

The
War Time Letters
of
Alvin & Virginia

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Alvin and Virginia Lampe at Lake Herington, in Kansas during the late 1980's, They are with their grand children Zoë and Jesse, the children of their daughter Patti.

This book is dedicated to the legacy Alvin and Virginia Lampe have left in life. They spent a lifetime devoted to each other and their families. Alvin was an avid outdoorsman. He had a passion for hunting and fishing, enjoyed camping, gardening and working with youth. Virginia supported Alvin in all he did. She was an excellent cook. She spent unseen hours cooking, cleaning, sewing, and providing for all the needs of her family. Alvin and Virginia lived a full and successful life. They were a team. Between the two of them, they not only touched the lives of their family of origin, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews but literally hundreds of youth who they nurtured through 4H, Boy Scouts, FFA (Future Farmer of America), school, church and community. Their legacy has had a ripple effect as it spreads through the generations with time.

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The minor events of history are valuable, although not always showy and picturesque.
Quote from Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

Their Story

Alvin L. Lampe and Virginia M. Wilkinson

Alvin Leroy Lampe was born February 14, 1921 in Franklyn County, Nebraska in the little town of Campbell. He was the first born of Arnold Daniel Lampe and Margarett Elizabette Brouillette. Eleven children were born to this union; George Arnold 1922, Ruby Marie 1924, Carl Jerome 1925, Richard Dale 1927, Donald William 1929, James Allen 1934, Shirley Mae 1938, Gerald Lee 1942, Janice Margaret 1944 and a daughter that died in infancy. In the mid 1920's, the family moved to Beatrice Nebraska. Arnold was a mechanic and Margarett was a homemaker.

Alvin's family was close, and he spent a lot of time with his family. They visited often at their paternal uncle's home, Bill Lampe, who lived in Washington County, Kansas. Mildred Lampe was the oldest daughter of Bill and Caroline. Alvin lived with this family when Mildred was in the first grade. He attended the country school with her; walking her to school so she did not have to go so far alone. The rest of the time Alvin attended school in Beatrice. During his junior year in high school, he signed up with the Army National Guard. Shortly after graduation in 1940, they were activated and sent to Camp Robinson at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Virginia Mary Wilkinson was born December 27, 1926 at her maternal grandparent's home (Bill and Lucy Fulton) in Marshall County, Waterville, Kansas. She is the oldest daughter of Albert Henry Wilkinson and Alice Rhoda Fulton. To this union three more children were born; Joyce Maxine 1933, Shirley Ann 1935, and Mark Andrew 1944. Virginia attended grade school at Guiding Star through her 6th grade year. When her grandparents, Henry and Linnie Wilkinson, moved off the farm to the town of Washington, Virginia's family moved to Henry's farm. While living there, she attended Willowdale School. Virginia attended high school at Hanover for three years. She shared an apartment with Mildred Lampe and Irene Wetter. Their parents would drive them to Hanover in order for them to attend school during the week and then bring them home on the weekends.

In the fall of 1941, during Virginia's sophomore year in school, Alvin who was on leave from the Army, his brother George and close friend John Hubbard came to Hanover to see Mildred. They all went roller-skating in Sokol or what we later called Turner Hall. Virginia had never roller skated before and had a difficult time staying on her feet. Alvin spent the night holding Virginia up, helping to keep her on her feet. When they left Alvin kissed her good night, missing her mouth, according to Virginia.

Alvin wrote his cousin Mildred frequently. Mildred suggested Virginia write him also, as "it was the patriotic thing to do" and so she did.

The high school at Hanover dropped the accreditation for Normal Training, so in order to complete her training and get her teaching certificate Virginia had to change schools for her

senior year and go to Morrowville High School. Her class took their "Senior Sneak" to Lincoln Nebraska. Alvin was in Beatrice, home on leave from the army, and they met for a short time at the Capital building, before Virginia's group went on their way.

Virginia graduated from high school in April of 1944. She took her first job teaching at a country school called Point Lookout. She remembers getting there early and building a wood fire to warm the building before the students came. For wages, she received \$100.00 a month for 8 months. She lived with her parents on the farm. Her first big purchase was a Model A Ford, which she affectionately named Daphne. It cost her \$100.00.

Alvin continued to serve his country and eventually went over seas to England and then on to France. In mid-July 1944 during the Battle of St. Lo, he was wounded when hit by shrapnel. The men on either side of him lost their lives. Alvin's left elbow was shot away. He had shrapnel wounds over a large part of his body. He remembered the difficulty pulling himself up out of one of the sunken roads with his right hand and then trying to work his way to the aid station. He remembered a buddy passing him who was on his way to the front. The buddy asked Alvin how it was at the front. Alvin replied, "It's Hell!" Alvin apparently then passed out. It was not until many years later that Alvin and this man met again. The buddy told Alvin that after he had ask that question and moved on, he turned back to look at Alvin. He said Alvin was covered with blood and laying on the ground and he thought Alvin had died. Medics attended to Alvin and he was patched up enough to get him back to England. In the fall of 1944, Alvin returned to the states. He was admitted to Winter General Hospital in Topeka, Kansas.

Alvin and Virginia wrote each other from 1941 until after they were married. He was unable to keep all her letters as he traveled from duty station to duty station, but she kept his. They grew closer in their relationship. While a patient at Winter General, he would come to visit her when he got a weekend pass or leave from the army. Alvin would ride the bus or on occasion ride with other people to Toonerville, Kansas. There was a gas station there on highway 36 and it was only 3 to 4 miles north of the Wilkinson home. The Wilkinson's did not have a phone. If they could make connections, Virginia would pick him up in Daphne, if not he would walk to their house.

In November of 1944, Alvin gave Virginia a ring and asked her to marry him. Alvin and Virginia were married May 5, 1945

at Marysville, Marshal County, Kansas. The ceremony was held at the Evangelical Church. Most of Alvin's brothers and friends were either wounded or serving over seas due to the war, so finding a best man was difficult. Dale West (Alvin's friend Virgil West's brother) was the best man and Dolores Kracht was the bridesmaid. Dolores was Virginia's (maternal) Uncle Bud's sister-in-law. Alvin was given about six weeks leave from the Army for their honeymoon. The young couple spent almost three weeks at the farm of Alvin's (maternal) Uncle Vern and Aunt Millie near Farnham, Nebraska. They returned to Kansas and stayed at various places until he had to report back to Winter General. Alvin came home in June and Virginia went back to Topeka with him for a little over a week. They stayed in a sleeping room on Lane Street. Alvin was discharged July 5, 1945.

In the fall, Alvin used the G.I. Bill to help finance his tuition and attended Kansas State University. Alvin's first choice in education was in Pre-Vet. He then applied to the College of Veterinary Medicine. They only accepted a certain number of students each year. Alvin missed

the list by one name. He switched his major to agriculture and became a Vocational Agriculture Teacher. They lived the first year in an apartment on Vattier Street in Manhattan Kansas. That apartment did not allow children, so when Virginia became pregnant, they moved to a small trailer in Long's Park. Long's Park was open only to Veterans. Patti Jeanne was born June 28, 1946 at St. Mary's Hospital. Lynn LaVon was born October 31, 1947 at Parkview Hospital.

Alvin graduated in 1949 with a Bachelors Degree in Vocational Agriculture Education. Later, he would go back to KSU to get his Masters Degree. They settled at Hanover, Kansas where Alvin taught Vocational Agriculture for over 30 years. Their third daughter, Nancy Sue, was born September 16, 1949 in Beatrice Nebraska as Hanover's hospital was not yet completed. Christine Kaye arrived in 1951, Cynthia Ann in 1952. Alvin always wanted a boy, and on the 6th try he was successful. Warren Dwaine was born December 13, 1954. Years later after most of the children were grown Virginia returned to school. She received a degree in Home Economics and later a Masters Degree from Kansas State University. She went back to teaching for several years. Four of their children also received degrees in education.

After retirement they moved to Herington, Kansas. Alvin passed way October 27, 2001 at Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka. This was the same hospital he was in after he was injured during the war. It was then called Winter General Hospital.

Alvin and Virginia read their letters again years later. Through the years the letters became more fragile. Virginia read them one more time after Alvin's death. In 2004, she gave her daughter Lynn permission to have the letters typed and to make a printed copy. An attempt was made to keep the information in the letters as they were written using the same spelling, grammar, and punctuation. There were times where the handwriting was not legible and places where the army censored or cut a section of the letter out. Alvin said later he didn't know why they did that; the part they cut out didn't have any information in it. He guessed it gave them something to do. During the 1980's the building that these letters were stored in caught on fire. They were not burned, but did get wet causing some of the ink to fade.

In these letters you will find a little history. You will read about two teenagers as they corresponded during a war and see how through the letters they wrote, they got to know each other. You will feel the heartbeat of a lonely soldier who is away from home in a strange place, and the concerns and dedication of the girl left behind. You will hear of the loss they felt as friends and classmates were wounded or killed giving their lives for their country. Years later Alvin said, "We didn't do anything special, we just did what we had to do." You will laugh at the things they wrote about in these letters, the jokes and how they told silly stories. This was a time in history when the only way to communicate long distance was through letters. You will read about the love that a young couple had for each other. Their desire was to marry, settle down and live the rest of their lives together. That is just what they did!

Alvin's Father's Family:

Daniel C. Lampe (1845-1932) married Dorthea C. Reinhold (1843-1932)

They immigrated to the USA from Germany 1883.

Children:

Herman Lampe

William Lampe

Carl F. Lampe (1865-1940)

Rudolph Lampe (1877-1954)

Augusta Caroline Lampe Funke (1880-1963)

Franz Lampe (1882-1884)

Feb. 4, 1892 Carl F. Lampe married Minnie Mueller (1871-1941) Daughter of Henry F. Mueller and Dorothee L. Ritter.

Children: There is a grave stone in the Lanham Kansas Cemetery dedicated to the children (at least 5) they lost.

Live births:

Arnold Danial Lampe (1892-1979)

William (Bill) T. Lampe* (1894 - 1969)

George R. Lampe (1911-1989)

* Bill and Caroline's children: Mildred H. Lampe Gano Gibson (1924-2006), William Robert Lampe (1937- 2002), Sharon Carol Lampe Dixon (1941)

June 20, 1920 Arnold Danial Lampe married Margarette Elizabeth Brouillette (1903-1979)

Children:

Alvin Leroy Lampe (1921-2001)

George Arnold Lampe (1922)

Ruby Marie Lampe Genrich (1924) *

Carl Jerome Lampe (1925- 2005)

Richard (Dick) Dale Lampe (1927-2004)

Donald William Lampe (1929-2003)

A girl baby that died when she was about 4 days old.

James (Jimmy) Allen Lampe (1934-2003)

Shirley Mae Lampe Tarnowski (1938)

Gerald Lee Lampe (1942)

Janice Margaret Lampe Edeal (1944)

* Ruby married Herman Genrich (1918-2003) "Herm" served with Alvin in the 134 Infantry, Company C.

Alvin's Mother's Family:

January 16, 1844, Benoit Marceau (1815-1909) married Emilie (Emily) Trudeau, daughter of Joseph and Francoise (Nadeau) Trudeau.

Children:

Rose-Delima

Mildred

Zephyrin E. (1846-1947)

Ludger Eugene (1847-1943 or 44)

Marie Cerilda (1851-?)

Marie Euphemie (1852-?)

Joesph B. (1853-1936)

Child (1854-1854)

Child (1855-1855)

Napoleon (Abt 1856-1946)

David Cyprien (1858-1945)

Marie Alodie (1861-1861)

Ulrique (Ulric) (1862-?)

Gasper (1865-1962)

Hector C. (1869-1957)

June 16, 1877, Napoleon Marceau married Mary Longtin in Illinois, daughter of Joseph and Marceline Cayer Longtin. Their children:

Loretta

Mamie

Longtin Flavius (?)

Napoleon Ercure (1879-?)

Julie Ruby Marie Marceau (1882-1976)

Marie L. (Lillian) (1884-?)

Narcisse Hector (1885-1965)

Arthur (?)

Benjamin (Bennie) (Abt 1890- 1896)

Flavious D. (1891-1970)

Dec. 25, 1901, Julie Ruby Marie Marceau married Henry Phillip Brouillette, son of Leon and Marlvena Mailloux Brouillette.

Children:

Margarette Elizabette Brouillette

Vivian (Bud) Marie Brouillette Goucher (1905-?)

Vernon (1914-2001), [Alvin's Uncle Vern & Aunt Millie] Brouillette

Jerome Joseph Brouillette (1914-1984)

Leon Dale Brouillette (1917-1959)

Virginia's Father's Family:

William Wilkinson married Elizabeth Yates

Their children: Warren (1824-?), Richard (1825-?) & William (1829-1904)

Dec. 22, 1854, William Wilkinson married Malinda Pittman (1832-1904) Daughter of Moses and Sarah Clark Pittman

Their Children:

Mary Alice Wilkinson Lillibridge (1855-1928))

Frank Wilkinson (1862-1936)

George Eldridge Wilkinson (1865-1939)

Robert Marion Wilkinson (1867-1920)

Hattie E. Wilkinson Hanshaw (1868-1946) Hattie had a twin sister Julie who died at birth.

Henry William Wilkinson (1872-1949) Henry and Maggie were also twins.

Maggie Wilkinson Ferguson (1872-1950)

William H. Wilkinson (1874 -1944)

Dec. 16, 1895, Henry William Wilkinson married Dorothea Anderson (1873-1911) She immigrated from Denmark with her uncles Andrew and Peter

Their Children:

Gladys Wilkinson* (1896-1986)

James (Jimmy) Wilkinson (1897-1904)

Carrie Alice Wilkinson (1904-1906)

Susan (Susie) Wilkinson Lutjemeier (1906-1989) {Art and Susie Lutjemeier had one son, John}

Albert Henry Wilkinson (1907-1972) Dorothea died when Albert was three years old.

* First husband, James Farrell, children: Maxine Farrell Brown. Gladys second husband, Russell H. Ham (1888-1968) their children: Henry Ham, Ida Mae Ham Kidd (1921-1981), Paul H. Ham (1927-1983).

Sept. 18, 1912 Henry William Wilkinson married Cora Linnie Geneive (1869-1948) at Fairbury, NE. (This is who Virginia refers to in her letters as Grand and Grandpa.)

March 1, 1926 Albert Henry Wilkinson married Alice Rhoda Fulton (1902-1978)

Their Children:

Virginia Mary Wilkinson Lampe (1926),

Joyce Maxine Wilkinson (1933) married Robert Jandera

Shirley Anne Wilkinson (1935) married LeRoy Jones

Mark Andrew Wilkinson (1944-1965) * Mark contracted Polio in July, before entering the second grade. He recovered, but spent the rest of his life in a wheel chair. He died of a Cerebral Hemorrhage after his freshman year at Emporia State University.

Virginia's Mother's Family:

Andrew Scott (1823-1897) married Sarah Miller (1824-1897)

Dec. 25, 1859 their daughter Mary Ann Scott (1842-1885) married John Tobias Fulton (1833-1902)

Their children: Frank, William Frederick, Sara, Ella, Henrietta, Ida May, J.G., Belle

May 19, 1890, William Fredrick Fulton (1864-1941) married Lucy Ellen Rosebaugh (1870-1932) daughter of Jacob (1841-1906) and Charity L. Ruby Rosebaugh, (1840-1888) Jacob's parents were Henry (1807-1887) and Margaret Beighley Rosebaugh (1817-1885)

William (Bill) and Lucy's children:

Walter Fredrick (1891-1984)

Bertha Ellen Fulton Wing (1892-1919)

Mable Etta Fulton Abbot (1894-1937)

Alice Rhoda Fulton Wilkinson (1902-1978)

Edith Margaret Fulton Greenwald (1904-?)

Harry Robert (Virginia's Uncle Bud) (1906-1966)

Foster child, Mary E. Perdue Cole.

March 1, 1926 Albert Henry Wilkinson married Alice Rhoda Fulton

Their Children were:

Virginia Mary Wilkinson Lampe (1926),

Joyce Maxine Wilkinson (1933) married Robert Jandera

Shirley Anne Wilkinson (1935) married LeRoy Jones

Mark Andrew Wilkinson (1944-1965)

Alvin and Virginia's Family:

May 5, 1945

Alvin Leroy Lampe married Virginia Mary Wilkinson

Children:

Patti Jeanne Lampe (1946-1999)

Lynn Lavon Lampe Bayes Salsbury (1947)

Nancy Sue Lampe Schuler Xamis (1949-1997)

Christine Kaye Lampe (1951)

Cynthia Ann Lampe Tatro (1952)

Warren Dwaine Lampe (1954)

Patti's children: Mike, Jesse, Zoë Lampe

Lynn's children: Dana and Justin Bayes

Nancy's children: Michael, Jason, and Claire Schuler

Christine's son: Bryan Lampe

Cynthia's children: Candice and Anthony Tatro

I learned that much of war is organized boredom, followed by disorganized terror. Sometimes it's the other way around. Faith and fear are the constant companions of any soldier.

Remarks of Senator Bob Dole, Thayer Award ceremony 9/29/04

World War II Letters

Fort Ord, California

January 13, 1942

Look at that date. I wonder if it means anything. Gee, I sure was glad to get your letter. I found it under my bed. No, I'm not kidding. While I was down to the beach my friends had a pillow fight. In the battle I guess my bed got turned over. They put it up but the letter which someone laid on my bed stayed on the floor. I was in bed and looked under it for a pillow to throw and there it was.

I'm at Fort Ord, California now and don't know how long I will be here. We, I mean I and a few other guys have been on guard in town at the Presidio of Monterey. We have been here a week! I think we go back today. I wish we could stay for the duration of the War. I wonder where we go next, I hope to Los Angeles or San Francisco to guard waterfront. I was down to the beach yesterday afternoon and watched the boats go out. I also went through a fish cannery and out on the breakers and got a couple starfish. I cleaned and dried it over the stove last night. If we stay long enough I'll send a small one. That is if you wouldn't care.

How are you and roller-skating? Have you gone sense that night? I have gone twice this week while I was off-duty. They sure can skate here. All the girls wear tights and do a lot of fancy skating. I haven't heard from Mildred since Christmas and that was a card. She promised to write a long letter soon, I hope I get it today.

Talk about wedding I had an uncle who got married just last week. It seems to be quite the thing among the younger set these days. I wonder if it is the War. I'll be shot or shot up so bad after the War that no one will love me anyhow. I think we ought to fix a paragraph for Mildred to read. It will help her to use her imagination so here goes.

Do you believe in love at first sight? I didn't before but I do now. Now that I have you to think about this War won't be so bad. I wish I could of come home for Christmas. We could have had a wonderful time. Just you and I. I wonder how Mildred would take my actions. When she finds out, you may tell her if you wish. What you said in the letter was sure nice. I always thought you were bashful.

How do you girls like Mr. Pickering and school. I wish I was still going. My next school will be school of experience. I'm sure learning a lot. Say I sure would like a picture of you. I suppose Mildred told you I lost those pictures I took of you girls I sure hated that. I'll send one of myself if you would like one. Well I must close. Tell me what did she say. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if I meant it. Now please answer soon. I'll answer right back. And don't forget the picture. Tell Irene that George has been going to enlist in navy for 3 years and he would have had to go anyhow. By now!

Alvin

February 23, 1942

Dear Virginia

I don't feel in mood to write a letter but I must get caught up. I'm listening to a opera so it might turn out a very odd letter. I usually read a Readers Digest in Time magazine so as to get my mind working.

I received Mildred's letter yesterday and have I had fun with some of the boys. I believe she let you girls read the letter. It was so real I almost believe it myself. With the help of some of my boyfriends I have spent my boyhood with. We are making them all believe it. They all said I sure kept it a secret a long time.

I sure have a time writing now. We can't even tell what we are doing or anything in our letters; because they are afraid some spy or foreign agent will get information about our units and what we are training for. They read all post card and could censor letter if they have to.

Boy you are having tests. Do you know that I am giving a test on a gun that I'm instructor of. It's a little different for the boys because if they fail; I teach them till they know it by heart. If they know they will be graded, they take more interest in the subject.

Our wartime is a little different than yours. We have an extra hour in the morning and another in afternoon. That makes 11 hours of which are drill and training in the fields. The first hour is for washing, eating, and making our beds and cleaning tent for the daily inspection. The last hour is open in getting ready for retreat or end of our working day. We shone and put on our best. The National Anthem is played while we present arms or salute if we don't carry a rifle. Then, the rest of the time is our own if we aren't on some given duty.

I listened to President's speech. It sure was a good one. I suppose you heard about the shelling of that oil refinery. That is about 95 miles from here. I'm glad we aren't at Fort Ord. That Camp or Fort is right on the coast. We are 6 or 7 miles from the bay.

I had to laugh when I read about the peanut butter and crackers. It reminded me of when you girls wouldn't drink the milk I got for dinner; but ate the candy, which is twice as bad. Believe it or not I'm on a diet: I don't eat starchy food, less butter and not as much. I lost 7 lb. Last week. I would like to lose 10 or 15 lb. Just like a woman, or a girl.

The reason I'm not writing on both sides of the paper is because I'm trying to get rid of the paper. If you are like me; it seems as if the letter is short if only one side is wrote on. Of course it is not proper to write on both sides. According to our English teaching.

I'm going to try and have my picture taken tomorrow noon so I can send one in this letter. If I don't, I'll send one in my next letter or in one to Millie and ask her to give it to you. Please send one of yourself as soon as you can. Well I must close; please answer soon.

With all the love of a soldier;

Alvin

P.S. There it is a day after I wrote this – I couldn't get my picture taken last night because we had a black out all night long. We had to dress in the dark and were ready to move out. I'll send my beautiful picture in the next letter.

Salinas Army Air Base Salinas, California

March 24, 1942

Dear Ginny,

Thanks for the swell letter. I'll try and write one as good. I'm at another base again. My address is Salinas Army Air Base, Salinas, Calif. We are 140 miles from San Luis Obispo. We are guarding the Airport and all bridges & railroad tunnels within 50 miles.

I had a lucky break and have been off 36 hours. I go on again at 8 to 12 tonight.

I hope to go up in a plane soon. One of the guys said I could go up in a bomber if they don't have a load. So here's hoping.

I went to town last night and had a few pictures taken. I sent one and hope you will like it. I can't figure out if it flatters me or not. I'll let you decide that. My mom sent a picture of my little sis and is she growing. It kind of made me homesick. She'll be running around with boys before I get home. I sure would like a furlow in a couple months.

Our tents don't have any floors but are plenty warm when the stove is going. It is a wood stove and almost runs you out of the tent. Most of us have sleeping bags so we are plenty warm at night. We had to pay \$10 for them but they were worth it. They zip up so if you try and get out in a hurry you have a little trouble.

We sure have had good meals lately. Duck, turkey, Swiss steak, etc. I never eat breakfast anymore. In that way I keep from gaining weight.

I was looking at "Colliers" magazine the other day and I saw a picture of a girl who looked just like you. And come to think of it I haven't a picture of you. Please do send one.

I always had it easy in school because I was in good with all the teachers. Geometry was easy I only handed in about ten papers in a year. History was hardest because if you flunked you had to stay every night for two weeks. I didn't flunk.

I haven't heard from Millie for several weeks. What did you think of the letter she wrote me. I almost felt married. It sure had some of the boys guessing.

We have 3 patrols in jeeps one is on the airport. I sure had fun choosing jackrabbits. I was driving and every time the jack jumped the jeep jumped twice.¹

Well I must close now. Please write soon. Tell Millie and Irene hello and for them to come out and they can teach me a few things.

Oceans of love
Alvin

P.S. How soon will school be out.

March 31, 1942

Dear Ginny

I sure owe you an apology I just found the letter I wrote you last week. I must have mislaid it because I thought I had sent it. I'll try and add a few more lines.

¹ "Choosing jackrabbits", according to a Korea era veteran is part of troop training for combat with vehicles. The driver chooses and then chased the jackrabbit across the training field. If the rabbit went over a hill, the jeep went over the hill too. The jackrabbit being the enemy and the jeep would be in pursuit.

I went to town last night and saw "Sun Valley Serenade" and "Great Guns" both were swell pictures.

We were supposed to have got paid today but didn't. I hope we get paid tomorrow. I've never been so broke in all my life. There goes mail call I'll be back in a minute.

Well I got a letter from the folks with five dollars in it. I wrote for it two weeks ago but she mailed it at my old address and it took 7 days to get here.

I haven't heard from Mildred for a long time. I guess she is studying to hard and doesn't have time. Please remind her that I wait for her letters.

I'm afraid I won't get to ride in a bomber. The one that was here left. I hope it comes back soon.

Well I must close and write the folks a letter. I wrote three before I got one from home.

My Love to You

Alvin

P.S. Don't forget about the picture.

XXX

Los Angeles, California

April 27, 1942

Dearest Ginny

Boy did you have me scared. I could figure what I did to deserve such a letter then when I finished I felt like a heavy load had been taken off my back.

How's my writing for having my hand burned. It looks like I have a big white glove on. Our tent burned down the other night and I had to get my hands in the fire. All we lost besides the tent was gloves, leggings and a radio. We don't know whose radio it is. It was here when we got here. The fire lasted five min.

We have moved again and my address is on the envelope. Please give it to Mildred so she can write. I sure like it here. We are only 11 miles from Los Angeles. The weather is always nice. Its 10:00 now and I'm sitting here with only my shirt on.

I was in to town the other night and never did know where I was. I saw several people I knew at home. One came out to see me yesterday.

I was swimming already and did I get a mouth of saltwater. The Ocean is cold but it will soon warm up. We have our own Beach Club. I am in charge of 8 men and we already are having fun when we aren't working. They let us use a Beach Club to cook and bath in. We cook breakfast but they bring our dinners and suppers.

At another Port about 12 miles from here they caught a seal today. They also had a baby octopus they sure are ugly. Well I better close please write a long letter and I can write more often now it doesn't cost me anything.

Love & Kisses

Alvin X X

P.S. My address is
Sgt. Alvin L. Lampe
Co. C134 Inf. 35 Div.
A.P.O. #35
Los Angeles, Calif.

June 14, 1942

Dearest Ginny

Years and years have passed and I still owe you a letter, so I better get busy before a couple more pass.

Well schools out and everyone is happy I hope. I've moved twice since you last heard from me. It seems that is all we do. I'm so tired of guarding. I wish we were across so I could get some excitement.

What do you do now, milk and help around the farm? or what. Did Mildred tell you I had a new baby brother.² That will make plenty of work for my sister and mom. They say he looks just like me.

I went into L.A. last night and went to see the Andrew sisters in person. They sure were good. I meet a couple boy friends of mine each Sat. night if I can get off. I have a lot of fun when I get a pass but not enough passes. I can get one every 8 days. How would like that? I wish we would get on outposts like we had at Malibu.

Did you see George when he was home. He sure had a good time. He was supposed to come down and see me this week and but never showed up. I hope he still gets to come. I want to talk about a lot of things that I can't write him.

Well it won't be so long and harvest will start. I bet they will be short of men. Are you good at shocking wheat. Ha, ha

What will you do next year with Irene + Millie gone. I wonder if you will worry as much as Mildred did. Probably you won't ever look the same the next time I see you. And by the way I never did get a picture of you. I do want one so bad.

I don't know if your address is the same if not let me know. I wish I could write more but I can't write a lot of things that I would like to. Also a person doesn't feel like writing when he's working night and day. I can tell you that the balloons are sure thick here. Also some of these new planes are sure fast. A balloon got lose one night and hit 4 tension lines and burned them off. I can't think of much more. I think of you often and wish I was home again so please write soon.

Love & Kisses
Alvin

Ojai, Calif.

July 15, 1942

Dearest Ginny

So you wish you were back at school or anyhow back in town. Well make the best of them while you can because they will come but once. I to lonesome. I hate to think I'm wasting my life in the Army. I guess it can't be helped. Someone must do what we are doing. I can't get a promotion for sometime, and all we do is same old training I've did for 4 years. I have taught the stuff so much shudder to think of it.

² Gerald Lee Lampe born May 24, 1942

We are on the Tillean (*hard to read*) Ranch now firing on the range. We stay at the Ojai Valley Country Club, which is about 10 miles from where I now sit. We had to get up at 4:30 an hour earlier this morning so it would be cool for hiking. We only had to hike 6 miles, we rode the rest of the way.

I wish I had a fishing pole. There's a small pond here and you can see the fish in it. The game is awful thick here. The only thing wrong is we can't hunt it.

Sunday I went to Santa Barbara, it is the most beautiful town I ever saw. Mostly just very rich people live there. I hope you can make this writing out. I'm sitting on a hill writing on my knee. I wrote Millie a letter yesterday. She sure is tickled over her passing the exams. I knew she would, how could she miss after working so hard.

You can have anything you want or do anything you want to, if you make up your mind to that and work for it. I know from experience. The only things you regret are what you wanted to do and didn't do.

We sent 5 more men out of the Co. Monday and a lot more are leaving soon. All we do is get new men and ship out the old one's anyhow that's what it looks like.

I'm sitting in a bed of poison oak, but it doesn't seem to affect me. I guess I'm immune to it. The first day we got here at Ojai we took a 7 mile hike around 40 men dropped out because of the heat. About half of them passed clean out.

Well its 11:15 and the dinner trucks will soon be here so I better finish this. You will probably meet one or two of my brothers because they always spend a week or so on the farm. If so, don't believe anything they say about me.

Well write soon and keep your nose clean. Write anything you wish.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. My girl at Beatrice got married ask Mildred about her. I didn't care I still have you.

Ojai, Calif.

January 12, 1943

Dear Ginny;

I'm purty sure I owe you a letter but I'm so far behind I don't know for sure. I have been trying to write one or two a night and catch up.

We sure have been working hard these last weeks. Training is a lot harder than coast work and patrolling. I miss the freedom. Now we only have 10% of Co. on pass and there are for 6 hours. We use to have 25% and usually 74% went without unless they were on duty.

I haven't heard from Mildred for sometime, maybe I owe her a letter. I have six left then I can start over.

I'm hoping and praying that what I hear is true. If it is you will hear from me next week from another address. I sure hope it's the one I want.

You know, Honey! I never called you that before. I hope you don't mind. Now I can go on. You know I think of you often. I never could see why you were so serious and quite. Tell me are you really that way. Why don't you tell me about your thoughts, ambitions, likes, and dislikes? I know you like music, so do I. I like to take walks alone or with someone who loves nature. Sometimes I walk 5 or 10 miles up these canyons. I love concerts and good music. I like

to explore these caves they have. Also fishing, hunting, skating, swimming and many other things. Do write and tell me.

Are you learning to skate or has the snow ruined the pond. I haven't did hardly a thing since we've been here at Ojai. I have seen a couple good shows. One was, "Seven Sweethearts."

I was on M.P. duty in small town here and went up to the U.S.O. There I stayed all evening. I had one of the hostesses write a couple letter to boyfriends. She was a little curious over some of the things I dictated but I'll never see her again so it doesn't matter.

I haven't heard from George for a long time. I write as often as I can. I won \$150.00 this month so that helped after spending \$210.00 on furlow and \$100.00 after I got back. Well I'm at the bottom of the page so must stop. Write soon...

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

What does a fisherman want most?
A week's vacation on (censored) Lake

Two boys were playing train. One passed the other and said. Didn't you hear me blow my horn? He replied! No but I sure smelled your smoke.

Did you know Bing Crosby died. He froze to death singing White Christmas.

*****PostCard*****

(Cobb beats record for Speed on Salt Flats of Great Salt Lake)

Dear Ginny

Here I am safe + sound. I hope you are the same. I received your letter and it sure helped. One of the boys just came in happy because he gets furlow the 15th. I sure could use another one. I will write + send letter soon. Love Alvin

February 21, 1943

Dearest Ginny,

I guess I'll never get caught up on my letter writing. I wish I had you for my private secretary. I still would be behind I'll hope. I'm so mixed up I think I sent a letter to some of my relatives twice.

Well how are you after all those tests. I hope they are all passed with good grades. Even I take a test now and then. It won't be to long and you will be giving the exams. I'll come help you average those grades.

I don't get enough dancing lessons. I think I've went to two dances. The last was on my birthday. We went alone, that is us boys. I couldn't dance good enough to ask a girl to dance, so I would wait till my buddies would get a dance. Then I would cut in on him. It was so crowded they didn't know I couldn't dance. Freddie my boy friend said he would never take me to a dance again. I don't blame him.

I had a 3 day pass last week so went to Long Beach to visit my uncle. I went down to the Pike, the largest amusement center in the world. I rode the Jack-rabbit, and thought that was the end of me. You could spend a 100.00 there and not have a thing except a good time. Uncle Skeet is expecting a blessed event. He is going to name him Solomon Benedict Ronald Brouillette. Of course he's just joking. I hope.

My boy friend from Beatrice got married while on his furlow. I told him he'd get into trouble just as soon as I left him out of sight. He says now I can go home with him over the weekend and enjoy a home-cooked meal. Chicken I told him.

Tell me when do you expect to get married or do you have any plans? Intuition – the strange instinct that tells a woman she is right, whether she is or not.

Did you forget that you owe me five dollars. –Not yet give me time and I will.

Is your sister a blonde or a brunette? I don't know. She's at the beauty shop right now.

What difference does it make if love is blind when most of it goes on in the dark, anyway.

Well I must close. Write soon please.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. When is your birthday?

Camp Rucker, Alabama

April 2, 1943

Dearest Ginny

I all got yo letta; and show did enjoy it. I all thought you all had forgotten po little me. Honey Child you all from the north? Us confederates could of licked the north if it hadn't been for old lincoln.

Yes, Ginny! I'm way down in the deep deep south! In fact only 140 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. I'll try and make this a long letter because I can write about a lot of things. That is if I don't forget them.

We left there March 23 and got here March 29. I had known for a month we were going to move but couldn't tell anyone.

I had two 3 day passes the month before last. I sure made a lot out of them. I when and seen all the places I wanted to go but never got around to. I was at the Hollywood Canteen 3 times. I don't remember who was there the first night but the second night Freddie Martin was there with his music men and the last night Kay Kyser. I don't even remember all the stars. We tried to get in three Studios but it was Saturday and no one was there except guard and a few workers. We did get picked up by two extra stars while hitch hiking. Boy they sure were ok. One drove a 1942 Club Coupe and the other had a 42 Sedan. I went to see my uncle³ the last night and got there at 4:30 in the morning. They weren't even surprised and were up. (Skeet) my uncle nick name was walking the floor with Karan, his new family. I sure laughed at him. Going back to San Luis Obispo we had to wait 5 hours for a bus in line. We caught a special and I got back to camp just in time. It was Monday morning and I had to go right to work and I never had

³ Alvin's maternal Uncle Leon Brouillette.

any sleep for 2 nights. I was with a boy friend of mine. He got married on his furlow. No one even expected such a thing from him. He was the quiet type.

You remember the Hubbard boy that was with my brother and I the first and second time I met you. He got to California the day before we moved and wasn't far from us. I didn't even get to see him.

We rode in pullmans and had colored porters and all. Boy even then I thought we would never get here and after we got here I wished hadn't got here. I see a lot of country. We went through 9 states. We went through the Painted Desert, and just missed the Grand Canyon. At Belen New Mexico we stopped to exercise and there were a lot of Indian squaws and a couple maidens selling souvenirs and trinkets. The two girls were purty good looking. One of the boys gave them some letters to mail, which was against the rules. He said he bet they read every one of them. We went through Little Rock, Arkansas. That's where we were the first year. Boy if I could just see the area where we trained and the place in town each one has a memory. Well Honey I better close we have a big inspection in the morning and boy did we have a tough day. Went on a 10 mile hike this afternoon 4 of it we made in 45 min. We would run a min. and walk two min. Boy it sure is tiring. Expecially with all your equipment. So goodnight and I hope I dream of you. No kidding I do sometimes. Do you think it means anything.

Well here I'm in Panama City, Fla. About 130 miles from Camp. I and 3 other boys are on weekend passes. I just got back from a trip out in the Gulf of Mexico, to Shull Island. I have a whole pocket of shells and sand. I'm in a U.S.O. now waiting for a hot dog. I can look out across the inlet here. We were looking for a dance last night and the only place we found was out of bounds. I'm determined to learn to dance. This is a nice looking town but as for anything else I don't know. The people here don't treat you like they do in Calif.

I left Sat noon so took paper and an envelope to finish your letter. Otherwise I wouldn't get it off till Monday or Tuesday.

The only thing wrong on these passes I have is I have no girl to help me enjoy them. Gee I wish I had you here it would be so much nicer. I wonder if it is just the spring or something else. You are not alone where you say you feel crazy. I do too.

We stayed at tent City, last night. It is just a lot of Army tents put up to take care of all the soldiers who came to town and can't get rooms elsewhere. We got up early so we wouldn't sleep our pass away.

I just ate my to hot dogs they sure hit the spot. We are going to eat more when we get up town.

Doesn't it seem funny a week and a half ago I was in Los Angeles, Calif. And now in Florida.

We have to be back in the morning and the last bus leaves tonight at 5:30. It is Sunday.

Well Honey, I better close, the boys are waiting for me. I'll send you some of the shells I have. Also I still am going to send you a picture of me. If I can get it developed. So good bye. Let's hope this all ends soon and we can tell each other about it. Write soon.

Love & Kisses
Alvin

June 22, 1943

Dearest Ginny

How's this for answering your letter. It's a record, at least it is a lot sooner than I usually do. It's just lucky that I have time. I was on duty all last night till 2:30 this afternoon. I go out in the field till Thur. night in two hours. Boy they sure have been working us. I've lost 16 lb. But it would hurt me to lose some more.

I thought I had been in some hot places but this is the worst. I hope we move soon. So does everyone else.

We have a bunch of W.A.C.K.'s here at this Camp. The different outfits keep them busy going to dances. I bet they have invitations for the rest of the month. A few are good looking but the rest are married or out of the question.

Just what do you have there on the farm a Maternal Ward. It seems that in every letter I get from you; you have a new batch of kittens or puppies, or something. There are more dogs around these Camps. Big one's, little one's, + all colors + kinds. They follow us out in the field, and seem never to get tired.

I wish I was there helping can those strawberries. At base you wouldn't have as many to can. I haven't had strawberry for a long time. I think the thing I miss most is the chicken dinner we use to have. We are lucky if we get beef. I haven't had steak or chicken since we left Calif.

Is Mildred going to Summer School? Who is her latest flame?

I went to one dance down here but didn't dance or rather couldn't. It was formal + you should have seen the gowns. Some of them were certainly beautiful. Also the girls! But that's all the good it did I didn't even talk to one. I guess I'm too bashful.

Well I better close and try and get a little rest. I have to be up all night again. I'm sending a picture of me. You probably won't recognize me. It is an enlargement but the negative wasn't any good. Maybe I can give you a good one sometime. Do write a lot even if I can't answer soon. Someday I'll catch up if they let me rest awhile.

Love & Kisses
Alvin

P.S. What cute Stationary

July 26, 1943

Dearest Ginny

Here I am back in, Hello again, I got here at 4 on Sun. morning. Sunday evening we walked 15 miles to the spot where I'm now sitting. It is so thick I can only see ten yards. I woke up this morning and thought it was raining, but it was the dew dripping off the trees.

I got your letter ok. It helped pep me up at first, then after realizing I was just with you I felt worse than ever. I then read a letter from a boyfriend in Calif. and felt better over his news that he wasn't getting married. It isn't that I disagree with getting married only he had the wrong girl.

How do you feel are you up and around? I hope so, It looks as if I'll not get sick. I never have any good luck. Doesn't that sound awful? I bet Shirley keeps her eye on the candy. She is sure cute. Do you think she will be as good looking as her big sister?

I suppose you know that Mildred came up the next day. I waited for her till 11:00 that night then went back to Beatrice. Millie and I went up town and I introduced her to a few of my friends, as my wife, the part is, they believed me. Ask her about it?

I should write on both sides of the paper but can't very well because I can't hold it still after I unfasten it. I'm sitting on a log, writing on my knee.

Boy did I have a time coming back, both good and bad. To start with we got on the wrong train at Lincoln and that put us in late at K.C.⁴ so we missed our train and had a 10 hr. lay-over. I took a shower and slept about 4 hours. Oh yes before this I got off at Table Rock,⁵ and got something to eat. I only had ten minutes so took a short cut to the Café. I tried to jump a big ditch and didn't make it. I was mud and water up to my knees. We left Kansas City at 5:30pm and rode the same train to Birmingham, Ala. That night we took the backs of the seats and made a bed. That was the only night I got any sleep on the train. A lady across the aisle woke us up for breakfast. At Birmingham we had 2 hour lay-over so took another shower, shaved, and had a big supper of Southern Fried Chicken. Leaving there we rode on the dirtiest train I ever saw. When the conductor came through I thought he was going to make us move up in the colored car we were so black. We got in Montgomery late and caught a bus right away. About half way the bus broke down and we waited for another bus for 4 hours. It was 4 am when we got in camp. And after waking up a few of my buddies I went to bed. I paid for waking them later on.

I must close now and get some chow. I wish I was still back with you or you with me. No! I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy, I'll see you soon Ginny in my dreams. Please write soon.

With All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

P.S. Here's a leaf from State of Ala.

X X X

August 5, 1943

Dearest Ginny

I'm laying here in my hammock wishing I was with you. I'm so tired and disgusted with this Army. Everyone I can see is babying their feet or trying to get rid of the heat rash.

We walked 20 miles in 7 hours last night, and in two hours we go 9 more miles. We started at 7:00 last night and got here at 2:00 this morning. I slept till 11:00 then ate dinner.

I hope you are up and around I've been expecting a letter from you most any day now. Maybe I'll get it before I mail this.

It won't be long till school starts I bet you will be happy then. Do know where you are going to stay. You and Susie ought to have a great time. I would give anything to be with you (two).

Do you see Millie very often? ("There went a shot some soldier must of shot himself!") What does she say about Kansas City? I bet she had a swell time.

All the boys keep asking if I got married. They ask everyone coming back from furlow the same. Of course I said yes and let them use their imagination. They don't know that my sweetheart is only or almost 17 and has another year of high school. When do you think she

⁴ Kansas City

⁵ Nebraska

could send me another picture? I hope that I can have a good one for you soon. I have my camera and some film so I'll try and send a picture or two of this wonderful place.

I had to wire home for money the other day. I got red-lined. In other words, I didn't sign the payroll so didn't get paid.

We have a lot of new boys since I was home. They come from New York and Mass. I have an Italian in my squad. Who was in Italy maybe 3 years ago. He can't talk good English, and everything he says is so funny. The other day we were trying to make 4 miles in 50 min. To do that you have to run a third of the way. He lost his heel and hollered at me "Hey Sergeant a I no cana run! I lost a my shoe." I told him it was just a little farther and he kept coming. They are always telling him if we make big gains in Sicily. He says "What do I care I'm over here."

August 6, 1943

Honey if you want to see it rain, you should come down here. It poured last night and this morning. My clothes are still damp and it is 10:00 almost time I was in bed. We got to ride in to the barracks and we sure deserved it.

We had a dawn attack, which is bad enough without the rain. Supper at 10:00 and breakfast at 3:30. No lights and you must keep quiet or the enemy would hear you. You can just imagine us attacking through the wet grass. That goes on for hours. Well its over for awhile at least till Monday night when we go out again for a week.

It's a great life if you don't weaken. I'm sure weak.

I bought me a new pipe tonight. I hope you don't me smoking. I thought it would be nice if I learned to smoke. Then after the war we could spend the evenings together. I'm in a nice big chair with house slippers on, and my pipe paper; with you beside me, I have these dreams. Often I hope all of them come true.

I was right in my expecting a letter from you. It helped me a lot often last night. I also got the money I wired home for. Tell Shirley I'll have to send her a box of candy. Do you think she would like that.

Say who told you I was seeing triple the day I left. Does he or she tell you all my secrets. I guess I'll have to confess I was happy when I left that was the only way I could be. I and a couple boys from here had to have one party before we left.

I hope you can read this I'm laying in bed trying to write. I had a pretty red leaf to send you but it got wet and turned brown. I'll send one next week. What would you say if I sent some poison ivy? I wont so don't scold me. Well I better close the boys want the lights out and I'm so sleepy. I'm always waiting for your letters. The cartoons were good. They sure pick on Sergeants. Write soon.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

August 16, 1943

Dearest Ginny,

I received your letter yesterday, I guess I'm a day late in answering. I intended writing you last week but was too busy. I did start a letter.

It is Monday night and we had a fairly easy day. Only had to walk 12 miles and ride 36. It was a practice shuddle movement. We carried our lunch and I think they made the sandwiches last week. Anyway they sure were dry.

We took 3 hikes last week of 4 miles in 50 minutes. We beat the time each time by 5 minutes. They are tearing us down instead of building us up. I bet I sound as if I didn't like it. I don't. That's enough of my worries.

I went to town Sat. afternoon. Went to a Cowboy show and had to set almost to the front so I could hear the actors. I bet every third women had a baby or two. For supper we had half-chicken Southern fried. It was so good I almost ate the bones.

Shirley can expect anything after the first of this month. Thank her for the picture and tell her I'll carry it in my billfold with yours.

By looking at her picture I can just imagine you at the same age.

Say that cartoon in the envelope was perfect. I had just received a box from mom and 'they' the cookies went the same way. Of course I never miss any of the other boy's boxes.

I hope you like it at Morrowville. Do you know anyone there? What does Susie⁶ say to that? You better pass your normal training test after all the trouble you're going to. I bet you have a good time. How far is Morrowville from your place? I used to go roller skating at Reno.⁷ A bunch of kids always came over from Morrowville. They had dances there too but I heard they were pretty wild.

In sending the Camp paper and another article that was supposed to build up our moral. I better close now so the boys can go to sleep. Write real soon. Tell Millie I'll write her one of these days but that shouldn't keep her from writing me.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Yours till the Ocean wears rubber pants to keep its bottom dry. X

Blue Pond, Ala.

Well Darling,

I received your much needed letter tonight, so will answer it with my former letter. Last night we made a night withdraw, only 10 miles but it was from 11:00 to 4:00. I think half the boys were asleep walking. At 5 o'clock we prepared a new defensive area. At noon the war was over and we walked 6 miles to where I'm at now.

I'm sending a candy bar that is souped up. That is all we get a meal just one. It sure does the job we had breakfast, dinner, and supper of the same. It takes a lot of water to it a bar. I wonder what they will think of next.

I took a bath and washed my clothes they are drying now by the fire. It is dark and I'm writing this by firelight. I can't figure out why I'm not tired. I've only had 6 hours sleep in the last 48. Maybe it was those hearty meals. I have a slight headache from wearing a helmet.

I hope you get to finish at Hanover High.⁸ Maybe you'll get to stay at (*Can't read*) yet. The boys just moved in with their pitch game. They are making a lot of noise.

⁶ Susie Nemits, Virginia's friend.

⁷ A town north of Morrowville, Kansas near Fairbury Nebraska.

⁸ Hanover Kansas High School

It rained a little just before supper, and cooled off the place. The band is playing across the pond, but almost everyone is asleep. We get up at 4:00 and eat at 4:30 so I better get in bed myself. I'll finish this later.

Well I'm back at Camp and am cleaning up to go to town so will close. I wait for your letters.

All My Love
Alvin

P.S. The candy bar will arrive later.

X X X

August 26, 1943

Dearest Ginny,

As I lean against this pine tree trying to think what to write about. I wonder how I can still enjoy this Army at times. I can see about 200 yards through the pine woods. It is still except for a cough or a bumblebee buzzing around. There goes a dragon fly, and I can see several butterflies off in the distance. All you can see when on a high hill is pine forests for miles, there are a few open places where they have been cut down for furniture or where there was a forest fire. This morning I seen my first flying squirrel, he was gray and about the size of a small rat or mole. He flew about 25 yards and looked just like a bat. We tried to catch him but the only boy that got hold of him has two teeth cuts. He was the little Mexican boy and did he ever let out a speal of Spanish. He's sure good looking, has dark curly hair, perfect white teeth, and a smooth complexion. From what I hear he has a way with the girls. He's a very good dancer. Getting back to nature, you should see the wild flowers down here twice as beautiful as any tame ones. They just grow everywhere. Yesterday we had the day off. But only the daylight hours. We were beside a pond, so all went in for a swim and bath. It was very clear and sure felt good after walking 30 some miles in dust up to your ankles. Now I'm just as dirty as if I didn't have a bath for a month.

We are on a weeks maneuvers 111 miles from camp. On the Alabama/Florida line.

We just had a tear gas attack, but I didn't get in any of it. I had to wake everyone up just in case.

No matter how nice the forest is, it is still hot. As I write this I'm sweating as if I was pitching hay.

I haven't received your letter but have high hopes. Well I must close now and get some rest. We haven't slept for 36 hours. Write soon and I hope you and Susie⁹ had a good time.

All My Love
Alvin

September 12, 1943

Dearest Ginny,

It is Sunday afternoon and I'm late writing again. I slept till almost noon; it is the only time I can catch up for what I lost the rest of the week. Friday and Saturday I had it easy, we

⁹ Virginia's maternal aunt, Susie.

were the enemy detail for 3rd Battalion test. We also got some more experience being fired at with Artillery. It landed about 150 yards to our rear.

Wednesday a boy got hit in the back with some shrapnel from a 8 mm Mortar. He is okay now it only lodged in a muscle in his back.

I sure wish I could have seen George. If only I hadn't had my furlow so early or he would of wrote me. What am I saying I know very well he couldn't. I wrote him several letters but I guess he didn't get them they went on across. I must write him when I'm through with your letter.¹⁰

You can understand how I feel after a week in the field. After that Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, you were on the go.

You know I couldn't understand what you meant when you wrote about George. I didn't know he was home. At first I thought you meant Uncle George.

Almost all of our family is away from home now. Dad is in Vancouver, Washington, Carl¹¹ is in California. Ruby is in Beatrice but doesn't stay at home and of course George and I. I received a real interesting letter from dad this morning. He always writes a good letter.

To tell you the truth, maneuvers are not fun. You work hard, walk a lot, sleep a little, and never get much to eat. But they are like school days. One never forgets them. When a bunch of boys have a bull session. They are always brought up and talked about. Just like women, cars, money, and everything else boys talk about.

Mom is going back to see grandmother. It will be the first time she has been home in twenty years. That's a long time. Someday I would like to take you out there. I spent a month there before I left for Arkansas. And had a wonderful time. That was where I was born. "Farnam, Nebr."

I'm going to send that D-ration I promised to and haven't yet. Also some may company papers. Tell Susie I haven't forgotten her. I bet she thinks I have.

There are so many women in the army now that when a soldier sees a uniform coming down the street he has to wait till it gets within 20 feet before he knows whether to salute or whistle.

Speaking of shoe rationing, the other night a guy pushed me in a doorway, pulled a gun and said; "Put up your feet."

A somewhat tipsy gentleman boarded a two-story bus in Chicago and sat down near the driver. He talked and talked until the driver tactfully suggested that he go up to the top deck to enjoy the fresh air. The drunk amiably lumbered upstairs. In a few minutes he was back.

"What's the matter," asked the driver, "Didn't you like it up there?"

"Yep, nice view, nice air," amused the drunk, "But it ain't safe – no driver."

The professor of biology was explaining to his class the spawning of fish. "So you see," he concluded, "the female fish deposits her eggs, the male fish comes along and fertilizes them, and later the little fish are hatched."

One of the girls held up her hand. "You mean, Professor, that the father and the mother fish – that they – that before that nothing happens?"

"Nothing," said the professor, "which doubtless explains the expression, 'poor fish'".

Reporter: I've got a perfect news story.

¹⁰ Alvin's brother, George Lampe was in the Navy serving on board the USS Hopkins in the South Pacific. He was at sea for 7-8 months at a time. There was very little incoming and outgoing mail on the ship during these times according to George. Alvin also had a paternal uncle who was named George.

¹¹ Carl joined the Navy October 1943. He discharged June 1946. Served during WWII on an LST (Landing Ship Troops), Motor Machinist, Diesel Division.

Editor: How come? Man bite a dog?

Reporter: No, but a hydrant sprinkled one.

