight. A couple of good pictures that I didn't see playing. I don't know how I missed them.

Well sweet, I love you and hope to see you soon.

Your devoted wife
Jean

xxxxxxxxxxxx

These will have to do for now

(2)

Tuesday July 20, 1943

Dear Jean:

I don't exactly know what to say right now.

Got up the same time, went out on the field and had review on Tactical Concealment of the Individual. That and exercises and then in the afternoon we went out on the field with companies. Then we had creeping and crawling. Just like you see in the movies. Run like hell and dive under a blade of grass or bush. The idea is to sneak up on the company without being detected. I got close enough to blow the whole place up providing I had hand grenades.

I think we take up hand grenades next week.

Some of the boys who flunked out on the rifle range, have to go out on the field for a week. Then they go out on the range after that time, and try again. They work nights. I'm glad I passed.

(1)

Tonight, we have some movies the C.O. wants to show us. That will take a couple hours – from 9:00 to 11:00.

Tomorrow, I've got a soft job. I'm going to be Latrine (toilet) Orderly. It's an easy job. Clean up a little in the morning and afternoon. It will give me a little time to loaf and think about the day when I'll see you again.

I hope everything turns out o.k. I'm still worried about that short stay. Try to stay a week anyway. You'll be so tired from such a long trip.

You ask Mamie. She'll tell you what to do. And it will be right. She's always right. Thank about it.

I guess that's all for now. I'm tickled to know you are coming down. Don't forget your camera.

Good night Sweet

xxxx

I love you

Leo

(2)

Wednesday July 21, 1943

Dear Leo,

I received 3 letters from you today. I also got a card from the Hart Hotel telling me they reserved a room for me so that's settled.

Connie called today. Helen had another baby girl. I guess everyone was a little disappointed but I suppose it can't be helped. They're not too old to try again.

I went swimming after work with Julea and another girl. The first time this summer. I don't think I'll be able to go to any lakes so I might just as well go to the pool it's a lot handier.

Irene came home from New York. She is talking to me now. She also brought me a silver horse for a souvenir. It was nice

(1)

of her.

I'm so anxious to see you darling. I hope you won't be too busy.

I think I'll run down to my Mother's tonight.

Renee said Tommy don't like New York.

Well my sweet I better close now I haven't any more news for now except that I love you always.

Your devoted wife

Jean

(2)

Friday July 21, 1943

Dear Folks

Here I am still rushing around. Yesterday afternoon I spent the afternoon in the barber shop. I just got a half inch of hair on my head. It feels good, but looks like h---

As I said before, all we are doing now is killing time. Just doing a few things to kill time.

Saw Jan last night. She had lunch at the Service Club. I was there with her. Then we took a bus out to the lake. I think we ran into a mosquito nest. What a biting we got. I took a blanket from my bunk. We sat on that. Lesko and his wife came with us.

Stayed there about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour and came back.

This afternoon we go on another hike. And next week, on the

(1)

bivouac. Don't exactly know how long we will be out.

So, until tomorrow, so long.

Leo

(2)

Wednesday 21, July 43

7 A.M.

It's Really Foggy Out

Hi ya Pal

Just had to drop everything and write or should I say write before I pickup anything. Got up real early today as a matter of fact here I am writing to you at 7 A.M. at the office.

Jean told me about the nice trip she had and I'm sure glad to hear that all is going OK for you. Boy, you'll be so hard boiled after your training, that I'll be scared to shake hands with you for fear you might crush my little hand.

Things are vey quite and dull Leo although, I still manage to get my Budweiser yet. Your brother Fred and I had a couple of short beer sessions over at my house during past couple Sunday afternoon.

How is everything out your way. Say, you ought to get in some good fishing out there. I understand Michigan is quite a place for Pike and Mishanga fishing. So, when you get a weekend leave, head for the lakes, better write home and have them send you your tackle. Do you get much time off? Have you met any of the gang from Bingo?

