

October 9, 1944

France

9 Oct 1944

Dear mother & dad H.

I received 14 letters today
2 of which were from you, so
I have had a very enjoyable
evening reading them. you see,
every time we move the mail
gets delayed like this therefore
I expected it when we came
over to France.

I am getting along fine,
have lots of work to do so am
always busy and that's what
I like. I had rather be in
France than England for
that reason. All we did in
England was wait for an
assignment in France. Had we
been able to tour England all
we wished which that it would
have been much nicer but
off course couldn't be away

from the base long at one
time.

In my duties here I have
seen quite a bit of the results
of enemy occupation and
destruction and you have
to see it & believe. During
the 4 and a fraction years
the Germans were here, they
just completely drained the
area I am in, as well as
every other place, of everything
the country has. The Germans
simply live at the expense
or did live at the expense
of the civilian population and
now the civilians have
absolutely nothing. Again, you
have to see it & appreciate it
& its full extent. There is
no beauty here as in England

3.

at the areas I have seen
anyway. I want to get to
Paris at the first opportunity
I understand that section
hasn't suffered so badly.

We don't get very much
news from the political
front and very little from
the war front at present
as the paper "Stars and
Stripes" hasn't been arriving
lately. If I had known
before I left the U.S. like
I know ^{now} I would have certainly
brought a radio with me. I
hope they are back on the
market soon so Bobbie can get
me one of the real small
portables which is within
shipping size and weight.

Ruth said in her letter that she was sending me Reader's Digest for the coming year which I will enjoy very much. You know I won't decline any offer for one of your fruit cakes for Xmas, so as you requested I am now asking you to send me a fruit cake for Xmas. I know I will enjoy it just as much as in the past but your presence will be greatly missed, however I can wish to be with you the following Xmas provided we clean up the mess over here soon. I received the money left from Ruth, it took it a month to catch up with me, it

really comes in handy because
of the large size bills over
here.

I am awfully glad you
have had some rain for the
crops, there is nothing more
distressing than a drought
as far as crops are concerned.
I hope the rain did come
in time to aid in a
profitable harvest.

I haven't received the
Snuff tin as yet so I ask
Bobbie to check on it for me
I don't believe I've seen a
Snuff tin in 2 1/2 mos.

I am just fine no complaints
whatsoever except I miss all
of you.

I believe Bobbie likes her
work so, that is how her

6.
letters read anyway. I hope
it is a pleasure to her and
doesn't become more or less
an incommence. I definitely
agree with you that she is
wonderful and that makes
it much easier for me, &
always know that she will
succeed in anything she does
because of her capabilities.

Your letters are most
interesting to me because news
of home, the families and
the farms are of most interest
to me and that's just
what you give me.

Will close now. Love to
you both.

Gurley.

November 13, 1944



UNITED STATES ARMY

France
13 November 1944

Dear Mother & Dad -

Received your enjoyable letter today along with one from Bobbie and one from Helen. What you might call a very profitable day with respect to mail. Helen says she now expects to spend Thanksgiving with you. I know you will be glad to have her with you if she can arrange to come home.

Well I guess the political situation has settled somewhat in the states with a remarkable man winning I think. The election was a minor point over here with so much else to occupy our time. The G.I.'s didn't discuss it at all here although I believe quite a few of them submitted a ballot.

I am glad you are having fine weather in the states. Weather here continues to be disagreeable, cool and constant rains. Who ever gave France the name "Sunny France" didn't stick around long as far as we can see. We may, very seldom have any sunshine so far.



UNITED STATES ARMY

I received the box containing bouillon cubes, canned meat, soft bread, powdered coffee etc and it was so nice of you to send it. We are static right now so I am saving it for any move we might make in the future.

As far as radios here, we are allowed anything we can get, actually this is not a camp as you would think of it in the states, its really our "command post." We have 2 German radios but they are in day rooms etc. I would like very much a small radio in fact I wrote Bobbie sometime ago I look around for one that was small enough to ship here. I would like a radio more than anything now. We get rebroadcasts of all American programs, orchestras, comedians etc and news about every 3 hrs. so we keep very nicely posted on the world situation. I haven't been anywhere recently but some of the places I've seen are.



UNITED STATES ARMY

Omaha and Utah beaches which is the scene of D-day landings, Volquons, Montebourg, heavy fighting took place at the above as you know. These are the only ones I've seen that I can mention now. I can say this I believe when we take a town that the Germans tried to defend all there is left is just the rubble of blasted buildings I've seen the results of it.

Not much else of interest at this time so will close now.

Love to you both,
Gurley.

December 20, 1944

Paris, France

20 Dec 1944

Dear mother and dad H.-

Well, I landed again, this time in Paris. Enjoyed being in London but was glad to get back to this side of the Channel where the outfit is. My commanding officer flew to the outfit 17 Dec and came back with a wonderful Xmas present - 15 letters and 8 packages. Your letters of Nov 8, 28 were received and one box with package of peanuts, sandy bars, carton cigarettes and a small package from Bobbie. I am not opening Xmas wrapped packages until Xmas but am opening the boxes with care. I appreciate the box so much and the things you had in it will be used to an enjoyable extent I can assure you. Thank you so much. Also received Bobbie's picture and I think it is perfect. I am really very proud of it and overjoyed to have it. I had been waiting patiently, rather impatiently

for it. I will ^{2.} miss opening these
Ymas packages without you around
but will enjoy it as much as
possible and will look forward
to the next I with you.