From birth to age 18, a girl needs good parents, from 18 to 35, she needs good looks, from 35 to 55, a woman needs personality. And from 55 on, the old lady needs cash.

All of us boys feel certain we will get married now. We understand there will be a big demand on men after the war.

A father was telling his young son the tale of Robinson Crusoe. "And one day he saw strange foot prints in the sand," the father recited, He was puzzled. For they weren't his footprints. He hadn't seen anybody else on the Island. And this island was far, far away from all other lands. And he said to himself: Whose 'footprints could there be?' The youngster put in: "I know Eleanor Roosevelt's."

Hitler isn't going to bomb Washington. He doesn't want to end the confusion.

The end of a soldier's letter "I love you 24 hours more than I did yesterday."

I hope you haven't heard or read these before. What do you think will happen to this world. Well I must close and write George, Dad, and Uncle George. Do write soon and forgive me if I'm late on my promises.

"I Love you 24 hours more than I did yesterday."

Alvin

X X X

P.S. Add my A.S.N.¹² to my address. Note return address.

October 22, 1943

Dearest Ginny,

Received your letters also, Joyce's and Shirley's. I must have made quite a hit with them. I'll have to drop them a line with your letter. It looks like I might have 3 girlfriends in the same family.

Well Spike and I had it easy today. Boy what nicknames they hang on you girls. Or rather you hang on each other. It's almost as bad as the Army. Mine is "Bosco". I've had it for 3 years. Others are "Baldy, Maw, Dog, M-12, Big Stoop, and Little Stoop, Hoot, Sut, and Holywood," I could go on till I ran out of men because everyone has at least one. We call one boy "Snow Ball" because he has white blonde hair. Mine is a long story.¹³

I've been to Reno #2 several times. In fact I went there 5 Sunday nights in a row to roller skate. There dances used to be a little wild. I bet if you look at the floor in the right spots you can see the imprint of me, or a part of me. The part that follows me. I took some good spills there.

Say how do you kids get to these dances; I thought gas was rationed and I know you couldn't make by mule. You must have a friend who runs a gas station.

I burned my fingers on my left hand when I tried to pick up a Browning Automatic Machine Gun. We had just fired 1000 rounds with each of 8 guns, they got pretty hot. I have 4 blisters to verify that. I and another Sgt. had charge of the range and did we get worked. That's

¹² Army Serial Number

¹³ In the movies there was an ape whose name was Bosco. He could swing from branch to branch in a tree. Alvin could do this also, so he was given the nickname Bosco.

why I didn't answer your letters last night. I laid down on the bed after supper and never woke up till this morning.

I'm on the Co.¹⁴ Touch Football Team. We are undefeated. They get plenty rough even if it is touch.

Monday we were out in the field and that night it got colder than blazes. I was lucky and had my sleeping bag. Some of the boys froze.

Try eating in the dark sometime then you will get an idea of what we go through on these combat problems. I sure hate to have my desert in my stew especially when its applesauce. One night I could see something kicking around in my coffee. It was a grasshopper and he didn't even ruin the taste.

We went into our wools¹⁵ the 15 of October. Now I don't have to scratch. I think they look a lot better. I and a boy friend of mine had our pictures taken but they aren't good enough to send you. I'll have some taken later. Maybe they will be better.

Believe it or not I got 11 letters in four days. I guess everyone wrote at the same time. Boy am I having a time answering them.

Did you hear about the little moron who ---.

Thought "No Kidding" meant birth control ?

Slept with her Army husband's picture for nine months and had paper dolls?

Was feeling low and got his face slapped.

Looked in his history book all day trying to find out who General delivery was.

Took off his knee caps up to see if there was any beer in that joint.

One of my boy's is leaving in the morning for Fort Custer, Michigan. I'm going to collect some money for him payday from a few of his creditors. Fort Custer is where John Hubbard¹⁶ is. You remember him he was with George and I that time. Well I better close I want to get a line off for Shirley and Joyce. Write Soon.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. What does A.P.D.Q. mean.¹⁷

Nashville, Tennessee

November 26, 1943

Dearest Ginny,

I'm all ready for bed and my buddy is writing a letter so I can think of no better time to write. I tried to write several times during the week but each time I had to do something before I could get started.

I received your letter just before we attacked Tuesday morning. We were supposed to destroy or get rid of all things that would identify us to the enemy but I hid your letter till after the problem.

¹⁴ Company C

¹⁵ Winter wool uniforms were called Wools. Tans were for summer wear.

¹⁶ John Hubbard was a friend and neighbor from the west side of Beatrice NE.

¹⁷ Virginia said it has been too many years, she did not remember what A.P.D.Q. meant.

I hope you and “Butch”¹⁸ got to teach this week. In fact I would like to be there. Do you think I would be a good pupil. I could answer that but I won't. Be sure to send me one of your pictures.

Say you girls will have to behave now or the preacher might try and convert you. Maybe you should put up more signs. That “Curve Ahead” sign could be very funny at times. Especially around you and Butch.??

Boy this first problem was a ringdinger. It wasn't so bad except the weather was so blank cold. We always eat after dark and before light. It was so cold and we couldn't have fires that the coffee was always cold. To say nothing of the rest. Oh how I love those old Ham Jam and cheese sandwiches for dinner. They change the position now and then otherwise they are the same.

You can imagine me getting up and dressing in zero weather with no fire. Eating with gloves on. It doesn't take much effort to chew. Your teeth are chattering so all you have to do is shove the grub in.

The 134th has a good reputation already. We had them out maneuvered so much they didn't know where we would come from next. Our Co. was behind the enemy lines for a whole day. We charged one hill 7 times, each time a different way. We were supposed to lose but they called it a draw because they couldn't get their fire power concentrated enough to knock us out.

We were lucky because they called it off a day early. We had our Thanksgiving a day late.

Boy what a meal. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, olives, asparagus, carrot salad, fruit cake, candy, nuts, good hot coffee, cranberry sauce and bread and butter. With a meal like that you forget how you had suffered and are ready to start all over.

In writing by candlelight it is more steady than firelight, besides no work to keep it going. We had all day off so I spent it getting wood and firing up our area so we would be more comfortable through the rest period. In sending a pin that I bought in Rucker but had it packed and couldn't send it before I hope you like it.

Well my buddy is going to bed so I better close; and have a nice dream of a certain girl in Kansas. I won't tell you her name, but her initials are V.W. Bye Bye

Love & Kisses
Alvin

December 10, 1943

Dearest Ginny,

Well if this wasn't a week. It was supposed to have been over Tuesday morning but ended Thursday afternoon. Some General by name of McNorie, ‘Chief of Ground Forces,’ said we should continue the problem. We walked about 45 miles in two days and then attacked. We were doing okay until 40 tanks hit us. That makes once more I died.

When we get wiped out like that we just pull over to the side till the problem is over. It would be alright only it has been raining since Monday and everything is wet. One half of our tent is leaking now.

I never sleep from Monday night till Thursday night and still wasn't tired. My feet sure take a beating wet all the time and sore; it is a good thing they get numb after a few miles.

¹⁸ Butch was a nick name for Evelyn Ebling.

Tuesday night one of the boys counted 417 tanks on this high way. We have been here two days and they go by all day and night. Now they are going back again.

Last night I wanted to write so I went down to a small store close to here to get some candles. They didn't have any but I was there till 11:30 listening to the owner his wife and some other guy singing and playing. They sure were good. I heard every hillbilly song ever written and some that weren't. By the way, the only thing left in the store after the army hit it was snuff and soaps.

It is raining out now and I'm shivering. I'm a little damp in spots.

Oh! Oh! 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 -----

It is leaking on my side. I put my helmet so it would catch most of the water. I was wondering why my leg was cold.

I got your letter last night. Picked it out of all the mail without looking at the address. Is Ceaser still around? Tell Butch and Penelope hello! Boy you don't let them read my letters; do you? If I remember right the second night I saw you I found out that Millie and Irene read each others letter but they thought you were to young.

We move in the morning to our rest camp. We were supposed to today. We tore our tent down and had to put it back up.

Next week we are the Blue Army, up till now we were the Reds. The blues have more men and all the tanks. They are supposed to win. We beat them at every problem so far. Today we heard that the big shot said we were the hottest combat team that hit the maneuver area. That really means a lot to us. Not just the commendation.

Nashville is off limits this weekend. Last week three 35th division soldiers were killed there over a woman. They would have to get killed there and its so close to Christmas. I guess I'll never get my shopping done. Well I'm getting called and its almost supper time so better close.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

X X X

December 24, 1943

My Darling Ginny,

I received your letter and Xmas present. It chased me around all the hospitals, I was at last week and back to my Outfit. I thought it was close enough to Christmas to open so I did. After I told you not to send me anything. It is about the only thing I could use. Honey how could you do it. I didn't even know what I could use myself. I received Shirley's and Joyce's box thank them and I'll tell them a letter is on the way. Also if I ever get to town long enough something else will be on the way. I haven't bought any of my things so don't get mad at me if it is late.

This soldier life is something. After all we go through and still be happy I guess it's the way we are brought up.

Yesterday it was our 3rd anniversary since I've we have been in regular Army. It was very quite; we spent it in moving to our rest camp. We went about 40 miles and never hit a town. I don't even know where I'm at.

We just had supper. It wasn't so bad. I ate some onions and I'll probably get a stomach ache. I bet we have a good Christmas dinner.

They are having a show here I can hear the music. I have half a notion to go but I owe too many letters. I better close now. I'll write again soon to make up for when I was in the hospital. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

January 1, 1944

Dearest Ginny,

Well at last I got to town. The place is packed with soldiers. Most of them are roaming the streets because everything is closed up because of the Holiday.

They sure celebrated the New Year. Mostly by drinking what they could get. Right now I don't feel so good I was up all night. That made three nights I never slept this week.

Oh Yes! I had my fortune told last night. I'm going to get married in 1945. Also we will have two children. On Jan. 19 I'm going to have a change for the good. Something unexpected is going to happen. Also I'm to see my home and you in a couple of months. I'm to have a lot of money soon and the rest of my life I'm to be well off. She told me of my past and most of it was true. In general I'm to happy and have a nice wife. She told me a lot more. All I have to do now is to wait for it to come true. She made one mistake I'm supposed to have two girlfriends one is the one I'm going to marry is very loyal and thinks a lot of me. The other one is going to cause me some trouble. I don't know who this other one could be. Do you think that all of this will come true?

I received your letters they were swell. I tried to write you during the week but we never stayed in one spot long enough.

I'm at the Y.M.C.A. now first waiting for a hour to pass so I can catch a ride back to our Area. Everyone is just sitting around writing talking and some are singing. There must be two hundred boys writing. I'm in the music room where they are playing classical records. It is very soothing on my shattered nerves.

Boy we sure plowed mud this week. Even the roads were ankle deep. Some of the boys had on their overshoes and in some places the water went over the top of them. That was when they stepped in holes. Most of our Co. got knocked out of action I escaped. We only have a couple of weeks left. I wish I could tell you where I'm going but can't. Well I must close. I'll write again soon. I hope you had a happy birthday. I tried to find something for you today but the few stores that were open didn't have much. I'll find something soon.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

January 9, 1944

Dearest Ginny,

I received your last letter yesterday. Here I'm trying to keep all of them answered but haven't succeeded lately. I don't know just what is the matter. What little time I have; I have a hard time using it the way I want to!

It snowed from two to three inches yesterday. Boy what a mess. Everyone has colds from sleeping on the wet ground.

Last week we just walked and it was one of the worst weeks I ever spent in my life. It rained all week and I was wet and didn't get any sleep. It was awful. How we take such stuff and still go on I don't know. The Chaplain said it was given to us for our sins but I know we all didn't deserve that much.

This coming week is the last week of maneuvers. I don't know what we do but it starts Monday morning at 8:00. The following week we go to a camp close to the East Coast. I'll write as soon as I get there. They say it is better than California so it must be heaven. I hope all they say is true. From there I don't know where we'll go.???

Since the maneuvers started a lot of officers of ours have went overseas.

Well I must close now. I'll try and answer sooner and write more. I think of you often.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

The hills of Tenn.

January 11, 1944

Dearest Ginny,

Tonight will be a wonderful night. It couldn't be anything else. It is the last one of the maneuvers. Tomorrow we start getting ready for our move to Camp Forrest¹⁹ and then to North Carolina.

A problem is on now and tanks are passing by going to the front. The big drive is on. It should end tomorrow morning early.

It is getting dark and I hope we stay here for the biggest part of the night. Last night we walked all night.

The Camp we are going to in North Carolina is a good one with a good transportation to most anyplace.

50% of the boys leave from here on furlows. I and the rest will get one soon. They will only be 7 days but that's better than none. Maybe we will get more. I hope so.

Most of the snow is gone, but it is still muddy. It freezes up every night. I sure hope it is nice when I get to go home.

I'll have to close soon because we are going to have supper. I'm purty hungry because we only had a cheese and meat sandwich for dinner. I'll be back in a flash with the hash.

Now I feel fit to carry on. We had a good supper, Roast, Beans, Slaw, Potatoes, rice pudding, coffee and bread. Most of the time while on a problem²⁰ we use paper plates.

Well I better close we will probably move out early. I'll be seeing you soon.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

¹⁹ Tullaohoma, Tennessee

²⁰ The reference to problems would be when the unit was out in the field working on war games, or maneuvers.

Tennessee Maneuvers “Somewhere in Tennessee”

January 16, 1944

My Darling Ginny:

It is a beautiful day and I have nothing to do but sit around and enjoy it. Today is Sunday, the sun is out and I got a letter from you this morning. That alone is enough to make it a swell day.

We are in a wooded area close to Camp Forrest and are going to start for Camp Butner, N.C. early Tuesday morning. It will take us 4 days by truck. I hope it is nice all the way. You can send the letter to my new address now.

Almost all the snow is gone. (“There was two inches here when we arrived.”) And all of our clothing is dry. Through out the wood you can continuously hear axes ringing. It takes a lot of wood to keep 60,000 men warm.

I have a carton of gum I’m going to send you as soon as I can. I know it is rather hard to get in civilian life. We can buy it by the carton out here but at camp we can only get two packages at a time.

When I was at Camp Rucker I started smoking a pipe. Now I have a collection of six pipes. Almost one for each day. I still don’t smoke much but when sitting by the fire in the evening and at night a pipe seems to go good. Seven out of twelve men in my squad smoke pipes. All have started since I did so I must be a big influence to them.

Yesterday we found a bee tree with about ten lb. of honey in it. I got about two lb. and cleaned it. Those hot cakes will sure taste good in the morning. We also bought two lb. of sausage and a half gallon of milk from a farmer close by. Last night we had a feed. We got bread and butter from the kitchen and coffee from “C”+“K” rations.²¹ I know one thing we will all be good bums after this war.

Maybe I should get in touch with this cousin of yours. Maybe she could tell me a lot about you. All true of course! Just what do you know of me? I still can’t figure out how you found out I was feeling so go when I came back from my last furlow? I wonder how the next one will be!!

Did you hear about the moron that took a stepladder to the party because he heard the drinks were on the house? Went through a screen door and strained himself? Wrapped his watch in cellophane to keep the ticks away? Watered his victory garden with whiskey so he could have stewed tomatoes? Thought a mushroom was for lovers only? Ate gunpowder so his hair would grow in bangs? Took a yardstick to bed with him so he could see how long he slept? Took a bale of hay to bed with him to feed his nightmare? Thought he was dying so went into the living room? Jumped off the Empire State Building to show the people he had guts? Was writing a letter slowly because his girl couldn’t read fast?

Well I better close. I must write my sis.

Boy if one barber cut all our hair he could go into the mattress business. I’ve been (wondering) why all the male dogs brisel up to us and the females are so friendly. Until the next letter. Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. I’m going to have some pictures taken at Butner. If they are good I’ll send you one.

²¹ Combat Individual (C-ration and K-rations) were the name of field rations issued during World War II.

January 21, 1944

My Darling Ginny;

Its beautiful here in these Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, The French River comes out of the mountain in the town just below here. The only trouble is I'm back in the hospital. I was on the convoy heading for Camp Butner, which is 26 miles from here. I got a carbuncle²² on the back of my neck. It sure was painful but is a lot better now. I'll be out very soon.

This is an Army Hospital and almost all the patients are from overseas. North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. They sure tell some wild tales. Last night they talked till way after lights out. Some are in purty bad shape. Two in my ward have lost a leg.

I'll have to hurry this because lights go out in a few minutes. You better send my letters to Butner because I'm sure I'm getting out of here soon. They have a lot of pretty nurses and I've seen two shows. More than I seen in two months. Boy did these beds feel good after that hard ground and rocks. And the food! It is fit for a king. Still I'll be glad when I get out. Well there go the lights. They blink them to warn us. Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

Camp Butner, North Carolina

February 8, 1944

Darling Ginny

Its after taps²³ and I just finished packing. Boy this room is a mess, it always is when we pack. We (that is) 11 of us are going to West Virginia early in the morning. My address will remain the same. We are probably coming back here because we are only taking part of our equipment.

Well I did it again. I took the gum in to mail it. Just I and a couple boy friends took in a show. When we left I left the gum in the theater. It was gone when I went back after it. I'll try and get some more. I'm sending a valentine. The smaller ones are for Shirley and Joyce. I hope you will like it.

I tried to find something for you in town but I'm not a good shopper. Besides I want to get you something special.

We are on another course of training when that's over they almost have to send us over. Maybe we will go on Desert Maneuvers. I know we won't.

I was rather bitter because I didn't get my furlow, but now I figure it might be better when it is warmer. There are just a few of us who haven't had one.

Well it is after twelve so I better close. I'll write as soon as I get there. Bye-Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

²² A severe and extensive inflammation of the skin around the hair follicles and surrounding tissues; It is caused by bacterial infection.

²³ Taps meant lights out; go to sleep

February 10, 1944

Darling Ginny

Here I am in West Virginia. About 120 miles from Washington D.C. The only thing is we don't get any passes.

Here it is an hour since I wrote the last paragraph. I'm Sgt. of the Guard²⁴ so that means no sleep. Boy is it cold I'm glad I have on my mountain clothes. We have special clothes, shoes and other equipment. Tomorrow we start to learn mountain climbing.

We had a nice trip up here. A bit cold but the country was very scenic. We bivowacked²⁵ at Lexington, Virginia. Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson are both buried here. Also the military school that General MacArthur went to is there. We all went into town and took in a show. It was raining when we left but it turned to snow. Lucky for us it didn't snow where we stayed for the night. It sure frosted our tents.

Say when are you going to send me your graduation pictures? Soon I hope.

It seems like my mail just gets caught up and I move. We will only be here two weeks then we will join the company at Camp Dawson.²⁶

I think I'll take up yodeling. At one of the rest stops we saw 4 or 5 deer and they seemed purty tame. They also have a ram here that you have to watch. He like to attack you from the rear.

Well I better close. I have to check the guard.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

February 14, 1944

Darling Ginny

Its been a long time since I got a letter, but when it catches up with me I'll be busy answering it. Mail means a lot to us in the services, it is our only contact with home and the ones we love. In the Army they put mail before everything even food. I have a buddy who gets only one letter a week and he writes at least three. He sure complains.

Well this training is getting more dangerous. Several boys have gotten hurt but not too bad. Mostly broken ribs and sprained ankles. I haven't fell yet, that is a bad fall. I hope I don't. We have only had two days of good weather. It is raining out now and is iceie and muddy out. If it is froze out in the morning we won't climb.

I have my camera and have taken a couple pictures and hope to take some more. I don't know how much film I have left.

²⁴ Sergeant of the guard is a non-commissioned officer in charge of and responsible for all that had guard duty. The guards were on duty for 24 hours, pulled a 2 hour duty at a designated place and then would be off four hours. The head person in charge was a sergeant.

²⁵ A bivouac or military tent camp is a semi-permanent facility for lodging an army. These camps were erected when the military force traveled away from major installations for training.

²⁶ Dawson Army Airfield, Kingwood West Virginia

Today they cut the class down to six men groups. The other men who got cut out take up a different training at lower levels. I seen a boy fall 15 yards today and another boy stop him with a rope. He was lucky because they were up about 50 yards.

We use nylon rope so you can see where some of your stockings go. A 120-foot cost \$17.00 and is the best you can get. All this equipment is very expensive and the best. No wonder you folks can't get the thing you are use to having.

They have put up a tent with a radio and tables to write on. I just heard the first news since I got here. We work from 6:00AM to 5:00PM seven days a week. There instructors have only had one Sunday off since July. They do get pass but someone takes there place. There are the best mountain men in the world and are all very serious. Often they take some bad falls. One fell the first time here. He has been climbing 3 years in the Army and all his life otherwise.

Boy is this good. Here it is Feb. the 14th 8:45 and I just remembered it is my birthday. Boy I must be losing my mind. Just think I've spent the last 3 _ years in the Army. About the best in my life. When I think of it I get mad. The other day they gave us a big talk on what we are fighting for. They say it should be for more than just to get home. Well I have a lot of fighting to do but its to get out of this army and get revenge on the person who caused me all this grief.

Some of my buddies just came over. They wrote a letter to the first Sergeant and gave him holy ---- because we haven't gotten any mail yet. Some of the Companies have. They signed all our names.

Well honey I must close I should write another letter but I think I'll go to bed. Here's hoping I'll see you soon. Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

Elkins W.V.

February 25, 1944

My Dearest Ginny

This was quite a day for me, because my mail caught up with me. I received nine letters, 4 from you, 2 from mom, 1 from Millie, 1 from brother Dick, and 1 from brother George. Now I have a good reason to write.

We now back to the Co., which move up here the other day. They are all on a night problem now.

The last two days at school we had a night problem. We hiked 8 miles with mountain equipment and then set up for the attack. That night was the time I ever slept standing up. I had my feet braced against a rock and laid by a fallin log. Boy were my legs tired the next morning. I didn't sleep very well. Also got up too late to eat.

I sure was tired when we got back to our area. Yet I went to town. They wouldn't give us passes so we snuck in. Between three of us we had 87 cents. Just enough to go to the show and buy a sack of popcorn. I have 2 cents left. After dodging M.Ps²⁷ to get in the theater, we ran into

²⁷ Military Police

one inside. Boy did I talk fast. That will be the last time I go 21 miles to town with only 87 cents. Let along 2 others on the same cash.

It is raining out now I hope it stops soon. It rained so much times the stream washed out 4 bridges.

Say you certainly are far luckier. Are they all that they advertise. Or is it just Frankie.²⁸ He isn't such a bad singer but I'll take Bing Crosby any day. By the way how do you swoon.

Thanks for the birthday card.

When I started reading your letter of Feb. 15 I figured, Butch had something to do with it. What you girls won't do when you get together. I always said they were ornerier than boys. How about that? Of course I don't mean soldiers. They are in a class of their own.

The names all sound very well to me. But maybe we had better name them in alphabetical order. It could be much easier to remember them. As for number twenty, we better call her (Finis). It would suit the occasion. Maybe we could work it so we have four sets of quintuplets.

Boy am I having trouble writing this. I've been in every position and still haven't hit the right one.

Well I'm the only one in the whole company that hasn't had a furlow. Tomorrow I'm going to raise holy ---- with someone. They got me up here in the mountains and the rest of them took theirs.

Oh yes I had some picture taken a while back. The Rogues Gallery wouldn't even accept them. I might show them to you when I come home. When are you going to send me your picture?

Well I must close. I'll write again soon. I'm glad you and Butch like the candy. I was hoping it would get there by 14th.

I hope your team wins the tournament. I might even give a yell for them. Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

March 2, 1944

My Dearest Ginny;

I don't know when you will get this letter. I don't have any way of mailing it as yet. We are on a six-day mountain maneuver.

We are away from everything. Not even our kitchen is with us. We have "C," "D," and "K" rations. They are good when you are hungry.

It rained Sunday and Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday it snowed and today the sun came out. At 2:00? The snow is about ten inches deep and hard to travel in. Boy did it get cold. No wonder we have special sleeping bags.

I am writing this by firelight! We have a small fire back in a ravine so the enemy can't see it. It just got dark and soon I'll have to hit the snow. Most of the nights we spend walking or something so we sleep when we can. It's a great life.

It is really beautiful up here. Especially since the snow. It's just like pictures. There are a lot of trails and mountain streams and even a few deer. The bear are holed up for the winter I guess.

²⁸ Frank Sinatra, singer who was popular during the era as was Bing Crosby.

Yesterday while on patrol I fell in the stream and got one leg wet. This morning my pack shoes had a layer of frost on the inside. Boy were they hard to put on. I had a time getting them dry this afternoon.

Well I must close. I wish you were here now. There's a beautiful moon and its almost like day. That moon does something to me. Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

March 28, 1944

My Darling Ginny,

This is just a line to tell you I'm safely on my way. sober. Boy I sure hated to go. I have about an hour to get to the station and catch the train. I'm at "Service Center" on Washington Street. It has nine stories and everything's free.

I had a heck of a time getting to Lincoln. I got stuck in Cortland²⁹ and could catch a ride. I finally hooked the freight train when it came through.

I miss you already whenever I think of it. I feel all empty inside. I try to stop it but can't. Maybe it's a good thing I only get 15 days at a time! I don't think I could last another furlow.

Thanks for everything I wish I could of showed you a better time. The next time (if there is any) will be better. I sure hope you get the school at your terms. Wish I could be one of your pupils.

Tell the kids and mom and dad hello. I have to keep them on my side. I heard that we were going to move soon. I wonder what that means.

The picture will be ready in about three weeks. I'm having mom send yours when she gets them. I hope you like it. I'll send one for your locket soon.

Well Honey I must close I'm traveling on borrowed time now. I think of you always.

With All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

March 30, 1944

My Darling Ginny,

Here I am! Safe and sound, all ready to hit the ball in the morning. Boy what a ball. Now I wish I would have been late a day. We go on a 25-mile hike tomorrow. Now I ask you is that fair. Well anyway I'll be thinking of you every step of the way.

It seems funny to be back. Almost as if I've never gone. I'll always be glad I had those few days with you. Maybe it is true about being like a battery and having to be charged every so often. This time you almost burned the battery up. It will be weeks before I get in good running order.

It looks like you might get to go with Mildred if what I hear is true. I wonder how long George³⁰ will be out there.

²⁹ Towns in Nebraska

³⁰ Mildred's husband, George Gano was in the military in California.

It is 12:30 way after time for lights out. I just took a shower and should be in bed. I just had to write tonight. You should see me. In my red, white, and blue pajamas and my hair going straight up.

Almost every one of the boys have asked me if I got married. I told some yes and some no. That's just to make it more confusing. In a way I wish I would of got home Feb. 29. Just what would you of asked me. The answer would have been yes. I'll try and get home on that day in four years. I wonder if the war will last that long. I should be tired after all that riding but I'm not. I feel awful funny maybe that because I'm writing you. I know one thing I'll be plenty tired tomorrow night. I better close and get some sleep or I'll fall flat on my face tomorrow. I'll see you in my dreams tonight. Bye-Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

April 2, 1944

My Darling Ginny

Here it is Sunday evening and still no letter from you. I have been purty busy since I got back. That twenty-five mile hike was easy. I did get a little tired. And my feet were plenty sore.

Friday was payday but I didn't get paid. I never signed the payroll so got redlined. I'll get paid on the supplementary about the 10th. Friday night our company had a beer bust. Boy it was some party. We had 60 cases of beer. That's over 1200 bottles. Also cheese, crackers, pickles, pretzels, and so forth. Since it was payday there were all kinds of games. Poker and dice, dice and poker. I got to bed at 3 o'clock. I was lucky in this month's stock exchange. I won \$125.00. That's enough to go home on a furlow. I wish I could have another one. I think I'll put that money away and use it for our Convertibles, or hope chest. In fact I've already wired \$100.00 home so I wouldn't lose it back.

Saturday I went to town and had supper at a couple of my boy friends. They have their wives here and rent a house together. One of them has a little boy 8 months old. I hadn't seen his wife for two years. I came back to Camp early because I still had a headache and was plenty tired from the party.

We have had all our clothing checked for the least bit of wear and tear. Almost all of mine is being replaced by new clothing. I wish I knew when and where we are going. We have our own guesses.

I have your picture by my bed. Everyone that comes in looks at it and asks if that is my wife. I blush and act bashful and answer yes. Then they sit down and ask a lot of questions. I tell them quite a line. The only trouble I don't tell any two guys the same story.

Tomorrow I go on the range. I have to fire the M1³¹ then I'm about caught up with my back work. I hope I make expert and I should. Our company has the biggest number of experts in the division, they always have.

I asked the Captain about my 5-day pass. He thought I could get only 3. Herb Bixly (he's my buddy) and I are going to some town on the coast, and go fishing we hope.

³¹ Military riffle

I listened to hit parade last night and Frank. I like the song "Love Love Love." Maybe it's just the spring. I've been humming it ever since I got back. It's getting close to eight o'clock and I better write mom. I want to go to the show "Buffalo Bill" tonight. Write soon.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin
X X X

April 6, 1944

Darling Gin,

I'm on duty now as Charge of Quarters.³² Just got off the range at 5:30 and hit this. I'm glad I got it now so I'll have a free weekend. I have to clean up the Orderly room³³ tonight. You can imagine me with a mop in a half an hour.

I hope you liked your Easter bunny. I made a trip in town to get you something also mom, that's the only thing I could find. I got mom a orchid to wear to church on Easter. I bet she will like it.

They have kept me purty busy and it looks like no let up.

I signed my life away to mom yesterday. I gave her my power of attorney.

Boy we had fun last night. 5 of us played cards. The game was called "schof koph," or something. I never laughed so much for a long time. I'll have to teach you how to play it. Everyone said we were crazy. It could be.

We are going to have a dance next Friday. Just our company. Maybe I'll start learning to dance. We have a good dance band, and the boys have wives.

Well I better close, I sure am tired and that floor isn't getting clean. My face is all chapped and sunburned I guess I'll have to get some Lilly Ponds face cream.³⁴ You don't happen to know anything better. Bye Bye.

Love & Kisses
Alvin
X X X

P.S. A very Happy Easter

April 15, 1944

Darling Gin,

I didn't get that letter wrote that I promised but I've been awful busy.

Well I started this three hours ago but an old friend dropped in and we talked of old times. He just left.

³² Charge of Quarters was a soldier who manned the unit head quarters. It was 24 hour duty. They answered phones, took messages and would contact Senior officers in event of emergency.

³³ Orderly Room was the headquarters for the unit. Contained the office of the commanding officer, 1st. Sergeant and perhaps a desk for the company clerk.

³⁴ Ponds Face Cream; used to clean and moisturize a women's face

Say of all the names you could of used did you have to use Boser. Maybe I should call you Jig. I have a new nickname but I'll never tell you what it is.

Last night we had our company dance. I sure wish you could have been here. It was quite a success. There were 35 girls from, Raleigh, and a lot of the boys brought their wives.

I even danced several times. Boy was that good. I doubt if I'll ever learn. Especially jitterbug. The hall was decorated beautifully. We had green camouflage nets; and real trees and flowers all over the place. The Three Topper Club is going to have a big party soon. We are going to spend \$500.00 so it ought to be good. We are spending all our money so we don't have to turn it in when we go overseas.

Well I was lucky in the stock exchange again today.³⁵ I made a \$145.00 this afternoon. Not bad for 3 hours work. I hope my luck holds out.

I was going to write you last night after the dance but the boys wanted me to play shoph schof, they needed one more. I got to bed at two thirty. When I awoke this morning it was raining. It rained till about ten o'clock. We had two written tests this morning. Both were easy. I thought.

Maybe I shouldn't say this but I hope you don't work in Marysville. I guess maybe I'm jealous. Anyway I hope your folks do talk you out of it.

Fussy Wussy was a Bear. Fussy Wossy had no hair. Fussy Wossy wasn't fussy was he.

Ooly Gooly was a worm. A little worm was he. He crawled up on the waywood track. The twain he didn't see. Ooly gooly .

Honey what does B.B.D.C.Y.K. mean. No one around here can figure it out.

Here it is Sunday morning almost noon. It rained pitchforks and negro babies last night. I had to close the windows and then move my bed because it still came in.

I have a hard week coming up. I have to try for the expert Infantryman's medal. It is a hard course and takes three days to finish it. Wish me luck.

Well I better close. I haven't wrote the folks for over a week. Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

X X X

P.S. That was very cute.

April 19, 1944

Darling Gin,

I received your letter and neglected to answer it last night so I'm trying to get it done now. I just came in from the field with a boy who got hit in the eye with a stick. He is ok now.

They wouldn't let anyone have passes last night because we were to have a big inspection today. We washed all the windows and scrubbed the floor with GI brushes. Everything was spic and span. They called it off. All that work for nothing. Almost. They said the one who had the best barracks would get half of the three-day pass. We were the best.

I am going to try and get one so I can see my brother Carl. He is only 250 miles from here. So wish me luck.

³⁵ Alvin advanced fellow soldiers money until payday when they would pay him back with interest.

I bought me a new pipe and I think it will be the last for a long time. I paid \$15.00 for it. That is far worse than a hat or shoes or anything you might buy and pay that price. I've always wanted one like that so I bought it. I figure someone else paid for it.

Tuesday night I went to town to see about connections so if I got a chance I could see Carl, I ate supper with my boy friends and their wives. It sure was a swell supper. I always think I eat up their weeks supply of groceries. Maybe someday I'll be able to repay them.

I'm glad you liked the bunny. I was afraid that they never sent it. I had them mail it because I can't get off very often when the post office is open. My day runs from six in the morning till five at night and is subject to change at any time.

When you are laying on the bed and he is near just cuddle up with him and pretend he is me. I might be a lot bigger but I bet I'm just as fuzzy with a beard.

My mother says she is going to write you a letter when she sends you my picture. Maybe you can tell me what she has to say. She is sort of like your grandmother. She often wonders about me. Every time I came back from you I told her I was married. It always stopped her in her tracks. She is quite a mommie; always worries after us kids and treats us far too good. I only hope in time I can repay her for all she has done for me.

One of the boys in my room is from Fairbury.³⁶ Whenever anyone comes in and looks at your picture they make marry remarks, such as, What's That! Mm-m-m! From Fairbury huh! He pipes up and says; you see!! That the kind of girls we have at Fairbury. I then go into deep detail and explain that you just had your picture taken there. I do think it is a good compliment though. Don't you?

Today we had some more tests I guess they are sort of like graduation exams. I wonder if we will pass.

After that we had a class on German uniforms. They had several different types, and some of the boys dressed up in them and paraded around. I'm going to try and get my picture taken in one. If I can I'll send you one. The last hour and a half the company played ball. I guess they are getting soft. Letting us play on government time.

While you are reading Western Romances; I'm reading a much more interesting book. One of the boys here has a book called "Eugenic and sex harmony It is very good. It has 563 pages and I hope I learn as much more out of the rest of the book as I have from the first 58 pages. It covers about everything from secrets of sex to how long will you live. If there is anything you want to know just write me. My boy friend and myself are thinking of being "consultants" after reading the book.

Hickory Dickory Dock. Two mice ran up a sock. One stopped at the garter the other was smarter.

A fat lady went into a Drugstore to buy some talcum powder. She asked the bowlegged clerk where she could get some. The clerk replied; walk this way lady. She answered back. If I could walk that way I wouldn't need the powder.

The teacher was having trouble with her pupils playing hooky. So she kept Tony, Hank, and Johnny after school. First she asked Tony what he was doing. He replied. Holding hands with Mary. The teacher said suspended for three weeks. Then she asked Hank what he did. He said; Teacher I was playing Post Office with a girl. The teacher said you are suspended for 6

³⁶ Nebraska

months. Then she asked Johnny the same question. Johnny replied, Oh Lord my school days are over. (After those I think I better quit.) Bye Bye.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin
X X X

P.S. I received your announcement. I'll be there in spirit.

April 24, 1944

My Darling Gin,

This is just a short letter to answer the two I received yesterday and today. They were really nice. One of the boys read what you put in the corner about looking under the stamp. Before I knew what it was all about he had the stamp off. He thought that was awful funny. You calling me Bosco. There were two of them trying to read your letter at the same time I was; I had a heck of a time chasing them away. I guess I'll have to lock the room after this.

Well believe it or not, the impossible happened. I got another three-day pass. It was more or less an emergency because I wanted to see Carl before either he or I moved. We were together from Friday till Sunday; and he's planning on coming down here next weekend. Most of the time we spent in talking.

I had it purty easy today. I can't tell you what we did but we have three days of it. This evening we had a Battalion Retreat Parade.³⁷ It started raining as we headed back to the barracks. It has rained off and on since yesterday.

I got a letter from John; I believe I told you he was married. He is the one who was with George and I when we went roller-skating. He is in Florida and having a purty good time. He guards German prisoners.

I don't know what to do with your letters. I have to get rid of them some way. I guess I'll bundle them up and send them home with a sign. Don't Open Till I Come Home, or Personal Stuff do not Moliste. What do you think. I won't get to read them in my spare moments from now on. I know, Mom, will take care of them for me. I have a box of things at home that is kept locked all the time. Someday I'll read them to you.

It is now 12:15 the lights should have been out an hour and fifteen minutes ago. I better hurry and finish this.

I'm glad you told me what B.B.D.C.Y.K. meant. You should of heard all the things I thought it might mean. None of them ever come close.

I can't figure out what's wrong at home. I haven't gotten a letter from there for over two weeks. I think. I guess maybe they are busy getting that garden in.

I never cleaned my rifle after the rain so it will probably be rusty in the morning. I hope not. I had some oil on it so it couldn't be too bad. Say every time you think your going to flunk some test you get a good grade. Why is that?

I wish I was there too; when you feel like skipping school. Together I think we could really pester a lot of people. I always said two heads are better than one. Well it is awful late and

³⁷ Battalion Retreat Parade was when all units within the Battalion would parade in front of a platform containing high officers, generally a visiting dignitary and local officials. Quite often it was done at the end a specific part of training. Soldiers as a rule hated it as it was a lot of extra work getting ready for the event.

I have to get up in the morning so I better wish you pleasant dreams and may they be of me. Bye Bye.

P.S. Yo! No Comprendo. Te Amo

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

April 27, 1944

My Darling Gin,

Everything is quiet here now. Most of the guys are at the show or in town. I was going to the show but decided not to.

I was going to write last night but I took some of my things in to send home. I stayed for supper again at my buddies. After we talked for some time I came back to Camp.

I stopped at the kitchen and it was two o'clock before I got to bed. I had a couple steak sandwiches and a couple pieces of cake. I guess that's why I didn't eat any breakfast this morning.

From now on I'll have to be awful careful about what I write because they are going to start censoring the mail.

We really cleaned the barracks today. We got a hose and used hot water and GI soap.³⁸ The floors look like new. We even washed the windows again.

I was hoping for a letter from you today but no such luck. I didn't even get one from home. I ought to get one from Carl tomorrow. He is coming to see me this coming weekend.

I'm sending a stamp picture we had taken together. Boy I must have been mad or something. We had several taken some were really funny. It was an automatic machine and we were talking or doing some funny thing when it clicked.

Gosh I'm sleepy. I better hurry up and finish this so I can go to bed.

Tuesday night we sure had a lot of fun. Everyone was throwing. After shave lotion and creams of all kinds away so we collected them all and had a free for all. First we stripped then gave each other a rub down with the creams. I had about a half an inch of cold cream all over me. It was ok until I got some Bay Rum in my eyes. It sure burned for a while. I used so much shampoo my hair stands on end.

Almost everyone is broke here and today a kid paid me back \$25.00 in front of everybody. Since then I haven't had any rest. They all want to borrow some dough.

We were supposed to have a dress review today but it was called off. I sure was glad. They sure have made us parade a lot lately. At least two or more a week.

Well, Gin, I must stop I almost fall asleep each time I stop writing for a moment. So good night, and many happy dreams. Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin
Te Amo
X X X

³⁸ Government issued soap. The GI soap was much harder than most soaps. It was about the size of a pound of lard and was used for hard jobs of cleaning.

New York, New York

May 3, 1944

My Darling Gin,

Boy what a time I've had since I wrote the last letter. I was lucky last night I got to bed at two o'clock. As I told you I can't tell much but it is all right to say that I'm on the East Coast somewhere and expecting to go overseas.

I haven't received any letters from you for sometime. I guess it isn't so long it's just that I look for them or hope I get one every mail call.

The war won't last long now as I'm going over and put a stop to it. Is there any particular thing you want me to do? That is besides come back. At least I hope you do.

Someone is playing a guitar and a mouth harp out in the big room. Now and then someone throws in a few words. They sang for hours on the train. Boy of all the games that were going on. You could hardly get down the aisle. I played (unreadable) and lost two dollars.

Well I did something wrong with this letter already. From now on I can only write on one side of the paper.

My address is on the envelope and might change later on. It won't make any difference, I'll still get my back mail.

I'll be glad when we aren't so busy here. Then I can see a couple shows. The P.X. here is full all the time. I've been trying to get enough blades to last me for some time but can only get six packages at a time. I think that about now you are taking exams. I'm anxious to find out how you came out.

So far I feel ok. They say you get scared when you hit the gangplank. I wonder if I will. Well I must close. Write soon. I can hardly wait for another letter.

Oceans of Love
Alvin

May 5, 1944

My Darling Gin,

I have some free time so will drop you a couple lines. Here is a poem that tells the truth or what I can't write.

I can't say a thing, the war is to blame;
Just write, that I'm well and send you my name.
Can't tell where I am, can't mention the date
Can't even number the meals I ate.
Can't say where I'm going, don't know where I'll land
Can't even inform you just where I stand.
Can't mention the snow flake, not even the rain
All army maneuvers must secret remain
Can't use a flashlight, to guide me by night
Can't smoke a ciggie except out of sight.
Can't keep a diary, for such is a sin;
Can't keep the envelope your letter came in.
Can't say for sure, Dear, these words that I write

Will be passed by the censor, so I'll just say "Good Night."

About everyone here is writing that poem home. There sure is a lot of truth in it.

This morning I washed out some hankies and under clothing the first for a long time. I might as well get used to it because that's the only way it will get clean from now on.

We have been here three days and have had six inspections already. They keep us on the ball. If I'm lucky I'll get one more pass. Might get more but we are too busy.

As yet I haven't heard from you, am anxious to find out how you came out on your exams. I figured you were busy studying and all that stuff.

There is a boy in this outfit from Hollenberg.³⁹ He just came in from another outfit. He knows Mildred and Uncle Bill. He asked me if I was any relation. I've already forgotten his name. I'll find out what it is and let you know the next letter. You or your folks might know him.

I haven't written or heard from Mildred for a long time. Guess I better write her this evening. I'm wondering how she likes married life. I bet she is plenty blue at times. I hope you never get as blue as she does.

Well best I close, let me know if they censor any of my letters. I'd like to know what they cut out. I think of you always.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. When will your address change.

(censored)

May 9, 1944

My Darling Gin,

I received the books and your letters. I got the last ones first. I've read the books and sure like them. The last few days I've read a lot. Too much.

I've tried and tried to get you something but they just don't have anything here for girls. I know money isn't a nice gift but I'm sending it just the same. You can buy you just what you want. Congratulations and the best of luck.

Please let me know if you get the money because it isn't the safest way to send it but the only way I can.

I was down to the P.X. this morning. All I could get was six packages of blades at a time so I made several trips.

We get all the late magazines but they are condensed and don't have advertisements. The *Times* and *Newsweek* are about the size of *Reader's Digest*.

I would like to write more but I must get this censored and mailed. By the way I know what Te Amo means but I didn't get it from a Latin dictionary. I'll write again soon. Bye now.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Amount enclosed is twenty dollars.

³⁹ Hollenberg KS, a small town north west of Hanover.

May 11, 1944

My Darling Gin;

I just wrote you about twelve hours ago; but since then I have received a letter and am on C.Q.⁴⁰ so have a lot of time to write. It is 12:15 and the start of a new day.

I had someone take my C.Q. for a while tonight and had supper at the service Club. I had stuffed green peppers. After that I went to the show. It wasn't too good but had some good music and nice girls.

Some of the boys had all their hair cut off. Boy what a sight. I wonder what I would look like. Some of them must of fell out of the buggy a lot because they sure have a lot of scars on their bean.

No the WAC⁴¹ don't bother me. They are usually on the big side and those that aren't are married. I can say one thing some of them make a man look sick: when it comes to being wild.

You did surprise me with the typed letter. Did you know I could type. I use the Clumbus methods; "Hunt and Land."

I must stop for a minute or so and make bed check.⁴² I'll be back with a flash. Well that's that. Now to continue with the letter.

I'll have to get a picture taken first before I can send you one for the locket. I can't have it taken here.

Do you know! I thought that egg was awful soft. It was broke up or I might of eaten it. I better watch my step you might try poisoning me.

You should see these trains they are electric and go like H___. We rode the last part of the way on one.

It's with peroxide; blondes are made, brunettes are made with dye, but lots of guy make either shade, with rum or gin on rye.

A hick town is a place where there's no place to go that you shouldn't.

Its getting chilly I'll have to get my coat purty soon. We got some sweaters, scarves, and socks from some Church. The sweater would look good on you.

Oh yes they had some cookies before I got there. They were very good.

Say you never did say how good of a cook you were. Are you as good as your mother?

What are you going to do without "Butch" this summer. One thing for sure; you'll have plenty time to write me.

I was going to send you a mothers day present, but thought I had better wait a couple years. At least until after I'm back.

Well honey, I must close. I have to write mom. She is probably worrying her head off. Bye, Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

P.S. I forgot what I was going to say.

(Alvin typed the last two sentences)

⁴⁰ CQ is Charge of Quarters. See April 6, 1944

⁴¹ Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. They later were know as WAC's: started in 1942.

⁴² Bed Check is in the barrachs after taps and lights out. Generally the Sargeant would come through and make certain everyone was in his bunk asleep.

The only guy who'll ever thank you for sticking your nose in his business is the handkerchief manufacturer.

She was just a second-hand dealer's daughter so she didn't allow much on the old sofa.

The High Seas

June 3, 1944

My Darling Gin,

Here it is many days have went by and still I have not wrote one time to you. Now I must make amends. I wrote three air mail letters to Mom, Dad, and Carl. You will get one long before this arrives.

This is new so new that I can write a lot about it and most of it I can't write.

It is the longest trip I've ever taken and boy what feelings. Each night I am rocked to sleep by the ships motion, and one night I almost had to hold myself in. The first three days it was calm and the fourth it made up for the three previous days.

Have you ever rode a roller coaster. Its one of those thriller rides. They have them at Coney Island and many of the big amusement parks. That is what it feels like here; 24 hours a day. I use to pay 15 cents for the same thing and for only five minutes.

Or it feels like you do when you are swinging too high and a little slack comes in the rope. I really enjoy it. And I haven't gotten seasick. A lot of the guys did get sick that fourth day. They sure got teased. One of the boys asked a boy who was letting it go over the rail "if he had a weak stomach." He said heck no. I'm throwing it just as far as the rest of them!!

Of course we are picking up the Navy lingo. They call the toilet, The Head. The kitchen, the scullery. Your bed or bunk, is a sack. They ask us not to call this a boat unless one can lift it. It is a ship. To report is, lay down to. The smoking lamp is out means no smoking. Time goes by bells. The front of the ship is the bow. The rear is the stern. The left side the port side, the right the starboard side. We live in the hole. The alarm is General quarters. In fact it is an entirely new language.

They just ran me out of the 2nd deck head so now I'm in the 3rd deck head for a writing table I'm using a chessboard on the wash basin.

They have shower but the water is salt water. It is okay if it is hot. Cold salt water won't make a lather and boy does it make your hair a mess.

They have taken up our U.S. money and we get foreign currency in exchange. I am purty sure I know where I'm going but I won't be able to let you know till it is safe.

Now they are trying to run me out of here. At night it is the only chance they have of cleaning up.

Last night I nearly froze it was so cold. I got out an extra blanket for tonight.

Usually I can't go right to sleep so I think of all the things a person can imagine. I read till late last night and when I went to bed I felt so happy for some reason. My chest was full and felt like something was trying to get out. I felt so good I laughed out loud.

The night before everyone was restless. I wanted to scream and scare the daylights out of everyone but after thinking it over I decided not to. This is war and I should be serious.

Of all the luck. While at the P.O.E.⁴³ our barracks get quarantine for measles. That kept us from going on pass. (*censored*) New York gets the measles you know who did it.) The city wasn't as nice as Los Angeles. I seen the Empire State Building, Times Square, that's on 42nd and Broadway. Was in most of the nightclubs. They were dead because it wasn't ten o'clock yet. That's when nightlife starts in a big town.

The biggest disappointment I had was not seeing the (*censored*). If we were anywhere near it. They got us on the move at night so I didn't know where I even got on the ship. They had a band there and the Red Cross gave us coffee and doughnuts.

Oh yes I rode on my first subway; boy do they go. We went ten blocks in about 50 seconds.

I'm going to write you both V mail⁴⁴ and letters like this. Tell me which you like best.

These will take longer to get there I'm sure.

I should have a lot of mail if it ever catches up with me. The only letter I got addressed to my new address was from mom. I got it after we were at sea one day. It made me feel good. I only wish I'd got one from you too. Say did mom write you yet? I'll close for tonight see you tomorrow. Bye Bye.

England

It isn't tomorrow but I must add a few lines.

The houses are all of stone even the shingles are slate. They are in blocks and all houses are together like a wall. The roofs are all pointed and have 208 chimneys in a row.

It is very clean even along the railroads and byways. You never see paper or rubbish. The people seem to keep everything neat.

The country is all green and the fields are small with a hedge or wall around each one. After the age of 14 everyone works. They get out of school then.

The kids really like the Yanks as they call them. And the main thing they want is gum. One little girl told me she never seen an apple or orange since Christmas.

The big girls like the Yanks too. There's a catch though. We were told that after a boy went with one three or four times the parents come around and ask when you are going to get married. I understand most of them like to get married for that \$50.00 from Uncle Sam. Some of them are nice looking but not half good as you.

Speaking of you, I am wondering where you are. I know school is out. And I have addressed the last two letters to, Hanover, is that right? Did you get the letter with your graduation present?

The Red Cross are sure good here. Maybe you should join and come to England. It would be okay if you could get attached to their outfit.

⁴³ Port of Embarkation. This was the port where they were loaded on ships and sent overseas.

⁴⁴ According to the National Postal Museum V, or Victory mail, was a valuable tool for the military during World War II. The process, which originated in England, was the microfilming of specially designed letter sheets. Instead of using valuable cargo space to ship whole letters overseas, microfilmed copies were sent in their stead and then "blown up" at an overseas destination before being delivered to military personnel.

I received that long wasted for letter. I have read it so many times it is starting to wear out.

I am expecting another from you tomorrow. Now I must close. I've delayed this a week, I try and not do it again. Bye Bye Honey.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

V Mail

May 28, 1944

Darling Gin,

Here I am miles and miles away. I am sitting on the edge of the bed and trying to think of what to write. As yet I haven't gotten a letter. Some of the boys have gotten airmail letters already. I'm in England I can't say the exact spot but that doesn't make any difference.

Did you get my first letter from here. I wrote it two days ago.

As for England it is quite different from the U.S. The houses are close together. The people are very nice. And they seem to want to get acquainted. They call us all "Yanks." They ration almost everything but one thing they have plenty of, that's children. As there isn't any more room I must close.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

June 3, 1944

Dearest Darling Gin,

I'm happy as can be because I got a letter from thee. I mean three letters in one day. It was like Christmas. And you were Santa Clause. Maybe I'm lonesome or could it be love. Only time will tell; right now he isn't talking.

It is a beautiful day. The kind that makes you feel lazy. It is Saturday and all the people are in town. It is market day. I'm on guard but it gives me an opportunity to see more of the town. I bought some pastry but it wasn't good. It didn't taste anything like ours. One reason is they didn't use sugar.

All I can spend in the Army P.X. (Post Exchange) is 65 cents a week.

And that includes cigarettes. They are only 6 cents a package. It would almost pay me to start smoking them. But I guess I won't. The things downtown are purty high.

That's the way I feel about dancing. I know I can teach you to skate. Do you think you could teach me to dance?