(1)

I understand that quite a few are out there but, then too, I hear it's quite a big place. Right? Right. I haven't heard from Pete Hodanick lately. HE is still in Tunisia. Met Andy Malavchuk the other day and he told me that Mike Kerezman was shipped across, gosh, he was only in about 3 or 4 months, pretty fast eh?

Boy, Yacko, sure is a lucky guy, he came home again Monday night for an 8-day furlough. A little less or about a month-ago he finished a 2-week furlough boy that is nice going for him he must have something. His wife is still an old Sour Puss and wonder if does enjoy the time off that he gets. Hi HI. Mary Marko's husband called her at my house last night and he is being shipped out of Sampson today she said. Boy, they have been putting the pressure on me here at the office and m any times I go home talking to myself. Hi. I do quite a bit of traveling to the offices at Syracuse, Wilkes Barre and Corning, N.Y. I have about 3 or 4 other letters to write and I can't put them off any longer. It sure makes me feel bad that I haven't written

(2)

sooner. There isn't a day that goes by but, what I think of you and I sure hope that you get a furlough soon so we can have a little beer or some sort of session together. So, Pal, forgive me for not writing

and as you will probably have already noticed I am not much of letter writer. So, believe I'll sign off for now and if you get a chance send me a card. I know you have lots of writing to do besides the Army routine so, I don't expect a letter but, just a short message. So, for now Best of HEALTH and LUCK to you and I'll be seeing ya soon.

Your Pal

Prof. Nicky Piras

P.S. Are you getting any Strange Stuff out there?

I'll be needing a pair of kicks soon. You know my size and style I got the coupon Hi.

(3)

Thursday July 22, 1943

Dearest Leo,

The letter I got from you today took only two days to get here. That's good service.

Darling I wish you wouldn't worry too much about me especially how tire you think I'll get from the trip. I really didn't mind it at all. The connections were so good that made the trip so much easier. Marie Hojick was saying how poor the connections were down south.

Irene sold her car for \$750 cash. She says it was a junk and she was glad to get rid of it. I believe I told you that Bobby Kocik bought a 1940 Pontiac and sold the Buick. It's a sedan also the same color as
(1)

the Buick.

I think I'll hang on to our jalopy. It's been heaving pretty good lately. Any way I gets good mileage.

I hope Rudy's wife will stay longer in Battle Creek. You know I want stay longer to see you. I don't care about my job.

Amelia is going Saturday to New York to meet Bert. He will have 3 days off.

I can't think of any more news for now so until I see you I love you.

Your devoted wife

Jean

P.S. I am starting a horse collection as a hobby

(2)

July 26, 1943

Hiya Leo:

Glad to hear you are receiving my uninteresting letters in good shape. I hope I don't bore you with my writing, but if they are very boring, then I will just have to write them still more boring and you will have to bear it.

Things are about the same in the neighborhood, except that Joe Ferenzi and his wife are here on a 10-day visit. Both Joe and his wife look great. They put on quite a bit of weight. I talked to Joe only on one occasion and he likes the army air corps. He is a staff Sargent. The airplane crew he is in do a lot of flying. Two weeks ago, they flew from N. Carolina to Harrisburg, then on to Syracuse and then back to N. Carolina.

Sorry to hear about the haircut situation out there. Maybe in due time I will get the chance to do some chopping in the army.

(1)

In your last letter you wrote that you are going to move soon. If you do, I hope it is close to home, for then you could get home some weekends. I pray that wherever you do more you will like it.

By the way Mickey, my brother-in-law is going to school in Dearborne, Mich. I should say he is already out there. Is it anywhere near Battle Creek? If it is you might meet up with him some weekend.

I don't see much of Prof. but he is okay and still makes his nightly runs down to the Tavern. HE goes fishing down to the river occasionally. He told me to say hello to you for him, the next time I wrote to you.