Paris is truly a beautiful
city in every respect. I think it
is much more beautiful than
Washington D.C. I have seen quite a
bit of it so far and will see more
of it in my travels daily.

I wish I could tell you
more about my activities, etc but am
afraid censorship regulations won't
allow me. I am allowed to
give the names of cities while we are
in there except Paris & London. I
am fine though, living a very
pleasant life, I'd say, over here
but of course will be glad to get
back to U.S.A. the greatest country of
them all.

I don't know when I will run into Frank C. or Lucy, I believe I will see them though in the future. I'm always running into someone I know over here.

The Germans are quite persistent over here and I believe will take a little time yet. However I'm sure we will carry out all plans of the Supreme Command.

The weather is awfully much, the sooner it freezes the better off we will be.

The difficult times has arrived only once in a while but it will eventually get here. I'm interested in you most - any thing you write interests me very, very much. I'm glad the weather there is fine for harvesting crops and hope everyone has a successful year. I know you will be able to use the new S.F. Inc. annuity to a great advantage for

December 27, 1944

France

27 Dec 1944

Dear mother and dad H-

Received your letter of Dec 12 and was glad to hear from you and to know you are fine. Guess you are now recovering from all the good things you had to eat Xmas day. I missed them very much. I went back to the outfit for Xmas day we had the usual honey turkey and all the trimmings.

I enjoyed opening all the boxes and eating all the good things you and everyone sent. I am still enjoying the roasted peanuts. It didn't seem like Xmas at all except for opening the packages, however I'll try to make up for it the next time I spend Xmas in the states. I was certainly glad the packages arrived before Xmas. Thank you so much. I received 11 packages so I'll say I had over my share of Xmas overseas.

I am glad Mr. Parker is improving and could spend some time with you I know he enjoyed being with you.

It is right cold here now, no snow but
heavy frost that stay on the ground all
day, it doesn't melt even if the sun shines.
I like this weather better than all the rain
though.

I hope the farmers will save some of
the money they are making now because it
seems that a depression after this war is
inevitable and they certainly will be able to
use it then.

You really had a tremendous amount of
pecans this year, they were a pretty good
money crop too. I'm glad the storms
you had didn't ruin them.

Everything is fine with me, am settled
again now for a short time anyway. Hope
you enjoyed your Ymas and I thought
about you so much.

Love to you,
Gusby.

January 30, 1945

30 January 1945
France

Dear mother & Dad H:-

Received your letters of Dec 25 & Jan 14
yesterday and was awfully glad to get
them. I had been looking for the
one telling all about your Xmas and
it finally arrived. First I want
to thank you most graciously for
the lovely Xmas present. I assure
you it is appreciated to no end.
You always did give such nice
presents anyway. I also received
the box of Planters nuts yesterday
Dad H - they were delayed some
place I guess. Thank you so
much for every thing. Bobbie appreciated
the gift so much too. I sincerely
hope I am with you on the next
Xmas day.

you mentioned the robot house
in London. Well - personally I'm

2
glad to be back on the continent
its much safer here than in
London as far as I'm concerned
those people there are really having
it tough. That's all I can tell you
now about it.

Am glad S.F. Inc had such a
successful year, also glad farmers are
able to pay some of their old accounts.
Hope the new S.F.C. building will make
things more convenient for you
in the future.

you Jan 15th was my 4th anniversary
in the army. It has been a rather
pleasant life except for being separated
from Robbie however I hope I
have passed the half way mark
in that I don't have 4 more
years to go. The sooner we get this
over and get back the better all
of us here will like it.
I can't mention what I did in

London except attend a school. I cannot mention anything about activities in Paris or now. I imagine Bobbe told where I was prior to now and a few other things I was permitted to relate. Censorship regulations are still very strict.

It is snowing again here, we've had at least 5" on the ground since Dec 29 last year and it is expected to stay for a few days. So I am sure the bus in about

I'm glad you enjoyed Xmas as much as could be expected and again thanks for the lovely gift.

Love to you,
 G. W. G.

February 5, 1945

5 February 1945
France

Dear Mom & Dad H.

Received your letters of Jan 2 + 10 and enjoyed them very much. You mentioned the amount of mail I must be getting - I imagine I average about 2 letters per day from the families & friends. I received a V-mail today from little Patsy Smith (Sally's daughter) telling me what Santa Claus brought her. I enjoy receiving letters so much and really enjoy writing them.

The weather has been very nice the past few days, warmer as spring, however the mud now is terrific, guess it will dry out soon.

I was in Paris on special duty during most of the German

2.
offensive, we were on the double
alert however nothing serious
developed there as you know.
Quite a few boys were lost in
the offensive however I hope
Park is only a prisoner, in a
Xmas card from Mildred, she
mentioned Park was a Sgt.