Say with all those gifts it would pay you to flunk out and graduate again next year. I sure wish I was getting out of school or better still just starting.

When I read about you eating ice cream my mouth really waters. I never cared for it when I could get it but now its different. It is against the law to make it in England.

It is almost eleven and I must finish this before they stop censoring mail.

I have a confession to make it is very hard. After all these years that I have thought of only you. She looks very much like you. Her name is, Lucille, I think she likes me a lot. The

only trouble is she is only 13 years old. I don't think the war will last 6 years. (P.S. A year younger than you were) I showed her your picture and she thought it was very nice. Also said Virginia was an old fashioned name. She really is nice.

Well tomorrow is Sunday and I can catch up on my sleep. It is the best day in the Army. And now honey I must stop. Tell me what kind of a souvenir you want from me. With oodles of kisses and hugs bye bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

June 6, 1944

Invasion Day
Darling Gin,

I have just a few minutes to write before the lights go out. It sure seems funny lights out; and outside it is still daylight.

I will always remember this day. Although it is not much different from any other. They sure pulled a good one on the fake report.⁴⁵ I have been wondering if you have gotten any of my letters by now. They usually hold them up for awhile. Well the lights are out but there is enough light coming through the window to finish this.

I bet mom is sure worried. She will have George back soon but I'll be away. She said in her last letter, she received a nice letter from you.

Boy is it hard to write in this position. It certainly doesn't improve my writing.

I went down to the dance last night and watched them swing. I was on M.P. duty or wouldn't of been there. They dance a lot different except for the waltz. I could tell that some of them had danced with "Yanks" by the way they danced. There were about 30 girls to 1 man.

⁴⁵ **According to information from the History Channel: D-Day Deception**

While planning for the invasion the allies also undertook a programme of deception to confuse and deceive the Nazis.

The most obvious area for the D-Day invasion was clearly the Pas de Calais and the allies did everything they could to convince the Nazis that it was in Calais that the real invasion would strike.

The allies developed a series of deception operations aimed at obscuring the true place and time of D-Day. It involved the creation of fake armies, the sending of fictional radio traffic, the delivery of false spy reports and the mounting of elaborate but fabricated security plans.

To divert Hitler's attention from the real troops in training, a fake million man army named the First United States Army Group was created. It functioned as a real unit except for one fact – there were no actual troops.

Tanks, trucks and armour were constructed of inflatable rubber and plywood supplied by a movie studio in order to deceive German reconnaissance planes.

Prior to D-Day, Allied bombing raids were twice as heavy at Calais than at the real landing target. Mine sweepers cleared shipping lanes that would never be used.

On the day of the invasion, allied planes dropped tons of aluminium foil strips called 'chaff' to fool German radar into thinking that an invasion air force was heading in that direction. Rubber dummy paratroopers also floated to the earth further confusing the German troops on the ground and causing German commanders to think twice before reacting to reported landings.

These tactics ensured that even as the Germans saw the armada at Normandy, they didn't believe it was the real invasion, thinking instead it was simply a diversionary raid designed to take German attention away from Calais.

Everything closes up here at ten and at eleven you don't see anyone on the streets even though it is still light.

Now it is 7:20 in the morning I just had breakfast. We even had fried eggs. They came from Iowa. They are a lot better than powder eggs.

Well I must close now honey. The broom just came in and I must sweep. I just received some good news but it is a military secret for awhile. Bye Bye, Honey.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

Yours till the ocean wears rubber pants to keep its bottom dry.

June 10, 1944

Darling Gin,

Honey you are simply wonderful. I don't know what I would do without you. You are the only one I can depend on for a letter. I love you all the more for it.

Here it is again just a few minutes before lights go out. I'll have to hurry to get this wrote. How long was it before you got my first letter from here.

It rained here the last couple of days or rather it was a heavy mist. They call it rain here.

Today is Saturday, we got a partial pay of ten dollars. We have to pay a tax here on all our pay. I know the English money purty good now. It is a lot harder than ours.

We had a bit of excitement here tonight. They had a man at the front and back door catching all men who didn't have passes.

I had a four-hour pass the other night. The first for a long time.

If at anytime I don't write or rather you don't get any mail from me there is a reason for it. They hold our mail up when something big is going on. I'm sending all my letters to you by airmail they should only take about 8 to 12 days.

Your last letter was mailed May 26. Well honey I must close. I'll write again tomorrow. I'll sleep late, because it is Sunday. I promised a boy I would go to a church with him tomorrow afternoon. I hope the church doesn't fall in on me. Bye Bye Honey.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

June 12, 1944

My Darling Gin,

Everything is normal here. I'm awful sleepy and it is almost noon. I never got to sleep till after twelve last night. I had to pester a couple guys for keeping me awake the night before.

We got a card the other day to fill out and sent to Secretary of State. So we will get our war ballots. This will be the first time I've voted; if I get to! I can already tell you who it will be.

I wasn't hungry so I never went to dinner. I miss a good many meals. Maybe it's worry over you.

I know what will happen now. Already the cat had kittens, next the dog will have pup's, then another cat. Each year you have a maternity ward there. I bet Shirley and Joyce like that. When I was little I always had some owls, mice, pups, and one time even a couple snakes.

We have a wireless radio so get some programs from, New York. I heard Jack Benny and several other programs the other night. Well I must close for a while. I have some business to attend to.

Here it is late again, I received your June 2 letter also Shirley's. I just read yours for the third time. When you do your post war planning you better figure me in; about 95% of your time. Will that be all right with you?

I just found out today that our mail has been held up till this last Friday, June 9th. You should get a lot of mail all at once.

I got a letter from George today. He had changed now. Instead of him being in love, he has two girls in love with him. He also had another raise in rank.

Will you send Millie's address? I want to tell here a few things.

Ask Shirley how she spells whooping cough. She told me that the kittens died, she must of hated that.

Honey, here it is time to stop, and I really must if I write more it won't go airmail. I think of you always. When you have nothing important to do think of me. In your next letter send me a kiss one that I won't be able to throw away. "Good Night Sweetheart."

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. My writing is getting worse.

June 19, 1944

My Darling Gin,

Here I am all tired out at the end of a heavy day. I have been quite busy this last week and haven't wrote for some time. Your letter today jarred me enough that I thought I had better not delay another moment.

I see by your letter that you are having rain or had it. It must rain all over the world at the same time. We are still having fits of good and bad weather. The only difference is rain here makes the war last just that much longer. And there with you it ruins the hay.

Boy I know what it is to have those youngsters around. The kids pester us here all the time. It's a good thing they go to school.

Besides I still remember when I was little. I sure was a rascal. Uncle Bill and Caroline said we were into everything.

I wish what you heard about us being engaged were true, then when I think of it using common sense, it wouldn't be fair. The lord only knows what will happen to me. What if I lost an arm or leg or even worse. I know I didn't come over here just for the boat ride. But lets forget about that and think of the future. We will have more fun then maybe we deserve; after the war. Boy my post war plans are awful hazy. I guess I'll have to work. You might look around for some oil or gold back there. I haven't found any here. Maybe they will let me keep my pack and blanket. That would be better than a stick and hankie bundle.⁴⁶

I hope your arm gets better soon. As for me I'm as healthy as ever.

At last we found a truthful guy. He's a Corporal and he wrote his wife thusly; "I received the cookies you baked for me; but I love you just the same."

⁴⁶ He is referring to how Hobos carried their possessions tied in a handkerchief and tied to the end of a stick. They could then carry it by holding the stick with the bundle perched over their shoulder.

And then there was the A.T.C. pilot⁴⁷ who came from the States and bought his girl some Wilkie Stocking ___ guaranteed not to run.

Have you heard from Millie. I bet she's having the time of her life.

Honey I better close. I must write Shirley a page you can give to her. Bye Bye sweetheart, think of me as much as I do of you.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

June 22, 1944

My Darling Gin,

I have a few minutes before dinner so, I'll start a letter. I can finish it later.

It is a very nice day the sun is out. It may shine all day. It is supposed to be England's California here but there isn't much comparison.

We had ice cream the other night. 20 gallons so we had a lot left over. The kids come from all over. The news must of spread fast. If wasn't so bad even if it was made out of powdered milk and eggs. The food here is almost as good as in the states. We get more powdered food. At least we don't have to live on C.D. or K. rations yet.

I received a letter from you yesterday that was mailed before the one I got the day before. It must of come on a slower ship.

When the first Sergeant fell into the lake, he was rescued by a private. He asked how he could reward him, "The best way sir," said the private. "Is to say nothing about it. If the other fellows knew pulled you out, they'd chuck me in."

Papa Stork: I sure had a busy day; 168 babies.

Mama Stork: I had a big day too. I delivered 148 babies.

Kid Stork: Well I didn't do so much today but I sure scared the hell out of a couple of college kids.

An old maid is a yes girl who never had a chance to talk.

Germs or no germs, kissing must be as dangerous as they say; it has certainly put an end to a lot of bachelors.

Oh heart, oh me

I love he

But he loves she

And she ain't me

So me and he

Ain't we, see?

The English girls say we won't have to send over any yanks for the next war. The little ones here will be old enough to fight them. I wonder what they mean by that!

Here it is evening again. Honey, I did it again. I went to the show and now this won't go out till tomorrow. The pictures were good. I even enjoyed Hop-a-Long Cassidy. The other was "The Long Voyage." The only trouble is they smoke in the show. It's almost as bad as a pool hall.

⁴⁷ Air Traffic Control Pilot

Well I have to destroy all your letters. I'll be busy again. I'm going to read them over just once more. Well Honey, I better close so Bye Bye Darlin.

Te Amo⁴⁸ Alvin

June 25, 1944

Darling Gin,

Its Sunday evening and I am all tired out. I was on duty today, I just got my things straightened out from yesterday. I even made my bed.

It rained a little this afternoon. Just got the streets washed.

We sure had a swell dinner. Roast chicken that was really good. But nothing like when I was with you. Can you cook as good as your mother? If you can, don't let anyone know it or you won't be there when I get back.

I see where congress is giving the Infantry Soldier more money. All I hope is we get fight pay. The only thing is I'll have to pay the taxes after this. If I am lucky enough to get back.

Payday is next Saturday. Everybody is waiting for it. I'm not broke but a few boys owe me and I would like to get it back while I can.

I see by the fashions that they are still wearing the same thing in sweaters this year.

Well I must close. Honey. Write as often as you can.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

June 30, 1944

Darling Gin,

Oh I'm sooo tired and I must stay awake. I only got two hours of sleep last night and didn't feel like eating breakfast. This guard just doesn't agree with me.

So you're a school teacher congratulations. Do you think you could teach me anything. I was just thinking if you, got 89 in grammar what would I get. Now that you have nothing to worry about; you can spend the rest of the summer gaining weight!!!!

Boy I've had a busy week. Besides the extra duty I caught. We had to clean and polish everything till it was spotless. We even worked Sunday. Then on Monday General Eisenhower came to visit us also a lot of other high ranking officials that I can't name. We had a parade for him and then he talked to us. I wish you could hear what he said. He is the first four-star general I seen face to face. The day before yesterday it rained all day. We left in the morning and were out in it all day. We really got soaked.

(There is a large section cut out of the letter here. It was censored.)

The wind doesn't make things any better. The buildings are real old even parts of castles or some old buildings are around in some places.

There is a castle just a few miles from here but I can't tell you which one that would tell you where I am. I hope to go through it, but I doubt if I'll get to.

⁴⁸ Virginia said this was Spanish for I Love You.

One of the things here that compare to Coca-Cola in the states is Fish & Chips. There is a shortage of fish so they open only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays. I never miss a day. The chips are french fries and the fish is fried in oil.

I have went to several shows here, almost all of them are American pictures. Even the English people don't like British pictures.

Well Darling, I must close I have to get the driver up and some other men to. And don't worry about nothing to write about. Anything you say is wonderful. Bye Bye, Honey.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Today is payday. It's a good thing they don't have any whisky here. Or I might go out and drown my sorrows. I have a lot of them.

June 30, 1944, Afternoon

Hello Darling

I wrote you a letter this morning but since then I received your June 18 letter. Boy my moral went up a 100%. I even started to sing much to the discomfort of my buddies.

They like the cartoons as much as I did. So they didn't mind my singing so much. They say I'm in love. Of course I don't admit it; but what else makes me react like that when I get a letter from you. Even when I think of you my heart pounds like a sledgehammer. It reminds me of the song, "It Love Love Love." Why do I always want just you after, love.

Say what are the dozens of other reasons you write me. I like the first two best.

I would be a good one to teach you to drive. I haven't drove for ages and not too much before that. I might show you how to park. But you better not learn that until I get back. I would like to teach you to shift gears. Say how would you like to play car. You be the gears and I'll strip you.

We will do everything and go everywhere, fishing, riding, dancing, and roller-skating. I'll bait the hooks.

Ask Velma how her hope chest is. The last time I seen her she was buying something for it at the dime store in Maryville.⁴⁹

It is raining now. It is almost four o'clock. We will be getting off guard soon and paid then. If I'm not too tired I think I'll go to the show tonight.

Please excuse the paper that's all I could find here at the guardhouse. I'll stop and finish later.

Here it is after supper and we have been paid a boy is waiting for me to go to the show. I'm finishing this so it can be censored and go out with tomorrow's mail.

I miss you too, someday this will be over. So until then I can only wish. Bye Bye Honey.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

⁴⁹ Marysville KS , Marshall County. Located east of Hanover; which is in Washington County.

July 2, 1944

Dearest Virginia,

I don't know if you will be able to read this or not. I'm writing it on my knee. I received two V-mail letters from you yesterday.

I'm glad it didn't take that long for your letters. They get here in good time.

Boy I am tired, I never slept much last night and doubt if I'll sleep much tonight.

It has been raining for two days. In fact almost all week off and on.

I'm sending a 10-schilling note and a half-a-penny. You can keep them for souvenirs the bill is equal to 2 dollars and the half-penny is equal to a cent.

The other day while on the oceanfront a seagull made a perfect bombing on one of the fellows I thought I would die laughing.

Say, (can't read) must work you purty hard. Or is it just that you like to work when you don't have to. Anyway that's how I feel.

I borrowed this paper to write and Herb told me to give you his love as payment. That is awful high but sence he can't collect I guess it is all right.

They shut the lights out fifteen minutes ago and I can hardly see so I'll have to close. Bye Bye Honey. I hope your arm gets better soon.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

France V-Mail

July 7, 1944

Darling Virginia,

If my writing is hard to read it is because I'm scared. Boy I'll never forget this fourth of July. They celebrate it everyday here.⁵⁰ In my last letter I said I was sending some English money. Well I forgot to put it in, I'll send it in my next letter. I'll send some French money too. We are somewhere in France as you can tell of my writing. It is very purty here but smells like a hog pen. It has rained every day which isn't good. The fields are small even smaller than they were in England. Here's the end of the paper so I must close. I'll try and write as often as I can. I love you with all my heart.

Love & Kisses

Alvin

June 8, 1944

(Alvin is confused, the postmark on this letter says July)

Darling Gin,

It is 10:30 and just as light as day. It usually stays light till midnight. The sun goes down at 10:00.

⁵⁰ Alvin is near the battle front in France. Our guess is the noise from war sounds like the noise in America when they celebrate the Forth of July; America's independence from England.

Usually evening planes come over as soon as it is dark. They don't come out during the day. Our planes are as thick as flies.

I'm sending the money in this letter. Both French and English. You can tell which is which. When I get to Germany I'll send some more.

The French people hardly pay any attention to us. I guess they have been in too many wars. When we moved in here a woman who wasn't a day under 70 was stacking hay. We can't spend money here. They want matches, cigarettes, and sweets.

To say I'm not scared would be far wrong. Everyone is. After seeing what the country is like I know what they went through and I'll have to. There is always firing going on (we-our troops) are doing most of it.

Well honey in closing you know if anything happens I always loved you. I carry your pictures with me and read your letters over many times so until the next letter.

Bye Bye Honey.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

July 10, 1944

Darling Virginia,

Everything is quiet except for a few shots going off now and then. Just so they don't get any closer.

Boy this weather it rains off and on all the time. We walk all the time so you can understand how much mud I plow.

The French people are friendly and want to talk to us but only a couple can understand French. Most of them wear wooden shoes. That is those that don't have GI shoes. It looks funny seeing a small boy wearing men shoes.

The families are purty well broken up here. You see very few girls from 15 to 20 years of age. I haven't seen any.

I haven't gotten any mail since I left England. I hope it catches up soon. So far I have been lucky in being able to write. It is a job to keep paper dry and the envelopes from sticking.

I'll be able to get a job easy after the war. All I have to say is I was in the Infantry. They will give me a job digging ditches.

I have a big wad of money but can't spend it. It is wearing out just from carrying it.

Well it is getting dark so I better close. Wish me luck because I need all I can get.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

July 11, 1944

Darling Gin,

As I write this you are probably just sitting down to dinner, your Dad is off helping someone thrash. You can think of me as sitting on the edge of my foxhole, waiting for

suppertime, and thinking of you. Boy how I would like to be reaching for another piece of chicken, or even pouring cream in the sugar.

The more I think of this war the less since it makes. The Germans can't possibly win and still they fight on. Hitler has given an order for anyone to shoot their officer if he tries to surrender.

The towns where they stop to fight are blowed to hell. I feel sorry for the French. At the places where they don't fight is just as it was except for K rations cartons and other discarded junk.

The negros here drive trucks and run barrage balloons. One of the men said he couldn't see why he wasn't born a negro. This is all the paper I got so I am writing on both sides.

I had a visitor in my foxhole last night. When I opened my eyes this morning, about five inches in front of my nose was a black and yellow head. Upon farther investigations, it had legs and was shaped like a lizard. He was as scared as I was I guess. It must have been a salamander. I took him and scared some of the other guys. They threwed him away. I'll have to stop now, they just called our platoon for supper.

Well Honey, here it is almost 10 o'clock. I've been to two meetings and did a few other things. Now I'm trying to finish this while some guys are throwing apples at me. I guess they aren't tired yet. I'll tell you all about the outcome of it in my next letter. I've run out of paper so better close. I have been lucky in writing so far. I hope it holds out. Bye Bye, Te Amo.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

(No Date, postmark on the letter was July 16, 1944)⁵¹

Darling Gin,

I received your June 28 and 29 letters the first since I landed in France. I got six the same day. I also received Joyce's. I'll answer it later on. I'm all tired out but didn't want to sleep before dinner so thought I would write you. I am short on paper and envelopes so I'll have to mail this in a German envelope I found in a gas mask. I have plenty of paper in my duffel bag but won't see it for some time. I'm sending three hairnets I found in a letter on a train that our planes shot up. They were for some Krauts girlfriend but he didn't send them soon enough. They were sending home cheese, butter, meat, and every other thing you could think of. They must be short of those things in Germany. We or rather a boy who could read German read some of the letters. They all thought the war would end soon or hoped it would. Also complained about not getting mail. In a letter dated June 4. One said he thought England would never invade.

Gosh I'm sleepy I can hardly hold my eyes open. I'm writing this on a K ration and don't know when I'll get it mailed. I hope you got the money I sent.

⁵¹ This is Alvin's last letter from France. According to Alvin's discharge papers, he was wounded 15 July 1944 - Shrapnel Wound left Elbow, Right Arm & Right Leg.

History says: On 14 July, the 134th Infantry, commanded by Butler B. Miltonberger, received orders to secure the Hill 122. They began their attack early on 15 July, and after taking the fortified farmhouses in the hamlet of Emilie in fierce fighting, reached the upper slopes of Hill 122 by nightfall.

Alvin's story as he told his family was that his group of men were moving from cover to cover in between enemy artillery fire. Artillery would come in intervals. The men would time the count and move to the next point of cover. Someone was distracted causing the count to be off. At this point the men were fired upon killing the two on either side of Alvin and wounding him.

I'm glad you feel that way, it makes me feel a lot better. But I still don't think it would be fair.

Gee honey, you're wonderful, not even the married men get steady mail from their wives. Everytime I'm way down low, I get your letter and in a few minutes I'm singing. I hope you enjoy my letters as much. As for sending me anything, there are a lot of things I would like but I have to carry everything I own and I've been throwing things away now. It takes so long for the package to get here the food would spoil. As for candy and tobacco, the government gives us that. A can of pipe tobacco last me one or two weeks. Thanks anyhow, maybe later on you can do something. Well honey I have to close. I hope you can read this. I think my writing is getting worse. Te Amo.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

England

July 18, 1944

Darling Gin,

Well I'm back in England. I don't know where, but I'm in a hospital. That's another reason I don't want you to send anything. You never know what will disappear next.

You will have to excuse the pencil. I lost my pen also everything else. The Red Cross sure good to us. They give you anything you want. Tell Joyce and Shirley hello. I'll write them when I can. I'll try and write you often. I better close now.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

July 22, 1944

Darling Virginia,

It has been sometime since I've wrote but is purty hard to write here.

I hope everything is all right with you. I'm getting along fine. I don't feel so bad. I know one thing. It's just plain luck that I'm writing you now.

The last two days it has been raining and the weather is very disagreeable. I'm sure glad I'm inside.

Yesterday they gave me the Purple Heart. All I hope now is that I don't get any Oak Leafs. Maybe if things keep popping in Germany, I won't have to go back.

Since I've been here it is the first time I've had anyone give me a bath since I was a baby. How would you like that job. I can shave myself now. That's a relief.

I'll be glad when my mail catches up. It seems as if I never stay in one place long. They just brought my tray. I guess they think I'm a pigeon or something anyway I won't starve.

The sun is out now, I hope it stays out.

Gosh, how I wish I was back home. Even the war seems far away. All I can do is lay and think and then its hard to think of what you want to.

Well honey, I better close. I'll try and write often. Te Amo.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

July 23, 1944

Darling Gin,

Here it is Sunday night and everything is quiet. The men are talking about the front.

I walked to church or rather hobbled. They have a good attendance over here. Guess I'll be a good church goer from now on.

I hope you can make this out. I'm writing on my knee and I can't get this tablet to stand still. A new Medical outfit took over here today and things are running purty smooth.

I dread these nights I have bad dreams and nightmares. I usually wake up with my covers, pillows, and everything on the floor.

I got my money turned back into English money again. I can at least spend a little of it here.

One of the men from my outfit came down to see me tonight. There are several of us here.

I sure wish I was back in the States. I guess it's just this laying around. Maybe later on I'll find something to do. The Red Cross have some things we can make. I bet we are worse than all your pupils and 50 more.

Well here it is time to go to bed. They shut the lights out at 11:00 so good night honey and a million hugs and kisses.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

July 25, 1944

Darling Virginia,

How is my school teacher. Just busy as a bee and thinking of me often, I hope.

I just came from a picture the first for a long time. It was "Follow the Boys." It sure made me home sick. I even had a tear or two.

I can tell you where I was wounded now. I got hit in both arms and my right leg. I couldn't walk for awhile but can hobble around a little now. They are going to operate and take out some shrapnel, in my right leg. My left arm is broke in the elbow and may take some time to get fixed up. All I can do is thank God that I'm alive.

Boy I have a hard time sleeping. Thoughts run through my mind like rain drops into a river. A lot of them are bad such as thinking of the front, then the others are of you, and home, the future, and everything in general.

I wish that I could be with you, I don't know if I can stand this doing nothing for a long time.

Honey, it's hard to put down how you feel on paper. I don't think I'll be an author.

I sure wish my mail would catch up with me. It is much easier to write when you have a letter to answer.

At different times of the day and night you can hear the bombers going over yesterday we counted them and got into the hundreds.

I suppose you and everyone else are hoping the same as me. That Germany will crack. It's too bad they didn't get Hitler.

You asked if I was a Democrat or Republican. It looks like we are going to have a few arguments on that matter. I agree with you that Dewey should be President but not until the next term. Four years won't ruin him and Roosevelt is doing too good a job now; just to kick him out.

Besides he can't lose. There are 11 million of us in the service who will vote for him. That ought to get a little argument from you. How would you like to make a little bet on the election?

Well it's after supper and I've been writing this off and on all afternoon. So you can guess the time I'm having.

Now I better close. I'll dream of you tonight. Wish me luck and maybe I can be home soon. So until then, I love you and adore you. Bye now.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

July 28, 1944

Darling Gin;

Here I am back in bed again, I'm writing on a mirror with my knee cocked up. Its not the best but I can write.

They worked on me yesterday and I've been in pain ever since. It feels a lot better now. I had to have a couple shots so I could sleep last night.

It rained all day yesterday. The sun was up today. That's the way the weather goes; good and bad.

The Russians are sure going to town, and I see by today's papers where we broke through the German's lines. Things ought to happen soon.

I bought me a pen it's not the best but writes. I consider I'm lucky to get one over here.

Gosh I feel weak and tired. I only wish I could sleep.

I just read the "Stars & Stripes," the army paper. All this Limey paper tells about is their gains. I'll send you a couple of the papers.

Well honey, I better close, I'm about all wrote out. I'll write again tomorrow. Bye Sweetheart.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

July 29, 1944

Hello Darling,

How's my precious today. I feel much better in fact I think I'll live. The doctor was in and said there's still a lot of work to do yet. My elbow was purty well busted up.

I was just going to say it was a very nice day, but looked out the window and see it is raining. Oh yes the sun is still shining.

This pen doesn't like to write with me laying down and every once in a while it stops feeding ink.

A boy in this ward wanted a pass. They wouldn't give it to him so he went anyway. He had a girl here in a town close by. He was gone three days and then came back.

You will have to excuse the writing. I'm having a heck of a time chasing this tablet around.

I sure miss your letters. I ought to get a bunch of them any day now.

I hope you are getting more beautiful everyday. I should say I know you are. I bet all the kids are enjoying school with their new teacher. Best I close. Bye Honey.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

August 3, 1944

Darling Gin,

Evening and it is very warm. It started out cloudy but turned out to be a beautiful day.

I walked to the theater this afternoon to see a English Red Cross show. It was very good. They had a band and some good singers. I got my shoes today so will be able to go to some of the shows they have here.

My leg hardly bothers me now.

A new unit took over here. They will probably be working on me again soon. I can't seem to write my mind is wandering. This outfit just came from the states. They are a lot stricter, but will get over it after they have been here awhile. They ought to go to France for awhile.

One kid got twelve letters yesterday. I ought to be getting mine soon. Have my letters been getting through to you. I have wondered if they hold our mail up.

I can even wash myself now. I miss my daily bath from the nurse. If you were here I would remain helpless anyway when I'm with you. Just like putty or clay. I wish you were squeezing me now. I better close now, so Bye Bye.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

August 6, 1944

Hello Darling,

How are you? As blue as I. It is Sunday and a really swell day. I went to Church this morning and for a walk in the woods this afternoon. The rest of the time I laid in bed and listened to records of all the old bands. "Tommy Dorsey", Glen Miller, and many others.

Last night I went to a show. I had seen it before but enjoyed it anyway.

They gave me a pair of shoes so now I can get some exercise. At least I'm tired at night. All we wear is pajamas and a robe. It has M.D. U.S.A. on the jacket. I found out that it stands for "Many Die, You Shall Also."

GI Philosophy: When a girl is as cool as a cucumber it's a cinch she's not green.

Here's the Jap new song.

O, Waresi boats, O waresi boats

What's happened to our navy

Our Army's hiding to - Wouldn't you.

A generation ago the girls never thought of doing the things they do nowadays. That's why they didn't do them.

God made women without a sense of humor so they could love men instead of laugh at them.

I'm sending a part of our article from the Yank magazine. It is one of the many things that gets a guy when he's up there.

My fighting days are over for a long time.

We can hardly wait till 6:30 each evening. We get our paper "The Stars and Stripes" which gives a true account of what's going on, and all the fronts, home to.

Well Honey, I better close. I miss you a lot and am waiting for your letters. Bye Gin,

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Te Amo. Always.

August 12, 1944

Darling Gin,

I received your August 2 letter yesterday. The first mail for a long time. It is the first that I knew of your car. I feel sorry for the corn crib. Just because there's a war on don't think you are driving a tank.

I also got back my first letter I wrote you from here. It had the wrong address on it. I can't write on an envelope because I can't hold it still so I have someone else address my letters.

I'm sending a bracelet made of English money I hope you like it. I also have another one coming in a week or so I'll send it too when it comes.

I also got a letter from, mom, she sure is worried. I guess, Carl is going to sea too.

My outfit got high praise for the fighting they did. They paid for it!

I think I'll be different if I live through this which I am sure I will. You won't be able to tell it. It will be all on the inside.

Gee, honey, I've been wishing for a long time and its so hard. What bothers me is what I'll do when I get back. I know what I would like to do but everything is so uncertain.

I'm sending the letter that came back. I sure must have been dopepy those first few days. I know. I lost a couple days. I think they gave me a blood transfusion.

Oh yes, these nurses and I don't get along. These new one's are to GI,⁵² I guess it's because I won't do what they want me to.

And if you love me don't join, The Wac's,⁵³ nurse or any other services. I think they just got in to get a man. It is the only way they could. There's nothing as crazy as a soldier away from home.

I lost my heart also my everything. I lost it on my last furlow, on a couch in the dining room. Remember; I poured the cream in the sugar. Tell me how red was my face? I'll be more careful from now on. But still I'll love you.

Now honey, I must close. I wish both you and the grainery good luck. Also, the Lord. Bye Honey. Te Amo.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

⁵² Government Issue

⁵³ Women's Army Corp

U.S. Army Hospital

August 14, 1944

My darling Virginia-

I just finished writing Mom and Dad, and have a little time before lights out so I will start this letter to you.

This weather has been swell these past couple days. Maybe it was just hearing from you. Anyway I sure feel better.

We have a radio in the ward now; it goes on the first thing in the morning and is on till lights out.

I am getting better everyday. My right arm and leg are almost healed. But it will be 4 or 5 months before my left one get better. Maybe more; or less.

I just asked a nurse for some sweet things to say. She says first say same the thing only twist it around!

We have a colored boy in this ward and he is sure a comedian. Boy does he tell some stories. I even believe they are true; he couldn't think them up.

He just put his feet on the ceiling and had his hands on the bed. When he tried to get down he almost broke his neck. Oh yes he hasn't been across. In fact there isn't anything wrong with him.

Well I have to close for tonight. Bye honey. I'll finish tomorrow morning.

I just finished dinner so thought I had better finish writing you because they are going to change casts and then I wont be able to write for awhile.

We are going to have a picture in the ward this afternoon; "Melody Inn". I hope I get to see it.

The picture was swell they ought to have more.

How time flies here; it is time for lights out so I must close. I'll dream of you tonight.

Bye Gin

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

August 17, 1944

Darling Virginia

Oh happy day. Three letters from you; all in one day. I also got Shirley's and Joyces, to make it even better. Two from home from Dick and Ruby. I ought to get shot more often, maybe the whole family would write.

Say you ought to take out insurance before you start driving too much. Joyce says the road turns when you turn and sometimes it don't.

I wish they would make up their mind. One Doc says I might go back to the states. The other says no. I'll probably end up going home by way of Tokyo.

What do you think of the second invasion? We have been wondering when it would take place. At night we try and think what the next allied moves will be. Haven't missed one yet. They ought to make us Generals.

If you really want to know what goes on up there. Just read Ernie Pyles column. Maybe it isn't the same as in our paper. I'll send you a couple "Stars and Stripes". I sent the bracelet today. We have to mail our packages through the Red Cross. Did you ever get the hair nets I sent?

Does Delmar still go with Darlene?⁵⁴

No I am not a Democrat. Nor am I a Republican. If either I would be the former. Now I am a soldier of World War II and a Liberal. If the war ends before the election & I think Dewey can fulfill his promises. I'll vote for him. But the war won't be over by then. Our President will still be F.D.R. You make the bet.

Will send Mildreds address again. I lost it I guess.

Oh how my mouth watered. Watermelon!! Eat some for me.

Tell me why did you name the car Daphne? You take care of Alvin, tell him I said to stop biting. Say does he look like me?

I sure liked Shirleys letter. I showed it to the Red Cross lady and she sure laughed.

Honey I must stop or I'll have to use to envelopes. Beside I cant use up all I can write tonight until tomorrow. Bye Darling

All my Love and Kissed
Alvin

P.S. The cartoons were swell.

(Clippings from a newspaper in this letter; Straight From the Front by Ernie Pyle⁵⁵)

August 17, 1944

My darling Virginia

Gee honey your all I could ask for. I got 26 letters today and 11 were from you! Some from my Aunt Mil were two months old. I read mail all afternoon. I'll have job now answering them.

You will have to excuse the stationary. England is short of paper.

I heard the Hit Parade today the first for quiet spell. I ought t keep all your letters an put them in book form. "The Life of Virginia Wilkinson". Then in our old age we could look back and see what you did on July 9, 1944

. Wouldn't that be great?

Now honey, I have to end another letter. I'll write you again tomorrow. I close sending all my love and a million kisses. I am still wishing.

Love and Kisses
Alvin

⁵⁴ Darlene Zabotriska's family lived neighbors to the Virginia's family.

⁵⁵ Ernie Pyle was a war correspondent during World War II. He wrote from the perspective of the common soldier. His wartime writings are preserved in three books, *Brave Men*, *Here is Your War*, and *Ernie Pyle in England*.

August 19, 1944

Darling Gin

Received you Aug. 11 letter today. It doesn't take so long in most cases.

It started to rain last night and just stopped. Rain is hard on those that are still fighting. A bunch of the boys went back and we got some more in. I just heard that one of my best friends got killed. That sure hurt me. I'll see that someone gets there when I back in there.

Do you remember the last letter I wrote you in England. I was on my way to France only I couldn't tell you. Do they cut very much out of my letters? You never did say. That is only that I would have to tell you what I said.

I'm sending you some of Ernie Pyle columns. Maybe you have read them. Or maybe you won't get them.

I thought school started in August or am I right. They are going to have a picture but I've seen it.

Yes I like classic music, even opera. They have a lot of it on the radio here. Why did you ask?

I got a letter from John. His wife is going to his camp. He sure is lucky. That reminds me I have to answer his letter. So honey I better close. I'll ask him to give me the low down on married life. Bye darling

All my Love and Kisses

Alvin

(More Erinie Pyle clippings from the Stars & Stripes newspaper)

August 21, 1944

Darling Virginia,

Its so cold I started to put down Oct. instead of August. They even gave us an extra blanket. I hope that will be enough. We have no fire here but all I need is look at the pinups on the wall and I keep warm. No I didn't put them up. I am in the Rec. Room.

I went to the show (Standing Room Only) last night and really liked it.

They took the bandages off my right arm today. It looks pretty good. Didn't hardly leave a scar.

I stayed in bed till ten o'clock this morning. I finally got up when the nurse threatened to role me out of bed. I'm suppose to get up at six so they can make my bed. I might have to tomorrow.

Bing Crosby is on the radio now. Also he is on Jack Bennys program. Its good to hear those old U.S. programs. Sometimes we get a Nazi propaganda program. Boy do they pour it on.

Some of the boys here are going to the States by plane. Sure wish I was.

They sure a going to town in France. And without me. Maybe I can convince them they don't need me anymore. With that, Darling I better close.

All my Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. I.L.Y.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Virginia said this meant "I Love You!"

August 23, 1944

Darling Virginia,

How is my one and only? Say you should have me there to help can peaches. I would probably eat more than you get canned. I have helped canned many times. In fact I have an aunt who thinks I'm very good at it.

Boy did my mouth water, chicken and roasted ears. We have fairly good food. It's a good thing I like beets because hardly a day goes by that we don't have them. Creamed, pickled, buttered and grated. They must ship all the beets over that they raise in the U.S.

I don't eat breakfast anymore. Its never worth it.

It was a swell day. The weather here is as bad as in Nebraska. The only difference it doesn't snow in the same day. One good thing it has not been to hot. It has been very warm.

Say from the way the French are receiving the Yanks, (according to the news reel) I should be over there. They greet them with flowers and kisses. Maybe I could learn something from them. After all the French are famous for their love making!! Did I tell you I was half French. Who knows maybe somewhere in me is some of that old heritage.

I'm waiting to see what you think of institution. What is it like school or P.T.A. meeting.

I bet Shirley and Joyce are waiting for me to write. Tell them I'll write tomorrow or as soon as I can. That is a bad alibi because I have more time than I know what to do with.

As soon as I finish your letter I'm going to a show, Apple Blossom Blues. It must be a old picture with a new name.

I got a letter from Dad. He went fishing and caught 17 trout. He sure like Oregon.

Well darling I better close. I think of you always.

All my Love and Kisses

Alvin

August 25, 1944

My Darling Gin;

I'm sitting at the same writing desk. The one I always write on. I come here a lot, not only to write but to read, think, and dream. Yes dream; of home, you, the future, the past, and the present.

I guess they call this a day room. There's a radio, a lot of books, desks and chairs. Some of those overstuffed chairs that you like to sink down in and read or smoke. On the walls are pin up girls, a picture of Roosevelt, Stalin, King of England, and Churchill. It has two very large windows but they are blacked out at night. They even have curtains. Oh yes a stove sets in the middle of the room, it doesn't work; because they built a fire in it and smoked the room up on one of those cold days. Right now there are eleven of us here. Six writing and five reading. There's a guy at a table next to me who writes a little, then looks off into space. Tugs on his pipe and writes some more. I just suck the end of my pen and wonder why I'm writing all this.

As you get better they move you to other wards. The colored boy left this morning. I'll have no one to pester and tease. I'm still in the same ward, will be for some time. It takes a long time for a bone to heal. Especially a leg or elbow.

Glad you had a good time at Reno.⁵⁷ I am a little jealous but who wouldn't be. I wonder if Reno is the same as when I used to go there.

You won't have to tell me what a W.A.C. is. I know. I mean I heard.

You say you're gaining weight, can I still get my arm around you? No it couldn't be that bad. I'm losing weight. Only my left arm about all is left is skin and bone. That's on account of the cast.

Honey I'm afraid I won't be able to get the other bracelet. They could only get a few and they were gone before she got to our ward. Hope you liked the one I sent.

As it always happens you have to end a letter. It's hard to end it right so I'll close as I do most of the time. Saying I love you, Bye Darling!

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Excuse the paper, this is all I could buy.

X X X

August 28, 1944

My Darling Gin,

I don't know what's the matter. First I feel good then bad. Now it's bad. I'm about ready to blow my top at this outfit. But why should I burden you with my troubles. They just last for a short time.

I ran out of ink and had to fill it. Hope you didn't miss me while I was gone.

I almost got to go to states but not now. I'm getting well too fast. It would have been swell. I would of got a 30 day furlow and then when I got better they probably would of sent me to South Pacific or some place worse.

I tell you I'm really in the dumps. Maybe your next letter will cheer me up. I hope so honey.

I went to the show tonight. It was "Winter Time." I seen it before but still enjoyed it. Bing Crosby is over here. I hope I get to see him in a U.S.O. show.

They are having a dance here that is the Hospital Unit. The patients don't get such breaks. Maybe it's because they aren't able to dance.

Has George went over yet. I bet Mille hates to see him go. That's the way things go. It's a cruel world.

Darling I must close. Have to write Grandma, I'll tell her I'm in love and will take you to see her someday. She lives in California now. That will be all the better. Good night my darling.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

(Dec. 18 I can't even read my own writing.)

⁵⁷ A town in Nebraska. They went there to dances and roller skate.

September 3, 1944

Darling Gin,

I received your letter yesterday. Also one from brother George. I was going to answer them right away but my chance for a pass came so I took it. But never again. At least not till my arm gets better. I layed awake till 5 this morning. Guess I wasn't used to being up so much. My legs are sore too. I had a good time I went to the show and then visited some pubs. Their beer is awful. I missed the last bus and had to walk back. Another boy from Beatrice was with me.

I've had an awful time writing lately. In fact I'm way behind. Guess it's just laziness.

George is home on leave. I sure was surprised. He wrote from there. I hope he went to see you. I've mentioned you to him quite often. I only wish I could of seen him. I guess he has to go back. I wish he didn't.

I can see where you will do a lot of reading. At least till the new supply of books are read. I've done a lot of reading since I've been here.

I got a letter from Bill and Caroline.⁵⁸ They didn't have much to say. Said she saw you in town. She sure misses Mildred.

Things sure look good here on the front. They ought to be in Germany by the time you get this. I think they are already. The Germans are sure catching h___. I get news from our outfit now and then. They are really going to town. I heard some good news about it but won't tell you till I find out if it is true. Also some bad. You can hear about it if you read the Beatrice paper.

They were going to send me to that illiterate school but thought I was too dumb to learn anything. I can't blame them, do you?

I seen the funniest picture today. It was, "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek." Maybe you have seen it. I didn't get to see the first so that made it all the worse.

This morning planes went over all the time. Something big must of happened. It's been raining a lot again lately.

And now, honey, that I've mentioned the weather I better close. Good luck with your teaching and may all the kids be as ornery as I was. Bye honey.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

September 6, 1944

Darling Gin,

There's not much to write but here goes anyway. It was a rather nice day. The sun was out also a little windy. I was inside all the time so it didn't bother me.

I started making a rug for you. And am I having a time. I have a couple other guys helping me but they have only one hand too. That is one hand they can use. If it's good I'll send it, if not! well! It's not really a rug. You can use it for a doily or pillow case or most anything.

I got a letter from mom today, it was late because it had the wrong address. She is sure worried about me. I guess it's all the write up's we had in the paper. Probably all propaganda.

⁵⁸ Alvin's paternal uncle. Millie's parents

I'm gaining back the weight I lost. I would just as soon not gain it back. Must be the food and no exercise.

I still can't address an envelope but I think my writing is getting better not much but just a little. Very little!!

When is the fair going to be and where? I wish I could be there. We (boys) used to go to all the fairs around Beatrice. I used to play bingo a lot trying to win a blanket. I never did. But spent enough to buy a dozen blankets. Don't ask me why I wanted a blanket! Although it is a good idea.

The politicians are sure trying to please the soldiers. They are even talking of letting some out after Germany is defeated. I'll probably end up in the Pacific; I always wanted to travel but not in that manner. Besides it costs too much in the long run. Now I better close so bye honey.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

September 7, 1944

My Darling Gin,

Well how is the world treating you? I received a letter from you today. It was a later date than the one yesterday but I still enjoyed it.

I just finished taking a bath. The water wasn't too hot but I took one anyhow. I feel fresh as a daisy now. I wonder how fresh a daisy feels.

It is just starting to sprinkle again. It seems to be raining all over the world at the same time. It is dark now. Gets darker earlier every night. They tell me the days in England in the winter are very short. That just makes the nights longer. Which would be alright if you were here.

We have a new night nurse. In fact I think I told you that in last night's letter. She is a blonde. Not bad but she will have to go some to beat you. Maybe you should send some of your work here and I could do it for you. It would take a long time coming and going. But school lasts nine months. I finished the rug this afternoon, it looks nice. Even if I do say so myself. It is three shades of Brown. The only colors I could get that matched. I will send it as soon as I can. I hope you like it. It usually takes longer to make one but I worked late last night; or rather we did. My one-armed friends and I.

Darling it looks like I'll be in the army a long time yet. That demobilization phase just means we are in till Japan is beaten. I need a lot more points. If we were married and had three boys! That would make quite a few points! That's a heck of a reason to get married for. I think so anyway. I'll just have to wait. It won't be ten years (I hope) anyway.

There's an awful lot of married men in my ward. You should hear us argue about who should get out first. The married or the single.

One thing about this hospital life, I haven't spent much money. Only about fifteen dollars in two months. Most of that foolishly. I still haven't got paid since we've been here but should get my full pay the tenth of this month.

I have to write George so I better stop. You never said what he had to say. After Nadine and Genive don't you think boys are best??? Honey, wish real hard. I am doing all I can. Bye Gin!

All My Love & Kisses,

Alvin

P.S. We had chicken for supper. Also spinach.

September 8, 1944

Darling Gin,

Here it is another day gone by, and I'm writing as usual at night. I received your August 28 letter this afternoon. I almost expect one everyday. I sure hope!

Today was a funny day, that is the weather was. It rained with the sun shining and rained hard too. Then was nice, then cloudy.

I read most of the day. I pushed a buddy down to the Red Cross building in a wheelchair this afternoon. He was shot through both legs by a German machine gun. He's from Texas. That was my exercise for the day; which was enough.

You are a girl who wants to do a lot of things. You would never like working in a Café. This summer you wanted to work at Marysville. How come you didn't? Not that I wanted you to. It's hard to find work you like. I never did find any.

What you need at school is a good man. Meaning me of course. I could make you dozens of bulletin boards. And many other things. I'll help you do the six months tests. Let me know when you need me and I'll come running.

That doesn't seem like very many letters. I bet it would take me a long time to write them over. Letters are wonderful but they will never take the place of the real thing. I've written more letters since I've been here at the hospital than any place.

If I came to Kansas to get well it would be wonderful. Especially with you as my nurse. Private of course! The only thing wrong I would get well too soon. Besides when you got through with me I wouldn't be any good to the Army.

Now I'm alone again. The last two boys just left. I had one address the envelope.

I just lit my pipe. There's nothing like a good pipe of tobacco to end the night. You watch the smoke curl away and think of the past and your girl. It makes you moody. When I smoke is the only time I think of settling down. Sometime I'll let you try it. Or have you already tried it?

Well darling, I must close. I want to write Millie. I haven't wrote her for ages. Thanks for sending her address again. Good Night, honey.

All My Love & Kisses,

Alvin

P.S. I wonder if what a fortune teller says is true? Remember?

September 12, 1944

Darling Gin,

I received your letter today; also the flowers and picture. The flowers were very nice. I couldn't figure out what you meant when you said you were sending some flowers.

We are even now because I have not written for three days either. I had one of those bad spells. I was mad at the world. Now I'm over it I think. It stopped when I got a letter from some buddies still in France. The way the letter was written sure cheered me up. Only one boy is left in my original squad of 12.

Also heard some purty bad news. There were eleven of my buddies from Beatrice killed and 24 wounded. That's only from home. I know of many more than that. Only two of the eleven were single (meaning not married).

My wounds are all healed but my left elbow is purty bad. The bone is broke right at the joint and will take a long time to get so I can use it. It is possible they might have to operate again. I can't use the fingers yet.

Boy I have been lucky in getting letters lately. At least one everyday. I have them well evened out so I get them all week long. That is except Sunday. There's no mail that day. Almost all my relation write. You would think I have a lot of money or something. In my last letter from mom it just dawned on her that six months is a long time and I must be hurt bad. She can figure out more reasons to worry than any person I know.

I sure feel good tonight. I just took a bath before I started to write. I usually take one in the morning.

That soup sounds like mulligan stew. As we kids used to call it. We used to all bring some vegetables and cook them up. We always went down in the woods. I guess that was what made it good.

Say the perfume went from the flowers to the paper. The flowers smell like alfalfa which is a purty good smell anyway. The picture was swell now I'm looking forward to getting the others.

I finally got the other bracelet. I'll send it and the rug as soon as I can. I was offered two and a half (pounds) for the rug. That's ten dollars. But I promised it to you. I'll make more when my arm gets better.

The electoral college will vote the way the soldiers want. Besides Dewy say the Army of Occupation will be volunteers, that means there will be none if he has his way. Also that the U.S. has been in a depression that last 7 years because of the new deal. If they were depression years there what were the years from 32 to 36. Roosevelt took his office then. Let's have Dewy for President in 48. Let him get more experience at Governor of N.Y.

Here's the bet! If Dewy is elected?? The first chance we get, we'll have a big party (just us two). And I'll pay all the expenses. If Roosevelt wins it; you foot the bill. Is that fair enough. I could think of better ones but that ought to be good enough.

I can understand why (can't read, maybe Calvin Tegethoff) left. I understand there's a shortage of men in the States. But his sister. She must of joined the W.A.C.s.

This letter is running into pages. This will have to be the last one. I have four others to write and I'm afraid I won't get them done tonight.

I think I like, or would sooner have both arms around you too. Oh yes! Don't send me anything for Christmas. Not that I don't want anything. But I don't think I'll be here very long. That is at this hospital. I'll let you know later on. And while we are on the subject. What do you want, and don't say me. You already have that. I looked in the Post Exchange Catalog and all they have is perfume, dolls, and candy. Now I really must close. Bye honey.

All My Love & Kisses,

Alvin

P.S. I'm not a democrat; Nor am I a republican. Even if you wouldn't talk you'd write wouldn't you.

September 13, 1944

Hello Darling,

Its getting dark and I'll probably be run out of here before I finish this. I got an old letter from Joyce also some back letters from Bill and Caroline. My luck is still holding out.

I sent the rug and bracelet. Let me know when you get it. Wish I could of given it to you personally. Well they ran me out now I'm at another place. I'll have to finish this soon.

The more I look at the flowers the more I like them. How did you think of sending them? I just wrote Millie, I bet she will be surprised. She must be having a good time.

I went to a U.S.O. show this afternoon. It sure was good. They had a couple movie stars. I sure wish Bing Crosby would come here, but no such luck.

I also seen a hospital friend who is going to the states. He sure is lucky. That is in going to States. His arm is broke purty bad. From the U.S. he goes to Hawaii where he lives. He is in the same Division as I am.

Well Darling, I can't seem to think of anything else to write so I better close. I think I can sleep tonight. It's the first time I've been tired for a long time. Good night honey, I love you more than I can say. See you as soon as I can.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

September 18, 1944

Darling Gin,

I received your letter and second picture. I could see Alvin very well but there was no resemblance.

I have been transferred to another hospital. The change of address is on the envelope. That's why I haven't wrote for several days. I didn't know how long I would be here. It isn't so far from the other hospital.

We are still having good weather which means we will have some bad soon.

I tried to get a pass for today but no soap. They said I had to be here a week first. There are two boys here that I met at the other place. One of them and I are going to town as soon as we can. Most of the patients are worse here. A lot of them can't get out of bed.

If a felt manufacturer gets his felt twice a week.

A leather dealer gets a hide every Tuesday.

An ice box gets a fresh piece every morning.

A street car conductor will take on any manner for a dime.

The boss has to get into his stenographer drawers to get lead in his pencils.

Then why in the hell should a doctor charge \$3.00 for coming once.

Say how old is that boy. He has the right idea. After all a watermelon is larger than an apple. Doesn't he feel lost with all the girls. He will be spoiled by the end of the school term.

Yesterday as you probably heard over the radio. They dropped men in Holland, a lot of the planes went over here. I sure hope this ends soon.

I got a letter from Carl. He says he feels bad because both George an I were in it and he's still in the states. He doesn't know how lucky he is. We thought he was coming over for a while.

Now I must close I'll try and write a longer letter tomorrow. Bye honey!

All my love & Kisses
Alvin

September 21, 1944

Darling Gin,

I am getting worse in writing to you. They don't have the places to write here like they had at the other hospital.

All I do is read; and go to what shows they have. Today I seen a English U.S.O. show. It was fairly good.

I and a friend of mine are going to town Sat. We were going the other day but I couldn't go. I want to get some souvenirs from here if I can.

Was going to take a bath tonight but the water was cold. Guess I'll have to get up earlier in the morning.

The mail man hasn't been good to me lately. No letters and no pictures. School must be keeping you busy. I wish I had a good reason. Say what am I saying I got a letter from you the day before yesterday.

Today we caught bees and fed them to spiders, by throwing them into their webs. Then we put three bees and three spiders in a jar to see who would win. The bees won. The army sure had made me cruel. Don't you think? Mostly we did it to pass the time. Oh Yes! I have a pet mouse. One of the boys caught it. The nurse said if I wanted to keep it I had to feed it. The other won't even come in the ward.

Well honey I have to close. They are passing out the sleeping pills. I have been sleeping better but not much. Bye darling!

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

P.S. Dewey is sure losing votes on his tour. Heard he was in Nebraska.

September 24, 1944

Darling Gin,

I'm so tired. It feels good to be tired again. Usually I'm just bored. I went to town yesterday that's why I'm tired. There wasn't much to do so I went to Shaw had tea a couple different places and had a couple beers I mean bitters. I missed the last bus so had to walk back to the hospital. It rained all the way. I had just got in the ward when it poured down.

A bunch moved out at 4 this morning so I didn't get any too much rest. This afternoon, I seen an old picture. The Andrew Sisters were in it.