I guess I will close for now. My Dad, Mother and all the Markos wish you the best of health and luck.

So long Pal

George

P.S. Don't forget to answer

(2)

Clinton Heights
Rensselaer, New York
July 27, 1943

Dear Uncle Leo,

Tomorrow afternoon our little daughter, Julianne, will be a whole week old. She weighed the full sum of 6 lbs. 14 ozs. and I swear all her weight is in her cheeks – just a real Skorko on Mamie’s side. She looks just like Jennie did only she has a big mop of black hair. Now, don’t you think you could pick her right out of the fifty some odd babies here in the nursery?

(1)

Of course, you’ll want to hear about Julianne’s poor weary father. He must feel like he had triplets because he asked me to get out of bed and let him get in. As you’ve probably heard before, I’m glad it’s a girl again so she won’t have to go through what her poor father has had to undergo. And I’m sure Con is glad it’s another girl because it must be flattering to a man to have a swarm of women around him.

And about you, I hear through Aunt Ann that you’ve graduated to some police school. I hope you like it. Con and I were saying that you’re not made to be just an ordinary soldier. With your personality and ability, you’d have to rise above the ordinary fellow. Good luck to you!

Now I’m going to ask for a favor. Uncle Leo, would you consent to be Godfather to the baby?
Of course, it

(2)

would be by proxy. You wouldn’t have to do anything, I don’t believe, except give your consent. If there should be any more requirements I’d let you know. I’ve asked my sister to be Godmother and she’ll take full responsibility.

Jenie and Connie are planning to take full care of the baby when she gets home so I’m “seriously” thinking of getting into some defense work or joining one of the services. Most likely I’ll just wind up a Kitchen Kommando.

Let’s hear from you soon and best regards!

Connie’s Family

(3)

80 Dickinson Street

Binghamton, N.Y.

July 27, 1943

Dear Leo:

I see you are learning all about guns. All those guns you write about, do you know those now by heart as are you getting all those numbers just out of your head. It is a good thing that I am not in the army, my memory is rotten as hell. I can't even keep track of all the pieces, I have in one night.

Yes, it was Steve's picture that you saw in the Morning Sun. He had one taken when he was on his furlough. He had to wait about six months before he got one. I hope you don't have to wait as long as that.

It is a lot of work around the house, but I do a little at a time and maybe by the time, I have it in ship shape, it will probably be winter. I don't know whether I wrote you or not, but we have a fireplace in back and we had hot dogs one Saturday night. We made believe that we were out on a picnic. Maybe by the time you get this, the gas ban will be off. I hope so. You have to sneak around in your car like a horse thief.

(1)

Listen, where did you get the idea that Lovey wants to leave home. Say, she is so satisfied here with me that you can't even chase her out. If you don't believe me, you ask her. I may be old and foggy, but I will tell you one thing, that I am still able to hold mine own.

It was good news to hear that you received your first stripe. I suppose it isn't too much of a promotion, but you are on the right track. However, Leo remember, the more stripes you get the easier it will be for you and the less guard duty you will have to do. You are doing alright now, so keep going.

Mamie took a vacation yesterday. She went to Scranton, on one of her religious sprees. She had a good time and came home pretty late, but she is able to take it pretty good.

Boy was it hot this last month. We are having a shower now and it feels really good. However, it is still 90 up here in the kitchen. It's a little cooler now, I just had a glass a beer.

Well I guess that's all right now Leo. I hope Jean and you have a good time there in Battle Creek, we haven't received any card yet, so I hope everything is O.K. so write and take care of yourself.

Lovey & Fred

(2)

Wednesday July 28, 1943

Hello Leo & Jean

We received another letter today and also a card from Jean.

I just came home from the theater and I thought I would write a few lines. I'm going to bed without drinking any beer tonight. I guess I have been drinking too much and it keeps me broke so I'm going to drink a little less.