I am getting the *Suffolk Times*
and *Reading Digest*; Helen sends
me the overseas edition of
the *Wash. Star*.

Have not seen any of the boys
from *Salt of Light* as yet, we
probably come within a few miles
of each other many of the. I
will see some of them sooner
or later I imagine I have
seen quite a few of my V.P.I.
classmates and also fellows
passionately in the 71st *Group*.
Everyone must be glad their
income tax is figured out. I in

3. going to wait until I return
to fill mine. Glad to hear
that farmers had such a
prosperous year. Hope farming
will be at least somewhat
profitable when Uncle Sam
finishes with me, because I
still think farming is the
greatest life of all, realizing of
course, all its various hardships.

Would like to see Capt. now, seems
as though he is enjoying the
best of life. Some day, he is.

I am fine and hope
things continue nicely with you.

Love to you,
Gusby.

February 9, 1945

9 February 1945
France

Dear Ruth,

Received your letter of Jan 25
and very glad to hear from you.
"Mi Lord" doesn't feel anymore
titled in this Duke's chateau than
if he were in a pup tent although
this is quite the place. Seems
rather foolish to have a place as
big as this and to have spent so
much money for such an im-
practicable place. It is beautiful
France is loaded with places
like this, they seem to be rather
the thing for the upper class.

Received a letter from Bobbie telling
of the troubles you have with
the fire, drains stopping up etc. I
think you are took on quite a bit
in taking over the house with

to put in that recreation
business. Hope you manage
O.K. until Bert gets back.

I have been reading about the
cigarette shortage over there. We
get 7 packs for week now,
however I smoke a pipe mostly
so I get by O.K. I hope you
are able to get a few at least.

I was in Versailles a few
times but not for long any of
the times. I did see the
palace there but didn't have
time to go in it. Don't do any
sightseeing here, just observe
things in passing.

Weather has been very nice
during the past week, looks like
we won't have so much cold

I was in Paris one afternoon
this week, it continues to be
an interesting place. The way
the "frogs" pedal away on their
bicycles all over the place amuses
me. They never look where
they are going.

Hope you are fine. take care
of yourself and don't work too
hard.

Love,
Gusby.

April 2, 1945

2 April 1945

Belgium

Dear mother & dad -

Sorry I haven't written
you recently because I'm
sure Babbie has told you
it's because I've moved
3 times the past month
and really haven't been
settled long enough to
catch up on correspondence.
Likewise, due to moving,
our mail hasn't caught
up with us in a couple of
weeks now. Hope it does
soon.

Belgium is a very nice
country, I haven't seen too
much of it as yet but
hope to get a chance to get

2. around some soon. It is
fatter than France & Belgium
and looks more like the
states. I was through
Brussels a few times and
it reminds you of New
York.

I thought of you Easter
we had a chaplain out
to conduct services in the
afternoon.

Weather has been cloudy
and damp the past few
days but not too bad, at
least it isn't cold.

War news looks very good
but when the Germans will

3. be finished off no one
can predict.

I am fine and
rather busy now, however
it is interesting.

Take good care of your
self.

Love to you,
Lucy.

October 21, 1945

October 21 1946

Dear Gurley--

as usual Sunday nights is devoted to writing to you, by every member of the family, when we have no company. Helen has written her letter to you, and she pestered her Dad every two minutes asking him when he had written to Gurley.

She is busy on the orchard project and, of course she has every one else busy too.

Still we are glad to know that you will be home in March, any way. We were all in a tizzy about your coming for Christmas, and were quite disappointed when the time was changed. But the time will pass quickly for us as we have so much to do. Building the new rooms and etc.

but we want you & Babbie to stay with us till you find a place

to buy or use you know what
you want to do.

Maybe you would want to
work for awhile at the S. F. S. - Candee
needs an understudy - some one to
learn the business - to take his
place in case of sickness or
death. They ought to start you
out at $\$200.00$ per month. I'll let
you know more about this
job later. Of course I know
you like a farm, and Bobbie
does too, but Dad thinks it is a
bad time to buy - that farm will
be cheaper later.

We are getting things lined up
for the new building, except some
one to dig the basement.

Your Daddy got German prisoners to
help with the peanuts digging -
and some of the farmers have gotten
sailors to help with the harvesting.

Hope we can get some help to
help with the orchard.

Helena and Bobbie have told you all
the news so I'll say Good Bye -
Sincerely Mother H.

November 11, 1945

Nov. 11th 1945

Dear Gurley -
Another Armistice Day has come and gone! Not much celebrating around here. Mr. Paulette did not preach a Peace sermon.

Bobby has just read your latest letter, which tells us that you might be coming home soon. I do hope you do get home for times! I would be wonderful if you could be here.

Helen's orchard is coming on beautifully. Every thing ready for planting when the trees arrive. Already 6 peach trees have come.

The basement is most finished and Mr. Jones is ready to start on the two new rooms as soon as the basement is completed. The rooms will be 18 X 24 outside measurements - We want a laundry room and a furnace room in the basement -

Helen is fine now. Day she sleeps wonderfully now and she looks fine. Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
Mother & Family.