Honey, I'm so tired I can't even think of anything to write. In fact, these last two weeks are corkers. All I do is lay around and read. At the other hospital I would go for a walk or most anything. Besides I knew everyone there. There is another reason but I can't tell you now. Maybe in another week I'll let you know.

They are talking of operating on my arm again. I just wonder how many more it will be. I can't complain. At least I have your letters to cheer me up. I think one would help now. I think there is one at the Post Office but today is Sunday.

Tomorrow we are having turkey for dinner. I'll probably eat too much. One thing I can't complain about is the food.

I listen to all the good radio programs and they make me lonesome for you. I always listen to the Hit Parade and wish I was with you. I hear Glen Miller everyday. Now I better close. Bye Honey. I love you.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

September 25, 1944

Darling Gin,

Is it not awful. How could I do such a thing. I can hardly wait for a letter from Grandma. I am the one who is embarrassed. Its just a good thing it wasn't of my boy friends. Then every one would have been embarrassed. I wonder what I wrote grandma? Nothing bad I hope. At least you never said anything about it.

I received the two pictures. The last one was the best. Joyce and Shirley look like you in the picture.

Tell me what are you going to do with the grapes? Maybe wine or jelly. I could just see your mother making wine.

If you think your writing is bad how about this scribbling. I think I'll have to make a habit of reading my writing over. I found out I leave words out now and then.

There are three boys in my ward that were captured by Germans. They are badly wounded. One of them knows a boy who is; or was in my company.

The patients sure kid the nurses about not getting a man. (as you say) They don't like the English girls. One of the nurses is married, boy do they tease her. She says she is in the thirties so they all say thirty-nine.

The mouse we had died. But we have a spider in one of the windows. We feed it flies. I and another boy have all the spiders outside fat. We feed them bees and daddy longlegs.

We had that turkey for supper. As usual I ate too much. We also had boiled potatoes, (with chives) turkey gravy, (two got all the livers and gizzards out of it) carrots, cranberries, apple sauce, bread, jam, and coffee. No wonder I have gained weight. The trouble is I never stay down.

I haven't had clothes on but twice in two months. All I ware is pajamas and a jacket. Lately I tie my laces but that's because I run around more.

Honey, ***** CUT OUT PARAGRAPH*****

I censored that myself. It was something that was worrying me.

Please write more of those long letters. I like the short ones too. But! You Know!

I better close now and write Jean. She has probably told all my relatives already. Bye Sweetheart. I send a million kisses.

All my Love and Kisses
Alvin

September 26, 1944

Hello Darling,

I got another letter from you today. The trouble is it's the one where you promised to write a long letter the next day. I got the long letter yesterday. Well anyway I got both of them.

Nothing much happened today. I met a boy I knew from Beatrice he's a 1st Luit. He is in hosp. here. I was going through the L's to see if I had any mail. His name is Legate. It was good to see someone from home. That makes two I met here at the hospital. Guess this world isn't so big.

()My pipe first went out so I paused to light it. Do you like a pipe. Sometimes I think I'll stop smoking but then I don't.

This afternoon I went to the show. It was (Anthony Advere) and I liked it. I thumbed a ride over and rode in a English truck. The steering wheel is on the right side. I still think we are on the wrong side of the road.

You certainly are busy if you have to do chores after school. I wish I was there to help. I'm able to do some work although I don't go out of my way to do it here.

Don't send me any X-mas gifts here. I am moving again. It would take till next X-mas to catch up. I'll send my next address as soon as I get there.

Now I better close honey. I haven't written dad or mom for sometime. About all I write anymore is you. I hope your float wins at the fair. Those kids ought to make good Indians. Bye honey.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

P.S. My pipe's out again.

(Looks like someone wrote something in blue ink at this spot and it was torn out leaving a hole in the paper)

P.S. I blame the censor for the mix up.

September 29, 1944

My darling Gin,

Boy time sure flies. I have been in the hospital for 2 and a half months. It sure doesn't seem that long.

I received a letter from you today and I see your still working hard. I am to, only it's to stay out of work. Yesterday I got a letter from dad and one from brother Dick. Dad said I could get a job out there (Oregon) for a dollar an hour. To bad I am in the army.

I had a swell time last night. I or rather two boys and I went out for dinner. They found a place where we could get steak or most anything else to eat. It was a quaint English home. Had two fine places & old English furniture. It was more like a den. Old guns and curtains on the walls. The steak was good to. I want to go back again if I get a chance.

Tomorrow I am going to that big town I told you of in my last letter.

I didn't feel so good this morning. Guess it was the weather. It was cloudy and cold.

You will have to take care of Jimmy and Nadine in your own way. I am afraid that you wouldn't agree with my suggestions. It is just a good thing I am not Jimmy, then you would need a lot of suggestions.

The fortuneteller must have been wrong about the other girl. She was wrong when she said I wouldn't get hurt. (As we know now). You are my only girl. So, honey I wouldn't worry if I was you.

The only people I get letters from other than my relatives are you and Leila.⁵⁹ And she doesn't count. She has only wrote since I got hurt. She is a good skater. Someday you will meet her (I should say know) if I ever get home. While I hope it will be soon.

I signed three payrolls so I ought to get paid this month. In one I'll be red-lined.

I met a guy with your last name but he was from Florida. Also he didn't know you.

I made two bracelets; one today and one yesterday. When I get a good one I'll send it to you. They don't have any more materials right now.

Darling, I should close but don't think that I have time to write anyone else anyway. I know it for sure the lights are going out now. So bye honey.

All my Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. The only thing I hold out on to you! Its telling you how much I love you and think of you.

Xxx

October 1, 1944

Darling Gin,

No letter today!

Well I went on pass but didn't do much. Just seen the sights. It rained too. I went to a museum and seen some famous paintings and art. It was more of a private museum. We were only there a few hours so didn't have much time. Went down to the beach then it started to rain.

Boy are some of the prices high there. We seen some fruit in the windows and went in to price it. One peach cost \$.10. I wish I had a couple bushels. I sell them and retire. And grapes. They were worse. Only \$5.00 a bunch. What gets me they even get that for them. I wasn't very hungry after that.

Tell me what do you think of this paper. I ran out and got this from the Red Cross. It looks more like poster paper to me.

I seen a movie this afternoon. It was "High Stepping" or something. Frankie was in it. Wasn't bad. I think I'll go to bed early tonight. They wouldn't let me sleep this morning. First I'm going to take a hot shower; that is if the water is hot.

Bing Crosby sang for our outfit according to the paper. Wish I could have been there. Just for the show though. I hate the thought of going back to the front. I don't have to worry for a long time yet. In fact I doubt if I'll ever see father land again.

Oh yes! My hair is long enough that it lays down now. At least it tries hard. I'll never get a G.I. again. Maybe the reason it won't lay down is because; I'm still scared.

There's not much paper left so I better close. I never did get those other letters wrote last night. I don't think I will tonight. Bye Gin.

All My Love and Kisses,

Alvin

P.S. Can't even write my own name.

⁵⁹ Leila Broadstone was a girl from Alvin's home town of Beatrice NE. She and his brother George were married September 14, 1947

October 3, 1944

My Darling Gin,

The mail man was good to me today. I received six letters, one this morning and five this afternoon. Two from you, one from John, and one from a cousin in Michigan.⁶⁰ I have to answer all of them so I'm starting to write before supper.

Thanks for the picture you look like you were having a good time, and I think they are very good.

If you can take the loop the loop you would not get sea sick. The only difference you only go half way around but it lasts a little longer. From seven to fifteen days is all. I hope I go home by plane and not boat.

John is in Ft. Lewis in Washington. He should get another furlow soon. I sure would like to see him.

I was looking at the world map and I see where I'm only 4000 miles from Beatrice, now if I had a jet propelled plane. I could make it in seven hours. I could take a three day pass and spend two days with you. Wouldn't that be wonderful. From Nebraska we could go anywhere in the states in two and a half hours. Its something to think about anyway.

Maybe your Indian, said the judges. Also they probably gave you the ball but because they thought you needed protection. Don't ever use it on me. A rollin pin would be bad enough. Say how could Robert sit still long enough to be in a parade?

If I were you I'd give Aunt Maggie,⁶¹ a scare. Just to see what she would do. No I guess that wouldn't be a good idea. More bad would come of it than good.

Say I think your mom sees the doctor more than I do and I'm in the hospital.

Honey, I'm sorry I didn't write more letters there for a while I just couldn't get one started. But I have been writing more these last two weeks so by the time you get this one you will know. The only things that happen around here I can't write of.

That German was right about K rations. But some of those I seen didn't even have saw dust.

I'll have to stop for chow. Be back soon.

Here I am again. We had roast beef. Wasn't such a bad supper.

I don't know what George wants but have a good idea. He hasn't wrote me since he was home. Mom says he had a good time. I ought to get a letter anyday now, from him.

What makes you so sure I'm not a wolf! All men are wolves but it is more prominent in some. Maybe it hasn't showed up in me yet.

I made a bracelet for you today. I can't promise you just when you will get it. I hope its soon.

Ruby wants to know just what you meant by "Cream and Sugar spells?" Just what did you write mom anyway!

Whatever it was she didn't tell me. She did say she doesn't want me to marry any English or French girl. And she's French.

⁶⁰ John may have been Alvin's childhood friend John Hubbard. The cousin would be Alvin's maternal Aunt Vivian's daughter. Betty Goucher. Vivian's nick name was Bud.

⁶¹ Virginia's paternal Aunt Maggie Wilkinson Ferguson

Well, darling, I do have to close. If I don't answer these letters I'll have more than just you and mom wondering why I don't write. Bye honey, I think of you everyday and dream of you at night.

All My Love and Kisses,
Alvin

October 4, 1944

Darling Gin,

Bur-r-r its c-o-l-d. The fire man in the Red Cross isn't very good.

I received a letter from you today but it was the Sept. 12 letter and I got 13th and 22nd letters yesterday. Guess the mail man slipped up on that one. Just so he doesn't make a habit of it. If he does I hope the same doesn't happen on your end of the line.

I have to see a dog about a sand pile. I'll be back in a flash. Right now I have to dash.

It wont take long. Did it. No wonder it was cold the door was open.

I got up early this morning (by request), but went back to bed and slept till noon. I still have trouble sleeping at night.

Its to bad the twins died. You could of named one Alvin, the other Bosco. If you did they probably ran away too!

We had chicken for supper tonight. Lately we have had it twice a week. Guess the government thinks theres to many hens laying eggs. I don't complain though.

I see by the paper where the flying overcoats to the boys over there. All they had to keep them warm was (Cognac) Whiskey. I still wouldn't want to be in there shoes. A lot of them will never see their homes and loved ones again. I still have a good chance.

Darling I think of you so much it gives me illusions. Maybe your why I don't sleep. "I'll Be Seeing You" is my favorite song too. Bye Gin.

All My Love and Kisses,
Alvin

October 5, 1944

My darling Virginia,

I have time for a few lines before bed time. I got a letter from you today. It was mailed September 27. Only took eight days to get here.

The Point Lookout News sure has all the local news. Uncle Bill selling out was really news to me. I think he is making a mistake. Do I have to wait for the next edition to get the answers to the quizzes.

It has been awful cold here for a couple days. I hope it warms up tomorrow. I am going on pass again. I don't know just where but it will be a different town.

Even if you did use paper dishes, you'll still have the pans. I always thought pans were worse than dishes. You will either have to have a maid or eat out.

Now just what is the meaning of motivate lessons. I never took Normal training and I cant find a dictionary.

I went to a "English Stage Play" this afternoon. It was really good. I don't even remember the name. But it was about three couples being married 25 years and then finding out they were illegally married. Boy what a mix up.

I don't know what is wrong with my writing, its even worse than usual. I know one thing my arm sure aches. It must be this cold damp weather. I'll have a borometer with me for the rest of my life.

Well, Gin, I better close. I want to take a hot bath and try and chase a cold away. I wont get to write tomorrow, but I'll write an extra long letter the next day. Bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

October 7, 1944

Dear Virginia,

Say, I must have you on my mind. That was suppose to be the Dear Geo. & Helen.⁶² Will since I have started to write you I better finish. Also start out as I feel toward you.

My Darling Virginia,

Now that's much better. I received two letters from you today. The one with Dewey's campain clipping and the other a wild rose. It smelled wild too. Was it the last rose of summer. Say after smelling it again it does have a pleasant odor. I'll have to send you some poppies.

I went to town as I said I was. And had a fair time. I went to the show "Song of Bernadetta" and had to leave before the picture was over. I bought some pictures Post Cards also a cigarette lighter. I bought the lighter for a souvenir. The last bus left early so we stopped at small town close to hospital had fish and chips, visited a couple of pubs and came back to camp. And I'm still tired.

Today was cold and windy. I read this morning reading and went to show this afternoon.

We had steak and fried onions for supper. I was so hungry I even ate the onions. I heard one soldier say they must of made the cow swim the Atlantic, his piece was so tough. My piece was tender.

I'll send you F.D.R answer in tomorrows letter. On second thought I put them in this letter. Because tomorrow is Sunday, I doubt it will go out. Now I better close and write Geo. and Helen. Bye Honey

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

P.S. 1 I'll at least be able to help myself on this bet and you cant. I can vote! You cant.

P.S.2 I am laughing up my sleeves

P.S. 3 You better start saving your money for the cause. Cause your going to lose.

⁶² Alvin's paternal Uncle George and wife Helen.

October 8, 1944

Darling Gin,

Its about 9:00 and I'm not much in the mood to write but here it goes. Not much has happened since I wrote last night. Sunday is always a quiet day.

I spent the day reading and building up your idea of Dewey for Pres. It was a complete failure. As these clippings will show you.

Its too bad Wilkie died. I think he would have supported F.D.R. A timely death at that. (That's enough of that if not too much.) **There are political newspaper clippings in this letter.*

We had chicken for supper. Boy did I do myself justice. I ate a whole chicken. It was served half a chicken at a time. A buddy didn't want his, so I couldn't let it go to waste! Could I? All I can say is its good thing they don't have chicken everyday. Amen.

I wonder if I'll feel like those boys in the morale clipping.

**newspaper clipping of servicemen adjusting to life after the war with unfaithful wives etc.*

I suppose that's just one of those things that happens during a war. I'm glad that your not that way.

I must of ate to much. I told you I didn't feel like writing. I hope you will forgive this writing. I can hardly make it out myself.

I forgot to tell you that while in town, I priced a British car (just for fun.) One was \$2450 another \$1200, just a little high I think. That was prices of course. But they were not very good cars. Guess I'll walk!

Well honey, I better close. I'm tired and its almost bed time. Bye, I love you; even if you do want Dewey. Just so I have you. I'll even vote for you.

All My Love and Kissed
Alvin

October 9, 1944

Hello Darling,

I'm listening to the series game so I don't know just what the results of this letter will be.

I got a letter from mom today. She sent some clippings of what happened to some my buddies. One of the boys who was here with me has been back and wounded again.

I also got a letter from grandma. She says I write a very good letter to my girl.⁶³ Also she was very surprised. She wanted me to come over to California after the war. Should we? I have always wanted to go out there after its over.

Well today was the big day. "Election Day" for us here at this hospital. Just think my first time to vote and it was in England. I bet I'll never forget it.

It looks bad for the Browns. Card are ahead three to one. I hope Browns win this one. Then the series will be tied up. I had to stop, the Browns had a chance but retired.⁶⁴

Here comes the cups for our mighty fruit juice, coco, eggnog. It must be 9:00, 3:00 at Point Lookout.⁶⁵ How are your pupils?

⁶³ Alvin got his letters mixed up and sent the one for his Grandma Brouillette to Virginia and the for Virginia to his mother.

⁶⁴ World Series between St. Louis Browns and the Cardinals.

I wonder what we will talk about tonight after lights go out. Last night it was women, the night before we fought the war. The night before that it was the negros. We will have to start over purty soon.

Hey there must be something wrong. We got bean soup instead of juice. Its good too.

Ghosh, I mean gosh I wish I was with you. When I see you again it will probably be cold. I hope not. Remember how we shivered the last time I was home. Where will I stay if Uncle Bills move.⁶⁵ You better talk them out of it. I want to see a lot of you before I go to the South Pacific. If I go and I still have a possibility if my arm get okay.

Honey I better close. I'm having a heck of a time trying to write and listen to the radio too. I should answer moms & Grams letter but I'm too tired. Bye Darling

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

October 10, 1944

Darling Gin,

Here I am again. Not much to write. So this will be short. I haven't gotten a letter for two days from you.

I went for a walk this morning. Not very far just through a woods and through a couple of fields. I talked to a farmer who was eating his morning tea. It is more like a lunch. He was spreading fertilizer. Potassium something or other. On the way back I ran into a swarm of bees. They didn't bother me so I guess I'm not so sweet.

I wish you could see the thatched roofs they have on a lot of the farm buildings. Also on some of their houses

This afternoon I went to the show "Destination Tokyo". I thought I had seen it but didn't. The rest of the time I read a detective magazine MURDER stories.

We had grapefruit juice tonight. Yum, Yum. I think they put some lemon powder in it. Well I better close. I'll write more tomorrow. Te'ano

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

(Enclosed in this letter is a flower that is pressed between paper)

October 11, 1944

My Darling Gin,

I haven't much time to write because lights are out already. I'm in the drying room standing up. So don't blame me if you cant read this.

Boy did it ever rain today. I think it's the worse I've seen since I've been here. Then after it stopped raining the wind blew. I could hardly walk against it.

I slept this morning. Almost slept through dinner.

⁶⁵ Point Lookout was the school Virginia was teaching at. It was several miles south west of their farm.

⁶⁶ Alvin's paternal Uncle Bill was selling and moving off the farm. They lived about a mile from the Wilkinson's farm at this time.

This afternoon I worked a jigsaw puzzle. I was having a heck of a time with it until I found out I had the wrong puzzle for the picture on the box.

I went to the Red Cross tonight to see a show but it was too late. I came back to the ward and played poker. The first I've played in ages. I lost two shillings (forty cents) which isn't so bad. Was ahead about five bucks for a while.

Those were poppies I send in my last letter. Were they in one piece?

I never got a letter from you today or anyone else. I have wrote you everyday except last Friday when I was on pass. Its sure hard to write everyday. I'm going on pass this Friday if I can.

This life is getting me down. I feel like getting drunk or something. If you were here I think I would. I'm afraid to think of what would happen if you were here. It wouldn't be bad either.

Now, darling I must close. See you soon I hope. I love you way down deep. Keep wishing. Bye.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

October 13, 1944

, Friday the 13th

Darling Gin,

I wanted to write you last night but the hit parade was on so you know how that is.

I received you October 2nd letter yesterday. I can't understand why you haven't got more letters from me. I cant remember of ever writing less than two a week. Please don't bite you nails, it isn't lady like.

Oh and talking of biting finger nails reminds me of a book I just finished. "Skin & Bones" by Thorne Smith. I read several of his books. They are somewhat different, also a little morbid. At least you wouldn't read them at Sunday school.

Tell Shirley I would like to be there so I could do her arithmetic. But I would sooner help you with your problems. Our problems I should say.

Boy was I homesick last night. It was the music on the radio. In fact the whole ward was. When you hear those old songs you think of the good times you were having there. You also day dream of those you hope to have. We have!

I better hurry this up if I want it to go out this morning.

I had to wash some windows this morning. So if this letter smells like vinegar you know what is wrong.

The sun is just coming up so this ought to be a good day. It rained all yesterday.

Bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

October 14, 1944

My Darling Virginia,

How's every thing with you? I'm feeling better then I have the last couple days. The only thing wrong I didn't get a letter from you for three days. I'm the one who is going to chew finger nails.

I meant to write last night but went to see a buddy in another hospital and stayed longer than I attended to.

It has been raining most of the time. And I really mean really raining. Yesterday I went to the post office and had to stay all afternoon it rained so hard. I didn't care to get wet. Especially when all I had on was pajamas and a robe.

This morning I went down to the Red Cross for a while. If I have time, I'm going to make one of those pillow cases or rugs for mom. At least I'll be doing something.

A friend and I went to the cinema (show) this afternoon. We had a heck of a time getting a ride but finally got one. The show was "The Lodger". It was purty good. There were also a couple of shorts. When the show was over it was raining. No bus, no ambulances, no nothing. We waited for an hour. Then a taxi came for some civilians. We talked him into taking us to our hospital. Otherwise I might still be there.

They wont let us have passes any more so I don't know what I'll do. I asked for one and didn't get it so that made me mad. I still haven't got over it.

Tomorrow is Sunday. I think I'll go for a walk. That is if the weather man lets us.

This week I have wrote only you and mom. Everyone else will be wondering whats wrong with me. I better write dad tonight.

I sure have been doing a lot of thinking. I wonder just how I'll come out of all this. The future seems so uncertain. Whenever I think of it, you get mixed up in it. They say dreams come true if you make them come true. Most of mine are daydreams. I sure set some huge tasks for myself. I better close now, honey, and drop dad a line. Bye.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

Camp Edwards, Mass.⁶⁷

October 26, 1944

Hello Darling,

Well at last I'm in the good old U.S.A. and that saying a lot. I've had more to eat in this twenty four hours than I had all the time I was over there. I mean candy, ice cream, cake, and milk.

I hope you not mad at me for not writing those last eight days. I hope to see you soon. I won't be here except for only four days, then I go to some Gen. Hosp. close to home or any other one I want to go to. The closest one to home is at Topeka. That's also closer to you. Maybe you wont want me around as a cripple.

⁶⁷ Camp Edwards, Massachusetts

I wouldn't send any mail to this address because I won't be here long enough but I'll send you an address as soon as I get to where I'm going. They will have a lot of work to do on me. I have hope of getting the use of my arm yet.

I can get a short pass here so a buddy and I are going out. He was stationed here once. I'm at Camp Edwards, Mass. just a few miles from Dalmouth and next to Buzzards Bay. Now darling, I better close. I have to write Paw and brothers. They probably wonder what is wrong with me. Bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

Topeka, KS

October 31 1944

Darling Gin,

Here I am just seventy or so miles from you and ten days ago it was thousands of miles. I arrived here at Winter⁶⁸ yesterday evening a six o'clock and left Camp Edwards at eight thirty. We come by plane and only stopped once. It was a nice ride. Far better than if it would have been by train. I was at Edwards only four days.

I hope I get to see you soon. There is a teachers convention here at Topeka but I'm afraid the letter won't reach you in time so if you did come you could come and see me. I think I'll send you a wire.

I hope to get a pass soon. Maybe furlow? Anyway I'll get home I hope.

I'll probably be here for six months. If they can fix me up I'll stay in the army if not I'll get a discharge. Which do you want?

A friend of mine is here but he is home on furlow now. He was in Co "C"⁶⁹ and was wounded the same day as I. There will probably be more of them coming here.

I had so much to write now. I can't think of a thing. Maybe by the time I see you I'll think of them again.

As for the weather. It sure is nice out. It was raining when we left England and I'll bet it still is.

I am going to call mom tonight. I sent her a wire this afternoon.

My address is on the envelope. I think it is right.

I better close so this goes out with the three o'clock mail.

And honey, if you come to Teachers Convention be sure to come see me.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

P.S.

If you can't come out right away call me. I'm in ward A-5 Winter Gen.

⁶⁸ Winter General Hospital in Topeka, Ks.

⁶⁹ Alvin served with Company C, 134 Infantry 35th Division. There was a picture of Alvin and six other Beatrice NE boys were wounded and all ended up being patients at Winter General Hospital in Topeka at the same time. They were S/Sgt. Alvin Lampe, S/Sgt. Virgil O. West, S/Sgt. John D. Liedtke, and PFC. Herbert D. Schidler; all who grew up on the "west side of Beatrice" and have been buddies since pre-school days. Also there from Beatrice was Pvt. Thomas D. Gerdes and Pfc. Raymond Glasgow.

November 3, 1944

Darling Gin,

I received your letter today. Or rather your two letters. I was hopping you would be here for the convention but I'll see you soon anyway.

The doctor here said I would get a twenty-one day furlow soon, also that I would get away before November 9th. They are going to have some big brass here to look us over.

I think mom will here Saturday. Virgils wife and folks are coming. Virg is a boy friend you meet him before long.

I'm having a heck of a time getting any clothes to fit me. I'm having a blouse and trousers altered now. The blouse still won't fit.

I didn't think you would get the letter so I wired. I see my mistakes now. It will be difficult getting a letter a day old. Yours was mailed yesterday at 2 pm and I got it today at three. I wonder when my back mail will arrive.

They just ran me out of the Red Cross. I'm in the ward now. They have something going on everyday. I've been here four days and seen three shows. The Topeka Army Air Base Band played here tonight.

Zazu Pitts⁷⁰ was in the hosp. today. She invited most of the wards. I don't like her she a republican. What am I saying.

They had tickets for a teacher dance for those who are able to dance. I guess you will have to teach me, teacher.

Where is Millie's, George? I wrote her but never did get a letter.

This is my last sheet of paper. Remind me to get some more tomorrow.

Are Mills folks going to sell out or does the Point Lookout news put out false news. Where will I stay when I come to see you? Of course we could stay up all night but how could teach too. School I mean.

I forgot to tell you we have a very nice looking day nurse. The trouble is there is to much competition. Also she is married.

I'm making a ring for myself. It is plastic from a plane. All I need is a set. You could never guess what they use to polish plastic with. Tooth paste. It does a good job to. Our teeth must take a beating.

Well honey, I have to close. Its almost time for lights out. Do you know I have heard "I'll Be Seeing You" just once since I've been in the states. I'm learning all about the south pacific from boys that were there. It must be as bad as England. (worse). Night Darling

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Twice (I'll Be Seeing You)⁷¹ is coming over the radio now.

November 4, 1944

Darling Virginia,

I received your letter today. You probably wont get this until Monday.

⁷⁰ ZaSu Pitts was an actress who played in comic roles.

⁷¹ The song, *I'll Be Seeing You*, was a very special song to Alvin and Virginia. The words and music were by Irving Kahal & Sammy Fain. Recorded by Frank Sinatra. #1 hit song in 1944.

If I were you I wouldn't call. You can say the same in a letter and so can I. Besides I think I'll get a twenty-one day furlow soon. I get one before they work on me.

Don't tell me you don't like school. Are the kids getting you down?

You better save me some honey. What is Bill going to do, tear down the house?

I had a x-ray taken and today I gave some blood to the vampire. After he stuck me I thought I wouldn't stop bleeding. Say come to think of it that was yesterday. Maybe I told you about it already.

We had an inspection today. Mostly medical.

Isn't it funny every time I get to go home its winter. Remember how we shivered last March. I hope it stays warm most of the winter.

I want to buy a car but boy what prices. I think I'll wait and see what they are going to do with me.

Say did you hear Roosevelt's speech tonight. I didn't. Virg's wife and mother was here so I talked with them. Mom didn't come down but I think she will. I think she is a little worried about her son. I got a letter from her today.

George has left the states again. I sure wish he would stay here.

I think we got a lot of hill billies in this ward. They are always listening to cowboy and mountain music.

I'm reading a Perry Mason mystery now. What is this book your reading about that you blush.

I'll tell you who I voted for after the election. Say, how would you like to be the first lady. You could kiss Eskimo and Indians and lots of things. Maybe me. Got to close darling. Nite.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

November 6, 1944

Darling Gin,

I have to hurry and write this so you will get it tomorrow. I hope!

Its almost supper time. We eat between four and five o'clock. I haven't ate breakfast since I been here.

Did you here Walter Winchil⁷² on the radio last night? He say F.D.R. will win. I don't know, but what Dewey would make a good pres.

They have been working my arm over a lot since Saturday. I went to Physical Therapy this afternoon. I have to go there for a week. By then my furlow should be up. I should be home for Thanksgiving. I hope I can be there for Xmas to but I doubt it. When does your school have Xmas vacation, also Thanksgiving? Later on when I get better I ought to get more passes. I can get a pass now from four to twelve at night. That's not enough time to come see you.

I got a letter from dad today. It has been raining a lot out there. He says deer season just closed and elk season is open until November 31. I sure would like to be there.

How is your mother? I hope it is a boy or am I wrong.⁷³ What is Mill doing? Staying at home?

⁷² Walter Winchell was a news journalist.

⁷³ Mark Andrew Wilkinson, Virginia's brother was born November 14, 1944

Well darling I better close. I'll be seeing soon. Bye.
All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

November 7, 1944

Darling Gin,

I just got your (dinner). I mean letter before dinner. I'm listening to the radio and it is rather hard to write and listen to.

Boy I'm glad I got back for the election. Did you hear the snow job the 1000 club put over last night. I also listened to Dewey's talk or speech. He is not a good speaker. I haven't heard anything of the other two candidates for president.

Are you prepared to pay off. I see the bookies in Kansas City are still taking bets at 3-1 in favor of F.D.R.

I'm going to town this afternoon and get my blouse altered. It will be the second time I've been to town since I arrived in the U.S. I was in a short time in Mass. It rained all the time I was in.

We haven't had such bad weather here. It rained but that's about all. Maybe I didn't notice it because I've been inside all the time.

Its Bing Crosby's hour on the radio. How anyone can compare Frankie with him is beyond me. I use to hear Bing everyday while he was in ETO.⁷⁴

I write almost everyday, honey. At least since I've been here. You should get my letters. Its harder to write because there is not much write about.

They had a U.S.D. dance at the Red Cross last night but I didn't go. I was working a puzzle. It almost drove me nuts.

Tell me what is a fascinators? Don't ever remember of hearing one.

I would like to see you papering. How many pictures did you forget? Was it fun?

Say what would you say if I was tight when I come to see you? Would you be very mad? All the boys went to town in Mass. came back plastered. I couldn't blame them. By the way I was sober. But I had a drink. I couldn't see any sense in getting drunk. I sure wished I could of got drunk a couple of times in England.

Yes its bad to be so close and yet so far. I feel worse because I can't get away but I could never get a 21 day furlow in England. To say nothing of a letter in one day!!

I think mom will be mad at you for keeping me from her. I hope to be there for Thanksgiving, we will see. So you think I'll make a good Santa. I won't have to wear a pillow. I doubt if I'll get away for Christmas though.

I hope my baggage gets here soon. My Purple Heart is in it. Also some of my buddies addresses. I have to write them soon. I promised them I would when I got back. Two of them have been wounded again.

Well, honey, I have to close. I'm going to town with Virg's wife. He sure trusts me doesn't he? Bye Gin.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

. When he was in the 3rd or 4th grade he contacted Polio. He died June 20, 1964. While attending Emporia State College he became sick and later died of a Cerebral Hemorrhage.

⁷⁴ European Theater of Operations

November 8, 1944

Darling Gin,

Oh happy day! I hope you are a good loser. I sure feel good. Say what happened to Dewey? And where are those guys that said it was going to be close. Wait until they count the soldier vote.

I have to get to dinner. I'll be back soon.

Well I'm back. I played two hands of pinochle⁷⁵ and lost both of them. We gave them a run for the game anyway. (That's more than Dewey did). Honey I love you anyway even if you are republican. It looks like we will kill each others votes. I'll confess to you now, I won't vote for King Roosevelt in the next election if I'm still around. The best man is my man.

I got a cotton shirt and a pair of shoes from mom today. Dick must of wore out my shoes because I got a new pair and they were 9 1/2 and I wear 8's. Mom is always doing something like that. I should think she would learn sometime.

I didn't do much in town. Had supper and took my blouse to a tailor. I bought a 35 Div. patch and some cross rifle and US insignias. Then went to a show. It was a double feature, (Knickerbocker Holiday and A Shadow In the Night). I didn't care for the first one. But the mystery was a Criminal Doctor picture.

Oh yes! I talked to a business man on the street. Boy was he cussing the guys who didn't vote for F.D.R. I got back here at eleven o'clock. I had supper with Virg's wife and came out here to be with him from six to eight.

I wont get to come right after the month. My furlow has to go Omaha.. That takes a short time.

I'm glad you think the same the about the car. I feel about the same. I sure hate to walk but I think George's Ford still runs. Besides I don't know if I can drive.

I must close now. Gin they are having a picture in the ward. I'll write again tomorrow. Bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

November 9, 1944

Darling Gin,

I hope your cold don't last long. I see that we feel just the opposite. You bad and me good. What way do you mean about my feelings for Dewey?

I will get a furlow I about a week from today for sure. I found out this morning. It takes a week to go through and I'm putting in for one today. A bunch of big shots are coming around this afternoon. That's why I didn't get to go home sooner.

Say do you name all the chickens and pigs to. Maybe that's why the cats leave. They don't like the names you gave them.

I just heard that the 35 Div.'s fight with Patton. I wonder how many of my buddies are still with them. They are sure are having a rough time. It seems that our Div.gets in all the worst fighting.

⁷⁵ A card game called Pinochle

The nurse just brought my furlow request. Its ready to go.

I can see where you are going to get up early. Guinies⁷⁶ are the nosiest things I heard. They sure make a racket in the early morning.

I'm going to make a model airplane as soon as I finish a book I'm reading. It will be a B-24. They have all kind of things to make so you can be busy. Is there anything you want? I might be able to make it. Who knows, I might have to make lawn chairs for a living after the war. I don't think so though sence Roosevelt got re-elected.

If you were me , would go to college if you could. I wish I could figure out what would be best.

I have to close, honey. Its time to go to P.T. They put me under a infra red lamp and then massage my arm. Bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. I think our wish came true. What are you wishing for now? Make it something I want too

November 12 1944

Darling Gin,

It's Sunday evening and I have to hurry and write this so it will go out tonight. You still might not get it until Tuesday.

I went to town yesterday. I bought some shoes a new hat and got my blouse. It cost me \$6.50 to have it altered. Maybe I should have got a new one.

I figured it would cost that.

I went to a show last night. It was really good. I even had to stand in line to get a ticket. It was "Janie". There was nothing to do when I came out so I went back to the hospital. And! fried some eggs and ate two pieces of peach pie. No wonder I couldn't sleep.

One of the boys came back from furlow. I've been with him since dinner.

We had chicken for dinner and supper. Also ice cream. I lost a couple of pounds last but I think I gained it back today.

I better close now honey so this will get out. I'm sending it to town with a friend.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

November 13, 1944

Darling Virginia,

Just think only a couple more days. Its sure hard to pass the remaining time until I'm on my way to see you.

I wonder what you would say if you could read my answers to Georges letter. They sure like it in California. I wish we could go out there sometime. I didn't get a letter from you yesterday but it was Sunday. I still have hope for this afternoons mail. The last two letters I wrote to you I had mailed in town. Did you get them alright? Maybe they forgot to mail them.

⁷⁶ Guineas, a type of bird the Wilkinsons had on the farm.

I went to a show last night put on by some people from Kansas City. They had a little girl in it about four or five years old. She stole the show. There is a show this afternoon. I think they are going to have soldiers from audience put it on.

Honey, I'll have to stop for a while, its dinner time. Be right back.

Here I am honey, its only three hours later. They just had mail call. It must have been for the rest of the boys.

The sun is out. I thought for a while it was going to be cloudy all day. It sure is windy. I've had to gather up my stationary about three times.

I must close now. I have to get this in the outgoing mail and want to get a haircut.

Bye darling

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

November 15, 1944

Darling Gin,

I owe you a lot of apologies or something for not writing you a letter yesterday. I meant to but I was always doing something else. Had to go to P.T. in the afternoon and the nurse almost killed me. She kept twisting my arm but I wouldn't say yes. You try twisting it and see what I say.

I received your letter just five minutes ago.

Tell your folks hello and I send them my congratulations and hope your mom get well soon. I can see right where Jr. is going to be a spoiled boy.

You should be here. We have soup everyday for dinner and supper. And boy is it good. Make me hungry just to think of it.

I went to a show last night. "After tomorrow" with Alan Ladd. It sure was good. At least he was.

What are the invitations for? I never got one or was I suppose to.

What I told grandma is a military secret. You will have to spy to get me to tell you. You know how they do it in the movies.

Say if Joyce and Shirley are the same as they were the last time I was there they'll be in the kitchen if we are there.

It looks kind a funny your dad going to the hospital the same time your mom goes. Maybe its getting him down.

Honey, I think I'll go home Friday and come see you Saturday and Sunday if I don't mom will disown me. And she would probably be mad. I hope you wont mind. I wouldn't get to see you until Friday evening anyway.

You don't have to answer this letter because I wont get it. I'll write you again tomorrow. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 1, 1944

Darling Virginia,

I have a couple of minutes before dinner so I'll write you a line or two.

Mom let me sleep until ten and then got up of my own accord. I bet you wish you were me.

Honey I miss you already. I wonder how it will be for three weeks. I'm hoping and praying I get off Xmas. I hope you are too. It just seems like a long time before I'll see you again.

I have to hurry this so I can take the kids to school.

I rode all the way to Beatrice in the bread truck that picked me up. The driver was a boy who went to school when I did.

I'm sending two pictures of myself. The one on a horse you can use for your locket, the other is me in my cap and gown. I must close darling. I'll write as soon as I get to the hospital. I miss you honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

December 9, 1944

Darling,

Gee your wonderful. I got ten letters from you today. Seven were from over seas. I sure enjoyed them even if they were old.

I sure wish I would of stayed with you until I had to leave. I would have been better off. I went roller skating Wednesday night and fell down and hurt my arm. Even worse then you would of if you would of twisted it. It is better now.

I talked to the doctor this morning about Christmas. I have a chance if they don't work on me before long. They are sending a lot of boys to Colorado Springs to a hosp. there. That's where I'll go when I get better I guess. How would you like to work there? I let you know as soon as I can about any Christmas furlow.

Honey, guess what I got in my pocket? You can have one guess. I got it just as soon as I got off the bus. I cant hardly wait until Christmas.

I love you so much. I'm just bubbling over. I think you over charged me this time. Every time I get near a light bulb, it glows.

Everyone that I know here thinks I'm married. I didn't know I was that run down. I wish we were. And will never be fully happy until we are. And I do so want to be happy.

I know I'm a jinx now. It is snowing here. Every place that I go it snows. I hope its nice in two and a half weeks.

I really don't know what I want for Christmas, that is besides that picture. I'll think of something and let you know.

Honey you never told me you might need glasses when I was there. I read it in a back letter. Were you kidding me or were you really thinking of it. It doesn't make any difference but I was wondering.

Say you should hear what Dick told mom about you. Its good. I never thought it of Dick. Tell me? Tell me? Tell me? I'll tell you Christmas.

I had to stand from Manhattan to Topeka. I am lucky I didn't have to walk. I might of made better time.

Well darling I must close. I hope I get another letter from you this afternoon. Bye my darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. My ward number is B-7 now.

P.S. 2 Did you get the two pictures I sent from Beatrice.

December 10, 1944

Dearest Darling,

It is Sunday so I wont get a letter from you today. You will probably get two from me tomorrow.

It has stopped snowing and the sun is out. I feel like making a snowman. If you were here we would.

I'm sending a compact and a powder set. I hope you like it. They sure sell a lot of them there. There must be a lot of boys with sweethearts here. I bet none are as wonderful as you. I wonder if its possible to love you more than I do now. Sometimes I feel that I don't deserve you. Don't you ever feel that way!! Are you keeping your eye open for a good farm? Or do you still want to live in town with me. I only wish I knew what they are going to do with me.

I received the lamb it sure is quiet. I think I would look funny wearing him on my lapel. Don't you?

I think you dad got up early because he knew we went to bed late. I wish you were here and you probably do too. I slept until ten this morning and also late yesterday too. I am resting up for Christmas. Remember we are going to spend it at our place. I still don't know what I want for Christmas. Some of Bings⁷⁷ records would be okay but I have no victrola⁷⁸ and you cant get them now. Just having you is enough. What more could I ask for.

I'm sending a part of Millies letter. I don't think she will care. You don't suppose we are missing something.

I played bingo at the Red Cross last night. I didn't even come close to winning. I knew I wouldn't before I started.

I think they are going to transfer me from this ward. I'll still get my mail okay. They tell the post office when they transfer you.

I must close darling. I'll write you tomorrow. Until then. I love you! Bye Sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 11, 1944

Dearest Darling,

I have a few minutes to write. So here it goes. I didn't get your letter today, but I didn't think I would. I mailed one to you this morning so you will get two tomorrow. I did get a letter from you but it was wrote October 22.

I didn't do much today. Fixed my electric razor this afternoon. Oh yes! I wrote mom and Carl this morning and had your packages wrapped.

⁷⁷ Bing Crosby, a well know singer

⁷⁸ Victrola was a brand of record player

The ward was filled yesterday afternoon but is almost empty again. They are putting them in other wards.

They say everyone will get seven days plus travel time for Christmas. If they are able. I'm sure looking forward to a leave. I can hardly wait to see you. I wonder what I'll do after Christmas. It seems like years since I've been with you, now.

I'm going to find out if they have a dancing school here and if they do I'm going to try and learn. I would sooner have you teach me but you would enjoy it until after I know how.

We have a radio now but didn't for awhile. This is an awful dead place without a radio.

I want to do my Christmas shopping this week. I looked at some things for you, now all I need to do is get them.

How is Butch? Is he growing? I put Janice⁷⁹ to sleep a couple times when I was home. She still watched me all the time up until the time I left. I wonder what you would of thought of me if you would of seen me. Ruby said I should wait until you came up. She would get even with me.

Well darling I must close. Bye Honey

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 12, 1944

Dearest Darling,

It is 2:42 and I'm so sleepy. It must be because I slept for a while. I would of slept longer if it hadn't been for you. They woke me up to give me your letter.

I bet you envy me. I could sleep all day and all night if I wanted to or could. I wish you could to. If I go home Christmas you won't get much rest then either.

I just came from occupational therapy where I've been cutting picture binding for my pictures. Boy what a job. I'm going to work on my album after I finish this.

I bet your dad is cussing. He probably mad enough for you to board out. The trouble with him is he works too hard. I don't blame him for cussing with all those women around. That's why we are going to have mostly boys.

You should hear what one of my boy friend says. I'll tell you when I see you. I agree with him.

Honey you better take care of our ford. It will have to last the duration. You might have to ride Bess⁸⁰ yet. I would like to see that.

Just what was in the Washington Paper? I should of told them I was visiting my wife.

If you cant get Christmas candy there maybe I can get it here.

Do you think Verlin⁸¹ and Darline will get married if he has to go?

I hope I get another letter from you. I don't think I'll would be satisfied if I got one every hour.

I better close now. I can't think of anything else to write, except I love you. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

⁷⁹ Alvin's little sister (Janice Margaret Lampe) was born January 16th, 1944

⁸⁰ An old riding horse the Wilkinsons had on the farm.

⁸¹ Verlin Gross

December 13, 1944

My Darling Virginia,

I'm writing this to tell you that I love you and miss you. Its getting worse everyday I'm away from you. That is saying "Absents make the heart grow founder" must be true.

I haven't gotten a letter from you today yet, but should in an hour or so. One thing for sure is I have plenty of time to write. All I need is something to write about.

I had an awful time trying to sleep last night. I was thinking of you. Maybe it was because I went to bed to early.

I've been thinking and thinking of what I would want for Christmas. I cant think of a thing. Only a furlow and you can't get that for me.

Honey I'm so sleepy and no one to keep me awake. I should go lay down but don't want to. If I do I wont sleep tonight.

I read a couple of murder stories this morning. I think I'll be a detective. That way I'll have an excuse for being out late at night.

Say honey what did Aunt Maggie say about us this time? Someday we will fix it so she won't have anything to say about us. Or is that possible?

I had onion soup for dinner. I think I've had almost every kind of soup there is since I've been here. Oh yes, you cant smell the onions.

Darling I am going to stop for a while. Maybe I can think of something to write. Also your letter should be here soon. Be back soon honey.

Well here I am again. I was really scared for a while. I got two letters from you. It was the only mail for this ward. I could just hug you and kiss you for hours. I'm almost tempted to tell what Dick said. But on second thought.

I'll just as soon see you not teach next year. But if you do I want the job as janitor. I think a year is to long to write. I can hardly stand three weeks.

They are going to teach those who want to how to dance. Shall I try and learn? Or do you want to teach me?

I'm not even going to ask you who took you to school. At least not for ten days. If you don't tell me then I'll chew your ears.

If you ever seen any of these boys after they got married on there furlow you could see what it does to them. It usally the man?!??

I better start signing off. Two of my buddies are waiting for me to go to supper with them, so I better stop. I'll have to send this to town so you will get it tomorrow, I hope. Bye my darling. See you the twenty-third. I hope, wish , and pray.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 14, 1944

My darling Virginia,

I'm waiting for the mail to come so I can read your letter. I hope you got the one I wrote yesterday. I had to mail it in town so you would get it today. Did you?

The major is working his rounds now. He has already looked at me. I have to have an x-ray taken tomorrow. They asked if I put in for my Christmas furlow.

I put in my request this morning. I know I'll get it if they don't operate on my arm before then. They may not even operate now.

Herb, Dean⁸² and I sure have been having fun. We always pick on Herb. The trouble is I'm always bumping my arm. We also have been teasing Virg. I'll tell you all about it when I'm with you Xmas. You better make a note of all these things I am going to tell you.

It is sure nice out today. Of course I haven't been out but I can see the sun is shining.

Honey did you know I was under nourished when I arrived here from England? That's what my records say. The doctor doesn't know but I'm just in love. I think I'll ask him what love is.

We went to a show last night. I have forgot the name already. You should see me here sometimes. The other night we seen the show "Brayil". Every time Roy Rogers appeared I would yell and whistle to Herbs and Deans enjoyment.

We were laughing so much last night after lights out that the nurse came in and wanted to know what was going on. As if she didn't know!

I wish that Ward Boy would hurry back with the mail. It will probably take him an hour. Here he comes right now. I'll be right back. XX

You will have to use your imagination on what I said in that space. I didn't get a letter. If I didn't love you so much, I would take the kisses back.

I'll probably get two tomorrow. I am going to have to do something about myself. If I don't get a letter from you, I feel awful. I really got it bad. (unquote)

Not that it matter or anything, but how do you get to school. Did or does that certain person take you every morning? Is it someone I know?

Gin darling, they have some nice perfumes here. Would you like some? I mean what kind. Pacific Dream, Dulunes, Evening in Paris, Europe, Heartbeat, or Risqué. Do any of those sound great. Or would you prefer Danger?

Darling I must close soon. I want to get this in the outgoing mail. By honey.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. He: Have your folks consented to our getting married?

She: So far us. You see, Pa hasn't expressed his opinion yet, and Ma is waiting to contradict him.

December 15, 1944

Dearest Darling,

I just came from dinner. I feel as comfortable as a cow. We had Swiss steak. I don't know what to think about the mail though. I did not get a letter this morning either.

Herb, Dean, and I went to the show last night. It was "The Three Groom Less Brides". Boy what a show. It was sure a crappy one.

This afternoon is when I am suppose to learn to dance. Wish me luck. I will need it.

Another boy from Beatrice come to the hosp. last night. He had his four foot shot off. Herb and Dean are up talking with him now. They are coming here after while and we are going

⁸² Buddies from Beatrice that were in the hospital with Alvin; Herb Schindler, John "Dean" Liedtke and Virg West.

to Occupational Therapy. Dean is making a rocking chair for his boy. He is expecting a girl in January. I should say hoping for one. I am going to make some picture frames for some Co. pictures I have. I have been working on my albums. I have two about finished and two more to go.

Well honey, it is only seven more days. And then we can be together for seven whole days. Won't it be wonderful. I am even wishing on Lucky Strike Package.⁸³

We are going to town tomorrow to do our shopping. I sure hate to think of it. At least I know what I am going to get you.

Honey I am going to stop until the mailman comes. I will be back Darling. XXX

Here I am back but I doubt if I will get this mailed. Boy have I been on the go. I have been chasing that furlow around. It finally got away from me.

I got your letter of December 13. I hope you are better now. Tell me whose cooking was it? If you are going to be sick a long time, come down here. Tell them you're my wife and they will take care of you. You see married life has its good points to.

Now whose talking that way. Honey you can never be a disappointment to me.

It will be okay though if you want make up for the time we are not together. I will even help you.

Honey you better not make statements like that. I might end up on a farm, probably the poor farm.

I wrote Ruby a letter last night. It was pretty good. Even if I say so myself. Tell me, what do you think of a boy who writes a brother tell him he loves his sister. Who does he think I am cupid?

Maybe it's a good thing. I did not get the compact that cost \$18.00 if you lose them that easy.

I went down to the Red Cross to learn to dance. They said they would not be able to teach us until after Christmas. So I won't learn for a while.

The M. stands for million and the K is plural.

Darling I must close. I want to have someone take this to town and mail it. Then maybe you will get it tomorrow. Bye sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 16, 1944

My Darling,

It is Saturday morning and it is going to be a beautiful day. I am writing this now because are going to town this afternoon.

Everyone is getting ready for the big Saturday inspection. I have to line the beds and then I am through. I think I will do it now then I can write this with a clean conscience.

Well that's done. I will probably have to do something else soon.

I went to a tree trimming party last night. I ended up popping popcorn. I sure had hard time trying to fill the bowl. In fact I never did fill it. Some USO Carolers came in and boy were those women starned. They never did get the tree all decorated.

⁸³ Virginia said this was just a saying of the times. Lucky Strikes were cigarettes.

The inspection is over and we had a very nice ward. Now that is over. The major just came through. This is sure a busy a place. I think that's all for a while.

So far I am going to get my furlow. It will be the twenty-second instead of the twenty-third. They will have a heck of a time stopping me now. My furlow papers are in and signed. Honey you more trouble than a wife. You are still worth all the trouble.

How is your tummy now. It better be okay before I get there. I will ask the doctor what to do. Then I will fix you up. Do you think I would be a good nurse? So do I!

Gosh how time flies. It is 10:40. Just twenty minutes until dinner. I usually go at 11:45. There is no line them.

Honey I have to stop. I want to go to P.X. I am building up my gum supply. I can only get one package at a time. All they had for a while was Beeches.⁸⁴ It is no good. You won't get this until Monday so I know you will get two of them. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

P.S. I will be glad when your name is Lampe. I have a heck of a time making Wilkinson fit the envelope.

Odles of Kisses
Alvin

December 17, 1944

My Darling Virginia,

It is Sunday afternoon. I just finish reading the paper.

I received two letters for you yesterday. One was an old one. I think it was the last one you sent to England. You still were cheering Dewey.

Darling I am glad you are not like some women. A boy here who has been overseas a year, went home to find he had two children instead of one. Also she has been living here in Topeka with another man. Her excuse was she got drunk. Everyone was offering him suggestions last night. The nurse was telling me about these Topeka girls. I don't know if want you to come here or not.

I am glad you liked the things I sent you. That is a military secret how I got that shade. I hope you like what I got you for Christmas. There were so many things I wanted to get you, but I better not spoil you. You will get your Christmas package sometime this week, also me. Do not open the packages until Christmas. I want to tease you a while.

I read somewhere that riding horseback was good for the hips. Can you vough for that? It take the weight off in the right places. I should do a lot of riding.

Say maybe I should have been at Bill's sale and bid things up. Did he get his corn out? I will go in tomorrow and try get you some Christmas candy. I am pretty sure I can get some.

The only shopping I got done yesterday was for you. Herb got his wife a set of dresser lamps. We went to the show last night. Abbot and Costillo in "Lost in a Harem".⁸⁵ Boy did I ever laugh. I am going to the show here tonight but I don't know the name of it.

⁸⁴ Beech Nut Gum

⁸⁵ Abbot and Costillo were actors in a comedy team that were in the movies.

Bye the way, honey, what can you break that is worse than your neck?? Darling I can not fill another page, so I better stop. I will see you Saturday. Bye sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 18, 1944

Darling,

I received two letters from you. One was wrote October 23. I also got a letter from Grandma. She sent the letter I wrote you. Also the one I wrote her so I would know what was in both of them. She wants to tell me if you are a good girl or not. Maybe I better take you out there. Did your Grandmother tell you if I was a good catch? By the way honey, what is a boy car? You said you did not get to see it at Hanover.

If the invitation is for Tuesday the 27th we can make it, but we have to be at moms for Xmas. Say!! Tuesday is your birthday. Honey is that why they picked Tuesday. Where is this dinner going to take place?