The days are real hot, but the nights are cool. I still have the 3 blankets over

(1)

me every night. Mamie thinks there must be something wrong with me because I'm always cold even now. I don't feel any too warm.

We all miss Jean and every night when I get home from work I expect to see her around.

Things are the same as ever. It seem we have the same routine every day and I'm getting bored. Maybe it's because my vacation is so near and I haven't made any plans. I even disgusted with the store.

(2)

I didn't tell you that Molley had her hair cut did I. Anyway, she looks much better.

Corky is beginning to get a little better too. The two of them just came back from Syracuse and I guess they were glad to get home. Corky wrote Mamie a real nice letter while he was in Syracuse, I didn't think he had it in him but Molley is just the same. She hasn't changed a bit. IT still takes her a couple of hours to wash the dishes. I don't think she will change.

(3)

Well I guess I'll go to be now.

P.S. What do you think Mamie is just coming home and it almost 12 o'clock. She said she went to see a dead man, but I don't know what fun she has seeing dead people.

It said in the paper that Martin Barnett was killed in action. Remember he was reported missing. I guess it's so now even though the other boy on Mygatt St. is still missing and he was on the same whip as Martin.

I say Good night now.

Anne

(4)

Thursday July 29, 1943

Hello Leo

We received 1 card from Jean today and we also received a letter from Helen.

The baby's name is Juliann and she weighs 6 lbs. 14 oz. and Helen says she looks like the Skorko family and she carries all of the weight in her face and she has jet black hair, she must look like Con.

Freddie and Lovey got a job at the I.B. M. as stockroom clerk and they start at 90 cents an hour if
(1)

they pass their physical examination. They are going to be examined tomorrow and they're both tickled pink.

They had an awful fight next door. I guess Bob must of beat Rose up. You know (I guess you don't) but anyway Rose got a pretty good job in the defense plant and she was getting too independent and Bob made her quit her job or else. I guess Bob won the first round.

I had a couple bottles of beer tonight. I'm trying to quit drinking
(2)

But it's kind of tough, but I'll make it.

It rained again tonight as usual. It rains at exactly 5:30 and I always get wet.

I have been out almost every night this week, boy when I start going out I sure make it up for the time I stay home, but I still think home is the best place to be. At least when I stay home I get some of my work done and I don't have to rush and now, I have to worry about finding something to wear
(3)

The next day.

I guess I'll go to be and I'll say

Good night and love from all of us

Anne

P.S. Mamie is OK and I expect her to go to Albany next week.

(4)

Tuesday July 1943

Hello Leo,

We received your letter and this is the first time you told us how you really spent your time. You sure are very busy, at least you haven't time to be bored.

What I want to now is what is C2?

Mamie went to Scranton to the Shrine Monday. She knows how to get around and she said she enjoyed herself.

(1)

It is raining like hell right now, it seems that it rains almost every night and the days are real warm. We have been getting nice weather.

I'm having my vacation the 1st 2 weeks in August. I don't know what I will do yet. I'm afraid if I stay home Mamie will dig up something to do.

Mamie painted the bathroom floor today. You know how she is.

(2)

She's always doing something screwy. If she hasn't anything to do she will find something to do.

How is Jean? I bet she is having a good time.

Mamie will be going to Albany next week. Con told her he wanted her to go to Albany, but not to work. I don't know what they named the baby yet, we haven't heard anything from them since the baby was born.

Jean's mother is here now. She thought Jean would

(3)

be home.

I bought myself a new dress today. Every time I got in Morton's I come out with something you know how I am. I never can resist anything I really like.

I bought another case of beer yesterday, boy this beef keeps me broke ever since we have been having Monday off. You know we have to make the 3 ½ hours we have off. I don't like to go to work so early so I get docked 3 ½ hours every week, the stores blame the War Labor Board for it, what do you think of that? This beer I'm drinking tastes good so I will have another.

So long for now

Anne

(4)