I think I can get some cigarettes here. I will try. I better hurry the commissary closes at 3:00. I think I will go an finish this after I come back.

I had no luck. They said they could get some in by the weekend. Maybe I can buy some at the P.X., two packs at a time. He better smoke Luckies because that is what he is going to get.

Dean leaves tomorrow for Camp Carson, Colorado. He wants to get there so he can be home for Christmas. They are talking of operating on Herb. He is going to try and talk them out of it until after Christmas.

You should read the book I have now. It is the "Bedside Esquire". It tells how bad women are. It is all short stories. By the way, I don't read just those books. They are the ones I tell you about. The reason I don't tell you of the others is because you know about them.

Darling, I must close. I want to get ready to go to town. Don't ride anymore horses. See you Friday. Bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 19, 1944

Darling,

I have 45 minutes to write this so I better hurry. I wanted to write sooner but I was with a boy I knew who just came back. Also Dean left this afternoon.

Just think two more days. I can hardly wait. How did you figure a week from the seventeenth. I will get in Marysville at 9:00 or so Friday. I should be at your place sometime in the afternoon. I hope you don't have to write me after tomorrow. I wont get it until I get back. It must have been Chris who took you to school. Did Dick say something?

The book should be "The Patient in B-7". That is a mystery too.

We had our picture taken today (the boys from Beatrice). They wanted any interesting news of us. Dean told them I was going to get married soon to a V.W. of Hanover, Kansas. It will probably come out in all the papers. I told them not to put it in. I wonder.

Yes, honey I like that song also "Don't Fence Me In" and Irish Lullaby.

I bet you let me go to sleep the first night. I will be plenty tired from riding all night.

You should of seen the two girls that were just here. A couple of guys had them out last night. One had platinum hair and paint. The other well, no wonder these poor boys don't have a chance. I see where that nurse was right. She got her engagement ring yesterday. (the nurse) It is almost as nice as yours.

I got eight packs of cigarettes for your pops. I need 2 more for a carton. I also got enough gum to last us a week, I hope.

I must close now. I don't have to much time to write this. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Where did you get the story about the dogs and fox, Women's House Journal?? I know of better ones.

December 20, 1944

Darling,

I just got your letter and have a few minutes to answer. I have been working on my album all afternoon. I hope I finish it after supper.

It is a good thing I leave tomorrow night. This is the last of my paper. I would have to walk almost a hundred yards to get some more.

It sure doesn't feel right with Dean and Herb not showing up two or three times a day. Herb went to Kansas City with the Red Cross Tour. I would of but all my clothes are in the cleaners. They wouldn't let me go with any. Darn it!

Honey we better make up our minds first who is going to keep who awake. Guess we will have to take turns. Butch will probably keep everyone awake.

If you were married you would have me for a dependent and would not have to pay income tax. You might even have more dependents.

Dean is a boy I use to run around with in my civilian day. So is Herb.

You should have your Christmas packages by now. I sent three packages. One had candy and some presents for Shirley and Joyce.

I must close now. See you soon. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

December 29, 1944

Darling,

I want to thank you for seven of the most wonderful days I ever had. Only you could of made me have such a wonderful time. May the rest of the days we spend be as good.

It is after nine and I have the ward all to myself. There are two of us in it, but the other boy went to town.

It is turning cold here. Was a lot colder here then up there. The weather report is bad.

Honey I am still having my Christmas. I have enough stationary to last for the duration. Also toothpaste, combs (5), shaving cream, etc. I got a package from the Red Cross, two from

Am. Legion and one from Maxine- somebody I never heard of. Oh yes! I got two pair of civilian socks. So you suppose that's a sign.

I went down to see Virg as soon as I got back. He said he has given up all hope of getting out of bed soon. His wife sure hates it. You would think it was her who had a bad leg. You and I can be thankful I am not in the same fix.

Did you get home alright? Was pa and ma recovered? I seen you and Dick leave when we were crossing the intersection.

Darling all I have to do now is wait and pray. I have so much to look forward to on my next furlow. I hope you can get down some weekend soon. Let me know and I will meet at the bus station. There is something I wanted to ask you but did not. And honey please do not say tell me.

I have the same bed. I am going to hit the sack soon. I sure am sleepy. I was so sleepy when I got off the bus, I could not figure out where I was.

I should take a bath but they got the towels locked up so I'll wait until the morning. I will write you again tomorrow. Please excuse this pen. It is one of those dip kind. I left mine at home.

I must close now my darling. I will miss you, but will love you all the more when I see you again. Bye sweetheart. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

December 30, 1944

Darling

It is one o'clock and I just finished dinner. We had steak. Someone must have told them I was back.

What do you think of my new pen? It sure improves my writing. Oh yes! It only cost me sixty-five cents. It is a genuine "Wearever".

I got two Christmas cards today. One from mom to Virg and one from Leila. I should get my back mail today. I should get one old letter from you.

Gee honey, I am still tired. I bet you slept all day or did you have to get up? I am going to bed early tonight maybe that will help. There are still a lot of boys gone. That is why two of us are in the ward. It sure is quite.

I thought of something I wanted to ask you last night in bed, but I forgot it now. Did you get my gloves from Bill? Dick can send them down with my other things at home.

I forget to tell you last night but they had singing at the Red Cross. We sang "Let the Rest of the World Go By" several times. I cannot think of much to write. I had a lot before I started.

Courtship is a period during which a girl decides whether she can do better.

Germs or no germs, kissing is dangerous. It put an end to a lot of bachelors.

The honeymoon is over when there are more bills than coos .

Joe's dad has two wives to support now.

"You mean he's a bigamist?"

No. - Joe got married.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Darling I love you more than anything in the world (even chicken) but I must close. Hug the pillow a couple of times for me. Bye Sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses,
Alvin

December 31, 1944

Darling,

You wont get this letter till next year but I am going to write anyhow.

I got six letters from you yesterday afternoon. I sure enjoyed reading them.

Boy am I sore! I don't know whether its from riding the horse or wrestling with you.

Probably both. It's a good thing I didn't ride eight miles.

As to what my mother thinks of damsels. It doesn't make any difference. She is going to have one in the family.

Do you know what my dad said. Well he said one of the Lampes is bound to get a Wilkinson. He went with Agnes a long time. As you know.⁸⁶

Did I tell you that my wife had to be good looking (she is) have lots of money (well) be willing to work in the field (that depends on how big the field is).

Honey I sure get a kick out of how out of how you dragged Roosevelt down. I think you really believed Dewey would win. I will always love you though, even if our kids our republicans.

We should of asked the ouiga board about us. Maybe that would of helped. Why don't you ask it when we are going to get married and how many Philbert Aloysius Lampes there are going to be.

The major was just in. I'm going to be transferred to A-1 so you can address my mail to there. They are going to put that bone graft in. It wont be long before they do. I wish you were here to hold my hand.

I cut a couple clippings out of the Beatrice paper. Is he any relation of yours? If he is I won't get to meet him. At least not for a long time.

Well darling I must close. It is 25 min. till eleven. I miss you with all my heart. Send me your love and kisses that might help. Bye my darling. See you in my dreams.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

January 1, 1945

Hello Darling,

Boy am I on edge. I have to wait till tomorrow to see if I get my furlow. After all the waiting I've did in the Army, this is the worst.

I went to the show again tonight. It was "Here Come the Waves" with Bing. It was purty good. Anything with Bing in would be good.

⁸⁶ Agnes was Virginia's paternal great uncle Frank's daughter.

Darling, I got some sound advice from Virg. This afternoon I had to walk out on him he was convincing me. I'll tell you what it was when I see you. Sorry darling. Any way I hope to see you before you get this. So when you read this stop and kiss me.

Herb gave me some advice today to. I don't think I'll tell you what he said. Oh yes. He's leaving on furlow tonight, he got 14 days. I hope I'm as lucky. They told him it was cancelled but he knows it isn't and is going anyway.

Darling isn't this heck. Snow, snow, snow. It never fails. It snow here all day so up there it is probably worse.

Is that the way to talk about our president? I'm ashamed of you. He's my Commander in Chief. The only one over him is you. Whats your first order?

I have a couple of letters to write. I wonder if I'll get them wrote. You sure keep me from writing them but I would sooner write you.

I bet you didn't even miss me. Its Friday morning and darling I'll be with you tomorrow. Isn't it wonderful. I get 14 days. I think I'll just hand this to you. Otherwise you won't get it till Monday. I sure have a lot to do before I leave so better get busy. I have to ans. three letters. I just got one from Grandma. Bye darling. Kiss me!

Alvin

(Note: the post mark on the envelope of these letters is 1945)

December/January 1, 1944

Darling,

The new year has began and I don't feel a bit different. Maybe a little more in love but that's all.

I received your letter today maybe that's a good sign. Also I'm starting the new year out right. I'm on K.P. All I have to do is wipe dishes. You probably think that's ok. But honey I all ready know how. Also all the other duties of a good wife. I think I'll be an inspecting officer and see that all is in good shape every day.

We are waiting for some doctors to come through to look us over. They look at us then go in a huddle and decide whether to cut off an arm or leg or add some to it. Guess I'll tell them to chop mine off.

Darling it don't make any difference which week end you just so you come down. Which ever one suits you. I'm looking forward till then. Be sure to let me know and I'd meet you at the Bus Depot.

Well they looked me over. I'm going to live. I am a rare case of non-union of the bone. There are only two cases in the hospital. The doctor say I need a lot of loving. Do you can take care of the order. It's a big order. It must be filled as soon as possible. Gosh June is a long time from now. There are so many things to so and think about. Maybe you can come down more often when the weather and other things permits.

Do you think you will be able to make dresses out of sugar sacks after we are married. I'll probably have to wear gunny sacks since F.D.R. is pres. It's a good thing I have some Army clothes home.

I bought me a new pipe so I thought I should buy my wife something to. I hope you like it. It cost more then the pipe. So you will have to make up the differences in kisses. I know you will like it because you said you want one with a big -----. I got a Christmas package from

Mom today. The one she sent over seas. It came through ok. I got some more shaving cream. Its to bad you don't have a beard. I think everyone figured I needed a shave.

I got payed yesterday. It wasn't very much. I'm sending the first payment. At that rate he will be will be ours in two years. If we have any left we can use it for No. 2

I haven't made any New Years resolutions yet. I couldn't think of any that I wouldn't break. You make some for me and let me know what they are. Tell me what yours are. I'll help you keep them.

Is the Point Lookout News going to announce our engagement? I could give them some good news if you would let me. I don't think you would.

What are they saying about us now? Are we married, expecting, hoping or what? I wish I was a mouse sometimes. I bet I would learn a lot.

I went to a New Years party at the Red Cross last night. There was a girl for every boy. I also learned why the girls come out here. I told her I didn't have any shirts. Topeka is really as bad as they say. About all the party amounted to was conversation. The girls served the boys coffee and sandwiches. Most of the boys here stayed awake and listened to the new year celebration over the radio. Gee honey I wish I could have been with. I love you more every minute we are apart. My nights are always filled with thoughts of you. No wonder that I sleep so peaceful. Someday when I am old I can look back on those furlow and think of enjoyment I had just being with you.

Now darling I must close. Bye Sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

January 2, 1944

Darling,

No letter today! I think we will have to do something about that mail man. Even if yesterday was New Years day.

Can you hold my hand Thursday. That's when I get operated on. They started preperation today. I have had all my hair shaved off my left arm and right leg. They tried to shave more but I stopped that. I also have a sack over my arm and leg. Tomorrow they do some more marking business then Thursday is the big day. I can hardly wait!; to get it over with. I had to sign my life away. The paper says they can take out any organs that are necessary. What do you want then to take away my heart or?

I just remembered I didn't mail the letter. I wrote more last night. It wasn't a very good one. I felt bad.

I received my gloves today. Thanks a lot Darling. I'll wear them in bed with me! (The next time I'm with you).

Honey I think we will have Dick with us. Do you think he would. I don't know what I would do without him.

Herb has been asking a lot questions about us. I would blush if I told you what. I just let him think what he wanted to. In other words, for an answer I just smiled.

Darling I love you enough to write on and on but I must close. I'll try and write a long letter tomorrow because I probably won't be able to Thursday. Bye my Sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

January 3, 1944

Darling

I'm waiting for the mail so I might just as well be writing you. I'll write a long letter today. I'm sure I won't feel like it tomorrow. I'll be out most of the day.

I didn't do much last night. There's the mail I'll be right back. I'm right back but a little disappointed. All I got was the paper. Another boy who was in my company got killed and one missing, another wounded. That isn't such good news. The one who is missing is the boy I had for a tent buddy for four years.

About last night. As I was telling you before the mail came in. I went to the show. It was really good. H. Bogart⁸⁷ in "To Have and Not To Have". You should see it. After the show I went into the Library and read Outdoor Life and looked over some material on careers. They didn't have any on what I wanted to be. (Hobo) and (father).

Darling why don't tell me what you would like for me to do. After all it will mean a lot to you. The only thing I know is you don't want me to be a foreman. I know what I want but it will take a long time. I wish I could make up my mind. I would like to be a farmer, in a way. I'll tell you why someday when we are together.

Herb went to town yesterday afternoon to buy his wife a Birthday present. He got her an Indian bracelet. They are going to operate on him one of these days.

Gin darling, do you think you can come down the eleventh of February the seventeenth is a week longer to wait. A week isn't long but for you it is like waiting a year.

I think I'll go to dinner. I write some more this afternoon. Bye darling

Here I am again. Did you miss me? Why do I have to love you so much. I haven't gotten a letter from you for two days and do I feel low. Maybe it went to B-7. I'll go see after a bit. They usually don't get their mail till about four o'clock.

They just finished washing my arm and leg in alcohol and put some sterol socks on them. It will be just hours now. Gosh how I hate to think of it.

I talked to one of the officers and he says I probably won't stay here after they are sure I will get better. That means I will probably go to Camp Carson or some other convalescence hosp.. I can get anyone I want in the U.S. We will talk about that when you come down.

I think I'll go see if they sent your letter to B-7. I'll be right back. --- Boy what a run around. I waited for the ward boy to bring the mail. And I had a letter but he left it at the Post Office. I had to walk over and get it. I feel much better now. Gee your wonderful. Your letters are just like a hypo. They take away the pain. I got your ankle name plate it will fit my wrist just right.

No honey, the stamp came off easy. I thought of something else. I didn't write to steam it off. I couldn't. Do you know that when I first wrote you from England I wrote under the stamp. Hold the letters up to the light you can tell which one I wrote under.

Tell Darlene⁸⁸ congratulations for me. And I mean her.

If Duane goes to Ft. Mead I know he will go over. As a replacement.

I don't know what all those names mean but I know you will look good in the dress. You would look good in (nothing). I mean anything.

I'm hoping they will give weekend leaves this spring. If they do you can plan on seeing me just as often as I can get one.

⁸⁷ Humphrey Bogart

⁸⁸ Virginia's neighbor, Darlene Zabortrski.

Daphnie is yours so you do what ever you think is right. Personally thats a very good idea. You wont be home anyway. And if we need a car we can always get on. Maybe you can get a much as you payed for it. Besides if you kept it you would have to have new tires or get recaps on the old one's. What does your Papa say.

Tonight is when I'm suppose to learn to dance. I better try. It will be the last chance till next Wed. Then I'd have a cast on. One thing about a cast you couldn't hurt my arm.

Don't worry about you hope chest. I'll fill it after we are married. Besides you don't have to hope any more.

Well Darling I must close. I'll Write you tomorrow if I can but I doubt it.

Bye My Sweetheart.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. If you think you were so smart lets see you stem off my stamp. Let me know when you get it off? Giggle – Giggle

January 4, 1944

Darling,

Boy am I in a fix. My arm is hanging up in the air and my leg is really sore.

If you cant read this its because I'm on my back and can only use one hand. The paper is still a little hazy. They operated on me this morning at eight. I just came out of it. Boy am I sleepy.

I got your letter this afternoon and boy was it a job. I read it all afternoon and still couldn't make out what was in it. I bet I read every time over 4 or 5 times before I could to the next line.

Darling if it make any difference I wont vote for F.D.R. for another time.

I got some liquid Pepsodent. I'll send as soon as I get out of bed. Also some stationary.

If Kansas is the most beautiful state, why don't they plant some of their boys and girls in American (can't read)

Boy is writing this a job. I cant get the paper to stand still.

Darling I love you so much. I think of you day and night. Now I must close. Bye Sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

P.S. They gave me two pills and 3 shots in the arm. Or other. No wonder I cant see the paper.

P.S.2 I had my first dance lesson last night.

January 5, 1944

My Darling,

I don't know what I would do without you. You are the only one I get letters from. I did get another package from Mom that went oversees. I'm not going to open it till I can get up. I

got up this morning and the doctor run me back to bed. He said I should stay there for three days. I wonder how Virg has stood it for six months.

I have to take a penicillin shot every hour for five days. My arm is sore already. Woa is me. My arm and leg are starting to ache. My leg feels like someone hit it in the shine with a sledge hammer.

I hope you can read this. I am still a little woosy. I have to blink my eye a couple times to get them to focus. I feel the same way after you kiss me. I wish you were here to take the pain away at least most of it.

Wednesday I had my first dancing lesson. I learned the basic step for the Fox Trot, Waltz, Poka, and Conga. You see my wiggle in conga steps. I'm ready for the next lesson. I wish you were here to teach me.

Darling I'm glad you liked the compact. What ever I got you, you would be more then worth it.

I'll tell you if I'm going to do dishes or not after we are married. Then I wont have to worry about it till then.

I can hardly wait to see you. I'll be glad when school is out. Eighty days is a long time. I hope I am still here.

I didn't see anything wrong with your dress. Just look what was in them. If we go to Calif, all you need wear is shorts and swimming suit.

They operated on Herb this morning. They sure are cutting everyone. I'm sure glad they are through with me. Maybe I can get another furlow soon and another one in June. Would that suit you?

I cant even read this myself. I sure hope you can.

I'll be seeing you soon darling. (Feb. 11) Bye my Darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

P.S. Here comes dinner

xxx

January 7, 1944

Darling,

It is Sunday afternoon and Herb just left. We played a couple games of Casinio.

Did I ever have a bad night. I didn't even go to sleep till after 2:00 and then I woke up every few minutes. I made up for it though. I slept till noon.

I sure caught h___ from the ward officer. He caught me walking in the hall. I would have to run into him.

A German Medical officer came through this morning. He asked me a lot of questions. I thought he was English at first.

I hope you can make this writing out. I feel just about like the writing looks.

I missed your letter today. Maybe I'll get two tomorrow. I guess we cant help it if the mail man doesn't want to work on Sunday.

I wish you were here to take some of my shots for me. I only have sixteen more to go. My poor arm, theres not spot on it that's not sore. Don't you wish you were me?

I wonder what you are doing now. Sleeping, or writing a long letter to me. I'm glad I have you to think of. One of the patients was fight Germans last night. I dreamed was fighting you ----- off. Oh yeau!

What if they draft you as a nurse. I guess they really need them. They ought to use Wac's. Then they would be doing something worth while. One thing they will draft you only over my dead body.

Darling I have to stop. Lets hope we are together soon. Bye Sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

January 8, 1944

Darling,

I just finished dinner and I'm on the Sun Porch. Maybe I should be in bed but its so hard to write there I am feeling much better. I just ache a little.

I got your letter this morning. I hope I get another this afternoon. You should get two today or tomorrow.

If this smells like tobacco is because I spilled Sir Walter Raleigh all over it. I was trying to fill my pouch.

I don't think we will have ford. They seem to have more things go wrong with them. They're worse than children.

It looks like a lot of them will have to go now. Calvin's ⁸⁹ folks probably think a lot of him. Do you think you dad will cry when you leave? Or your Mom? My Mom cried every time but once and that was when I was drunk. As you heard.

Herb is here we were just talking about that time. He is going to write his wife now.

I can hardly wait till you come down. I hope I can get a weekend leave and come up. I have my doubts though. We have a lot to talk about. I bet we forget about most of it.

Theres the doc, hope he doesn't see me out here.

Mom say if I ever treat you bad she will take care of me. It looks like I'll have to be good to you. As if I could be anything else. Gee I wish it was summer. Do you think we will ever do those things we talked about when I was in England. How is it that summer always misses us. It better not this summer. We have a lot to make up for.

Darling I better close. I can't seem to think of anything to write. Gin, if there is anything I can do just whistle. Bye Sweetheart. I love you more than ever.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

January 9, 1944

Darling,

⁸⁹ Calvin Tegethoff

You just wait. I'll get even with you. Boy did I have a time getting the stamps off. After this don't put extra glue on it, just stick the corner up. I love you to even if you are mean to me.

I like that! I've written you everyday since December the 20. I cant help it if the mail man gets some of them there late. No kidding you should have a letter for every day.

I feel a lot better today. The doc said I could get up so now I don't have to dodge him. I went down to see Virg. Golly I feel sorry for him. He cant get out of bed even if he wanted to.

Do you think I could work your problems. The arithmetic one I mean. Maybe I can give you the answers to all of them (I've tried).

You should see Alvins arm. He has been receiving penicillin shots and it looks like a pin cushion. Pretty sore too, he says, but undoubtedly it will be in fine shape soon. Just gave him his last one so he's quite happy, now. – L. Taddiken Nurse in A-1 ward.

Happy isn't just half of it now I can sleep without being woke up twice a night to get stabbed. Just think it cost the government 4 and 5 hundred dollars for those shots. \$20 a shot.

By the way honey. That nurse says I have nice legs. She's the one who held my hand after the operation, to bad I was out. Maybe she could tell you more about me then I know. She had a good opertunity to look me over. I was out from 8am to 3pm and even after 3 I couldn't get things straight.

I'm going to the show tonight, "Hollywood Canteen". I think. Yesterday some Russian Dancers came to our ward. Boy could they jump. One told me two Russian words to say if I ever got a Russian girl in my arms. I told her I had a dance girl. She said all had to do was say those words and things would really happen.

You will have to tell me about Dad and Agnes. All I know is he went with her about three years.

No I haven't seen that show. Maybe I'll get to, sometime.

Do you think you will make a good mother? I'll ask Mark! At least you can get some experience the easy way. Have you bathed him yet? No I don't care if Mark reads what you write. Can he?

Maybe I should have been there when Bernice⁹⁰ wanted someone to go horseback riding. Doesn't she ever get sore? That little riding I did sure fixed me for a while.

Darling I knew you were light complected so naturally you would use light powder. Besides I asked a girl waiter what to get? I could get a lot of things for you. I have a sister you know. And knows a little about girls from my sister of course.

You didn't have anything on me, we had chili Sunday night too.

Yes two teachers would be ok if you were one I the other. Our pupils would learn a lot.

The curl is up to you! I have to go eat supper. I'll write again tomorrow. Bye Darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

⁹⁰ A girl friend of Virginia's who lived 1 _ mile North of Wilkinson farm.

Jan. 10, 1945

Darling,

How is everything? Have you got those problems worked. It is 2:15 and I have 45 minutes to write. I got two letters and the Beatrice paper this morning. I got a letter from Carl and another from a boy who was on pass in Paris. To bad I wasn't with him. A boy who was with him is missing now.

I went to the mess hall for dinner today, boy was I tired. Thats the most I've walked in a week. They are going to take the stitches out of my leg Friday. I'll sure be glad. Then my leg should not ache anymore. Gee I wish you were here to write for me. I have a lot letters to ans.. You are the only one I have wrote to for sometime. See how much I love you darling. Even when I am down on my back I write. (If you would call it writing. It was more like scribbling).

The show was sure good last night. Tonight they are having a dance. I think I'll go and watch. They are playing Bingo in the ward right now.

Tomorrow I'll have to go to the EEN&T and have my ear checked. EEN&T means eyes, ears, nose, and throat.

These sleepless nights sure give me lots of time to think of our future. The trouble is I don't get anywhere. All because I don't know what they are going to do with me.

The more I think of you; one things sure. I love you an awful lot. This is the first time I ever worried and its all over us. I understand why they say being single has its points.

I'm going to stay for awhile and wait for the mail. It should be here soon. Bye for a second, honey.

Oh darling your wonderful. I just got your letter. As long as I hear from you, I don't care if I never hear from anyone else.

Old Daphnie sure is a lot of trouble isn't she. I think we will have a Jeep.

That just goes to show you a wounded soldier can get anything. (The toothpaste I mean).

I just changed the date on this letter. I guess I'm trying to hang on to the old year. I had some wonderful times in it. Thanks to you. I know our waiting days wont be over till after the war, even after we are married. At least we have a lot to look forward to. All we can do is wish. I hope our luck holds out.

I took you leterely about your clothes you said you had to get some. Besides I had to have something to write. I cant see where I get enough to fill the pages.

The district would let you read the book to them. The men would anyhow. Someday you can read to me. Would you like that? Or would you sooner I read to you!

I sure think Herb is foolish for not having his wife here. He could go in every night and over weekends. Which reminds me. I can only go to Topeka on a weekend. I'll have to wait till you come down. Darling maybe I can get another furlow from here in a couple months and still get another one this summer. Would you like that? The only thing I hate about it is you will still be teaching. We could be together at night or at least most of the night. The only thing I can do is guess they don't give you any different information.

I have to close now darling. They are starting to feed chow. So until tomorrow Bye Sweetheart.

Your Loving Husband (to be)

Alvin

All My Love and Kisses

P.S. Which is best?

Alvin

January 11, 1945

Darling,

The ward boy just went after the mail so I'll start this letter. Hey! He's back, something must be wrong. Guess he's broke and didn't stop at the P.X. I'll be right back honey. Here I am. How long was I gone? I got two letters. One from my sweetheart and one from a boy who was in hospital with me in England. They sure are giving him the old run around. He had his stomach shot up and they are sending him to recondition center.

Darling you should use international code. I had to learn that a long time ago.

(Part of this letter is written in Morris code. Unable to type)

No I'm not jealous of Chris.⁹¹ He's just an old broken down soldier like me. He's a little better because he has both arms.

Honey did the door get any better or didn't they give the keyhole much medicine. My arm is still sore from shots. It's a good thing they didn't think of that.

Say how does Shirley know I put 44 on my letters to you? Also how does Mark signal for his supper? I sure get a kick out of her letter.

Say I think you do want me to get better. I would stay in bed only, he said I can get up now. He asks me how I feel everyday. His name is Barnnies. The ward boys call him Over Bareing. He doesn't have many friends here. In case you are wondering who I'm talking (writing) about. It's the ward doctor.

I guess they wanted to impress the German doctor with our equipment.

Honey! It says in Bed Side Esquire that south America are lousy lovers. Do you still like to teach about South America.

Herb is here now. He wants me to go to supper. At dinner he struck at me and his watch came off and apart. Lucky enough it is still running. I told him he had better not throw it at me again, he wouldn't be so lucky.

He wouldn't wait for me. I'm suppose to meet him at the mess hall door in ten minutes.

The ward boy kept calling me this morning but I didn't get up. The next time he went by he slapped my sore leg. I got up. It was after eight.

Darling I love you and miss you and adore you but still I must close. I have four minutes to meet Herb and I must mail this. Bye Darling

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

xxx etc.

Alvin has dashes across the end of his letter and then he writes: (Crevice)

P.S. Look at the stamp. Am I going nuts.

(There is a greeting card in this letter sent to him from his maternal Aunt Millie (Mrs. Verne Brouillette)

⁹¹ Chris Rouff, an old bachelor who lived south of the Wilkinson farm

January 13, 1945

Darling,

I just received your letter. I'm a little late in starting to write now. I'll have to hurry in order to get it mailed.

It sure is beautiful day. I wish we were together. Then I could enjoy it. It's just like spring. I think I'm getting Spring Fever. Now I'll be so much in love, I might get sick or worse. Gee darling I miss you.

Honey I'm glad you are worried over me but you don't have to worry. There's no reason now and besides your much to young and beautiful.

I would like to go to Barns⁹² with you sometime. Who know I might yet. We will have plenty time to visit our relation later.

Darling I know you will make a good mother. Especially as me as father. I've given baths and almost everything a mother and housewife has done. Maybe I shouldn't tell you that. I cant have an excuse not to. Maybe I should take over the housework and you continue teaching.

My leg is feeling better. I can sit down now without having to put it up on a chair. I have sixteen stitches in my leg. I be all scared up if I don't get away from here soon.

Do you know what? I just remembered today is Saturday and even if I mail this to you wont get it till Monday. I'll write a longer letter now.

Dean and Mable⁹³ have a little girl. Born January 12 weighing 6lb. 12 _ oz. Her name is Patricia Ann. I bet they are tickled, they wanted a girl. They have a boy Michael you remember him and his rocking horses.

I have been in the Library. I almost have a claim on the big overstuffed chair there. Herb is usually with me. He's here now waiting on me to go to supper. I think I better go, the line is probably short. I'll continue later. Bye for now darling. xxx

I'm back. Did you miss me. We had spaghetti and meat balls for supper. After Herb and I had supper we went to the P.X. He bought a couple of cigars. Then we stopped at the Red Cross to see what was going on there tonight. Their having a Bingo game. I guess I'll spend the evening in the Library.

Just think if it was this summer. I could of left here at noon and been with you till Monday morning. Tonight we would go down town and do our shopping then go to a show or something. Tomorrow would be Sunday and we could sleep till noon. (Unless we went to church). Get up have a late dinner. After that we could go to visit Virg or someone you know. Next weekend we would go visit your folks. Lets stop and see Mildred at Marysville. I wonder if she heard from George. Say, honey, remember to get some eggs from your folks, they sure are high here.

I better stop before I forget myself. It wouldn't be so bad if I could. I sure wish dreams would come true. I sure had good one last night. It would take several pages to tell you so I'll keep it for some other time. I sure am awful. I promise you I'll tell you right away this summer and ever after.

"The Mayor of the Town" is on now. It seems funny that the sun is still up. It use to be dark when I was at your place. Gosh its nice out. Just like I read in the paper, its fishing weather. That reminds me. I bet you wish you were here last night. We had fish for supper. I almost went back for more.

⁹² Barnes Kansas, a town not too far from the Wilkinson farm.

⁹³ Dean and Mable Liedtke

I sure am rambling from one subject to another. It really must be getting spring.

Honey don't you think my writing is getting better. That is better then it was the last week or so. I wish it would keep on improving; then maybe I could read it. I bet reading my letters is just like working a crossword puzzle. You don't know if you have the right word or not.

Darling I have wrote a whole page and haven't said anything so I think I better close. I love you! Bye Sweetheart. I'm still wishing.

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

xxx

January 12, 1944

Darling,

Its almost three o'clock and I'm writing you again. I usually start about 2:20.

It sure a beautiful day, a little warm inside but just like spring outside. I hope it stays nice for awhile anyhow.

I was going to write Shirley last night but went to the show instead. It wasn't so bad. The name was "Something for the Boys".

This darn pen either it gives to much ink or not enough. It ought to write good. I paid \$.65 for it. Guess I'll have to have Mom send me the one I left home.

I met a boy today here who is a second cousin or uncle to me. If there is such a thing. He really isn't related to me. He's my uncles cousin.

They were going to take the stitches out of my leg today but guess they changed their mind. I had my nose and ears checked this morning. I'll have to go there again one of these days.

The ward boy just left for the mail. I wonder if I'll get a letter from you. That my darling is how I live now. Just for your letters. Before I fell in love with you, which was a long time ago, I think I lived to eat. I liked to sleep but didn't get to much.

I have four letters to ans. then I've caught up. I'm sending a card I got from my Aunt Mildred. I thought it was very good. The trouble is I write her but she doesn't write me. (Enclosed is a card from Alvin's Aunt signed "Your Aunt Mil", She writes: Rec'd your Mothers card today saying you'd be home for Xmas. Hope you had a Merry one.)

The mail is here, I better go get mine?? ____, ____, ____. Here I am right back. All I did was read your letter and two papers.

I mean ford are like children because they always need fixing (parts changed).

You make me hungry. I can smell popcorn popping now.

My dancing is at a standstill for awhile. If they took some bone out of your leg I bet you wouldn't be dancing either. I think I can learn easy now that I know the basic steps. Now I want you to teach me.

Gosh its hot here, the sun is shining in the window right on me. There that stops that. All I had to do was pull the shade down.

The other day when I was under either the Red Cross girl was here. I told her how wonderful you were and all about you. She asks me about you everytime she sees me. It's a good thing you weren't here. No telling what I might have of told you.

Well I have to close darling. I have to mail this so it will go out tonight. How long does it take for my letters to get there? Bye My Darling.

Xxx
All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

January 14, 1945

Darling,

In just one month I will have another birthday. Last year I was in West Virginia. I remember I had forgotten all about it and I was writing you a letter when I remembered it was my birthday. Isn't it funny. My birthday is on St. Valentines Day and yours is just two days from Christmas. I wonder if our Mothers enjoyed those holidays.

I slept till eleven, then Herb and another kid woke me up. I had a letter from you on my bed stand so everything was ok.

Honey, maybe you should have a bob then your hair wouldn't interfere with your writing to me. Won't you be glad when you don't have to write to me; but for me (I should say us).

When are Bill's going to move? I bet Mildred is happy she has always wanted to move there. She was hoping they would when I was there on furlow.

Its to bad I'm crippled up I could fix Daphnie for you. I use to help dad work on cars. He wrote me the other day that I could still get a job at \$1.00 an hour if I would come out. Shall we go?

Our outfit was stationed at Catalina Island.⁹⁴ It's a pretty good place to be. I never got out there myself. You better not tell Alice⁹⁵ but there is a lot of wild women out there. Here I go. Maybe I shouldn't worry her.

Well its two o'clock, the visitors are starting to come in. Boo Hoo. I never have anyone visit me.

How can single men find a reason to go into town as often as married men if they don't let them go in. Maybe that's why the Army doesn't let them go in. I notice that a couple get married everytime they let a bunch go on furlow. That's what happens when they have too much time to spend with a girl they like. I'll be glad when I get another furlow.

Your ankle chain is a little big for my wrist but it wont come off.

Gosh it doesn't seem like I've been back two weeks. Time sure flies. I hope it flies for 26 more days, then slows down for two.

It is nice here again today. It was cloudy for awhile but cleared up. I bet it will be bad when you come. I hope not.

Darling I am going to stop for a while. I'll be back soon. xxx

Well I'm back. Herb and I had a supper at the P.X., a bacon and tomato sandwich and a milk shake. Then we went to the Red Cross and fooled around till 5:30. We decided to go to show at Post Theater, "Winged Victory". It was purty good only I don't like war pictures. You could cry a lot in it. Say was that the one you seen a while back.

Herb is down in his ward. He has to write a letter to his wife. He told her he wasn't going to accept Limited Services, only Infantry or CDD I guess she really hit the ceiling. I have to go to see him some civilian was here to see me and him and he was going to find out who it was.

⁹⁴ Catalina Island off the coast of California.

⁹⁵ Alice was Virginia's mother.

I was in the kitchen just before I started writing you. I fried a couple of eggs and had a cup of coffee. That's so I will sleep good tonight. A lot of nights I have a snack just before I go to bed then I can lay and think of you. I think it helps me to get well sooner.

I have to hurry, darling. The lights go out soon. I get to bed early. Ten o'clock.

Well darling as much as I hate to I better stop. I'll dream of you to. I'm sure glad I have you to dream of. I would probably be having nightmares. More than one night in England you kept me from fighting Germans. So for now, good night my sweetheart. I love you so much than anything in the world.

All My Love and Kisses

XXX

Alvin

January 15, 1945

My Darling,

Another day another dollar. I sure had busy day. I have been running around all day. I did get a lot accomplished. I had personnel write a letter and sent in my bond receipts so I would get the bonds. Also had them straiten out the address. Then I turned in a couple papers so I can collect all my payments on my insurance while I'm in the hospital.

This morning I had to stay here for a while, while the Colnel made his rounds. They said I could do some work down at occupational therapy.

Oh yes they took out the stitches. It didn't hurt much. Honey you should see my leg. It looks like Boris Karlaf's face. When that guy said Doctor they must not of heard him say Vetenary. I guess it will look better later on.

I was suppose to go to E.E.N.T this morning but it was after twelve when I got there, then it was too late. I'll probably have to go again tomorrow.

Did you miss me? I was only gone about a minute. I had to get my papers on that insurance. The doctor says on them that I will be in the hospital for a period of 6 to 8 months more. That's a long time. I hope you are with me for most of it. At least I know what I'll be doing for awhile.

Virg's wife is here. That was her bro. was looking for me last night. I'm going down to see them as soon as I finish your letter.

I didn't get a letter from you today. Maybe I'll get two tomorrow. I got one from Mom with something very nice in it. She sent the pictures I took while I was home. They sure are good. You should see them. The ones I took of Mark are swell. I'll send them to you as soon as I show them to my friends. Later on I'll have some made so you and your Mom can have one. The one where you are holding Mark sure draws a lot of comments. So does your giraff. Mom didn't send the ones we took at Wil (cant' read) (us together).

Darling I must close. I have to get this mailed. Its late now. Bye Sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses

XXX

Alvin

P.S. I love you darling!!

January 16, 1945

Darling,

It's a cold dreary day but I don't feel so bad. Maybe I will if I don't get a letter from you this afternoon. It sure is bad when I don't get one. You must feel the same. We can't help but complain even if we know it won't help.

I slept till almost nine this morning, then had to make my own bed. It's quite a job changing sheets with one arm. It's good exercise anyway.

Gosh waiting for a letter from you is worse than waiting to attack. I sure miss you, that must be the reason.

I got the paper this morning. Some more boys from Beatrice got killed and two are missing, one was in Co. "C".

This darn pipe. I'm still smoking more matches than tobacco. I bet I light my pipe five or six times on one pipe full of tobacco. I sure seen a couple good pipes over at the P.X. I would like to have. They cost \$8.50 probably \$12.00 for civilians. They Kaycooadie pipes. That's the best you can buy. Maybe I ought to buy some before you hold the purse strings.

I have to write Mom today. I still haven't wrote her. Also better answer Carls letter. I think I'll stop and wait for your letter and write Mom. I'll be back in an hour. Why did I say an; h is not a vowel. Bye darling. xxx ____, ____, ____,

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10!!!! You; you are the! Well I sure like that. It's bad enough to kick a guy but to kick him when he's down. Darling you aren't satisfied with being one ahead of me; you have to be two ahead of me. Yes I mean that puzzle letter. Just you wait. I'll get even. And how. Here I felt sorry for you and wrote back in the same code so you could read it. Just wait. I'll have you sitting up all night trying to read some of my letters.

Honey, I'm not mad. But I couldn't let you get away with it without saying a word. I have been expecting something but not that. Darling you should of seen Herb laugh when I opened the letter. If you would have been laughing as hard, you would be crying. One good thing I got your other letter with it. That softened the blow after it was struck.

Darling I hope I don't shake as much as Mildred and George did. They even had me scared for awhile. By the way I knew that girl.

What are you going to do to me. I can't wait till you see me. Do I have say I'm a cri Well, Do I have to say it to find out.

Give you cousin my best wishes. Maybe they will return them to us.

I sure wish I knew how long I was going to be here. At least I know about how long I'm going to be in a hospital, but which ones is another thing.

I don't know if I met the Henderson boy or not. I know a lot of boys here. I can look him up if I know his first name.

I usually listen to Snooks⁹⁶ but I must of missed her that night. Did you hear her the night she went to the opera?

A reconditioning hospital is one when they get you back in shape again or discharge you. You take heat treatments, massaging and whirlpool treatments. They a lot of different things.

I think you got those colds so can have a drink of whiskey.

⁹⁶ Baby Snooks Radio Show

Honey I have to close. No more room on the paper and want to go to the show. Bye Sweetheart. I do love you!

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

xxx

January 17, 1945

Darling,

It's a dark dreary day but I don't feel so bad. It must be because I got a letter from you this morning. Also got one from Mom this afternoon. All the kids are having their turns at being sick.

The last three letters were dated the 15th. Did you write all three of them?

My spring fever is about gone. These last two days turned bad. Isn't it funny how weather can affect your feelings?

Say while you and Darlene were picking out jobs, you didn't happen to think of one for me, did you?

I like you making fun of Johnny Bugg. Maybe we should name our two boys Gasoline and Kerosine, the girl Electrical. Aren't I awful?

Just think honey. 93 days from now and no more school. I can hardly wait. Also 25 days and it will be February 11. I think I'll put in for a furlow the first week of February. Then I can spend my birthday with you if I get one.

The last couple letters I wrote I mailed at night maybe that is why they took longer.

Certainly I have had experience as a husband; at least a father. I've had twelve boy to look after even since I've been a non-com. Our kids could never be any oneryer. Even if I am their paw.

Darling I sure would of liked to seen you change Mark. I bet that was good. I hope you didn't do like Mom did me. She pinned the diaper to me. Then she wondered why I cried.

Herb is here again, he wants me to go to chow. Says I can finish this after awhile. He will wait period.

I went to the show last night. It was, "The Belle of the Yukon". I sure liked it. (No war). Dinna Shore sang a couple songs. Also Bob Burns was in it.

I think they are going to have an Old Time Square dance Saturday night. Its been a long time since I was to one. I wish you could be here. I would swing you round and round.

The Russian drive sounds good. I hope they keep going.

I better close now honey. If theres nothing to do tonight, I'll write you a nice long letter. Bye Darling! I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

xxx

Jan. 17, 1945

Darling.

(The first part of this letter is written in a mirror image)

I just came from the red cross, they are playing Bingo. I was in the library reading. I don't like bingo when their's lot of players. Are you having as much trouble reading this as I am writing it, I hope so. I love you Darling, but I have to have my revenge I don't. My pipe went out so I have to light it again. I won't be able to finish this tonight because the lights go out soon. Can you read that writing. Its German. (Like so much) I should send you some army code. Then you would have to read a while book to learn the code. If I did you could have me sent up the river for giving out military information.

To read the front [age hold a mirror up to it and read from the bottom up. Boy was that a job to write that. I wonder if it was worth the trouble? I'm still one behind. I'll be even tomorrow. You better leave me even or you will be sorry.

Light goes out in five minuets so Good Night darling. I love you and will be glad when you make me the happiest man in the world. Soon I am wishing. Xxx

Jan. 18, 1945

Hello Darling

Its just two oclock and everyone is waiting for the Doctors to look us over. About every three days the Majors & Colnels come around. I was leaving and the nurse made me come back. So here I am.

Its another cold rainy day. I bet you hate to go to school on days like this? Or is it nice there.

I forgot to tell you I popped popcorn last night at the Red cross. I ate almost all I popped. When I got full I quit. They had plenty of popers.

I got a letter from Carl and the paper this morning. I never miss Mail Call. I am expecting a letter from you this afternoon. If it wasn't for you I don't know what I would do.

I just got your letter. I bet you didn't know I stopped and wrote Carl a letter. While I was reading your letter the Chaplin was watching me. He said it must have been a very good letter. He doesn't know the half of it.

Darling I'm going to remind you of the things you say about your Mom & Dad someday. About twenty years from now. You might remind me of a few I said.

I hope I can be there for your Valentine Party. That would give me a 100% attendance for your parties.

I'm sending some stationary. I don't know if you used the other box or not, but I'll never use all I have. If you can't use it Shirley and Joyce can. That remind me, I owe Shirley a letter.

It's a good thing your dad isn't on your school board. You would get about \$2.00 a month. Then think he was over paying you. He doesn't know how much your worth just what you cost. To me you are worth more than I could ever pay. I'll have to call on Morgenthuran.

I like homney like you do. I'm not crazy about it either. Just give me beans Golly speaking of time flying, it seems as if yesterday was Sunday. I hope the rest of the time we are apart goes as fast. I think is because I have so much to do and and have to run around so much doing it. The nights go slow. I can't sleep. I can think of you.

I got this pin up our of the strength magazine. Maybe I shouldn't send you pictures like that. You might forget me. (The pin up is of a young man about Alvin's age. Posed with muscles bulging, no clothes and private parts not exposed.)

What did Margaret Rowland say that was good about me? Would my ears burn?

I just read an article in the Readers Digest on how to pick a mate. It was purty good. It also showed how to tell if you are in love. I am.

Well darling I have to close. I felt sorry and didn't write any more code. But! Bye Sweetheart.

All my Love & Kisses
Alvin

Xxx

January 19, 1945

Darling,

I just finished a letter to Dad. I got one from him this morning. He didn't have much to say. He wants Mom to move out there. First he wants her to go out and thinks she will like it well enough to move out.

We are going to have that Negro singing here at four o'clock I think I'll go. I like concerts. It cost \$3.50 to hear her in town last night. Her name is Marian Anderson.

The mail ought to be here soon then I can answer your letter. I can usually write a better letter after I get a letter from you.

Its another one of those rainy dark days. I guess we have to have bad weather with the good. Most of it is bad.

I went to the show last night. Boy was it crazy. "The Three Cableras".⁹⁷ A Walt Disney picture. Me and Herb laugh at Donald Duck all through the picture. He is really a wolf. Don't miss it. It is tecnacolor and was the most beautiful coloring I ever saw. I think the women of South America would be different then the men.

I broke my pen but it still writes ok. Even a little better. The clip you pull up to fill it came off. It blotted before now it doesn't. I sure hope you can read this writing. I better start in first grade and learn to write over.

You sound so glad school is out as your pupils.

What you need is a helicoper, then you wouldn't get stuck. Probably crash or something worse. You could drop in and visit me every night after school. And! On weekends. Oh Boy. There I go dreaming again. I just can't keep my head out of the clouds.

This sun porch is a busy place. There is a poker game going on beside me and a craps game on the other table. Maybe I should get Philbert a new pair of shoes. I would probably lose mine.

The fellow did have a problem. I would of bought the house. What would of you done?
The poker game broke up at least its quieter.

Oh! Oh it almost four so I better stop if I want to get a seat. I'll try and write a long letter soon. So until tomorrow. Bye Darling, I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

xxx

⁹⁷ 1944 Disney movie called The Three Cablleros.

P.S. 1 You won't have an excuse for running out of paper when you get that I sent. I love you!

P.S. 2 I love you

P.S. 3 I want to love you some more.

January 21, 1945

Hello Darling,

Here it is another Sunday. Its snowing out but not very bad. It is still warm out.

I slept til almost ten this morning. I usually sleep late on Sunday. We got a new patient last night and he woke all of us up at two. I was already awake.

I didn't write yesterday so I'll write a long letter today. I wanted to but was busy till last night and then went down to see Virgil. I sure teased his wife. I wanted her to tell me how it felt to be in love. I asked her a lot of questions. All she did was giggle. Every time Virg tried to say something she would stop him.

Then the hit parade came on. Who do you like best; Larence Tibbit or Frankie? I like to hear Tibbit sing but not swing. Maybe he will get better. They ought to get Bing on there program.

I didn't go to the square dance last night. I heard it was more of a show. Some civilians did the dancing.

Tonight I'm going to the show at the Post Theater. I wish you were here. Gregory Peck is in it. Its "The Key of My Kingdom". I read the book and I hear the picture is even better. I can go to the show every night now except Saturday night. We have to pay \$.15 when we go to the Post Theater. One good thing, we get to see all the latest pictures.

Its starting to snow more. It will probably keep it up for sometime.

I sure liked your letter I got yesterday. It makes me miss you more than ever. The mailman only brought me a paper today so I'll have to wait till tomorrow. Are my letter still taking longer to get there?

I'm sending some of those pictures I took. After you see them I know you wont mind my showing them to my friends. I want to keep them so you can send them back after while. I told Mom, to have some made for your mother and you. I don't know how soon she will do it. I sure wish I hadn't lost those pictures I took of you the first time I met you. I bet you are glad?

I got a letter from that Hawaian boy. He sent me a Hawaian dollar bill. Its just like ours only it has Hawaii stamped across it. He is still here in the U.S. He says he has been invited out a couple times and met a girl at a doctors home who taught at Hawaii. He sure wants to get home. I can't blame him.

I was in the Library yesterday and when I looked up there sat a boy from Co. "C". He was wounded Sept. 19. He told us what happened to a lot of the boys. His home is in Tenn. He heard that both Herb and I were killed.

Where did you get the locker at; Hanover or Washington? Now you will have to go to town every time you have company.

Tell me darling who do you dream of when your sitting in that chair. I'll be glad when we can dream together. What will we dream of then.

Your mother and mine must think alike. Mom wrote my Aunt that you had me in a daze. Maybe I should of answered her questions sooner. I know she is right all I need to do now is

think of you and I don't know anyone else is around. Say do you look any better? I don't see how you could.

What were you laughing at when I took that picture? You have a far away look in your eye, in the one where you are holding Mark. Darling when am I going to get that picture of you? Maybe we can have it taken while you are here.

If this weather keeps up you will finish your dress way before spring and not work to much on it either.

Speaking of stems I should of got some full length action pictures of you pumping water. I could charge admission and really make the dough. I bet some would see the show 5 or 6 times.

I bet that jacket is mine. Blue is my favorite color. They sure have a lot of nice dresses here. You could spend all day looking at them.

A General was here yesterday. I didn't know he was in our ward and when I turned around I almost ran into him.

Honey do you think of me everytime you have lima beans for supper? I remember the suppers at your place everytime we have them here. That reminds me. Did you hear "The People are Funny" this week? How would you like to live in a store window in Los Angeles for one week? You would get a \$500.00 dollar diamond keepsake ring? I have to listen to the next program. This ought to be good.

Darling I'm going to have to send this in two letters. I wont be able to get the pictures and letter in one.

I have two letters to answer but I doubt if I get it done. Maybe I will after the show tonight.

Darling I miss you so. When I look at your pictures I think of the nights we were together. Now I wont have the picture. At least for awhile. I'll still think of you. I love you so much it hurts. Now I have to close. Bye Sweetheart. I love you.

xxxx
ooo

All My Love and Kisses
Alvin

January 21, 1945

My Darling,

I have a few minutes before lights out so I will start this letter. I should be answering some others but you come before everyone and everything. That is how much I love you.

I and Herb just came from the show. Darling, was it ever good. As good or even better than "Going My Way". I hope that you and I can see it again together. I mean "The Keys of My Kingdom".

Here it is, only two and a half hours and another Sunday is gone. As long as I can remember I have always looked forward to Sunday. When it is Sunday I feel that I am wasting time. That I am missing something. In fact I have always had that feeling. Just like something happening; and I'm not there.

Its almost as bad as my love for you. I do miss you honey. My feeling for you I cant even put into words. Maybe sometime I can tell you how I feel. (Don't tell me - With my hands).

I like to think back on what another person is doing. I use to do that a lot in England. Even now I am wondering what you are doing. It is 9:40 so you are probably listening to the radio, reading, writing or doing something for school this coming week. Your dad is sitting on a

chair near the stove, almost asleep. Your mom is sitting at the table. She just told Shirley and Joyce to go to bed. My Mom is rocking Janice, and thinking of you and me.

Honey, I guess I'm just a drip! I use to have a lot of ideas but I lost them over there, and since I've met you. Which way do you like me? I wish I was with you. Then I could hold close and say a lot of things. Maybe I would chew your ears. I think you treated me worse than I did you. You bit my ears and nose, pushed me off the bed, wouldn't let me kiss you. Say! Add them all up and I got give you a lot of things. My day will come!! Well darling I am out of paper so will close for now. I love you!

xxx-ooo

January 22, 1945

Hello Darling,

I'll have to hurry so Herb wont catch me writing. I told him what you said and did he ever laugh.

He heard from Bill Bixley a boy I ran around with all the time before I got wounded. He's here in U.S. on a furlow. I have to write him tonight.

It sure is nice out today. A change from the rest of the week. I sure hope it stays.

I can see where you are going to get me to church. You cant by staying in bed till 10:00. I think I can find a better job then that. Do you want me to have dish pan hands. I don't like to dishes anymore then you do. But with you!!! That's different. I would even if I didn't like to.

If I get a leave I'll let you know. They don't tell you much around here. I ought to get an answer when I ask them. Which I will in a week or so.

The Major made rounds today. He didn't say anything about me. Asked how I was getting along. I said fine.

I don't know what I'll do tonight. It will be a good time to answer the letters I owe. I wrote George this afternoon. I haven't heard from him for a long time. He is probably very busy.

Boy have I got a cold. My nose is running. I must of caught it from your letter of the other day. No I didn't honey. I got it the other night. They had to much heat then to little. I'll get rid of it soon.

Virgil might be able to get up on crutches soon. I bet Mable will be glad. She sure wants him out of that bed so he can go to town. Why is that? I wonder!

I think I'll have Mom send my camera. This is another place of my army life. I ought to have it for my album. Here he is so I better close. I'll see you tomorrows letter. Bye darling! I love you!

All My Love and Kisses

Alvin

xxx

ooo

Jan. 23, 1945

Darling,

I just had dinner. So sence I'm going to be busy this after noon I better write you now. Herb says I should tell you that if I wrote you some other time except before meals he wouldn't be waiting for me to go to eat.

I sure feel awful I have the awfulist cold. My nose runs my eyes water and my head feels like a log. I hope I feel better soon.

Our G.I.⁹⁸ ward boy is back. Now I have to get up early. He tried to put me on K.P.⁹⁹ this morning. After telling I do a H _ of a lot with my arm in a cast he took my nane off. Everyone laughs at him. He's a P.F.C.¹⁰⁰ and is bucking for corp.¹⁰¹

I didn't do that writing I was going to last night. I read a book about a women in prison in Russia. The name of it is "The Women Who Wouldn't Die" If you want to read about people suffering read it. Your should read "Report on Russia" by William White. Theres a digest of it in Dec. and Jan Readers Digest. Also that article on Picking a mate is in the Jan. issue. (I think)

I bet you would still get the worst of it in a snowball fight with me. I wish I could have been there. This stuff is getting me down. I try to keep busy but sometimes I get so tired of just laying around. There are so many things I could do if they would lëtsure. hope I can get there for the party. Only thing I can do is wait and see. If I come will you paddle me. I'll be twelve!! As for a birthday present. I give you a list of things soon.

You made a slight mistake about who would keep him (Mark) from crying. Its we not just me. Because you will be with me most of the night.

A boy here is going to draw my portrait for a magazine. If it is printed I'll send you one.

Honey I have to close for now. I'll be back after while. (I couldn't spell later)

Hello darling. Here it is six thirty. I have been posing for a fellow who was sketching me. Boy no wonder models get payed so much. It's a job to set still for a couple hours. It was sure good. Flattered me. I looked like Robert Taylor.

I got a nice letter from Mildred this afternoon. She says they have been visiting friends most of the week.

She say I use to tease her about being in love. Now I know how it feels. Also wished us the best of luck. Don't tell her I told you, but she thinks you're mad at her for some reason or other.

I don't think I ever told you, but the second time I came to see you, I asked her if you would make a good wife. Her answer was yes! When I asked how she knew, she wouldn't answer me. So you see I was thinking of you a long time ago. This might not reach you as soon as it should. The mail goes out at 4:45 and I hadn't finished it. The next mail goes out in the morning.

Boy, have I got a lot of letters to answer. Wish you were here to help me. I also want to go to the show tonight. Here they come from the first show.

Well honey I try to think of a good ending but can't. I like your's that say. I love you darling so "I love you too, darling.

xxx
ooo

All my love & Kisses
Alvin

⁹⁸ Government Issue

⁹⁹ Kitchen Duty

¹⁰⁰ Private First Class

¹⁰¹ Corporal

Jan. 24, 1945

Well heres another beautiful day. They do have some nice weather in Kansas after all, don't they? My pen feed too fast. Or else I write to slow.

The days are getting fewer and fewer between now and the eleventh. I am getting more restless as they pass.

I wonder what wrong with me. I'm sure having trouble writing this so far. Guess my pipe is getting to strong. If it had legs it would walk.

I read that article about Guiseppe and the Sergeant. It is in Feb. issue and I just got one. Did you here it over "Radio Reader Digest". I usally read these magazine from cover to cover. They are Time, Life, & Readers Digest. The others I spot read and look at cartoons.

Yesterday & today I went to Occupational therphy. I'm working on a tray. I don't think it will turn out very well. The wood is to soft. When I get done with it I think I'll made a rug or doyle. m-sp.

I got your last to letters in the morning. I hope they keep coming that way. I'll have more time to answer them.

Waite till you get a houseful of kids of our own. They will be a combination of your sisters & my brothers. We better live in a jail so we can lock them up.

Honey, maybe you should send your dress work to me. I use to make Ruby's doll dress.

I didn't hear Jack Benny. I went to the show instead. It was a murder picture. Kinda spooky. I don't know whether go to see Deno tonight or go watch the dancing classes. I don't think I can dance on my leg.

I have more stationery here than I sent you. It is more plain.

Herb is here again. Its getting to be a habit. He writes at night.

It isn't the stationary that counts darling, it's the letter and who it comes from.

I like that dreaming of my dad. You should consintrate on me. I dreamed of us the other night. We had 3 boy and a girl. Two of the boys were twins. We had been married eight years.

I have to close darling. Bye sweetheart. I love you

Xxx

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

Thurs. Jan 25, 1945

It is rather late. I didn't get to write this afternoon. I was reading the Time Magazine and forgot the time. Let me know when you get this. I want to know if it does any good to mail them in the afternoon. I went to the first show tonight. It starts at 5:15 so is over early. It was "Lake Placid Serenade" It wasn't bad but wasn't good either. The picture "Tomorrow the World" is here Sunday. I think I'll go see that.

We must be going to have some bad weather. All this good weather at once is just to lead us on.

I hope the Russians keep up their drive. Maybe if the Germans with draw enough troops from the western front, Ike¹⁰² can go to town.

They finely took the bandage off my leg. It looks better and feels a lot better too. I think they will take my cast of in a week or so to remove the stitches. Of course they will put another one

¹⁰² General Eisenhower

on. Darn it. I don't want to go through that again. Also I would have to stay in the hospital longer

Oh Yes! I moved again. Just to another bed in the same ward. I bet you can't guess the number of the bed. Its my lucky number thirteen. At least it use to be. I hope it still is.

I had some clippings I wanted send you, but I must of lost them.

Herb told me his wife had her fortune told. She must of got a big kick our of it. I told him about the time I had mine told. It looks like some more of it is going to come true. Maybe we ought to have ours (both of us the same women or man) and see if they correspond.

Honey, my theme song for to-day is, No Letter Today. Maybe I'll get a long one tomorrow or even two.

Darling, I read in the Times where a guy was offered 100,000 said he did know what he would do with a 100,000 dollars but did know what he could with a bull.

The dancing class is Friday instead of last night. I wrote a couple letter last night. I should write some more to-night but wont have time.

I think I'll go to town this Saturday. I have some things I want to look up in the library. They don't have it here at the hospital library. Its materal of my post war plan ??? I'm still in a fog. Virg and I have a lot of talks about ourselves and our familys.

You better put these down in our notebook on question your going to ask me to answer when we see each other. What fortune teller told Herbs wife?

They had some wrist watches in the PX to-day for \$10.00. I wanted to buy one but didn't know what I would do with it.

Darling I'm not in the letter writing mood so if this is hard to make out you know why. Its sure hard to think of anything to write. Oh Yes! Honey, I was the first one in the mess line today both for dinner and supper. That makes four times in six years. I better close now. Bye Darling. I love you!

All My Love & Kisses

Xxx

Ooo

Jan. 26, 1945

Darling

I knew it. I just knew that good weather would not hold out. Maybe it won't be so bad this time.

Say you are turning cupid worrying over Evelyn's¹⁰³ romances. I'm glad that I'm not Wilber. He will probably be bitter. I know more than one guy that has had the same thing happen.

Honey, what if I proposed by letter. Would you frame the letter? Maybe someday you can sell my letters to publisher. They can make a book of them. "Love Letters of The Famous Alvin Lampe" Of course that will be after I'm President. (Demo) You can write "My Day" I must of felt like writing Sunday. I would lot sooner talk to you than write.

Darling why do you want to lose 5 more pds. I like you the way you are.

¹⁰³ Virginia's friend Evelyn Ebling

I sure get depressed sometimes. I wish you were here to cheer me up. I'll be so glad when this is all over. I suppose by that time, something else will bother me. By that time you will be with me and I won't have time to think of such things that depress me.

The South American Women say the men can't take care of them. What they need are a few Americans. And speaking of Donald duck. I haven't seen that cartoon again. The one we saw so many times when I was home.

Darling I think I'm jealous I try not to be but I guess I just love you too much. At least Slim writes you. The only girl that ever wrote me doesn't write anymore. She just quit after she seen you at the skating rink. Women are sure hard to figure out.

I'm glad you liked the pictures. I knew you would. You can send them back anytime. I'm in no hurry. Any way there half yours. What I have is yours. Do you want me to send everything to you now?

Here I am again homey. I bet you didn't even know I was gone. Herb came after me to go to supper. After chow we went to library then to the show. It wasn't such a bad show. It was the one I thought was Sunday. "Tomorrow the World"

After the show I went to the dancing class. I just watched. I think with practice I'll learn. (a lot of practice)

Do you know what a negligee is – What she hopes she'll have on when the house burns.

Tomorrow I'll send you a pin up. The kind I like. (If I can't get the other kind)

Herb and I were looking at some Sunshine & Health magazines. We decided to join the nudists life. Do you want to join with us. Darling, I miss you so. The more I think of you the bluer I get. I'm going to ask for that furlow soon. I hope I can get it. I know I can get one in March. Would that be better? March is far away! I don't think I could wait.

Now honey, I better close. I wish I had a plane so I could be with you every spare moment of my time. Bye my sweetheart! I love you darling

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

P.S. Each word is a
Kiss to you. Here are three
more. I love you. Xxx

Sat. Jan. 27, 1945

My Darling,

Oh Happy Day! I got two letters from you, also Shirleys. That's my reward for not getting any yesterday. D- - -this pen why don't it write right.

It is snowing again. We can have a snow fight yet. I wanted to go into town today but don't feel like it now. I guess it can wait.

I sign the payroll Monday and get paid Wed. And that reminds me. I have to figure out my income. I don't think I have to pay any tax. I did last year.

I can just imagine what will go on at the shower. You will learn all about each others roommates, and a few other things.

It would of embarrassed me but not the way you think. Only if Herb seen me reading it. I can just imagine what he would say.

I look at a lot of dresses. Always starting at the ankle, No honey, I was looking at them when I got your robe I always wonder how you would like in them. When I go to town I do some

window shopping. I haven't been to town since I got back. Maybe I ought to go in and get drunk. I wouldn't feel so blue. (I won't)

Darling you sure pick good times to get sick. Next time you better have me there to take care of you. How would you feel as a pioneer. With only a wagon as transportation?

I wonder what I said in my letter Sunday. Maybe I'll feel like that again tomorrow.

I'm not worried over Sam. He's a pretty good guy. And if you love me as much as I do you. I could trust you here at the hospital with all these wolves. The nurses say their alright while in bed but when they get up. Watch out!

My cold is gone. I hope it doesn't come back.

Herb is here: He says I must have it bad. I have. Don't you think so. I'm going to stop for a while. You won't get this till Mon. or Tues. anyway. Bye darling XXX.

Here I am honey. I would of been writing some, but they had a picture in our ward. I had seen it a long time ago.

It is still snowing out. It stopped for awhile this afternoon but not for long. It melts fast so probably be gone by tomorrow.

Guess who I talked with this afternoon. The movie actor Ann Baxter. Herb and I were talking and she came up and talked with us. I told her we (Herb & I) were talking about his wife. She says that's always a good subject. Then Herb had to tell her I was going to take the leap. Well! - - - - censored---- She seen a boy and his wife that were rather close together and said it was to bad they could not be alone together. I told her when your in love you don't notice anyone else anyway. She shook hands on that!

Darling I know I'm going to watch you if we go to Calif. She wasn't half as good looking as you and they got her in the movies. She's short and wore her hair up and wedges to make her look taller. (and your wiggle is five times as good as hers) Maybe we getter go to Oregon.

I'm sure awful aren't I. Just think; you'll have to put up with me all your life. Maybe I'll change in my old age. Probably get worse.

I'm sending you a pin up of mine. I bet you like the first one I sent better. I have a much better one then this one. I can't see where they get a three point landing.

I see your mother has been telling on me. I'll get even by having her tell me some more about you. The next time I won't take the price off. I bet you don't know what my present cost. And I won't tell!

Say you better let me massage the place where you got burned. It will help the blood to circulate faster.

It seems that we both feel blue and happy at the same time. Remember when I sung all the way from Blue Rapids.¹⁰⁴ I wonder when I'll sing like that again.

Do you know what! I was going to paddle you but forgot all about it. You kept me to busy. I'll send that list tomorrow. Besides I'm in no hurry.

When I told Herb he wasn't to bother me while I was writing he says, Boy you two got it bad.

Now I really have to hurry. It's 5 min. till ten and the light go out then.

Be sure to see the Jan. 29 Life. There's a article about a soldier from my division. I went through the same procedure only I came to states by boat.

¹⁰⁴ A small town in Kansas west of Waterville.

Fredrick¹⁰⁵ is missing in action. He's Ruby's boy friend. I sure feel sorry for his folks. They were the ones who brought Ruby that present from Fritz. He might be a prisoner. I hope so or else he turns up. All I can say is I'm lucky.

Well Darling I just have to. It's only fifteen days till the eleventh. Either you'll come to see me or I'll go see you. I sure need you to cheer me up. Until then. Bye honey! I love you with all my heart.

Your Loving Hus
(I mean)
All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX
OOO

Ps Say Shirley wanted to know what (xxx ooo) meant. I wonder! Did you put her up to it or is she going to ask some more question only maybe worse????

Jan 28, 1945

My Darling,

It's late I was going to write several times today but just couldn't get around to it.

I can get a furlow this next month. I asked the Doctor today. I just hope nothing comes up to stop it.

Gosh this day went slow even if I did sleep late. I spent most of the afternoon in the Library. Just now I came from the show. It was fairly good. "Music for Millions"

I got a letter from you this morning. Gosh I'm lucky to have you. I get a letter everyday and spend the rest of the time thinking of you. Maybe even worrying a little. That's the women in me.

I think I better stop teasing. Mable,¹⁰⁶ she says I should first wait till she see you. She'll get even. Now I'm worried. Now we will both get teased. Say does your dad still tease you?

There was some bad news in the paper today. Freddie was killed. I sure hated to hear that. I feel so sorry for his folks. I think I'll write them a letter. I don't know just how much Ruby thought of him. It gets closer all the time. The trouble is there's so little you can do about it.

They are getting a lot of new patients here. A lot of the old ones I know have left. I wish I knew when I will be leaving. Virg will be in the hospital for at least a year. He hasn't told his wife or folks. He doesn't want them to worry.

Why don't you ask your dad what he will give you for your car? Then I'll tell you what I would do.

You know what, honey. I'm living two lives. I live mine then I get your letters two days later and live yours. (for some reason I want to write life instead of lives) Our letters would make good diaries.

¹⁰⁵ Fredrick George was a neighbor of the Lampe's in Beatrice. Alvin's sister Ruby dated him. He had been wounded once and after recovering was sent back into action. Ruby said the war caused some mental anguish and he gave up his will to live.

¹⁰⁶ Virg's wife Mable West

I wonder how sleepy you will be when I'm there. We will have to send your folks to bed early. Then we can go to bed earlier. (I bet) Maybe I can go to school with you and help teach. Then you can sleep there. (of course the school board wouldn't mind) The kids parents would say where did you learn that. They would say from Alvin. Boy would things pop then?

Darling do you know the only letters I get this week were from you. And Shirley. I'll probably get a lot of them this next week. Maybe the reason is because I haven't answered all those I don't hear from. I usually have to write mom twice to get one letter.

Tell Shirley I'll write tomorrow. Also those things mean hugs & kisses. Also ask her...Never mind I'll ask her.

Honey, just because I sent a lot of cartoon don't think I spend all my time looking at them. I just spend part of it. The rest of the time I look at the funnies.

I didn't hear the Hit Parade last night. I guess Tibbit isn't going over very big. I sure hear some song a lot. The nickalodian. (sp) in the PX goes all the time. The PX workers are going crazy. The song Rum & Coca Cola is the one played the most. It is banned on the air. Gay Caballeros is next.

I better close now darling. I miss you too! Bye honey! I love you darling

All my love & kisses

Alvin

XXX OOO

Mon. Jan. 29, 1945

Darling,

Here it is another Mon. I hope time doesn't go this fast when I'm with you.

As usual Monday is a bad letter day for me. I wish Carl would write so I would know when he's coming home.

It was sure cold out today. We are probably in for another cold spell. I hope it is warm in Feb. I like cold weather but not with my arm in a cast. And you on a farm two miles from the highway.

I put in for a pass this morning but didn't feel like going in so I didn't go. That's the second time. The third time is charmed. I might make the next time.

They are having a dance tonight at the Red Cross. I think I'll go watch them after while. I would try dancing if my arm & leg were better. I am bound and determined to learn. And when I do you have to learn to roller skate. Then I'll laugh. I feel sorry for your poor.... Well I feel sorry for you. You will probably pull us both down.

I got a birthday present today. It was a swell pipe. The guy that got it for me is a very good friend of mine. His name is Alvin Lampe. Have ever met him. Honey I just couldn't resist. They got some new ones in so I bought one. Payday is Wed. That kinda had something to do with it.

They ought to get some other things in for the 14th. They have some valentines in now but I don't like them. It's too bad you don't like chocolates. They always have Whitmans. I got a box the other day for Mable. I ate half of them myself.

I'm sending two more pin ups. Notice who signed one of them. The other gives me an idea for the next time I help you wash.

We had cheese hounds for supper. They are hot dogs stuffed with cheese. We have bananas three times or four a week. Don't you wish you were me. Also a lot of ice cream. I think they are trying to get us fat. If I ate everything I would. I never eat breakfast.

I finished carving the tray I was working on. Now I have to stain and varnish it. If it is good I'll give it to you for a wedding present.

Here is a list of things to choose from. I hope I can think of something. Socks, hankies, alburn, axe, book (on how to make love), bar (glassware) bean bag, bed time stories, billfold, birthday card, picture of you, boxing gloves, brewers yeast tablets, calf weaners, camera supplies, can opener, candy laxatives, cane, cap (hunting), cards (marked), cardueu wine, cash book, castor oil, colored crayons, crow caller, dandruff aid, day bed (double), delouser, deodorant, dice, dog, douche bags, drawers (long), ear clips, espson salts, exlax, fairy tale books, false teeth, fishing pole, flea killer, fly spray, picture of you, picture of you, picture of you, fortune telling book, gaiters, gear grease, grooms ring, gun, hair restorer, harmonica, harness (baby), hill country songs, humidior, ice bag, ink, key chain, knife, kotex, liver pills, maps, nest eggs, night gown, Odo-ro-no, over shoes, oysters, pipe, pajamas, pen, pencil, pitchfork, poison, quest powder, rabbit, rolling pin, rope,(lots of it), rubbers (small), sausage, scarf, scout book, shackles, socks, picture of you, picture of you, "T" shirt, tobacco, tobacco pouch, traps, udder remedies, vest chain, vitimns (Lots of them), war bonds, watch chain, wave (a), wedding announcements, wedding ring, yarn, youth bed, Zane gray books, YOU***.

How's that for a list. Honey was that a job. You better keep it for next year. I couldn't think of anything so had to get a catalog. I put a star by the things I want most. Use your own judgement.

Gosh I'm tired. I ought to sleep tonight. The other night a kid got a cramp in his broken leg. I thought some one was murdering him. Did he ever yell. I bet it hurt.

Now I can't think of anything to write. It's to late to go to the dance. I better write Shirley.

Maybe tomorrow I can write a better letter. Till them. Bye honey, I love you darling.
All my love & kisses
Alvin

XXX
OOO

Tues. Jan. 30, 1945

Hello Darling

I have been trying to write since seven but I just couldn't get started. I started to read a book, When I stopped to come write a picture was going on in the ward. Well anyway here I am and it's only eight-thirty.

I got a card from Carl. He is home. Now I have to get a furlow to see him. He has to leave the seventh. I wish he would of wrote me before. He must not of got my last letter. I hope I can get enough time to cover the 14th. I'll ask the Ward officer. For now all I can do is hope.

I got a letter and some pictures from Mrs. Hubbard.¹⁰⁷ That's John's mother. John has moved. They think he went to Calif. I can't figure that move out. Surely not for training. The pictures were of him and his wife. He sure looks different in a uniform. It is the first time I seen him in it.

Darling, I have a joke book I'm going to send (or bring) you. It sure is good. It sure has some good jokes in it. I don't think they would let it in Boston. Virg. has it now. I took it to him this afternoon and Mable was with him. They didn't visit much after that.

¹⁰⁷ John Hubbard's mother. They were neighbors to the Lampe family in Beatrice

I saw three movies today or two and a half. One was a G.I. film. The other I seen tonight after supper was "Ministry of Fear" It was a mystery that took place in London. You would like it. The other I seen just part of was the Navy Way. What I seen wasn't bad. Who says they don't have entertainment here.

The book I'm reading is "It Can't Happen Here" by Sinclair Lewis. It starts out good. I let you know how I like it.

I got the pictures today. You should of kept them longer and showed them to Gram. I'll bring them when I come?

Darling you should be here. It keeps me busy stamping Lucky Strike packages. Most of my wishes are the same. I hope they come true. I'll do my best to make them. With your help there in the bag.

Yes honey I did miss you. It took a long time for you to put Mark to sleep. Did you sing to him.

Now there you go again. Maybe Herb don't want me to tell you what the fortune teller told his wife. Besides I can tell you all about it not just the one thing. Darling don't you know why your so dam curious? Because your a women. May I bow? If I was there you would probably kick me.

I missed you again. Did you break any finger nails putting on the chains. Also I don't know how to spell license either. I think we will have a jeep. Then we won't need chains.

Since it takes two days either way I'll write at night. Then maybe I can get some sense in my letters. And to think I use to rush to get your letters wrote by 4:45.

This thing I am going to look up for my Post War place is very secret. Besides it won't happen for quite some time. I don't remember if I told you or not. Which one are you referring to?

If you think your end curl isn't bad it must be good. I would like to see it now. Gosh I hope I get that furrow. It's so hard to write. I wish I could look into the future. I miss you so! I think of lots of things I want to tell you, but forget them when I'm with you. I forget everything else to. Maybe I'll settle down this summer. Or get worse.

We will find out if your dress will wrinkle or not. I bet it does.

I bet I would get answers if you wrote my letters. I don't think you should read them. Boy if you could read the letters I got from overseas. Even I blushed. I bet we never get any answered after we are married. We will have to use cards. Don't ask why?

I hope I can cut that two weeks to three or six days. I would like to have you here but would much sooner be with you. I get goose pimples just thinking of it. Maybe you can come down later on.

I have to stop darling the light in the ward are already out. I told the ward boy I would shut these off in a minute. So by darling! I love you!!

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX
OOO

Hospital Ward - Topeka, KS

Wed. January 31, 1945

Darling.

I've had a busy day in a way. Most of it was waiting. I turned in my furlow request. I hope it goes thru. If it does I'll see you Friday or at least Monday.

I also got payed this morning. It wasn't much but I can use it. I hope I don't have to use any I've saved at home.

I went to the show to-night. It was fair. I have forgotten the name already. On the way back from the show we stopped at the Red Cross. There was a U.S.O. show going on and it was so good. I stayed and seen it. So I'm later then usual. I won't have much time to write this.

I got a letter from dad. He misunderstood me. You should hear what he said. I'll tell you when I see you. Gosh honey I hope its soon. I'm going to be handicapped with this cast so its up to you.

Darling I would like to see you ring the bell. The bells I want to hear aren't school bells.

I think we are both in a rut. I can't spell either. I just can't do anything. If this war would only end. Then we could live our own live as we pleased.

Maybe the mail man wants Darlene to see how we are doing. Tell the mail man she already knows.

I wrote to a girl who was engaged. She wrote back to. Of course maybe it was because she is my cousin. Besides. Oh well I guess I don't understand. She did act kind a funny, Come to think of it.

When Van Johnson¹⁰⁸ visits here I'll have him see you personally. Of course I'll be there. You will probably be as disappointed as I was when I seen Ann Baxter.

I haven't heard from home for a week and a half. I ought to get a letter to-morrow. I suppose Ruby feels bad.

Darling. I'm going to be indebted to Mildred for life. If it hadn't been for her I'd never met you. Then I would have been a bachelor like Chris. When I think of it I just shutter. I love you so much I was wondering at one time if I would ever fall in love. Boy I know now.

I need you to send my morale up to. It goes down faster then it use to. My morale is like your radio battery. It needs charging every so often. I feel a lot better since I have a good chance to get this furlow.

If you write "My Night" you would be president the next term. Probably a dictator then I could write "My Night". I would get shot. I think "My Night" would be banned from the Boston papers.

Oh in the picture a guy explained how a kiss effected a person. He sure knew his business. That's just the way you make me feel.

I have two minutes till lights out so I better say good night. Bye honey!

I love you darling!

“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

¹⁰⁸ A movie star

XXX

XXX

P.S. Darling, I don't think I can hold out this time. Spring is a long time off.

February 25, 1945

Darling.

I hope you are as lonesome as I am right now. I know these next two months are going to be hard to bear with the way I feel towards you. I love you so much darling. Thanks for the wonderful time. Every furlow I have is better just because of you. I can hardly wait till you are with me for always.

Almost everyone here I knew has asked me if I got married. I wish I could of answered yes. Virg still thinks I did. He is up in a wheel chair now. They disappear (HE & Mable) every evening at 7:30, at the Red Cross building. I wonder what they do and etc.

What did pop have to say? I hope he wasn't to mad. I'll probably find the answer in your first letter, but had to ask anyway.

I didn't have very much mail here when I got back. Two from you and one from George, Aunt Mil, Aunt Bud, Dad, and Gram. They all sent Birthday cards to. Also I had all the Beatrice Papers. I am hoping for a letter from you to-morrow, but doubt if I get one till Tuesday. I wanted to write last night but was so busy I couldn't get at it. I'll write a long one tonight. You would get them both the same time anyway.

I even forgot to turn my furlow papers in last night. Luckie for me they signed me in.

Gosh honey I'm still tired. I slept like a log till ten this morning. I'll probably be tired till the next time I see you.

Darling I sure hope you got home ok. I thought about you all the way back. I kinda wish I would of asked for an extention. Herb got five days more. I know I will the next time. Now I am hoping I stay here for a couple months yet. I hear its easier to get furlows here then at Carson. I guess we will just have to even it out. It's the old Army game. (As we always say.) I told them I was ready for another one when I came in. They just laughed.

I am still in the same ward and the same bed. (No 13) My luckie number. I was on K.P. to-day but didn't have to do much because of my cast. I think they will take the cast off soon. If they don't it will be part of my arm. I hope they take an Xray soon I want to find out if it has taken. I am a little worried.

Boy is it cold out and getting colder. Its starting out purty bad. I'm glad I am inside and wish you were here. I hate to think of you going to school in bad weather. If something would happen, I don't know what I would do.

Do you know that I almost missed the bus because of the train. I bet you would have been surprised to see me again that afternoon.

If this is mixed up its just the way I feel. I can't think of anything to write. And when I do I have to write it before I forget it.

I bought a new pen to-day. A Sheafer, lifetime. It only cost me 5.95 and is priced at 10.00. Its my birthday present from Alvin.

Here I am back. Oh I forgot to tell you. I stopped to listen to Walter Winchell. He sure tells people off.

I sure was glad to hear from George. I'm going to send you his letter. He doesn't say much, guess he was scared. I better write Carl so he knows I'm back at the boys. I have six letters to write but it looks like I won't get them answered to-night.

Gosh I love you darling. I can't explain my feelings. No wonder no one can write of love. It sure is wonderful. Every time I think of you I almost sigh out loud. Darling your so wonderful. You make this world a wonderful place to live in. I hope I can make you as happy as you have made. I don't dare think of how I'll feel when we will be together forever. May I be worthy of you.

I wonder if all people who are in love feel toward each other as we do? Maybe we should write a book so they could make a movie of it.

Well darling I guess I have to close. I can't think of anything else to write. Maybe I can do better to-morrow. I had a lot to write but you know how it is. Bye honey! I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

XXX
X & O

(Letter from brother George enclosed)

U.S.S. Hopkins
January 22, 1945

Hi Alvin.

I have not written to you for some time and have not received any letter from you either but I suppose you are having a good time there at home or I should say mostly In Kans, you asked in you last letter what I was doing and if I would get a chance to get back to the States for a long period of a time well sence. We are allowed to tell a little of what were doing or have done we were in the invasion of Lingyan Gulf.

We were attacked by planes several times and bagged one plane. I'm telling if ever there were butterflies in my stomach there are hundreds at that time more than before. We were the first ship in the gulf as you can understand that. Well that seems to sum up that question as for being in the States for shore duty it looks like a long time from now unless I get a school which I hope to get some day. I hope to go up for First Class next month and hope more that I make it. Now I'll ask you a few questions. How is your arm and how did it happen? I've heard a hundred different things but still you have never say much about it. Are you going to get married or are you going to wait till after the war. For my self I guess I'll wait and first find me a girl that suits me. I may have one now but I'm not sure. Where are some of the other fellows around home I never hear much anymore except from mom once in a while. Well I have said all I can thank of so will close, Please write soon and tell some of the other fellows to write too.

Your Bro.
George

G.A. Lampe. G.M. 2/C¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ Alvin's brother, George joined the Navy and arrived in Pearl Harbor about ten days after the Japanese had attacked. He was assigned to work in the morgue. He said this was a terrible experience for a young kid from Nebraska. He later was assigned to the USS Hopkins DMS #13. The Hopkins had been converted from a destroyer to a high-speed minesweeper. It was also a flag ship. George was in the South Pacific for most of his duty. George has quite a story to tell of his experiences. His travels took him from Guadalcanal; Solomon Islands; Saipan; Guam; Marianas Island; Leyte Gulf; Lingayen Gulf; Iwo Jima; Okinawa and he was present in Tokyo Bay at the Japanese Surrender Ceremony. The USS Hopkins, was right next to the USS Missouri. Just before the ceremony they were told to move so that their rusty old ship would not ruin any the pictures that day. During his time of service the USS Hopkins escorted transports, swept mines, carried badly-needed supplies, downed Japanese planes, participated in

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February 26, 1945

Darling

Here it is the end of another day and I'm back at writing you as I was before I left. It seems so long since I've seen you. I know it will be harder to be away this time. It gets worse each time.

I have been transferred to another ward. It is first across the fire-break from A-1. I'm in B-1 now. There are a few boys here that I know so it won't be so bad.

I still owe those six letters. I have one to George half wrote I'll finish it to-night. I got a package from Mom to-day. It contained a pair of pants and a book. I don't know if I should send it to you or not. I know I can't for awhile because some boys here want to read it. It sure tell about everything including men. I think I would sooner teach you about them. I think I'll check it over and see if it is right. Also pick up some pointers. You better read it before you let your Mom look at it.

I went to a show yesterday. It was "Objective Burma" with Errol Flynn. It sure was good almost true. There's another good picture on Wed. But I forget what it is.

Theres a dance on at the Red Cross now for patients. I should be there learning, but would sooner write you.

Mable took the film in to be developed. I should get the picture Thursday. I'll send them to you as soon as I can. Mom must of sent the proofs of those of you to you. If you get them send them to me as soon as you can.

About all I do now is think of you, darling. Every now and then I laugh at something we did. Herb wants to know what I'm laughing at. Should I tell him. How's those hot lips? What would you do if I addressed a letter that way? I bet your dad would laugh. Darling I'm just kidding. I love you so much. I wish it would have been summer while I was home we could have had more fun. We hardly went anywhere this last time. We'll make up for it on our honeymoon. You better start making plans now. And write them down or we will never do them. I know when I'm with you I forget everything I guess I'm in a second heaven.

Gosh that's a long paragraph. Say if your folks can't get overshoes there for Joyce & Shirley, maybe I can get them here. Send their sizes. If there is anything else I can do just whistle. After all I am your servant.

Have you heard any of the results of our trip to, Hanover. I bet it is spreading fast. You darling what am I going to do with you: I think you were tickled that it happened. I wish it were true. Virg. wanted to know what I did on my furlow, but I wouldn't tell him because he wouldn't give me any advice. Then he told me he bought Mable a cedar chest. Guess he's trying to make up for other things he didn't tell me.

I must close Sweetheart. I hope you have sweet dreams of me. Bye honey! I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

P.S. Bet the mail man is happy now?

pre-invasion sweeping and bombardment, gave fire support for amphibious landings, picked up prisoners from a sunken Japanese ship, were attacked by Kamikaze repeatedly, even being struck a glancing blow by a flaming Kamikaze, rescued 94 survivors when her sister ship the Palmer was hit and sank, and rode out two Typhoons. George served from Dec.11, 1941 to November 21, 1945

. He held the title of Gunners Mate 1st. Class.

February 27, 1945

Darling

If I feel blue or sound blue in this letter you are the reason. I had hoped for a letter to-day and none came. I bet its that mail man. I think I'll get him a pair of snow shoes. It is snowing here now. I hope it's nice there so you can teach. Then you won't have to teach for last days in April.

Boy did I have a time last night. I made my bed ready for lights out, then read the paper. When I started to get in bed someone was already in it. I finally convinced him it was mine. So he move out. This morning I found out I was in the wrong bed. Mine was on the other side of the room. Of course I didn't know I was changed.

I went to a Red Cross show. A cowboy with Roy Rogers. I didn't care to much for it. I remember the name of that picture thats on to-morrow night. It's a Tree Grows In Brooklyn. I hear its good. I only wish you were here to go with me. You would enjoy the seats, they are soft pine.

I went down to the Gym this after-noon and had a little exercise. In fact I think to much. I'm sure tired. Maybe Herbs chasing me helped to. Boy did I laugh, he could make the corner and almost went through closed double doors. Guess what I did to him?

Gosh I'm tired honey. I wish you were here to keep me awake. It's a known fact that you can. I should answer some of those letters but I doubt if I do. I did get one wrote to George last night.

Theres an artist in the Time magazine this week that tells how service mens wives and sweethearts are behaving or being loyal. There are not to many like you. That boy I was telling you about who got engaged. Well he says he sorry he did she has been running around sense he's gave her the ring. He says I'm luckie to get a girl like you. I agree with him.

Darling I do love you so much. So much that a future without you would be hopeless. I'll be so happy when we can do the things we want to. Just so our wishes keep coming true. I make a couple each day, mostly the same.

Do you know what? I gained ten pounds while on furlow. Now I know your Moms cooking agreed with me. How are those steaks and pork chops. You will have to eat my share. Oh yes I've already lost a couple pounds since I got back.

Have you got our tires yet? I hope the Ford doesn't develop any other troubles before this summer. Cars cost more then children. Don't they? Did you notice how I said our tire, bought with your money. You can get even. I'll bet you smoke our pipes. I've already got half of our lipstick. It was second-hand. I like it better that way.

Darling, I must close. Theres the ten oclock news. Your pa will be going to bed soon. So must I. Bye honey! I'll always love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

February 28, 1945

O.K. Hot Lips

That will be enough of that. I wouldn't care if it were original but it wasn't. It does sound kinda nice when you say it. If you are wondering?? I got your letter of Monday. Also got the

other one. It was here yesterday but I didn't get it because I had moved. I have read them over and over. It's the closest I can come to being with you.

I just came from supper and am writing you before I go to the show. It gets awful late after the show is out.

Most of the day I spent in the Library catching up on world events. I also read some old 38 Lives.¹¹⁰ If you go to the Library look at the March National Geographic magazine. There are some pictures of our outfit in Nancy.¹¹¹ It's the last Article. I know the Master Sgt. In picture real well.

We just as well be married now. We are in the public's eye. What did you tell Evelyn? And did she believe you?

I did miss my handkerchief but got along alright. I use napkins. I have to get mine out of storage yet.

Darling what am I going to do. I wanted to get that billfold for you. They have some here just like it. You sure obey your husband. I'm glad you put the other one away for me.

Honey I think you're a wolf or else you love to wait for things. I want you to come down every weekend but that can't be. Lets wait a couple weeks before we set a date. Also will your folks consent? "It might not look right" (Pappa). I know I'll be here for a month or two. Also I may get a three day pass and meet you some town between here and Marysville. I hope I got payed to-day. Just think I worked my fingers to the bone for a whole month and only got \$15.45. That's all I draw, the rest goes home and into a baby bond. I sure enjoyed 21 days of my work this month. It was mostly night work.

I better close honey, it's show time. I'll be back at eight something. Bye I love you my bunny honey.

Here it is 8:30 I just came from the show. I didn't care much for it. Its not the kind of picture you go to for entertainment. The news reel was good. Roosevelt was in it. I wonder why I never see Dewey any more. Say honey when are you going to pay our bet? This summer? I can hardly wait four years when I'll win again. Anyone ought to know a Jackass can beat an elephant. Are you mad. If you are I'm just teasing you. I love you very very much.

Brown eye's, how could you. And at the start of the letter. If you really mean it its not so bad.

I'm glad these pipeline drivers are either married or 4 F's.¹¹² By the way didn't they offer to help? Or weren't they wolves? Didn't Delmar go to school? Gosh honey I'm more jealous then I thought. I don't blame myself. Who wouldn't be with someone as wonderful as you? I still get a peculiar feeling when I think of you or remember about you. Darling I love you so much. My forehead is wet. Must be hot in here.

There you go spoiling it. I had to read about Toby Docbell. It's a good thing I can trust you. I would feel miserable all the time if I didn't.

Darling keep those picture till you come down. Which I hope will be soon. I have to know sometime before as I can reserve a room. Maybe March 12th or 31st.

I thought I told you about Darlene! She told me that the wreck spoiled their plans. The way she talked they were going to get married in Febr. I wish we could set our date. I guess will have to be, this summer.

I don't know what I would do with that tooth brush. I used it to clean my comb. If Sport hadn't shed you could of give it to him.

¹¹⁰ 1938 Life Magazine

¹¹¹ 134 Infantry at Nancy, France. Nancy is the capital of the French Province of Lorraine; which borders Gemany.

¹¹² Exempt from military service due to mental or physical disability.

I still have the cast on my arm. I guess they are going to have it on for awhile. He asked how it felt but didn't say anything. Maybe they will take it off for good in a week or two. He also asked how my leg was.

So you gave your legs a mud bath. Can I help wash it off. I bet you like mud wading. Your dad didn't say anything because he's happy since I left.

Maybe you should charge the district interest then they wouldn't be late in having money in the bank. Anyway now you will have it longer.

If you get that coat for \$12.98 you can buy 7 more dollars worth the slips, night ____, p ____, etc. or even another dress or pair of shoes, or say that could go on and on.

Here it is 9:30 already. I better stop and see if I can get a letter off to mom. She probably is wondering where her wandering son is.

I'm lonesome to darling. I wonder why we have to wait. Your contract, my arm, this war, the church. Being in love sure is wonderful but has its heartaches to. I know we will make up for it some day. Maybe Virg. is right. We shouldn't wait.

Now for to-night pleasant dreams Bye honey. I love you more each day.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

March 1, 1945

Darling

How do you feel now? I just finished reading Dick Tracy and am now ready to write. I sure miss you honey. If it wasn't for your letters I would go batty.

You should hear Mable. Virg. is getting a furlow and weekend pass. She is jumping up and down. He is tickled to and I sure can't blame them. Wish I was getting another one. He has to have another operation so they are going to let him have a leave first. He says he has a long way to go to catch me.

I went to the Red Cross Show to-night. It was "Tonight & Every Night." A dancing picture not bad and not good. Maybe I should be a critic.

I slept till 9:00 this morning. I sure was sleepy. I wrote four more letters last night. Two more and I'm all caught up. It was twelve by the time I got to bed. That's awful late for me. Isn't it. Oh my darling there are so many things that make me think of you. No wonder you are always on my mind.

I wish I could help you sweep. I know its hard around those desks. You should have a vacuum cleaner. We'll have cracks in the floor of our house so it will be easier. Or would you prefer a good looking blond.

I guess I didn't see the artificial flowers. Are they roses or what? I'm going to send Shirley some puzzles. They will come in your name, because I sending some cigarettes for Pop. Use them for a good purpose.

I see I can't say anything to your family. I'm not going to spoil you for awhile. That is I don't plan to. Do you think I'll spoil you all your life?

Poor Avis,¹¹³ I wish Charlie would not of been home. I still don't forgive her. Its just a good thing we got out right away. Now you know how I get when I'm mad.

Would you marry me if you were thirteen? I bet she has a job taking care of those children. I was going to send you the clipping but knew you would get the paper.

Say with all that exercise you will have more muscle than I have. Then you can handle me. Mom Mountain Wilkinson. I don't know whats wrong with me. I don't plough mud and I'm always tired.

I asked mom about those proofs. If she hasn't sent them to me you should get them anyday now. Honey who is Kile? I never heard of him, you must mean Gale. Do you mean the mail man. Gale is the guy that took them.

Mable didn't get those pictures to-day. I guess they weren't ready. She brought some others I took in West Virginia. Virg and her wanted some that I took of them in N.C. I think I showed you those I to in the mountains.

You know! Darling I think Virg & Herb are waiting for you to miss a day. They always ask if I got a letter from you.

I bet you can guess what I just did. I had to fill my pen. I think the ink is a slightly different color.

Now I must close. It sure to bad I can't write three pages every night. Bye honey! I love you darling!

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

March 2, 1945

Darling

Tomorrow will be the end of one week that I have been back. It seems like a month. I hope the next two months go as fast as this last week. I guess it was because I was busy most of the time.

I have four pictures of you in front of me. One of them is the one I took of you in the car. Remember? I think it is very good. The ones of your Grandma and Grandpa are fair. I'll let you see them when you come down or don't you think you car will make it. Virg wants to know if those are your legs. Not bad! Not bad! I think I'll send the one of your Mom. I have two. The one of Joyce & Pa aren't very clear.

Boy was I tired this morning. I went to breakfast and then went back to bed till ten. It was the first time I ate breakfast since I came back. Right now I feel wide awake. It is 9:00. Probably won't sleep to-night. I have another letter to answer then I'm all caught up. I wrote three last night maybe that's why I'm sleepy this morning.

Your letters get here in the morning now. I wonder why. It use to be afternoons. Got your long letter to-day. Honey I wish I got one like that every day. Maybe its better to get a long one every now and then. I know how hard they are to write.

I was going to send those puzzles to-day but forgot to. I'll do it to-morrow. Also will send two towels for your hope chest. I hear they are hard to get. How many do you want me to get.

¹¹³ Avis was a teacher who, according to Virginia, "was a poor teacher; strict, unlovable, with a sharp tongue. Mom (Alice) liked her, but no one else did." When ask about this section of the letter and who the other people where, Virginia said, "it was too many years ago and she could not remember."

This darn pipe! I'm smoking more matches than tobacco. I wish you were here to light it. Then it would stay lit longer.

I have a weekend pass, so will try and get those over shoes. (Or boots) I don't know what I'll do the rest of the time. Might go to the show. Virg. has a pass to but doesn't know how he's going to get into town. He can't use clutches to much. Is Mable excited!! Just like a new bride. (I guess)

I bet you do get homesick. I never did and still don't know why. I was sure blue a lot of times. Mostly because of you. I think you will be too busy to get homesick. Just so I get home every night. If not, poor you ~ and me.

If I stay here I think I can get a furlow in May. It might only be 14 days but we could wire for an extension. I'll try and get more if I stay here. I should be here for at least two months. If I do you know what will happen. Oh happy day!

Darling do you have any more bruises? I still laugh when I think of pushing you against the fender at home. Was it cold? Don't run into any more sticks.

Georges letters usually don't tell very much. They are tougher censors in the Navy. You can see why with all the invasion of the Islands. I told him if he came home he could be best man. Is that ok with you? (I mean next to best man) Who do you want for bridesmaid?

I'm glad the rest of my clothes don't fit you. I wouldn't have anything to wear. Maybe someday they will fit you. Around the waist!

Darling I'm sorry I didn't grade those papers. I just like to ring that bell I guess. It would never do for me to teach a country school.

I sure had a sinking feeling that morning I left. Especially when you drove off. Darn this war anyhow. Wait till I'm eighty and I tell our grandchildren how me and Grandma use to ~~ well anyway. Say we ought to have about thirty gran-children. I'll think back and say, we sure had a wonderful time – darling. ~Lets go to bed?

Darling do you know what I'm going to do? Well remember how you sent those pictures to me in England. I'm going to get even. I'll send one a day. Don't lose them. It will only take a month. Darling! Don't cuss me like that. Maybe I'll get soft hearted before then and send them all.

What isn't in that book I can't teach you. I think I better read it again. I forgot most of it. Honey it tells everything and I do mean everything. I wish I could be there when you get it. Would you blush. Of course I wouldn't. It has some very good pictures. I could see the whole wide world.

I told Herb I couldn't tell him what I was laughing about. He said it probably was as good as he thought it was. I think it would shock me. Ain't I awful.

If the pumps fixed, we'll go to your school. Its farther anyway. Is that boy still there. Tell LeRoy to build a bigger house.

Here I've wrote three sheets on both sides. To bad you won't get it till Monday. I could write more but its way after lights out. I'm in the office writing. Some boys are playing poker in the kitchen.

Darling I have wonderful dreams of you to! I only hope they all come true. I'll tell you if I have any bad ones. I love you sweetheart more than anything in the world. Bye I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

March 3, 1945

Darling,

How are you honey? I am very very tired. I love you and just have to write you. Even if it is ten o'clock and lights are out. I'm in the office my nightly hang out.

The reason I'm tired is I just came from town. And I spend most of the afternoon looking for boots. I found some to but they were too small. A man just got the last pair of 3's. They ordered these last November. I couldn't get any 3's so Joyce will have to try some other place. A store here is going to get some in so if she can't get them let me know. I got Shirley what they had. I hope she likes the puzzles. Tell her to let Joyce play with them to.

After my shopping I went to the Library and read two books. I can't write what they were about but I'll tell you someday. The latest forts and figures. I'm sure learning a lot these last couple months.

Darling I didn't get a letter to-day. I don't know what I'll do if I don't get one to-morrow. That's one reason I came in early from town.

I wonder what Virg is doing now. He took a taxi in. Herbs in town to.

The Major came around this morning. I am going to have an x-ray taken and get a new cast.

I better stop honey. I'm so sleepy. Bye Sweetheart! I love you darling!

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

P.S. I sure had a funny dream about us last night.

March 4, 1945

Darling

To-day is Sunday. I always looked forward to Sunday when I was with you. Maybe that is why I feel so blue. I'm so low I'll need a ladder to get out. I miss you so much darling. And I haven't gotten a letter for two days. I don't know what I'll do if I don't get at least one to-morrow.

The way I feel you better plan on coming down soon. I need you to pull me out of the dumps. I wonder if you feel this way to? Maybe in two weeks? Or would you sooner have me get a three day pass and come to Marysville. It's a lot easier to find a place to stay there. I wish there wasn't so many Army stations here. @?!+@ blankety Blankety Darn this war. I'll sure be glad when its over.

Virg and Herb are still in town, I wish they were here so I could talk to someone.

I slept till 11:20 this morning maybe that's what makes me feel this way. I didn't eat supper. It usually isn't any good anyway. Boy what a day I'm so tired, discusted, and confused. Maybe I ought to go for a walk. If I went to the show I'll feel worse. If you were only here. Honey what have you done to me? I never use to feel this bad. I wonder what you are doing. I bet if your home you feel the same way.

Say has Henry¹¹⁴ came home yet. I wish I could of seen him.

¹¹⁴ Henry Ham was Virginia's cousin. He was in the Navy.

Darling I love you so much. If letter is mixed up you know how I feel. I can't even write. I think I'll take a walk then come back. Bye.

Here I am again, Honey. I feel a lot better. I walked about a mile and end up in my old ward. Also ate two egg sandwiches and drank a cup of coffee. I think that helped some to.

After I finish this I think I'll take a bath and go see if Virg is back. I want to get my book. He wouldn't let his wife read it so maybe I better not let you. I bet I can't stop you. In fact I wouldn't try. I think he took the book to town with him. I wonder why.

Do you like the way you get the pictures. Now you have something to look for when you get my letters. I think I'll send you a package to-morrow. I hope you like whats in it. I couldn't resist (resist) it. No wonder I am spoiling you. You can spoil me when you come down.

Are the roads getting any better? They sure worry me. I want that mail man to go through. If I was your mail man everyone else's mail would be late. What am I saying! I am your male man. I'm on duty night and day. I like night duty best. Which do you prefer?

Did you ever read "The Preacher's Daughter on the Farm." I'll get it typed and send it to you. I hope you never get your head caught in the stanchions.

I guess I better close. I can't think of anything to write. I think of you every minute. Bye honey! I love you darling!

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

March 5, 1945

Darling

I feel much better to-day – thanks to you. As you have probably guessed. I got two letters to-day that is two from you. Gosh your wonderful. No wonder I'm so much in love with you. I got another letter too. The only one since I got back. I mean other then yours. It was from Ruby and boy what a letter. Mostly about Herman¹¹⁵. She would sure give me the devil if she knew I was telling you.

I think the bug bit her. She says I shouldn't of introduced her. I like that. I wonder if she is just kidding or well I leave it at that. I know one thing I'm sure going to tease her. Herman bought a house and showed it to her. Wait till I write her. It will be some letter. Would you like to censor it?

I spent most of the day with Virg. and Herb. Poor Virg sure took a beating over the weekend. I kidded him about it. I asked him what he thought of Topeka. He said what he seen out of the hotel window wasn't so bad. Also that his leg was purty solid. How do you suppose he decided that.

Both he and Mable had a contented smile on there face this afternoon. Just like that cat in the Joke book.

¹¹⁵ Herman Genrich was a from Pickrell Nebraska. He was assigned to the Company C, 134th Infantry at Camp Joseph T. Robinson near Little Rock Arkansas. Alvin introduced his sister Ruby to Herm one time when they were both home on leave. Ruby and Herman were married May 5, 1946

. They had 3 boys, Charles and twins, Terry and Jerry. Herman was in the Battle of St. Lo and continued to see action on through the Battle of the Bulge. He received numerous metals including a Silver Star. Herman died June 8, 2003.

Herb's wife is coming down this next weekend. Now he is busy trying to find a room. There's hard to get here. Most of the hotels are reserved for a month. I sneaked up on Herb this noon and gave him a rear attack. He jumped two feet. Oh yes! Honey your guess was right.

Darling I miss you so much. Do you think you could come down the seventeenth. I'll try to get a room or two this week. If Herb goes in I'll go with him. They say you have to reserve them a couple weeks in advance. Besides I'll know if I can get one. Then we can wait and hope for good weather.

Gin darling I'm so sorry. I didn't get that package mailed. I promise you I'll do it tomorrow. I hope you like the hankies I get you. I was going to send it to-day only couldn't get Luckies. They said they will have them to-morrow.

I got the proofs. I don't think they look like you. Must have been the truck ride. They aren't as bad though. Virg, Herb, and Mable all think 31 is best so 31 it is.

The Gray Lady¹¹⁶ at the Red Cross said if I can't get a room in June. She would move out and let us have the whole house. I told her we wouldn't look very hard. Her husband is in Hawaii.

I don't miss Darlene's legs but I do miss someone else's. Even if I do have a picture of them?

Yes darling I wish I could see your bruises. Only run into the pump handle next time. Honey I'm awful. I just can't help it. It's all your fault. Don't I sound like a husband.

Here it is ten o'clock. Lights just went out. I've had a lot of interrupting. Also I just can't write fast. If I did you never could read it. By now you should be purty good at making out my scribbling.

I just heard someone say it was snowing out. I sure hate bad weather for your sake. It doesn't bother me much here at the hospital.

Honey you must be more careful with your legs. There part mine now. If you have to bruise yourself I do it.

Say is that mail man in love. He sure leaves mail in funny places. You better give him the devil.

Darlene didn't tell me anything else. She did ask a few questions which I didn't answer. Maybe she would of told me more but her mom came in. Maybe you better have a talk with her. See what you have been missing.

I lost a couple pounds last week. I don't see how I done it. I eat enough to feed two people. Think I'll cut down and see if I can lose more. That reminds me of an old saying. Quote, "Every little bit helps, said the lady, as she put the brick in his hip pocket." Unquote.

I love you darling even if you are a wolf. Say where did I hear that before. Now we can't settle down and wait. It's only for twelve days. Maybe they will go fast. I hope so. I made a few more wish to-day. (on the subject) So-o-o-o they are coming to see your legs now. Did Elmer look to. Next it will be Charlie.¹¹⁷ You better charge them. On second thought you better stay away from that pump handle.

How are the steaks holding out. From the looks of Virg I'll need a few in June. I wonder if Herb will look that bad next week. And the week after that one. What am I saying. I'm getting worse instead of better. You better take me in hand.

I wonder which picture I should send you in this letter. The one of your Grandfather or Oh! Oh! I know.

¹¹⁶ American Red Cross Grey Lady was a woman who provided non-medical personal services.

¹¹⁷ Both Elmer and Charlie were neighbors of the Wilkinsons. Charlie Zabotrisky was Darlene's father.

Gosh I'm sleepy. I wish you were here to wa ___. I didn't say it but I still wish it.
Darling I miss you so all I can do is sigh and dream. I better stop so I can really get down to
dreaming of you. Bye honey. I'll always love you darling!

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

March 6, 1945

Darling.

I'm sure glad the weekend is over. Now I'll get my mail regular. Your letters are what I
look for each day. I'll be glad when I look forward to seeing you each day.

I had my cast cut to-day and an x-ray taken. I should get a new cast tomorrow. My arm
sure itches now.

I just came from Virgs. Ward. Herb and I were trying to teach Mable how to play poker.
We didn't have much luck. I hope Virgil gets his furlow soon.

Herbs wife is coming down the same weekend now. I guess he changed his mind. Maybe
she will be on the same bus. Which one are you going to take? The same one I did? I wish you
could come here for good.

I went to the show to-night at the Red Cross. It was Joan Davis in, "She Gets Her Man."
It sure was funny. A murder mystery.

I finely mailed your package, let me know when you get it. I had to do it in a hurry. I had
only fifteen minutes before the post office closed.

I think I'll go in to-morrow and reserve two rooms. I hope I can get one easy.

Those post cards were all right. I'll keep them for you. I still haven't got that story typed.
I try and get someone to do it for me. Have you got the one you wrote for?

Honey maybe we better buy our pies. Then I know I won't die. Maybe after you practice
you will be the best pie baker in the world. Then I'll say come home with me and eat some of my
wifes pie. On second thought if its that good I'll eat it all myself.

I wish I was there so I could help you take a bath. I'll put soap in your eyes and then wash
your back. On (*can't read*) day I could use someone to help me. I have a heck of a time washing
my right arm with my right arm.

Boy it didn't take long for you to eat. You were back in no time. Must not-of ate much.

Wait till I get to see Joyce and your Mom. I'll do some acting to. I act like Joyce does
when pop asks her to get coal or the seperater.

Just think in ten more days I'll meet you at the bus depot. I miss you to honey. I seen a
picture on Southern California the other day. It made me think of us. I hope we can go this
summer.

The only books I read lately were not classic but I learned a lot. I'll tell you after we are
married.

I have to or rather am going to take a bath to-night so I better close. I'm all full of plaster
from my cast.

Bye honey! I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

XXX I LOVE YOU

March 7, 1945

Darling

I'm afraid I have bad news. I went in to town this afternoon to try and get a room for you and hit a stone wall. I could not get a room reserved at any of the hotels. They won't have any until after State legislature is over. And they informed me it has never been over before April 1st I might still get one I'll try. If I can't I'll try and get a pass so I can come up there.

I didn't stay in town long. I went in at five and came back at eight-thirty. Its after nine now. I'll probably be here till late because I'm going to write Mom to.

I have only a half a cast on now but get a new one to-morrow at one o'clock. They will take the stitches out too. My arm sure tickles. I'll tell you what it feels like someday. I can bend my wrist a little but it sure is sore.

I read detective stories most of the day. I'm finding a lot of ways to get rid of you. Do you have any insurance. I wouldn't think it till you were at least a 100 years old.

I showed Herb that cartoon of me sleeping. He sure laughed. So did Virg. Aren't you ashamed making fun of me sleeping?

That's to bad about Jimmy. Maybe they will all get it. Then you can come down. Would you have to make up those days? When will school let out? I hope you don't have to miss to many days.

Honey you don't have to feel sorry for me. You're a good cook. I don't like pie anyway and I know the cake was alright. Just so you can fry chicken and steak.

What do you mean men. I'll do the homework myself. I don't like blond men.

Say how did you get Mark under control if he was hungry? Do I have a rival?

How could I get mad at you darling? If it would have been you who stopped in the bottom it would have been different. I wonder if we will ever have a quarrel. I doubt it! One of us would give in. Probably me.

I thought something was funny. My watch stopped. Its after ten. No wonder its so quiet.

No I didn't hear Riley, but I heard snooks. I think I'll be like Riley. Do you mind. That's what night gowns are for honey. So they will go up to the neck. That's what I'm going to wear. Or rather keep under the pillow. In case of a fire they make you look like the homey type. Maybe I'll wear long red flannels to bed.

Darn the legislature anyway. They aren't doing me any good anyway. Maybe I can get one of the men to let us use his room. I guess Herbs wife won't come down either.

Gosh honey, I'm so sleepy. This waiting is getting me down. I wish you were here. The days are getting longer instead of shorter. I must close. Bye sweetheart! I love you so much Darling!

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

I dreamed about us last night. Mmm mm

March 8, 1945

Darling

It is nine thirty and as you see I'm at my usual place writing to the one I love and miss most. I sure wish I could start every letter like this.

My Darling Wife,

Here it is night again. These nights I suffer most. It is then that I am so lonely. Lonely for you darling. When I left I left a part of me with you. My heart. All I do now is exist. I'll be so happy when I get back. I'll take you in my arms and never never let you go.

Is that a good enough sample. I hope I don't have to write you this but I wish I could now. Even now that's how I feel. I who at one time never had such a thought. How I have come up in the world. I can see now, how it is said mans happiness begins when he gets married. I do so want to be happy.

This was a purty busy day for me. Mostly this afternoon. I had my new cast put on. Also they took the stitches out. They did it first. Just for the moment. There was a little infection because they were in so long but the doctor said it would go away. I had quite a few stitches. More than I thought. I couldn't see very good but I think the scar was bigger then the one on my leg.

I asked him how long I'd have to have a cast. He said another month for sure and then they would think it over after that. Also that it would probably be three months before I could get another furlow. That will make it June. He didn't know how long I would be here.

I went to the show at the Red Cross to-night. It was the best I've seen for a long time. It was about family in England and horse racing. The picture was, "National Velvet" with Mickey Rooney. If you get a chance be sure to see it. It looked just like England.

After the picture Herb and I went down to see Virg. We taught Mable how to play Casino. Had better luck then we did with Poker. They are worried about getting a room this weekend. Mable has two girls staying with her. I'm going to try there and get a cabin. The only trouble is they are so far out.

I think I can get a three day pass if I can't get a place for you to stay. The only trouble is it starts Friday morning at one and ends Sunday night at twelve. At least we could be together Saturday and part of Sunday. That's better then not at all. Then I could stand a couple more weeks of being away from you. I think I use those wishes I have saved up.

This is going to be a long letter. I usually have trouble thinking of anything to write.

You couldn't guess what I dreamed. We were in California. Your guess would be part right.

If I get a three day pass I'll come out so your dad won't have to have kittens. I've caused him enough worry already. I couldn't leave toonerville¹¹⁸ I'd have to go to Marysville. Unless it would be the ten oclock bus Sunday. I'll see what I can do. If I could get my pass till Monday morning it would work. You could go along and take the bus back.

Say where did you read about the preacher daughter? Have you read, "A Fourth of July Picnic?"

I'm getting soft. Maybe I'll send all of the pictures soon.

¹¹⁸ Toonerville was a mile north and a mile east of the Wilkinson farm. Within the house was a small shop which sold a variety of items. There was also a gas station there. The bus stopped at Toonerville.

Darling I just thought about April the 13th. Maybe I can get a three day pass then. If I can we will have Friday afternoon and night, Saturday, and some of Sunday. After all 13 is my luckie number.

I have been trying to think of some way to earn some extra money. I have a couple ideas. I'll think some more about it. We will need all I can get. If I didn't have you I could try the dice. The trouble is I might lose. So no go. I haven't did any since on the boat coming back. And that was only for a few minutes.

I almost bought you another bracelet to-day. Then I remembered I spoiled you this month already. I can always get another one. Maybe you have to many now.

Now darling I must close. I should write mom but she hasn't answered my letter. With body and soul I say bye honey and I love you darling. A million kisses would never be enough!

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

March 9, 1945

Hello Darling.

It was a beautiful day to be disappointed in. I wish the mail man would get a jeep. The roads ought to be better now. I hope you didn't have to miss any more school.

Last night I wrote a long letter. Tonight it won't be so long. I just can't think of a thing to write. Maybe I can make up for it when I get your letters to-morrow.

I just finished eating an yellow apple. It sure was good. I have two more at my bed. I usually have one for breakfast. Boy something must be wrong I can't spell. I wonder if I ever could.

There wasn't much going on to-day. I spent most of my time reading. I still have two detective magazines to go. Then I'll have to read some more inspiring reading. Like, Look, Pick, Life, and Esquire. What do I mean. I've already read them for this week and month.

I went to the show to-night. It was a mystery. "The Great Flamio." I didn't know a women could be so cruel.

I didn't go to see Virg. to-day. I'm going to see if he will come see me. He can get around purty good now. They are going to put a cast on his leg so he can go home.

Herbs brother wrote him and he wants me to write. He is in Camp Carson¹¹⁹ now. He got shot up purty bad. In chest and head.

I have a good notion to take a bath to-night. Maybe that would make me feel better.

If I am crazy the next time you see me it because of a couple Kansas hillbillys here in the ward. All I hear morning till night is cowboy and hillbilly music. I'm pulling my hair now. My God (excuse me) how can they stand it. I think I've heard them all.

Herb is mad at me. He says it isn't fair for me to sneak up on him. I'm mad at his wife you should hear what she asked him in his letter to-day.

Dick Tracy is sure having a hard time. I wonder what happened to Gertie? Do you think she will ever get a man? I bet Shaky is cool, I wonder if they will ever find him?

I've wrote more now then I thought I could. The trouble is I haven't said anything. Not even that I loved you. I love you. There now I said it.

¹¹⁹ Camp Carson was located in Colorado. It is know as Ft. Carson now and is near Colorado Springs Colorado.

Just think honey I have six months of this yet. If I don't go bug house it won't be there fault. If only you were close. Its just eighty days till the 17th. Some how someway I'm going to get to see you soon. Your lucky you have school to teach. At least you can keep busy during the day. My days are so hard to find fill. I just can't do what I want to.

Honey I better stop. I'm so sleepy. Bye Sweetheart! I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

March 10, 1945

Darling – DARLING

Another one of those weekends but I don't think it will be as bad as the last. I got two letters from you to-day that will help a bit. @?!XC@. Theres smoke on the water and if that guy has those hillbilly on to-morrow I'm going to do something drastic. The National Barn Dance, is on now. Honey I'm going to blow my top. Here Laddy here @'+? I hope that ends soon!

I got four letters to-day. Two from you and one from Granma and one from (of all persons) Dr. Knapp.¹²⁰ She send me a dollar. I still haven't made out some of her writing. She sent me a Xmas package and it came back to her. She is forwarding it to me. She is a nice person if she doesn't get mad at you. I'm sending you her letter. I decided I'm not to bad a writer after all.

They had the usual Saturday inspection. Monday the Major will come around. He won't bother me for awhile. I'll get to see my last x-ray then.

Virg. went to town I hope he got a room. He must of or he would not of went in. Herb chased me all through the halls to-day. I sure had a lot of fun with him. It's a good thing it doesn't hurt when he hits me.

They had a square dance demonstration at the Red Cross. It sure was good. Honey can you square dance? Its been a long time since I have. If I can do that I ought to be able to dance. Shouldn't I?

I did some reading in the Library to-day. They are going to build a new one. They are working on the enlarging of the hospital now.

I don't like this cast as well as the other one. It is loose and I can't put any weight on it. My hand is freer. I can wash it with out getting cast wet.

You sent that story to me before but I still enjoyed it! I still *(can't read)* had the one I have typed.

The car sure causes its share of trouble. I been lucky and never owned one. Maybe it was because I never had the money. Although don't need much to make a down payment & can always get one financed.

I ought to get my ration money this month. That's for the meals I didn't eat here while on furlow. I wish I would hear from my insurance claim. I thought you were going to get a hundred and something?

I can see where we will fight over the funnies. I don't like cartoon *(can't read)* I mean comics. They are little to crazy. Like me.

¹²⁰ Alvin worked for Dr. Knapp in Beatrice Nebraska before going into active duty. He was her gardener and maintained her yard.

If you keep baking pies the law of average will catch up with you and you will bake a good one. Hope I'm there then. Someday honey, you will be a good baker. Even if we do have to live on love for awhile. I'm just kidding darling your cooking was good while I was there. And those donuts were really good. Did you notice how they disappeared.

I sure was happy this morning when I got my mail. I to wish I could get one each hour. If I could telephone it would be better still. I'd be in debt to the telephone Co. all the time. As for Dreaming! I wonder what I'll dream of when I'm with you? I probably won't have time to dream!?

Now you know how some perfumes affect me. Just like that soap. You better let me pick out your perfumes. I got that soap for Xmas. I used to use it. But prefer Lux, Camay, or Palmolive. You better not use Lifeboay. -ugh! You must use Woodbury to get a complexion like yours. You have the hand I like to touch and the ___ Never mind.

I'm looking forward to that Saturday. I bet the kids won't go to town. That reminds me I'll send something to Joyce for her birthday. Don't tell her. I think Moms birthday is in April. I lost all my birth dates in France.

The hankies were code names for the rings. I'm glad you like them. I wish I could send you something every day.

You should of heard Herb laugh at that picture. He said you must have been cold. It was to bad honey. Wait till you see your legs. They looked good I think I'll keep that picture. Do you care if I show Herb that picture I have of you when you were thirteen?

I can hear a lone goose flying over. Maybe he will land on your pond. I wish I would of gave him a message.

No I don't know what you mean? (If that's a lie I hope Hitler drops dead) What are you taking care of? Take care everything. Maybe someday I'll find a use for them.

Well I'll tell you honey. Herb and Virgs wives are the only ones I ever seen lose weight. Most of them gain. I hope I lose and you stay the same.

Its late and I'm still writing. I spend a lot of time on your letters even if I don't write a lot. Most of it is dreaming. Oh darling I love you so much. So bye honey. I wish everyday.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

I love you!

“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “
“ “ “

Each word in this letter is a kiss.

March 11, 1945

Hello Darling

It is after ten and lights are out. I just finished listening to Walter Winchell.

I wrote three letters already to-night. I had to write them first because I knew I wouldn't get them wrote if I wrote you first.

I got my package to-day from Dr. Knapp. It had a lot of stuff in it. Even turkey. None of it was spoiled because everything was canned or dry. The little bottle of smoked turkey cost 1.40. There were figs, cough drops, candy, mints, two different kinds of cheese, toast, and a lot of Xmas cards.

I went to the show to-night. It was "Keep Your Powder Dry." All about Wac's. And mostly women were in the picture. I got out of the show early so I went to Library and read Reader's Digest.

I slept till almost eleven this morning. Herb came and got me up. I haven't seen him to-night.

I'm a little tired now but if I'm not too sleepy when I finish your letter, I think I'll answer Grandmas.

I got a letter from you to-day. I probably won't get one to-morrow. I hope I do but your Sat. letter usually comes Tues. with the Sunday letter.

I should go see Virg in the morning but doubt I will. I wonder how he made out. They sure are stringing him along. He is supposed to get a cast so he can go home. They haven't did anything about it yet and he won't ask them to get it done. He has always been that way. I know guys who owed him money but he wouldn't ask them for it.

I see by your letter that I'll have to put Philbert to sleep when he doesn't feel well. Do you like to take care of Mark? Yes when he's good.

I think I'll try getting a room again to-morrow. (by Phone) If I can't I'll try for a three day pass Friday. I guess I can't start till Friday morning.

I am sending the last picture of you to-night. The rest are of Earl Pine, and the rest of the kids. Do you want me to send them? I hope to see you this coming week and then you can see them.

I had a dream last night. It was about us working in a defense plant. I talked them out of striking. I wonder what prompted that one. They say when you dream, you are restless and want something very bad. I know what I want. Don't you darling. Honey if I took you in hand Oh Boy! First it would be hand then in my arms, then, and then, and then I'll start all over.

Honey why don't you write me an application for a job teaching me. Be sure to state what you would teach me. Say when are you going to write that letter so I can show Virg? He always wants to read your letters anyway.

The weather was wonderful. It rained here last night and to-day. I hope the roads aren't too muddy for you.

I better stop honey. I'm getting dizzy. I don't know if it's the light or my pipe. Bye honey! I love you darling, I love you Virginia, I love you dear. I love you Gin. I love you honey. I love you hot lips. I love you. Which is best?

Mrs. Alvin Lampe

Mrs. Virginia Lampe

Mrs. Lampe

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Lampe & family

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

Only 5 days

XXX

March 12, 1945

Darling

I just came from the Library. They ran me out it was closing time. I stopped at the dance but just looked in a minute. If you would have been there we could of danced.

I should get two letters to-morrow. I will write a longer letter then. I got a letter from Ruby to-day. She talked mostly about Herman. Shes trying to forget him. Poor Ruby is having troubles. I also got a carton of Gum & Lifesavers that Carl sent me in June. They are still good. We gave the package up for lost.

The Colonel came around this morning instead of the Major. My arm is the same as the day they operated. I mean the bone. I asked him about it and all he said was it will take a long time. He asked one guy who has been here a year already, what he wanted for next Christmas. I hope I'm not here that long.

Gosh I'm tired honey. I think I'll take a bath and go to bed early to-night. I sure hate the days that I don't get a letter from you. They are so lonely. I'm so lonesome anyway. I just don't feel like doing anything. I need you to pep me up. I love you so much darling.

I could of got a room in a private home but decided to try and get a three day pass. We can be together longer then. I can't think of anything else to write so better stop. I'll write a longer letter to-morrow night.

Darling I love you so much!

XXX

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

March 13, 1945

Darling

Here I am again. I'm still tired but I will try and write a longer letter then last night. I just came from Virg's ward.

He is disappointed that you aren't coming down this week. He wants to see who the person is that keeps me in the clouds. I told him the reason you were not coming was because I was afraid he would tease you.

He and Mable looked much better this weekend. He said he felt like a Sultan over the weekend. Because there were so many women where Mable stays. I can understand why he said Mable followed him around like a dog. I'll tell you something else when I see you. In five days I hope. I'll sure be disappointed if I can't get a pass.

I seen a swell picture to-night "Thunder Head." It was like "Plain" in fact the same actors played in it. I read the book but the picture wasn't as good as the book.

We had a purty good GI picture at reconditioning this afternoon. It was about a soldier and other short subjects. One short told how the song, Lilly Marlain, started. I sure like that song. I would like to learn it in German.

Wasn't to-day a beautiful day. I wish I could have been with you. It was one of those days you like to be outside in. We could of went fishing (and forgot the bait). I hope it is nice over the weekend.

How did your folks get away without taking the kids to Hanover. I hope they go to bed when I'm there. What kind of shoes did you get? I know I'll like the coat, anything in blue would be swell.

You can tell your dad I don't tease very easy. I think I'll be able to eat but your Mom shouldn't go to any trouble about cooking. Maybe I'll tease your dad. Can you give me any good ideas.

Gosh darling you make my mouth drool talking about all that meat. Honey, maybe we better be farmers. In town all we would have would be cats, dogs, and sparrows. I like pork and beef better.

You can get a bus out of Marysville in the afternoon. I think it leaves around three. By that time the Legislature will be over. Maybe! I found out you can get cabins. They are out quite aways is the only trouble.

I start my dreams while I'm awake and finish them asleep. They are better that way. Besides if I don't I think of things that aren't so nice. I have to many bad memories. They are more like nightmares.

Darling you are the best thing there is for my morale but my morale are sure put to a hard test. They are very very weak. You shouldn't think of me taking you in hand. Even if I do like it. What am I talking about anyway. Consider that paragraph of the record. As for my dreams! You probably guess a lot of the dream but they sure are wild sometimes.

What good is Kansas Legislature doing you? The State isn't so bad. I wonder how that Nebraska weather got here to-day. Guess they had more good weather up there then they could use.

I don't know when I will get there. You will be in school Friday so won't be able to meet me. Hurry home. I'll let you know if I can't come. All I do is wish and hope they come true.

This isn't as long as I planned but I'll make up for it when I'm with you. Bye honey! I love you darling!

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX P.S. Lonesome isn't even the word for it. Its worse

March 14, 1945

Hello Darling

I feel good even if it is raining. If everything goes right I'll be able to read this letter to you Friday evening. It is rather hard to get a three-day pass but I have my fingers crossed.

It wasn't such a bad day even if it did rain a little. I sure hope the weather is good over the weekend. I haven't heard the weather report yet.

I got a letter from Carl. I think he asks me in every letter when I'm going to get married. I'll have to answer his letter to-night. I also got a letter from Gale. He wants to know the color of your eyes, hair, and clothes. I thought it was funny he didn't write it down when we were there.

I'm going to have a skin doctor look at my arm. He's going to tell if he can what causes the skin irritation. One doctor said it was caused from something in my system. Maybe its you.

I tried to sleep this morning but wasn't very successful. Just as I dozed off someone turned on the radio. A play was on and I got interested in the play and couldn't go back to sleep. Then came mail call and a letter from you darling. After I read it I just thought of you till chow time.

This afternoon I read for awhile. Then watched some fellows playing Cribbage after that some that were playing chess. (Honey can you play chess?) Well the first thing I know it was supper time. After supper I read the Sunday paper. And went to the show. It was "I'll be Seeing You." After the show I stopped at the Red Cross where the Santa Fe band was playing. They were very good. Now here I am! Wasn't that an exciting day. Boy I bet my weekend will be much more interesting. I wonder if I should write about it to someone?

Honey do you read between the lines of my letters? Like I do yours. I like the things you say in between the lines. A lot of it is even better than the lines themselves.

That reminds me I better wash my hair to-night. I hate to think of it. It's a hard job with one hand.

All I can say is that pie better be good. We can live on love but my cooking that is very doubtful. Maybe to-gether we can survive.

Honey you just contradicted yourself. You said all you had left to grade was English papers. Then you tell me you just finished history papers. Of course you were gone for awhile. Maybe that explains it.

Now you know how much I love you. Maybe its worth not getting a letter a couple days and then get three. Doesn't it just make you feel wonderful. Next Monday you won't even get one.

It is raining out real hard. I wish we were to-gether in some empty farm house or barn. I love to hear rain when it is warm and I feel like I do now. Its kind of romantic. Just so it dries up to-morrow.

I wish I could write like that sample. It is really the way I feel but is so hard to put in words. I'll always think it even if I can't write it.

Virginia, I don't like what I read between the lines about earning money. As for me I'll tell you what I had in mind.

What do you think? It would help me pass the time anyway.

Honey how can you call that good Kansas music. The Hoosier Hotshots might be ok but Roy Acuff, Bob and Jerry, and Pete and Al, or what ever there names might be. I'll take Frankie over (can't read) first.¹²¹

Your Gran might be old fashioned in some ways but she sure gets right to the point. I'll have to ask her how to go about it, to have a child.

I have to laugh every time I think of the time you blushed in the car. I don't think I'll ever forget that. Maybe I ought to tell your Mom about that?

Darling I miss you so much. I wonder if we will ever be able to make up for the time we are away from each other. Sometimes I feel that I can't wait till then. The way it is now I have built such wonderful dreams I doubt if they will ever come true. I know I certainly do my best to make them come true.

There's nothing more to write so I will close. I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses,

Alvin

Take me in your arms and kiss me. Hold me tight and say you love me with all your heart.

March 18, 1945

Hello Darling,

Here I am again! I'm already planning for next weekend. I guess I'll never be satisfied till I'm with you night and day. I sure hated to leave. I wish I could of stayed till to-night. I thought of you all the way back. Darling you leave me in the clouds. Now and then my inter-self makes me drop a couple inches but somehow I get back up.

¹²¹ Alvin is comparing County & Western artists with Frank Sinatra.

This is going to be a long long week. I came right to the hospital and was it a lonely place. Both Herb and Virg are gone. I'll have time to build up some stories to tell them not the kind you think. I'll leave them with two versions. They won't know which way to think.

The first thing I did was get the mail. Your letter cheered me up some but not enough. I walked in circles for awhile trying to think of something to do. I was going to take a bath but the tub was dirty and I was too lazy to wash it. Boy who ever used it must not of worked for a year. I finally ended up going to the show. "God Was My Co-Pilot." It was purty good. That reminds me they are getting a Catholic Chaplain here Tuesday. I think I'll go see him. I'll probably need him that day. They are going to refill one of my teeth.

Darling I'm so sorry. Once for a whole minute, since I left you, I didn't think of you. I bet I can't sleep to-night. I love you so much darling. I wonder if every man gets to be in love so much as I am. There must not be many because I never see many who acts like I do. I know I'll never be able to do anything till you are with me for always. I can hardly keep my mind on anything I do. I hope and pray I can keep you happy as long as you live. And may that be for 200 years. I know I'll always be happy with you. You're so wonderful.

You said you would show me how much you loved me. Do you really love me that much. Darling how do I deserve it?

I almost didn't get to Marysville. The bus ran out of gas before we got to the Hanover road. We coasted back down the hill. It would have been awful if I'd had to wait at Marysville till to-night without you. It was such a wonderful day to waist on the bus. I hope it stays nice till next week-end.

I looked at the house where you were born. The bus even stopped so I got a good look. I didn't see the tree. It must of died.

I'm so tired honey. My head is drooping almost to the desk. When I'm with you for good I'd probably be an invalid in a couple weeks.

I should write three more letters but probably won't get them wrote for a couple days. You come first your dad is right. With you I don't know anyone else is around. Darling I just have to stop. I can hardly keep my head up. I wish you were here to keep me awake. Darling I love you so much. Night!

All My Love and Kisses,
Alvin

P.S. I can't let this space go to waist so I love you, and only you, I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you, Do you love me? I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you, I'll always love you for ever and ever. I love you, I love you. Oh I'm so tired. But I love you, I love you, Sigh! And another sigh! I love you, I love you more than anyone has ever been loved. Darling I do love you. Bye honey. I still love you. XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX.

March 19, 1945

Oh Darling,

You are so wonderful! I love you so much honey. I feel good for some unknown reason. Its either the spring or just thinking of you. I have four pictures of you in front of me. I just look

at them and drift away. If only it was you so I could take you in my arms. I can see you now as we were by the hayrack. I wish we could go on and on like that. I'm dreaming darling.

Do you know what. I seen a picture to-night and she looked just like you. Only you are more wonderful. The actress was Lana Turner. And the name of the picture was "Love is a Private Affair." It made me think of our coming honeymoon. Oh darling I love you so much. I want you so much. This summer seems so far away. I'm going to come up this week-end if I have to walk all the way. Sigh ----- . . ----- Honey my heart just skipped a beat. It just flutters. I can't even write I'm so high in the clouds.

When I woke up this morning; guess what I discovered. I had your bracelet on. I forgot all about it. Did you miss it? If you want me to send it to you I will. I can give it to you Saturday night. So I'll keep it till then.

Did it rain much there? I hope not. It is so hard for you to get to school in the mud. Next year you won't have to go through mud to teach. You better send me your application so I can get you under contract. You will only have one pupil and the lessons will be up to you.

Virg. went to mess with us to-day for the first time. He has his cast now so will get a furlow soon. He told me he couldn't sleep in town. When he said that Mable kicked him. Virg., Mable, and I went to the P.X. to-night and had chocolate malts. It was the first one I had for a long time and sure was good. We called Mable just before she came out. She asked if I had a good time. I just sighed.

Did you get that letter? I didn't get one but wasn't expecting one. I should get one tomorrow. If I don't, darling I'll be so blue.

Thank your Mom for everything she done. I don't like to cause her so much trouble. And honey after that supper you got Saturday night don't ever say you can't cook. I think you have been kidding me all the time.

It is after eleven already. I've been dreaming too much. I'll never get those other letters answered. And speaking of dreaming, I had a nightmare last night. I was being chased by a bull and started climbing a tree. I woke up and was climbing my cast. It's a good thing I woke up or I'd pulled the cast off. It was an awful dream. The bull was skinned and all dead. I'll tell you the rest Saturday.

At the reconditioning program to-day we had a picture about how the farmer was helping win the war. The farmer had a gooding daughter. And I told Herb he should of got a farmers daughter. Boy you should of heard him.

Darling I have to close. Its late and I have to take this to the Post Office so you will get it right away. It goes out at 8 in the morning. Bye Honey. I love you, I love you, I love you.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

XXX

March 20, 1945

Darling

You maker of dreams come true. Your wonderful honey and have read your letter five times already and still its wonderful.

I had a busy day. I had to go to the skin clinic at 8:30 and was there till 10:30. All he did was look at my wrist and give me a prescription for some. Oh yes and come back in a week.

Then I came back and your letter was here. S I G H! I read it twice then went to the dental clinic. They filled a tooth. I don't like dentist. He said my teeth were sure hard. They must have been because he pushed me clear down in the seat. His wife was his assistant. They have only been married six months. You could sure tell it to. I had both of there fingers in my mouth at the same time. No connection with marriage part.

At reconditioning a Legion man spoke on the G.I. Bill of Rights. It was quite interesting. It looks like I can get five years of school after all.

I went to supper with Virg. After supper I took some pictures of Virg., Mable, and Herb. I hope the one I took of Mable when she wasn't looking, turns out good.

Virg. had his usual chocolate malt. I had one to, on him, The doctor says that's why he has gained so much weight since he's been up. Maybe I better not have any more malts.

Wasn't it nice to-day. I miss you so much. All this nice weather going to waist. I hope it stays nice till next week-end.

First it was months we had to wait. Then weeks and now days. I'll be glad when its hours. I can't hardly bear to be away from you for a week. Darling I love you so much.

Every time I'm with you I love you more. By July I'll just bust with happiness. I feel all choked up now. If I sing or yell they will think I'm crazy. All I can do is sigh.

Honey don't ever cry again. I'm so sorry I made you. I feel bad every time I think of it. I was so helpless I didn't know what to do. Please don't ever cry again. If I do something you don't want me to do tell me. I want to make you happy not sad.

A lot happened in that year. Some bad and some good. And a lot that was wonderful. I hope the next year is like the last part of last year. Darling are you as happy as I am? I love you! Again and Again, I love you.

I'll let you know about what time I'll be in Marysville. I might have to hitch hike if I can't get a bus right away. Just a minute I'll go call now and find out.

Hello honey. I'm back already. If I take the bus I'll get there about 8:20. I'll see if I can make better time to-morrow. I think I can. It shouldn't take 6 hours to go 150 miles. Theres a motor leaves here for Marysville too, but I think it leaves at ten.

Honey maybe if your Mom reads the book she will break down and give you some advice. I bet you wouldn't tell me anyway. Would you?

The roast was wonderful. I told you in the last letter you were a good cook and that still goes. It wasn't worth the fifteen minutes. Not even chicken would be.

I know you'll make a good stenographer. Your hired for life. Some things we will correct. And as for that blouse. Get one with a zipper or stronger buttons in front.

Darling I wish they would send me to you to recuperate. I'm afraid I'd have to come back and recuperate from recuperating. Now I must close. I miss you and love you with all my heart. Bye darling.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

March 21, 1945

Darling

I just came from the dance, I talked with one of the girls that tried to teach me. I was only there for five minutes. I went to town to try and get a way to Marysville so I could get there

before nightfall. I think I'll try hitch hiking. If I could only get out of here at ten in the morning I could be in Marysville at twelve thirty. Will you meet me in Marysville? We can always take the bus if I get in late. What time do your folks plan on going home. If I hitch hike I'll get there at least by six or seven. Maybe before. Where would you want me to meet you? If something happens that I can't come I'll let you know in time.

Virg. went in too. I had supper or rather a lunch at the place where Mable stays. Virg told her to hurry with supper because he was tired and wanted to go to bed. She said she wished it would get dark so they would have an excuse. Is that the way you are going to be?

After supper we went down town and had two glasses of beer. The first Virg. had in ten months. You should of seen the girls going in there alone. No wonder these guys like Topeka. It was nine when I got out here Mable says Virg is a wolf. Watching them made me lonesome for you. Oh yes! Honey. Virg gave me some things to figure on after I'm married. Or rather how things go.

I wish we would of stayed up later too. Even if we would of fall asleep together. When we go to Barns you will have to show me around. Maybe we can get lost.

Honey I am thinking of forming that habit. It isn't so expensive. At least last week wasn't. We will talk it over when I'm there.

I was afraid that rain would cause you a lot of trouble. I would of liked to have been there. Did you cuss? As for washing; ~ ~ read between the lines.

Honey! Where in the world did you get a pin-up like that. She looked more like a wrassler. The others must be good. Why didn't you send them?

Darling did I make you that way. If you worked at the Y.M.C.A. you would be busy in only one room. MINE. You better let me pick out your job. I'm not so sure I want you to work. Your character is good. You must mean your reputation is rusty. There was a lot of writing between the lines.

Your Mom will be busy with Mark plus the chickens. That word makes my mouth water.

Talk about school being a let down after those wonderful days. You should be here. One minutes I'm blue then I think of those hours and Oh darling. I love you so much.

You should have been here last night when I took my bath. I was wide awake. It's a good thing no one came in. I'd been embarrassed. Wish you would have been here and put me to sleep.

I prefer that you do it mentally and this week-end too. Also prove to me that you love me. I didn't know you were going to last week-end until I got back.

You tell me about that dream. I'll tell you what I told them. I looked bad but not very many seen me. At least Herb and Virg didn't tell Monday.

Darling you are a wonderful nurse. Your wonderful period. My ribs are still sore. Will you rub my ~~~~ribs again. I love you so much. I even felt you hold me tight. Oh darling if you were only here. When ever I am dreaming and I am most of the time. I don't hear a thing. Not even cowboy music. I better stop I'll need a lot of rest. Bye honey! I love you darling! I love you sweetheart. I love you, I love you, I love you.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

Yours till the ocean wears rubber pants to keep its bottom dry. I'll always love you.

XXX

March 26, 1945

Hello Darling.

How are you? I hope well. I've been worrying ever sense I left. If you are very sick maybe I can get an emergency leave.

Gosh am I tired. I tried to sleep but couldn't. I tried to write you but just couldn't get started. I got here about three this morning. Then couldn't sleep on account of you.

I told Herb about you throwing up. He said that was the first sign of becoming a mother. Then he sure teased me. So I told him about the pony. That quieted him down. I teased him about his three day pass. So he broke down and ~~~. Say he seen Dean on his three day pass. Dean told him to tell me to send him a cigar. That he knew we were married. They seen the wedding ring. I think I'll send him a loaded cigar.

And do you know what. Virg and Herb took your letter away from me. Virg read part of it but I got it away from Herb before he could.

To-night Virg kept asking about my nerves! It's a good thing he leaves to-night. If he teases me too much I'll get him. I know just how to do it too.

I love you darling. I had a wonderful time even if you did get sick. I only hope your well. Honey you should of seen the hay fall out of my pants when I took them off. It's a good thing everyone was asleep.

Darling what has happened to your pops. He hasn't teased us as much lately. In fact he is even on our side (a little). Must be the spring.

I loaned Virg ten dollars till he gets home. If he doesn't it back right away I won't be able to come up this coming weekend. (I bet). I'm going to try and get a three-day pass again. They might even give more. I'll come anyway if its at all possible. Oh yes! Payday is Saturday. If I don't get payed then I'll have to wait for ten days. Will you loan me ten dollars. I'm just kidding!

Oh honey I love you! I wonder if June will ever come around. Just think theres less then a month of school left. Darling I love you more and more. I love you so much that I've already got that habit.

Did Barbara say anything at school? It's a wonder she didn't go in the ditch the way she looked at us. Those kids at Point Lookout are sure having a change of teachers. cupid must live there.

Honey guess what we had for supper. Strawberry on cake. And then I had some more at the P.X. (on Virg). And I'm not gaining even if I did eat malts. (I'm not losing either).

Promise me you won't cry this next week-end. If you do I might break down and cry too. Then what will you do? I wish I knew how you are. I'll be half insane before I get your letter. I wish I were a doctor. Then I could help you.

How big does the airplane plant get? And why is it called an airplane plant.

Honey when we burst from happiness will it be like grandpa and the grenade?

Darling I'm so sleepy I just have to close. I'll try and write a long letter to-morrow. I can't hardly think I'm so sleepy. Bye honey! I love you so much darling.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

P.S. Tell me when you need more wishes. Also when you need my help to make them come true.

P.S. If you want to take some pictures? Do

March 27, 1945

Darling

I feel much better now that know you are alright. I was really worried.

I don't know for sure if I'll get to leave here early Saturday or not but am going to try to. We get payed at nine so still could smoke the train.

I sure slept last night. I should of I was so tired. Only you could of kept me awake. I think I'll sleep good to-night to.

I wrote two letters this morning – one to dad and one to John Hubbard. He is in India. I'm glad I'm not there. Aren't you? Dad has been sick and can't eat any fried foods. Guess it's the same as your pop. Do you think I'll ever be that way? I hope not.

Did I tell you that I didn't feel very well Monday. My stomach ached. Guess I ate too much over the week-end. I think those veal cutlets I had a Manhattan¹²² helped too.

I miss you so much darling. I just can't do anything without thinking of you. No wonder I talk about you. I love you so much. If it was only this summer. I'll probably be even worse then. Do you think you can quiet my nerves. They need quieting now.

I told Herb you were mad at him because he took your letter from me. He asked me if I told you everything. Do I?

I wish I could have been there when the doctors felt you. I'd a helped him. Only I would of examined you more. From what your Mom says about him he sounds like a wolf. I think I'll be a doctor. What did he say was the trouble? Guess what I told Herb? And guess what Virg said to me? I'll tell you Saturday night. I listened to Inter Sanctum to-night. I think its screwy. Also listened to Fibber and Molly and Bob Hope. I kinda miss the cowboy music. Thank heaven he's gone.

Did you know I have a new cousin (can't read) surprised, I seen her on my first furlow and didn't know it or rather couldn't see it. Uncle George and Helen¹²³ have a baby girl. He's the one that was at the sale. It's a good thing I get the paper. If I didn't I wouldn't know anything. Do you think we will surprise anyone?

You should have been here for supper. We had onions, fresh green ones. And also olives, pork chops, and ice cream. I ate two bananas for breakfast. I lost a pound too. How do I do it?

I went to the show to-night. It was, "Bring on the Girls." All about sailors and girls.

I wanted to tell you something but can't think of it now. I'll just say I love you. Do you like that better? Honey I miss you so much. Does your dad need a hired man? I can't work very much but can take care of his daughter. We can pack the hay for him, or get water. Just think of the help I'd be. I know I would enjoy my work.

I guess I have to close. I can't think of anything to write. By honey! Maybe I can write a better letter to-morrow. I love you darling. And miss you every minute. Do you want me to prove I love you? Or have I already proved it? Finis

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

¹²² Manhattan Kansas. Alvin would attend Kansas State University in this city after he is discharged.

¹²³ Alvin's father's brother, George Lampe and wife Helen. Their first child was a daughter named Sheryl. They later had a son named David.

March 28, 1945

Darling

Wasn't it a beautiful day? I went out on the grass and had a good sun bath. Wish you could have been here. You could get a sun-tan too.

I went to the show to-night. It was "Sudari" a desert picture and fairly good. After the show I went to the March birthday party. I won a prize for getting last in a egg race. Also guessed next to the right number of Easter eggs in a basket at the end of the party we had cake and ice cream.

Oh yes I won four packages of cigarettes the other day by answering a question in a quiz program. And I don't smoke cigarettes.

Herb moved to-day. He will leave for a convalescent hospital soon. Then I won't have anyone to chase me. He chased me all over to-day. I was fixing his stiff neck. I must of got to rough.

I have some cute problems. I tried to get them typed so I could send them to you. I'll get the copies to-morrow but will bring them up instead of sending them.

It took me a couple minutes to find the ending of your letter. I couldn't see the light pencil at first and thought you forgot part of the letter.

So you have been eating too much rich food. (Protein and such) You better wait till after we are married. I'll eat your share this weekend so you won't get sick. Honey would I make a good nurse. I'll take the job if you get a private room. I'll take good care of you. Can I nurse you Saturday.

I'm going to try to leave early. I don't know if I can yet or not but could you go to the highway at the same time. If I'm not there by 1:30-45 I will be there later in the evening. Nadines idea isn't so bad but what if they are all boys. The boys could do the farm work and then one would have the dogs too. In a couple years you would need a new husband.

Darling, why should baled hay remind you that mom found my camera on the living room dresser? Maybe you had company Sunday.

I'll take your medicine for you when I'm there. See how much I love you. I would be sick for you but don't think I could. I'm not built right.

Honey where did we get that two months. Its still two months till June. Now I remember! That was till school was out. I wonder what we will be waiting for after we are married? One thing will be my discharge. It won't be so bad when we are to-gether. Maybe I won't want one then. I love you so much darling.

I wonder what would of happened to me if I hadn't lost my head and heart over you? Maybe I would have been a bachelor. I know I never would have had a good time on my furlows. And what about you! You probably would be going to all the dances. Having a good time and not having to write letters to a c_ _ _ _ _ soldier. Maybe you would have been a old maid school teacher. No a girl like you couldn't be an old maid. A movie star or princess but never an old maid. I know you are an angel. Also that I love you and you can be my queen. Better still I'm your slave. Oh darling I love you so much. When are you going to come to Topeka or wherever I am? I hope its not too long after schools out.

I better close its late and all I can say is I love you. You don't want to read that. So Bye Honey. I wove oau.

Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

Your Loving _ _ _ _ _
Alvin

April 1, 1945

Darling

I made it ok. But boy am I tired. I thought I would write you a line so you would know I got back ok.

I got a ride to Marysville right away. And was only in Marysville a short time. A guy took me to Home City. Everything went good till someone I rode with told me I could catch the bus in five minutes at a town 40 miles from Topeka. He was taking his daughter in law to catch it. That was 7:25. Well the bus was loaded and they sent another one. I got here at 10:45.

Thanks honey for the most wonderful weekend I ever had. I love you more than ever. I almost want to come up next week. I mean I want very bad and almost talked myself into it. We will make up for it the following weekend. I hope it is nice then. It is trying to rain here now.

Oh Yes! Are my feet ever sore. I had to stand on the bus and they just stung. I'll learn to go bare foot!

Oh honey I'm so tired. I would feel a lot better if you were here. (for awhile) Gosh I love you. I'll miss you worse then ever this weekend. I'll write a long letter and you do to.

I have to close honey I can hardly keep my eyes open. Night honey! I love you darling?

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

April 2, 1945

Darling

I just came from the Library and finally started writing. I was going to write at seven. I've been tired all day guess I didn't get enough sleep last night (or maybe its something else!)

I had to go to Gym to-day for exercise. I don't care for that but still have to go if I want a pass (so I better go). I rode a bike a mile to-day and never moved an inch. I sure was puffing when I got through, guess I'm not in shape. Oh yes! The officer in charge said every person should do some exercises every day. In the morning was best. Do you know of any good exercises I could do in the morning.

I got a letter from you to-day. It was the one you wrote Thursday. Someone put it in the mail box so I didn't get it last night.

Guess what honey. I got payed to-day. I was going to say something else but thought I'd better not. You'd blush. I got my ration money to so shouldn't go broke to soon.

Honey I'm sore all over. I guess I'm not used to bowling. Maybe this gym will build me up. I sure need something.

You should have been here for supper. We had olives, and apple pie. Also spare ribs, vegetable soup, salad, and raw carrots. I prefer steak.

Darling if I miss you so much in the next two weeks as I did to-day I don't know how I'll stand it. Herb will leave in a week or so then I'll really have a hard time. I'll be glad when you are with me for good. I love you more than ever. After we are married I'll be able to concentrate on getting well. (or worse)

Gee honey you looked wonderful. Maybe being sick did it. Or was it because I was with you more, and alone. I think you get more beautiful every time I see you. By May you will be an angel.

I wonder what Mrs. Sader would think of you if I was out of the army and we went somewhere every night. Do you think she would think you ran around too much. Who is Dorothy Baxa?

Did you get the school cleaned ok Monday. That oiled floor must be hard on clothes if they happened to come in contact with it. You should have the floor waxed like these in the hospital.

Honey did you show me that lovely (can't read)? If you didn't you can show me some other time.

Oh my gosh. A spider just went across your letter. A great big one the size of a pin head. I hope he doesn't bite me.

Did your wishes come true over the week-end? Tell me what they were? I mean the ones on those Luckies I sent you.

I owe several letters but I bet I don't get them answered for a couple days. I better send mom something to-morrow. I forgot to to-day.

I'm so tired and sleepy. I think I'll drink a bottle of milk and go to bed. Maybe I'll dream of you. Bye Blue Eyes. I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses
Your Lug

XXX

P.S. I think Lug is better than Drip.

P.S.₂ XX means double cross.

XXX means I love you and here's three kisses to prove it.

P.S.₃ I guess!

April 3, 1945

Darling.

I had a lot to write but my mind is a blank now. Maybe I'll think of some of the things as I go along.

I just took a bath. Gosh I hate them. That is when I can only use one arm. I always have to have someone wash my back and right arm. If only you were here.

I just remembered something. The doctor came around to-day again. They are going to take another X-ray. They will probably put another cast on. I'll probably need one with you coming down.

I got a letter to-day from Kansas State College to-day. It was about the vet course. I have the right credits in the course I need to take a vet course. All I need now is to take a year of pre-veterinary. I can take it there. I'll send you the letter as soon as I don't need it. Oh yes! They prefer Kansas applicants to out of state applicants. Can I have your home for a residence.

I went to the show to-night. It was a Cowboy and guess who: Roy Rogers. Yi Pei. I should be a Cowboy. The picture wasn't so bad.

Honey if you send a sample of that coat I'll try and get a skirt to match it.

I sure missed you to-day honey, and your letter made me blush. Also the odds were very good for a person who read between the lines. You better get me some ***.

Don't ever talk about me going over again. I don't think it would happen but don't mention it. I don't know what I'd do. Why I'd be away months or even longer. No I'll be a bed pan commando first. The least we could be to-gether.

It has been raining most of the day. I bet the roads are muddy. I hope you don't miss any more school. I hate to wait those extra days.

I still could eat a lot of steak. Oh yes! We had steak for dinner to-day. It wasn't as good as you have at home. I weighed but didn't lose any weight. I should of weighed before I left here.

I wonder when I'll one do. Say where did you get that odd. I think I'll show it to Herb. No I think I better not. I have him believing just what I want him to.

Darling I love you so much. I'm glad you are a school teacher. If only I could go to school. What subject would you teach me. How about nature, you know. The birds, bees, and flowers.

I don't have to go to gym anymore. Unless I want to. Some boys hurt their arms yesterday.

I have to close now. The night ward boy just came in. I can't write with him breathing down my neck.

I'll try to write a long letter to-morrow. I'll make it a point to. Even if I have to take notes thru the day so I'll remember. Bye honey. I love you darling! Every _ _ _ _.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

I love you, I love you, I love you XXX

April 4, 1945

Darling

Boy what a day. I'm so lonesome. I wish you were here to cheer me up. The dance must be over theres sure a lot of noise in the hall. I was in the Library, but didn't ever look inside the dance. When are you going to teach me to dance? (In June).

I was reading some of Burns poetry. He sure wrote some good poems that I didn't see in the book at school. Here is one of them.

That backney'd judge of human life
The Preacher and the King
Observe: - "The man that gets a wife
He gets a noble thing."
But how capricious are mankind
Now loathing, now desirous!
We married men, how aft we find
The best of things will tire us!

Ain't it the truth. (I guess) Maybe I should send you one about the maid who made the bed and cried!

It sure rained here last night and this morning. Also some snow and it got rather cold. The sun was out for awhile this afternoon. I hope it doesn't freeze.

I put in my order for Suntans. I'll probably have to have them altered. Are you a good sewer. If I can I think I'll buy me a suit or so of gaberdine Sun Tans.

Boy I sure got cold in bed last night. You should have been here to keep me warm. This morning they must have had the heat on full blast. It was hot.

I had to stay on the ward this after-noon. They were going to split my cast but didn't come around. I read M-U-R-D-E-R stories most of the time. After he didn't come I took off. Went to the P.X. + Red Cross.

Herb borrowed my hat to go to town he lost his. He signed his clearance papers so will probably leave soon. He'll probably go to Carson Colorado. His brother is there now.

Honey you shouldn't worry over me. If there was much chance of me not getting back on time I wouldn't of tried it.

That reminds me I better get my pants into the cleaners. I'll learn to do what you say some day.

I told you Nina, would have a boy. Do you think it will be that easy with you? I wonder if twins are harder. Shall I leave my motor running?

I know what Mark misses. He likes my songs. (I mean singing) He doesn't like me when he wants to stay awake. I'll be glad when he's old enough to go along with your folks. He'll want to go with us then.

I love you Gin.

I went to the show to-night at the Post Theater. It was "Royal Swindle." It was sure funny. A lot different then I thought it would be.

A spelling bee could be nice. But if I were there I'd like a premiere on the last day. In the days when I went to school we had one the last day of school every year. Maybe they are to much work. Also maybe the farmers can't get away from there work that long.

I'm tired again to-night. Do you know I slept better since the week-end. I love you darling. I think I'll find out if and how and what they are going to do with me. If I knew I could make some plans. I miss you to darling. It seems ages since we were together.

Now I must say good night, so Good Night darling. I love you. For ever + ever!

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

April 5, 1945

Darling

Darn the rain and mud. I didn't get a letter from you to-day. Now I'll miss you more than ever till I get one. Two will be a lot but letters can never take your place. Why do we have to be taken so. Do you think we can make up for two weeks of being apart. I don't think we can but I'd like to try.

It was a nice day here. I wish the weather man would make up his mind. Gosh I hope its nice next week-end. If it isn't we won't get out very much.

They cut my cast to-day and took an x-ray. I'm anxious to see if my bone is fitting. You should see my arm it sure need a washing. The scar isn't as bad as I thought. The stitches don't show in the old scar tissue.

I got a letter to-day from Herb Bixby. He's the boy that was home on furlow. His home is in Wisconsin. He's back in France now, probably Germany by now. I'm sending his letter, I don't know why but maybe you would like to read it. He's a swell kid and we sure had a lot of fun to-gether. I think I told you some of the things we did.

Darling I love you. I might of got a three day pass this week, but wouldn't you sooner get one the 20th or next week. A boy took it that lives in Wichita. You will need me on the 21st anyhow.

I better close. I can't think of a thing to write. I'm still going to write that long letter. I miss you so much darling. Bye honey! I love you.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

April 6, 1945

Darling

Darn it this pen got my finger all full of ink. I must of knocked some out when I dropped it.

Darling, I was so blue this morning. I was hoping for a letter and none came. Then I came in the ward this afternoon and no letter was on my bed. I felt awful. Just to make sure I asked the ward boy. And my wish came true. He left two of my letters in the mail bag. I feel much better but will never feel good till your with me. Oh! Darling I miss you so much. That reminds me I better go in and reserve a couple rooms. Just seven more days. I hope they go fast.

Well it had to happen, Herb leaves at 9:30 in the morning. I have been trying to get ahead of him before he leaves. My arm sure is sore. He chased me all over the mess-hall. Only Virg. and I are left, and he's still on his furlow. I wonder what he's been doing???

I went to a U.S.O. show to-night. It sure was good. I think about the best U.S.O. show I ever seen. I sat on the front row of seats. So close I could of reached up and grabbed a hand, a, the-the, microphone.

Did you miss me honey. I stopped to light my pipe. I should put some more tobacco in it.

I got you a hankie to-day. I don't think I'll give it to you for a month or so. Do you want to bet? You sure are expensive. No wonder I love you. I have to to get my moneys worth. I could of talked all day and not said that. Couldn't I honey. No if I had to give what you are worth I'll never be able to have you.

Only Rockefeller, Morgan, or Morgan (?). Your just wonderful. Do you love me. Why? It must be my money. I have piles boy they hurt. I can't help it honey. I wasn't this way till I was home.

It is nice here again, no mud or anything. I bet it stayed muddy there for awhile because of the snow. Did it freeze? I hope it didn't hurt the wheat or anything.

My arm hurts me a little they better put a solid cast on. You can see the head of one of the screws. Right thru the skin. I thought it was bone for awhile. I hope they get my x-rays back soon I want to look at the new one. My arm sure itches. I wish you were here to rub my arm and _____. I miss you. I can't even write.

I should write six other letters to-night. I'm going to try and write one at least. I doubt if I get it done.

If you didn't get a letter from me for a week would you still write every day? If I never heard from you for a week I'd go crazy.

So that's why you think of me so often. You want me there to put chains on, get you out of the mud, get coal, fix the fire, and wash your hands? What would we do the rest of the time? I'd gladly wash the coal dust off your hands. Don't ask why. If I could only be with you I'd gladly do all those things and more to. If I wasn't all worn out? I talk like a husband already. I wish I were. (Yours) Why did your mom say I'd be disappointed? What did she mean?

Do you mean you can't remember my birthday? I'll tell you! It is April the 14th. What are you going to give me?

Our minds must run the same way. I've been thinking about a picnic too. Also I made the mistake on the month. As you probably noticed by now. I mean on the letter I wrote the other day.

That's too bad about Duane. I sure hope he's alright. I know from others just like his case, about what to expect. If only this war would end. You can see by Herbs letter that it make believers of all of us. I hope the letter is right. He might of got lost for eight or ten days.

You will make a good farmers wife: feeding cows and separating. Which do you want, the cream money or egg money. Or all of it.

What kind of meat do you like best? I love egg sandwiches.

This isn't as long as I wanted but I better stop. Just seven more days then heaven. I can hardly wait till I see you again. I love you so much darling. Bye Sweetheart!

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

I thought I only wrote two pages but I see I wrote another half of one.

Did you like the adds I sent you? There are lots of good ones in these detective magazines. I love you darling.

Oodles of Love & Kisses

Your better half.

April 7, 1945

Hello Darling.

I should be with you now. I only wish I was. A week ago I was with you and at this very time you were in my arms. I wish you were there now. I miss you so much darling. I also remember that in a half an hour, last week I had Mark in my arms. I guess he wants to be in my arms to.

I went to town this afternoon and was back in time for supper. Which is at 5:30. Guess what I did? I have a room reserved for you for Friday and Saturday. It was easy. I got them at the first place I went. I also bought you a hankie while I was in town. And for myself I have a sack of popcorn. Oh I almost forgot, I had (can't read) of beer. I met three buddies that was in Ward A-1 with me. We all bought a round. I tried to leave on number two, then again on number

three. I finally got away after four. I think the fifth would of fixed me up pretty good. Why I even drank them I don't know. I sure don't like Kansas beer.

I took my cast off again to-day and washed my arm. The first time since January 1st. I still haven't seen my x-ray. I'll probably get to Monday.

I got one letter to-day. And that was a return letter that I wrote a boy in my old outfit. He's missing. Herman told me he's almost sure he's captured. I read the letter over and it made me feel kind of sad.

I seen Herb off this morning. He left at eleven thirty. If he doesn't get a furlow right away. He's going to have his wife come out there.

I'm in the kitchen now. The office was taken over by another boy who is studying Spanish. I almost didn't write. I love you so much that I couldn't help it.

I heard the Hit Parade to-night for the first time since my furlow. After that I was listening to a band and some guy had the other radio on some hoe down.

Darling do you think can catch the train out of Marysville Friday at 1:30? I hope you can. I'll meet you at the Depot. If you can't catch the train come down on the bus. It leaves there at 9:07. I'll meet you at the Bus Station at 2 AM. The train gets here at 4:00 PM. All I can do is wish.

Someone stole a patients camera in this ward. It was a 75.\$ camera. I'm glad I left mine with you. Have you taken any pictures yet. Be sure and bring it down.

I hope I get two letters from you in the morning. I can't figure out why I didn't get one to-day. Were the roads bad again.

I better stop honey I'm running out of ink. I love you darling for ever and (can't read).

All My Love & Kisses,

Alvin

XXX

P.S. I'm trying to improve my writing. Can you tell?

April 8, 1945

Darling

Look at that date. Only 5 more days. I can hardly wait. I bet they go slow but I'm hoping they don't.

It was a very very lonely day. About the only thing good about it was your letter this morning. I couldn't even sleep. I tried to but had to get up at 8:30. I couldn't see any sense laying there awake.

I have been trying to write all day but I must have spring fever. I don't have any ambition. Can you fix me up? I'm going to write those letters to-night if I have to stay up till four a.m.

I went to the show to-night. I sure liked it. It was O, Rourk, Alan Ladd was the leading actor. He fell in love with a school teacher. After she told him she loved him.

Oh yes! I had tea this afternoon. Only it was coffee. I ate ten of those sandwiches and didn't know it. Boy were they small. I had half a notion to put four or five together. The gray ladies have tea every Sunday afternoon.

I read a booklet on war marriages. I couldn't find anything in it that was like us. We have most of the things to make ours a success. It said that you would probably expect me to be like your father. Is that right?

They have a swell phonograph at the Red Cross. I hope we can have one like it. Then we can listen to Bing anytime we wish. Most of the guys here don't like classics but I do. We will have to get some good records.

How do you swoon honey. You didn't swoon when I sang. I thought I was a second Bing. Is there any way that I can make you swoon?

I'm sure glad the roads weren't too bad. I wouldn't mind if I were there to wash the mud off _____. It is trying to rain here now. I hope it is nice next weekend.

Say who belongs to your heart: Me or Bing! You belong to mine. Also Night and Day you are the one. I love you darling.

All my wishes came true to: I hope some more come true this weekend. I'm going to have to wait a long time for some of them to come true.

Guess what now! We have some more H-billies. Only now they have a fiddle, banjo, and guitar. Its worse then the radio. First they can't play second you can't turn them off. No wonder I don't stay in my ward.

My X-ray report says no change. I think I'll have a talk with the major.

I wonder how many "c's" I'd get for my writing! And spelling!

I have a lot to do this week I ought to get it done. I have plenty of time.

Darling if I'm going to get those other letters wrote I better stop. I'll be so happy when I don't have to write you. I'll use my pencil then. Will you do all my writing. I love you so much darling.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

XXX

I love you, I love you, I love you Always

April 10, 1945

Darling.

I was lonely to-day. All I did was think of you. I know one thing for sure, I'll never miss another weekend if I can help it. I love you so much darling. To make it even worse I heard some news on me today. I'll tell you Friday.

I just finished washing my hair and the rest of me. Boy do I look wild. My hair is sticking out all directions. I feel good. I wish you could have been here to help me wash my _____ back. If my arm doesn't bend a little more you will have a life time job. Oh yes I took the cast off so I could wash better.

If you could start school a little earlier on Friday maybe you could get done with the tests in time. They probably wouldn't like that though.

It sure has been windy these last couple days. It blowed some of the roofing off. It's a good thing they put it back on today because it really poured here this evening. It didn't rain long but while it last it poured. I hope that's all the rain for awhile. Oh!Oh! Its starting to rain again. Well what do you know. It stopped. That was fast.

When you get here and I don't happen to be at the depot or station. Stay there I'll show up shortly. I'm sure hoping its by train you come so you get here by four Friday.

I tried to get a three day pass this week-end but they were all taken. I'll get one on the next one if I want it and I do. I can get off Friday at one or four but have to be in Saturday morning by eight.

Then I'll get a pass starting at eight Saturday morning till ~~Sunday~~ Monday at eight. So that is the same as a three day pass.

I'm glad you got the tire. I've been worried. I was afraid you would have a blow out. It sure costs to own a car. I'm glad I don't or I couldn't come up each weekend. I bet I couldn't.

My writing is worse to-night. It must be the bath I took. With all the dirt of my writing arm I can't control it.

Give Shirley my congratulations on her winning first. I think Nadine even surprised me. The way she giggled in school I didn't think she even studied.

Having a Nursery would be swell with me. I bet the kids would keep you busy. It wouldn't be so bad if they weren't to young. I notice in the paper that several people want girls to take care of their kids.

I bet the mama cat figured that the kittens would run off anyway so she beat them to it. Remember Alvin?

No darling you don't need any developing. You are perfect. If you did need it I'd do it. With pleasure. I read those ten easy lessons a long time ago. They were a little better then the book but not much.

Darling I almost was embarrassed to-day. When I opened your letter those ads fell out. Lucky no one seen them that one or either one in fact. Or I'd had a lot of explaining to do. The guy next to me wanted to know what I was laughing at.

We will get out all right I know. We have to eat don't we. Say what do you do with my letters. I'd hate to answer any of Shirley's questions if she read some of them. I better stop. I love you darling! Good night Honey. I love you more and more each day.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

XXX

April 9, 1945

Darling.

This is my second start on a letter to you. I made so many mistakes in the first paragraph that I threw it away.

We were in the ward all morning waiting for the doc to make his rounds. He never did show up. I got to see my X-rays and there is a slight change for the better. That's my non professional report. They say no change.

I went to the U.S.O. party to-night. We played cards and talked. At nine they served cokes.

We had a good program in reconditioning to-day. It was about world maps. Also one on sex hygist. The Health Officer told us about the cases in Topeka. The last didn't interest me but the first was very educational. I'm sending a quiz we took. Tomorrow I'll send you the answers. It would be a good one to give at school.

I doubt if this will be a long letter I'm sort of tired. I stayed up late last night and wrote a couple more letters.

I got a letter from Mrs. Hubbard to-day. That's beside one from you, I thought it was a birth announcement but it was a Easter Card and letter. I think she wants to find out when we are going to get married.

Your motor must have been running fast the way you started writing that letter. When did you pause for air. And henceforth you better call me Darling, Honey or something sweeter not lug period, Old Hot Lips Wilkinson. I love you darling so you can call me anything you wish only don't mean it (The bad things) I mean.

Ah ha so Slim wrote you. I'm not jealous, Much. You better wait till June, then we could both write him. Honey you didn't send me a Xmas Card. I bet I know why.

If you teach me to dance then I can only dance with you. Will you like that? I would. I would be embarrassed if I danced with anyone else.

Those were purty good jokes. Tire down, Nope! Didn't have to. Where did I hear that one before.

I was going to copy that poem about the maid who made the bed, and send it to you but it was to long. If you read it you would know that Burns and I both had the same idea about the last line. If you go to the Library look it up in Burns Complete work.

Keeping me cool is a problem. By the end of July I'll probably be cold and stiff. That is if you take after that Queen! I can't think of a better way to die.

I like gaberdine to but I priced a shirt and pants in town. \$16.00. I still ought to have a suit for June. Just think how many week-end I could spend with you on that. You will be here then maybe that will help. Or be worse. Just so you're here. I love you so much and miss you so much. Just think only four more days. Then happiness for a couple days. Then a week of waiting. I wonder what it will feel like to be happy a whole month or for years.

I bet Joyce is happy over Marks tooth. Do you think he will bit your mom.

I haven't been sleeping very good lately. I'll be glad when you're here and I can sleep good. What am I saying.

I'll be like the rest of these married men. Come dragging in, in the morning and drop on my bed. Then sleep all day so, well. I have to stop now. Bye Honey. I love you darling.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

XXX

P.S. No teacher has one. All the question yet on that quiz. So the Prof said.

April 12, 1945

Darling

I'm hoping it didn't rain up your way. I have a lot of good reasons. This won't be long because there isn't much to write that I know of. It would be second hand news. Did you have a good time darling? I hope so I had a wonderful time.

Did you know I have my cast off? You do! Do you love me better with or without the cast.

A colonel made rounds to-day and boy did he clean house. He spent more time in the ward than all the other officers together. I finally had to look up colonel. I tried four times two on scrap paper and couldn't spell it. I wonder what I would get in a spelling contest.

It must of rained because I didn't get a letter from you to-day. I got one from Ruby and one from Herb. He is getting another furrow. I bet he is happy. The only one he seen that he knows was Carl his brother.

Gosh to-morrow seems like a long way off. I hope it goes fast and I don't have to wait for you to long. I bet I'll be biting my nails. Oh! Darling I love you so much. I sure hope the next few weeks go fast all but the week ends.

I never ate supper to-night but had a bowl of bananas with cream and sugar. That ought to give me life.

I better close darling I want to take a bath. Don't know why I just had one. Now I can take a shower every day. Wish you could help me. Someday you can. Bye Gin. I love you, I love you, I love you.

All My Love & Kisses,
Alvin

P.S. By now I'm very lonesome. I love you even more darling.

April 11, 1945

Darling

This should get to you by Friday morning. I hope by Friday evening we won't have to worry about letter. I miss you so much honey. I've missed you more then ever this week. I must be more in love then ever. I hate to think of being away from you again. I'll be so happy in less then two day. Your so wonderful.

Only three more weeks of school. I never thought I'll be waiting for school to end again but I am.

It rain a lot here but the sun came out this afternoon and dried the mud up. I sure hope it isn't very muddy there.

I slept this morning for a few minutes. I tried to rest but couldn't. I am going to sleep Friday morning for sure. I want to be all rested up so I can keep you awake.

This afternoon I spent in the Library. I ran hurriedly over a couple books on Photography. I learn some things I didn't know. That reminds me I haven't read to-days paper. I better stop and get it before lights go out.

Did you miss me darling? I have read the paper. On page five is a good ad for you. See I'm always thinking of you.

I got a letter from Carl to-day. He doesn't write very much and asks me in every letter how my arm is. He wrote April 1st and bet I was with you. He was right.

I won a couple bets on some fights they had here at the hospital tonight. I'm going to blow it all. What can I buy worth 2 cents. Guess I'll put a penny with it and get a package of gum.

I also went to the show to-night. It was, *Brewsters Millions*, and I kinda like it.

I still haven't seen, *A Broad With Two Yanks*. I wonder if I'll ever get to.

It seems that I've read Shakespeare's explanation but can't recall it. So darling please enlighten me. Your as bad as me. Never telling me until I ask you to.

I wish I could of seen you after you drank the beer. If you don't like beer any better then I do we won't have very much in our future. They say a cold bottle of beer does wonders in the evening. I wouldn't know. Also makes you sleep sound.

Did you get the hankie I sent? I have another one here. If you make me I might give it to you Friday.

I love you because your you. Because your wonderful. And darling you're a wonderful investment. I could never make a better one.

Your relatives birthdays are the ones you want to forget. I can't even remember my brothers. At least not all of them.

Darling I bet we won't get any hay in our hair this weekend. Its going to be wonderful. No Shirley No Joyce. And no Mark. Maybe without them we will feel lost. Oh Yes! No water to get and no separater to wash. Maybe you should come down every weekend. It would have it's good points red.

If sleep will make you any more beautiful. Darling you couldn't be more beautiful. I wonder if sleep would do me any good? Don't answer that.

Now Honey I better close. Your next three letter I'll dictate to you. It's going to be a long day to-morrow. I love you Gin. Good night darling.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

April 16, 1945

Darling

It is late but I must get a letter off to you. Did you worry over me? I am still wondering if you got home alright. I got to Marysville in plenty of time. The bus was late.

Dean drives the bus from St. Joe to Phillipsburg. I talked to him in Marysville. He lives in Phillipsburg. If you ever ride the bus to Washington at night you will see him.

I was late getting here. The bus had to make a detour and was late getting into Manhattan. I got to bed at five. I slept some this morning but not much.

I'm sure glad that I do go up over the weekend. Even if I did get wet and have a few worries. Now I won't feel so bad the rest of this week. I love you darling! So very much.

Now I leave some more to worry over. I went to see the Priest to-day and he said it would take three months before we could be married in the church or at least two. I'll tell you all about it next weekend. I'm to see him again to-morrow to start my instructions. He said you should start yours as soon as possible.

I sure was busy to-day. I went to occupational therapy. Then went to town to see about getting some work. I could of worked at the Dairy and might yet. That is if I can handle the milk cases. I'm going to call a guy to-morrow at another place. He was gone when I got there. At the Dairy they pay \$.54 an hour and at the other \$.60.

And here is some good news. I'll get my Combat pay in May. A \$105.00 dollars. We can sure use that. Also start drawing 10% longevity which comes to \$9.40. All together in May I should get \$130.00. If I get a job I ought to be able to save most of it. Also I still have \$60.00 and my bond.

Which makes a grand total of \$220.00. Wish I drew that every month. Oh yes? If I would get my insurance premiums back that would be \$66.00 more. That sure will buy a lot of steaks.

I got your two letters to-day. I'm glad a lot of what you thought didn't come true. I also got a letter from Carl and three roles of film from Ruby.

Honey you ought to take that test up to Horton and see if she could get them all right. I bet she wouldn't. At least without looking some of it up. And darling you are intelligent. Your dad even says so. I know you are. We will raise Genius (plural). I'll take that back. I can't even spell.

Did you know Joyce wrote on the envelope. Be sure and tell her I'm still alive after eating her pie. You are a wonderful pie maker. You proved it.

All of our bad luck came at the same time. I sure hope that's all for a long time. My lucky number backfired.

I liked your earrings. If you wear them I won't be able to bite your ears. Also they are a bother at certain times. Do you know which times? I'm not going to spoil you anymore. At least not for a week or so. I can't help it darling I love you so much.

Those cookies were wonderful. In fact the best oatmeal cookies I ever ate. Even Moms. I'll have to tell her. Now I have another thing to love you for. You are going to be a wonderful wife.

I'm so sleepy. I better stop. My eyes won't hardly stay open. I should write some more letters but just can't. I love you darling. Good night and may your dreams be good dreams. I love you!

All My Love & Kisses

XXX

Alvin

P.S. What do you have to make a boy go through mud and rain to see you?

April 17, 1945

Darling,

This is going to be short because its after twelve and I should be in bed. In fact I had orders to be in bed before twelve. I'm going to get that screw taken out tomorrow. I'm suppose to take a couple pills before I go to bed. Also I better take a shower because I won't be able to for a couple days. I hope this doesn't keep me from coming up over the week end.

I never got a letter as yet but should to-morrow. It has been fairly nice to-day and part of yesterday.

For some reason I'm all mixed up. It seems like Thur.. And that I've been here a long time since Sunday.

I've been playing Cards that's why its so late.

I went to the show to-night at the Red Cross. It was *Molly and Me*. I like it very well.

I go to O.T.¹²⁴ every day now I started a rug to-day it is going to be red & white. You can just put it in your (our) hope chest.

¹²⁴ Occupational Therapy

I have to stop now or it will be awful late before I get to bed. I love you darling. So very much. Bye honey!

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

P.S. I'll try and write a longer letter to-morrow.
I love you, I love you, I love you.

April 22, 1945

Darling.

I love you. Well I'm back and oh so tired. I thought I would write so you would know I got back alright. I got in Topeka at 8:15. Not bad for hitch hiking. I caught a ride out of Marysville to a highway junction and then caught another clear to Topeka. I wish I could get one like that every time.

I feel a lot better?? But miss you darling. I sure am tired. I just feel tired all over. I can't figure it out. I got more sleep then I ever did before.

I sure miss my watch. I've looked at where its suppose to be a dozen times. And honey you can smoke my pipe till next week end. I don't care.

I didn't even get a letter while I was gone. Maybe they are holding them for me. I did get two papers. I've read them but there wasn't much in them.

I am going to try and make a few plans. Maybe I can do better with a clear head. I love you darling. I hope you don't affect me that way all my (our) life.

Oh Yes! I seen six great big Bull Snake on the road. They were all dead.

Well I better close and get to bed. I hope I can get to sleep soon. Except for your hair, dress, and watch it was a wonderful weekend. I hope next one is as nice. Gosh I love you a lot. Did you know you bruised my lips. If it isn't one thing its another. Bye Honey! I love you darling! Love you with everything I have!

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

April 23, 1945

Darling

This sure was a desolate day. I didn't feel right. Guess it was the weather. I sure hope you didn't have any trouble going and coming from school.

I started on that rug this afternoon. I should get a lot of it done to-morrow afternoon.

Honey the Captain said you should go see the Priest right away. The sooner you did the sooner we could get married. Tell him that you are going to marry a Catholic boy. So maybe you better go talk to him then let me know what he says.

I bet this rain will ruin your picnic. It might be nice to-morrow. I hope so.

I seen a lot of the boys to-day who have been on furlow. Virg. should be back this coming Friday.

I sure miss you darling. We are having a hard time getting it so we can be to-gether. I wish we could get married without all this bother. Its making me a nervous wreck. I guess I just feel blue. I love you so much darling. If you were only here to cheer me up.

If you want to you can take more pictures of the school kids. In fact take any that you want to.

Guess what? I lost three and a half pounds. It must be worry. I don't know what else it could be.

I hate to close darling, but there's nothing to write. I'll write a long one to-morrow night. Besides I should get a letter from you tomorrow. I never got any mail to-day. I love you! Bye.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

P.S. I love you once.

P.S.₂ I love you twice.

P.S.₃ I love you, I love you, I love you.

April 24, 1945

Darling

I wonder how long I can stand this. I never got a letter from you to-day. I sure hope I get one to-morrow. I am so lonely darling. If only I – (well I won't say it). I love you darling. I wonder if you feel the same as I do.

They had a show at the Red Cross to-night but I didn't go. I seen it a couple weeks ago. They had some famous piano player here to-day but I didn't go see him. I was working on your rug. My arm is a little sore. But it would be I've used it more then I have for a long time.

Darn this pipe I can't keep it lit. I wonder why I smoke. I think I'll stop for awhile. Just to see if it will bother me. I've smoked more since I've been in the hospital then I ever did. I hardly ever smoke before dinner.

I think I'll try and answer a few of the letters that I owe. I don't know how many it is now.

I just read one of your old letters. It seems like a long time since I got a letter from you. I wait the day that we don't have to write to each other.

I must come up this week-end. I'm all mixed up. I don't know if I can get a three day pass but I'm going to try. I think I'll have a talk with the Doc to-morrow. He is going to take the stitches out. I think I'll have the nurse re-bandage my elbow tonight.

I went to the Library after supper and caught up on some of my reading. I read the new *Times* and *Life*. I think I'll read the *May Reader's Digest*.

I played cards most of the time yesterday and today. Oh Yes! I forgot to tell you. I went to a U.S.O. party at the Red Cross last night. We played Casino, Hearts, and Rummy. The Grey Ladies served cokes. I didn't have a very good time. Now you would have been there. Oh! Boy!

To-morrow night I'll probably go to the Post Theater.

I just don't feel right. I can't figure it out. I sure miss Herb & Virg. They could cheer me up some. You are the one I really need. I do love you so much honey. Its even get worse. The only thing you don't affect is my eating.

Darling I guess I have to close. I can't think of a thing to write. I love you.

All My Love & Kisses

Alvin

XXX

April 25, 1945

Hello Darling

Without women, the beginning of our life would be helpless; the middle devoid of pleasure; and the end, of consolation.

Is that true? It was wrote by a philosopher so it must be true. I just read a book, "Studies in Pessimism," by Arthur Schopenhauer. Maybe you have heard of him. I sure learn a lot from the book. I'll have to read more of his works. In this book it was his philosophy on the suffering of the world, on suicide, and on women.

I sure am a lot happier to-day. I got two letters from you. That means the weather wasn't to bad Tuesday morning. Also got a letter from a boy who use to be in my squad. I was wondering what happened to him.

Hasn't this been a bad week so far. I sure hope the rest of it is better. This rain has made me feel depressed all week. It rained most of to-day, here. I sure hope it hasn't been bad up there.

To start the day off I went up to see Father Kenae, He is the Chaplain. I've seen him every day so far. Then I fooled around in the P.X. and end the morning by playing Casino, this afternoon I went down and checked up on my Post War education. I'm going to start on a College Algebra course. Just to refresh my mind. After that I came back to the ward and played pinocle till supper time. To-night I went to the show. It was, "Flame of The Barbary Coast." And very good. After that I went to the Red Cross Birthday Party. They had Coke and Ice Cream. Vanilla my favorite when I'm not with you. I love you darling.

And so here I am. It must be awful late. I read for quite awhile. I'm really sleepy.

I wish you would win that Jackpot too. We could use it in a month or so.

I'm going to try and get a three day pass to-morrow. I don't know if I can but I think so. You better hope, I sure am.

I promise not to make any whishles next weekend. I have other things I want to make. I mean do.

According to the book, darling, you couldn't be Brilliant. I think the book is a little wrong. Also it tells of the weapon nature gives women. Boy what a weapon. Look what it did to me.

I'm hoping we need the steak next month. It will be a week or so before I get a furlow. I can tell you better next week.

Darling what do you mean you think you love me? Or did you mean you thought you were at the end of the page. There shouldn't be any doubt. Even if you can't explain it. I'm just kidding darling. I seen the period. I love you very very much. I'll love you always. Even when your consolation.

I sure would like to see you after you have a session with the mud. Don't you love the taste of Mother Earth? I'll bet you will be glad when we live on a farm miles from good roads.

You were wrong I got your letters Wed. I sure hope I get one to-morrow. I wonder if you got mine. At least the mailman (darling) won't leave them on the corner.

Don't you mean you are brining the History questions home so you can find out how dumb I am.

That reminds me. At least something does. Have you folks found or worked out anymore plans for us?

Oh Yes! I recognize the I love you part in your shorthand but the other I never seen. I know what you are thinking. But it isn't true. I had a boy in school show me how to write it. Or was it a boy.

With just four rooms I can't see how you lose so many things. Did you ever find that blouse? If it were home I'll say the kids turn it in to the used clothing drive so they could go to the show.

I'm sorry I showed you the snake. I didn't even see it myself at first. And darling only one snake in the world will go toward people on purpose. That's the Cobra. They aren't in the U.S. Now do you feel better.

This week has been long for me to. And honey I miss you to. More than I can say or write. I have that graduation picture of you. I still think it is wonderful.

Well I better close. I don't know how I managed to write this as it is. I'm hoping I'm there when you get it. So Bye darling! I love you.

All My Love & Kisses
Alvin

XXX

(some drawings)

P.S. I made the tail to long on you. Your, I changed my mind. I won't say it. I love you.

(Alvin and Virginia were married May 5, 1945)

June, 13, 1945

My Darling Wife

I'm hoping you get this before Sat but I doubt it very much. I should be given the devil but I've been busy up to now. I'm in town at Virgils.

I spent the morning seeing about your allotment. And a getting my pay. After that I ate and cleaned up so I could go to town with Virg.

I miss you so much darling. I watched the car till it was out of sight. It sure was a funny feeling. And then after that I felt so funny. I wish you would of come back with me now. Last night I laid in bed for a long time before I finally fell asleep. I'm not use to sleeping alone.

I got a ride soon after you were out of sight. A gasoline truck took me to Sabetha. From there I road a few mile to Fairfeild and then caught a ride to Topeka¹²⁵. I got here at eight so had that fellow I was riding with drop me off at Virgs. Guess what!! He had moved. It wasn't far so I

¹²⁵ All of these are towns in Kansas.

went on over. I surprised him, he thought I wouldn't come back till the end of the month. Also he was surprised that from here.

I had supper with Virg & Mable. Then we talked till 10:00. It's 10:30 now.

I got my check cashed while I was in town. It was \$193.52 You know where most of that goes. It's a good thing it's just a little over two weeks till payday. Although I don't think we will run short.

If Virg gets a three day pass they are going home this weekend. I guess Mable is going to stay there till after harvest. I hope I can get one and go along with them. Honey I have an idea. When you get done reading this go over to Bill Brocuedge¹²⁶ or what ever his name is (and) if I didn't call him I'll be coming up on a three day pass. If I did I won't be up till Saturday. So if I hadn't last night.

I got out to the hosp. About 11:30 and got back in my old ward (B-1) Only three guys are there of those who were in it. The Hospital is so crowded they have bed in the day rooms. And – And--- And they are discharging a lot of the pacents. They say it's easier to get a discharge then a furlow.

I'm hoping for a 3 day pass this week-end and my chances are fairly good. I know I can get a weekend.

Here I am at the Hospital I'm sure fast aren't I. I was going to mail this at the depot but you will get it just as soon.

I didn't call him try and meet me at the train depot. (12:30) I hope I don't have to call. I'll know by tomorrow.

Darling I love you more then ever. I hate to think of the days we can't be to-gether. I proably won't sleep agin to night for a long time. I love you because you're the most beautiful girl I ever seen. I love because you're a wonderful cook (even better then Mom) I love you because you are good to me and go fishing with me. I love your because you love me. I love you because you're a perfect wife (in every way) Honey I love you for so many things I could never write them all.

The Last 40 days have been the most wonderful exciting day of my life and I promise you I'll never forget them. And only because of you. Thanks darling for everything.

I'm sorry for the time I made you waite for me while was fishing and talking to my friends. I'm sorry for a lot of little things I should of done and didn't and I promise to do better the rest of our hundred years together. And darling if I teased you to much I didn't mean to. I can't help it if I'm onery and mean to say nothing of being crazy mostly over you. I love you darling.

And now I must close. It's 11:10 and I must get to be so I can dream of you and maybe sleep. I have to get up at 7:00. For awhile I forgot people got up that early. By darling! I love so much!

Your Loving Husband
Alvin

P.S. Isn't it wonderful?

¹²⁶ Bill Bramlege was a neighbor to the Wilkinsons who had a telephone.

June, 18, 1945

My Daring Wife,

I just got through planting some strawberries. It's a job that had to be done.

Well I got here ok last night but it was to late to write. By the time I got out here it was after eleven. I didn't ride in that model A. He had trouble so I caught another ride. I got into Topeka, at 10:15 and couldn't get a bus till after eleven. I got in the gate ok but they took my name. Which don't mean anything.

Now for the good news. The doc. told me I am eligible for a C.D.D. That's a Medical Discharge. He is putting me in right away and said it would take about 2 weeks. Now don't jump up and down, because that not for sure. I still have to pass the C.D.D. board. That means I have a lot of work to do. That is on that school deal and etc.

Darling do you think you would like a civilian for a husband. I'll try and be even better or do think I can't.

It was a wonderful week end even if our room was very private. And also I won't have to worry for a couple weeks. And next week should be even better. Maybe I can get another three day pass but I won't promise you yet. If I do I'll call Tunerville Thurs. night. I love darling.
XX I got that kiss Your Loving Husband Alvin

June 18, 1945

Hi Wife

Did you get two letters today. Well I was just wondering I wrote two. I got the letter you wrote 14th. I love to darling your so sweet.

Gosh honey I miss you. I sure hope I can get a 3 day pass this weekend. But don't count on it. If I do I'll call Tunerville Thur. Night about 7:00 Virg is going to try and get one too.

I wrote Dad a long letter also Mom & George. If I can write a couple everyday I'll soon catch up. And before I forget it honey, heres that address Mrs. G. Goucher,¹²⁷ 118 N. Gardner, Battle Creek, Mich.

I worked on my fishing rod to-day. I took the varnish off and reglued the joints. I should go into town to-morrow and get some eyelets and winding silk. Theres a guy here who is teaching me to tie flies. He's purty good at it. He was with the Forestry Department. He said he would like to have a pole like mine. The fishing pole I mean.

How do you feel? I wish you wouldn't get sick everytime. Are you going to have the dress made by Saturday? Say does your Mom want some more towels & face rags? They still have them. Well I better close I can't think of anything t write except I love you and you know that. By darling I love you so much!

XXX

P,S, Did you get my kiss? I got yours.

Your Loving Husband

Alvin

¹²⁷ Mrs. George Goucher is Alvin's maternal aunt. Her first name was Vivian, but was always called Aunt Bud by Alvin.

June 19, 1945

Daring,

Gosh honey! You let me down. I was expecting to get a letter to-day but. Well just for that I'll not give you the hankie I bought for you. Not until I see you. I know you must of got home late from Uncle Arts and proably didn't feel good. Or the ___ ___ mail man didn't come.

I am back in to old grove here. I miss you and love you and dream of the times I'll be with you. Only now they are better. I know what to dream about.

The other things are the same. They made rounds to-day. The doc. said I was ready to move out. I hope he ment out of the army. The rest of the day went as usual. I had chow, got a new cigarette card. Went to the P.X. a couple times. Worked on my pole, a guy made me a fly etc.

This evening I went to town. I bought some wrapping silk hooks and flies and spoons. They sure have an assortment of stuff down here. I wish I had a lot of money. I sure would like to get a reel here the cost \$11.95. I came back early so I could go to the show. Oh Yes! Don't tell the kids but I got some marshmallows. Is that spelled right.

I was so busy to-day that I didn't get to write anyone. Maybe I can do it to-morrow. I bet. I was only with Virg for dinner. I bet he is wondering what I was doing.

Oh I almost forgot. I tried to find out about that school business. I got the idea but not much satisfaction from the Veterans Administrater. I have to get a discharge first before they do much. If I get a three day pass I might go through Manhattan and see the dean of Kan state. He could give me a lot of dope I think.

Gee honey I have a lot to do. I wish you were here to help me. Darn it! That reminds me, I wanted to see the Red cross about a place to stay. I'll do that in the morning. I doubt if they have because I've been there with a lot of guys and they couldn't help them. Maybe if things don't work out you can some down for at least a few days. It would be terrible if you didn't get to visit your capital. To say nothing of ME.

I am sending a card read it over and see what you can make out of it. If you can I'll tell you Sat. night. Gee honey that seems like a long time off. I hope the rest of the week goes fast. I love you!

Gosh it is not here. I can't stand the covers when I go to bed and its cold as ___ about 4 or 5. Wish I had my heater here. I know I would be hot at least twice during the night. I love you.

Has your Dad got the rest of his corn planted or has it been raining some more. We had some here yesterday but not much. It was very warn here this afternoon.

Guess what? We had chicken for dinner. Also watermelon and pea soup. They sure are feeding good. For a while it was purty poor. I didn't go to breakfast! I drank two cups of coffee here at the ward.

And now darling I better close. Lights have been out for some time. It seems that I'm always writing you when they go out. I love you darling. I love you so much that words can't express it. It will take a lifetime of telling you. I hope you don't mind. So for to-night darling, nite, I love you.

XXX

Your Loving Husband
Alvin

June 21, 1945

Darling,

I feel a lot better to-day. I got two letters. It is after 12:00 so this will be short. I came in at ten to write and got to talking, well here I am.

I spent most of the day working on my pole. I got it rewrapped. Also made a tip for it. To-morrow I'll varnish it and fix the reel.

Virg and I went to the show to-night. After the show we sat and talked till ten. The show was The Corn is Green with Betty Davis. Not so bad. At least it wasn't a war picture.

Virg is getting a three day pass. But I don't know if I am or not. By this time you will know if I did or not.

Well honey, at least I know for sure I'm going up for a C.D.P. The papers are already started. So darling maybe in a couple weeks or so I won't have to write. I hope I don't. Also we can work on our post war training. I miss my exercise.

Honey, you just wait and see? I'll get even with you. What is the surprise? Now you have me guessing. It better be something good! If it isn't !! Well! You just wait.

Well darling I better close. I want to get up early to see about that pass. I'm hoping it might be my last chance for one. By honey! I love you so much.

XXX

Your Loving Hubby
Alvin

(Alvin was discharged from the army July 5, 1945.)

Letters to Alvin Lampe from Virginia Wilkinson

Hanover, Kansas

October 3, 1944

Darling Alvin,

Please pardon the pencil but under the circumstances it couldn't be helped. The last two days have been perfectly ghastly. Its been raining most of the time. Dad got stuck last night when we were going home. Then this morning the roads were still terrible so we had to walk to school. I sometimes wish I was a duck. Then when I got almost to school I remembered that I'd left the key in the car. We had to crawl through the window. Murder!! Last night I wanted to write letters and we had company. Charlie and Guila.¹²⁸ They had killed a Civit cat¹²⁹ in their cellar and Charlie smelled like it too. Finally about eleven o'clock I got to bed. And worst of all I didn't get a letter from you. I, honestly, don't have any fingernails left. I almost don't have any hands.

We went to Barnes Sunday. Dad didn't want to go but we fixed that. Dad never wants to go anyplace so now we just tell him were going and he can come if he wants to. He always goes.

I think Evelyn is going to invite us--- I mean the school to a Halloween party. I hope she does. It will save me a lot of work. I don't suppose the kids can go though.

Aunt Susie had elderberry pie for dinner Sunday. Joyce¹³⁰ ate three pieces. What an appetite. I don't know where she put it all.

There is a teacher's meeting this month. How I hate them. I haven't recovered from institute yet.

Aunt Susie had been trying to talk me into going to Beatrice to do Christmas shopping this year. That would be fine. If you were there I'd do it. I might anyway. If I have enough gas. I probably wont. I'll get some from pop. He used some of mine.

We went to the show Saturday night. Laurel and Hardy in "Dancing Masters." It was really funny. I'd like to see it again.

Our class has really vanished. There were thirty-two when we started. Sixteen graduated from Hanover. And now there are only three or four who aren't working. Evelyn, Cecilia, Marjorie and I are teaching. Two are working at Penny's in Marysville. Two are working at the radio factory in Marysville. Leona is working their too, but I don't know what she does. One is going to beauty school. One is in the Navy. I don't know what Elda is doing. I haven't heard from her for ages. She probably going to college or working for their bank. She and I used to have more fun when we were freshman. I'll never forgot the time we salmon patties. What a mess.¹³¹

I'm writing this in my spare time. Looks like I have plenty doesn't it? I did have more today than usual. I guess I didn't give them enough to do.

¹²⁸ Charles and Guila Zabokrtsky were neighbors to the Wilkinsons. Darlene was their daughter.

¹²⁹ Animal like a skunk.

¹³⁰ Virginia's sister Joyce who was about 6 years younger than her. Her other sister is Shirley was 8 years younger.

¹³¹ Evelyn Ebling, Cecilia Koppes, Marjorie Sedlacek, Leona Kruse, and Elda Lohse were all class mates.

I hope we don't have to walk home tonight. It was terrible this morning. I think tomorrow I'll ride Old Bess.¹³² I probably wish I had walked. Maybe father will come after us in the wagon. Maybe he won't too.

Its time for spelling so I'd better quit. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses

Gin

P.S. we didn't have to walk home. Sam came after us in the wagon. Its raining again this morning can take the car.

Hanover, Kansas

October 5, 1944

Darling Alvin,

Its almost time I wrote to you again if I intend to keep that resolution and I do. Its only about ten o'clock and already I'm about half asleep. I'm either getting old or else I just cant take it. Maybe both. I was talking to Evelyn tonight and she's always sleepy too. Honestly, I can sleep from eight to eight—then go to school and yawn all day.

You're really being moved around aren't you? Is that good or bad? I hope its good. Honey if I can't send you anything for Christmas we'll just have to celebrate it when you come home. Wouldn't it be ducky if you'd be home in time for Christmas?

Sometimes I really don't know whether I like teaching or not. Those kids act like they aren't normal at times. In history we studied about the colonies for over two weeks and everyday I've reviewed them on what we had before. Today I gave them a test and grades were 95, 65 and 40. Sometimes I wonder if it's worth all the trouble. And I get so disgusted with Nadine. Every time I try to tell her something she just sits there and giggles. I know she doesn't know a thing I've told her when I finish. I wonder if I was ever that difficult.

Oh yes. I finished that mystery story. It was really exciting. One person was killed with an axe, one was shot, one was run over by a truck, and one was drowned in a bathtub. An old maid did it. Just look at what I have ahead of me.

What did you cut out of that letter. You left just enough to make me curious. And besides if it worries you I think you should tell me anyway. I hate to have you worry.

I guess I'd better close now before I'm completely asleep. Bye sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses

Gin

Hanover, Kansas

October 6, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I got another letter from you this morning so I guess I'd better answer it. I got two letters yesterday and one today. That's not bad. That make four I gotten in the last two weeks and that isn't good.

¹³² Albert Wilkinson's work horse.

I have to hurry and finish this. Again its past my bedtime. I have my hair up already tonight though so I can write longer. I have the terriblest, if there is such a word time writing letter anymore. I never have anytime.

I almost had to keep the fifth and sixth grades in tonight. They've had the same health lesson for two days and they still didn't know it. I gave them the same history tests today and they did a little better, at least they all past.

There's a Halloween dance at Washington. I wish you were home so you could take me. Maybe Paul will go. Paul Kennedy is going to play and Paul hardly ever misses his dances. The old droop probably wont just because I want him too. We're supposed to go to Evelyn's party that night but the kids probably can't go anyway.

Well I guess I'd better quit. Its getting rather late for me to be up.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. I hear Mrs. Dewey had been sending for travel folders.

Hanover, Kansas
October 10, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I just have about ten minutes to write but I haven't written since Friday so I guess I'd better get a letter started. I was going to write yesterday but I didn't. I didn't have time in the morning and in the afternoon. I was reading --- another mystery story--- and forgot all about it. Then dad decided we'd go to the show so I couldn't write after supper and it was too late when we got home. I never have anytime in the morning anymore.

The show was pretty good. Lionel Barrymore in "Three Men in White" and "Gildersleeve on Broadway". Remember that show. This time I knew what it was about when I left the theater.

Oh yes. I got the rug and bracelet Saturday. They're darling. I took them to town to show Gran.¹³³ Mrs. Butler said she'd like to have a bath robe like it. That would be work, wouldn't it. I'm just crazy about it. The bracelet was lovely, too, but the rug meant so much more to me.

Why are you bored, honey? I wish you weren't. At the moment I'm bored, too. I'm always bored this period. I never have enough to keep me busy. That's why I like to write letters then.

I suppose the superintendent will come some time this week. She's already been at Guiding Star and Willowdale.¹³⁴ That's not far. It's too close in fact. I really don't know why I dread it so but I do.

I guess I'd better quit now. Maybe I can write a longer letter tomorrow.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. I love you.

¹³³ Virginia's grandmother Linnie Wilkinson. Albert's step mother.

¹³⁴ Superintendent of the country schools listed.

Hanover, Kansas
October 10, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I just asked Shirley what the date was and I was really surprised. I put that date on a letter last week. Time really flies doesn't it?

I have to write to Evelyn yet tonight. We aren't going to her Halloween party. Darn it. That means I'll have to give one. Now if I could only see my dear, dear cousin maybe I'd go to that dance. Maybe I can talk the folks in to going next Sunday. I have my doubts though because we have to go to Marysville again Saturday. I'll be glad when it's all over. It wouldn't be so bad if Dad could go but there's so much to do now. I just hate to drive in Marysville.

I cut my hand last Saturday. You'd never guess how I did it---- so I'll tell you. I was climbing a tree and I jumped out. I guess it was farther to the ground than I thought it was. We went after walnuts and we'd picked them all off the ground. I couldn't reach them after I got up in the tree.

I wish you could have those two bushels of peaches we canned this summer. I'd have given them away then. Don't they have any kind of fruit over there?

How did you happen to get a new A.P.O. #?¹³⁵ If they don't stop changing your address I'll never be able to remember it. I just get it memorized and then change it so I have to learn it all over again.

I had to keep the fifth and sixth grades in again tonight. Its getting so I might as well start school at five. This time it was health.

Tomorrow I have to go to Toonerville after gas. Maybe I'll just go on to Hanover. I'd like to.

Well, Darling, I can't think of anything now and besides its almost time for supper. Bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. I finished that book. A man was hit over the head with a paper weight and then stabbed and his sister was stabbed with a scissors. This time it was don by a bachelor.

Hanover, Kansas
October 12 1944

Darling Alvin,

Today I got the letter you wrote the 29th of September. Tuesday I got the one you wrote August 1. That's a little discouraging, isn't it?

Pardon the pause. Dad just made me go drain the car. I didn't have the slightest idea how to do it. I only hope it wasn't the gasoline I drained out.

If your father talks you into going to Oregon when you come home, I'll never speak to you again or write either. Golly, that would be horrible.

¹³⁵ Army Post Office
190

Oh yes, speaking of letters. I don't write to anyone but my relation except Steve, Winston, Slim, and Duane and they don't count.¹³⁶ You'll probably meet them when you come home too. They swell dancers. Ha ha!

I didn't think I had any relations in Florida but every once in a while someone pops up. Who knows. Maybe that fellow is one I've never heard about. Apparently he hasn't either.

Honestly I'm almost ready to give up. Yesterday those kids all knew what the Declaration of Independence was. Today I gave it to them on a test and they all missed it. What will America be like when they grow up? I have taken care of Nadine and Jimmy in my own way but I'm going to have to find a new way, the old one isn't working so well anymore.

I want to wash my hair tomorrow evening but the folks want to go to Washington. So I suppose I'll go too. They couldn't get away without me. There's some kind of magician or something like that at the city hall. It sounds like it might be interesting.

You know, I always thought I must have been rather quiet when I was small. I guess because I never had anyone to play with. Well, I found out I was. Aunt Susie and mom were telling me what all I did and I'll bet Mom was glad I wasn't twins.

Well. I'm terribly sleepy, darling, and I have a ghastly headache so I'll close. So long, sugar.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. Those kisses were wonderful.

Hanover, Kansas
Oct. 12, 1944

R.R. No. 1

Dear Alvin,

We are drawing some pictures tonight. We are listening to Abbot and Costello. Why don't you write, you never write to me. They are all going to bed. But Virginia and I. We know (no) every song in the first grade songbook. I got pretty good grade card. I have a pair of new brown, leather soled shoes, Have you??? We are cold over here, are you??? Joyce came home with her big toe out. I took a shortcut home from school tonight. Virginia read half of your letter tonight, when she got home. Your Uncle Bills birthday is today. (October 12, 1492) Mildred Zivifel has a pair of shoes something like mine.

Lovey Dovey
Sweetheart,
Shirley

Hanover, Kansas
October 15, 1944

¹³⁶ Friends from when she went to school in Morrowville Kansas

Darling Alvin,

I'm the only one home just now so I guess it's a good time to write. The family always bothers me. Mom talks and Joyce and Shirley make enough noise for a half dozen kids.

I have so much to do this afternoon. I don't think I'll ever get done. I've been making out more lesson plans. I started making them for a month but its lots easier to make them for the whole semester even if it does take longer. Barbara graded some arithmetic papers for me Friday and I have them to go over yet because I can't tell what she has graded and I have to make out a couple of tests yet before six. Believe me, I'm going to need that Christmas vacation.

We're going to the show tonight. "Pin Up Girl" with Betty Grable. I hope its good.

We went to Marysville yesterday and was I glad to get home. We always stop at Aunt Edith's¹³⁷ before she goes to work and at Uncle Bud's after he gets home at six and then I have to drive against the sun all the way home. By the way I think I'm going to have glasses. Wont I look dopey? I just hate the things.

I wish it was two weeks from now so I could get my check. I'm almost broke. That doesn't surprise me very much though.

Clark just went by. He has on old Model T. He had to shift twice to get up that hill north of our place. He must have to get out and push it up steep hills.

I have to stop now. I'll have to finish this later.

Here I am again. I have to hurry. I'm late. In fact I'm always late. Time really flies especially when I'm getting ready to go to school.

The show wasn't bad. Dad didn't like it but I thought it was pretty good. I'd like to see the one next Sunday. Swinging in the Saddle. It sounded interesting.

I have to go now, bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
October 16, 1944

Darling Alvin,

Well, I got two letters from you today and I can't think of a better time to answer them. The fact is if I don't do it now it will have to wait until tomorrow and that really would be tragic because I have loads to do tomorrow. I don't know anything to write but then I never do. Nothing ever happens around here either.

I think I'll go to Hanover sometime this week. I have lots to tell her besides she got a new coat and I want to see. She doesn't have very good taste. That was catty wasn't it?

Teacher meeting is Saturday. I guess I told you that before. Miss. Kittle from Topeka is going to be there. She's going to show us how to do manuscript writing which sounds very dull to me. Oh yes, darling. Motivate means to make more interesting and if anyone can make George Washington giving his Farewell Address or Gates defeating Burgayne interesting to a fifth grader who doesn't care much about history anyway well they have my deepest respect.

¹³⁷ Aunt Edith and Uncle Bud were younger sister and brother to Alice, Virginia's mother.

I agree with your mother about marrying a French or English girl. Personally I don't think you should either. Why don't you ask her how she feels about Danes?

Those pictures were positively corny, honey. At the time, I'd just gotten off the ferris wheel and I was cold to say the least. Also slightly wind blown from the loop o plane.

I still don't think you're a wolf. And I don't think all men are wolves either. And brother, believe me it hadn't better show up in you later either. I hate wolves. P.S. that's why I don't think you're a wolf.

I should put up my hair tonight but I'm too sleepy. I'm always sleepy. You're going to have a terrible time keeping me awake when you come home.

I guess I'd better stop now. I don't anything to write and, as I said, I'm sleepy. Goodnight darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. How soon do you get one of those planes?

(Enclosed in this letter are several pages of what is called "Point Lookout Dist. News". It reads like a newspaper and was written by Nadine, as student of Virginia's. It's price is 2cents.)

Hanover, Kansas
October 19, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I was going to write last night but I forgot about it until after I was in bed. Then I was going to write this morning but mom was sick so I didn't have time.

It's actually cold out tonight. It was warm until yesterday evening. It rained this afternoon. Dad had the car and I thought for awhile I'd have to walk home. I'm so stiff from running with those kids. I thought I was suffering when I took normal training but I hadn't seen anything.

Oh yes, Mrs. Rateuke¹³⁸ was out this week. It wasn't half as bad as I thought it would be. I was a little scared at first. She stayed almost an hour. I can't remember the superintendent visiting when I was in school. I wonder if they did then.

I doubt if you can read this the way I'm scribbling. The amount of writing I do, I should be improving but instead I'm getting worse.

I thought I'd get a letter from you this morning but I didn't. In fact we didn't even get the paper. All we got was an advertisement from Schwartz's.¹³⁹ I don't know why we always get one. We hardly ever go to Hanover and when we do we never do much shopping.

Dad and Mom are going to Greenleaf¹⁴⁰ tomorrow. I wish I was going along. How do you like my grammar --- "was going." I haven't been to Greenleaf for ages. I can't remember when I was there. I hope they go through Washington so they can get the radio battery. I really miss it, the radio, especially when I'm writing my letters.

¹³⁸ Ester Rateuke, County Superintendent of Schools.

¹³⁹ A department store in Hanover Kansas

¹⁴⁰ Small town south west of the Wilkinson farm.

We got out Spiegel catalog Monday. They really have some lovely dresses with a price to match.

I can't think of anything else. I guess I'm not in a writing mood. I'll try to write again tomorrow. Goodnight honey.

All My Love and Kisses,
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
October 20, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I just have time to scribble a couple lines. I have to go to bed so I can get up in time to go to Teacher's Meeting. I don't know why they always have to have it at such an ungodly hour. Personally I wouldn't care if it didn't start until noon. Maybe I should suggest it.

The kids put out a deluxe edition of the paper today. They're going to try to get the people in the district to subscribe for it. I hope there are no democrats in the district. With all those "Vote for Dewey's" all over it I know they couldn't sell it.

I positively don't have a thing to wear tomorrow. That may sound silly but everything I have is so old it almost creaks every time I move. I guess I'll wear that old green and tan plaid thing I got when I was a junior. I simply hate it but I haven't worn it very much so maybe everyone will think it's new.

Did you hear Charles Boyer¹⁴¹ talk for Roosevelt tonight? I never did like him and now I positively can't stand him.

The news about the Philippines is really swell isn't it? In fact all the war news sounds pretty good. Of course I suppose all we hear is what they want us to hear but it still sounds good.

It isn't what a girl does that fascinates a man--- its what she won't do.
I just have to go to bed now, honey. Goodnight

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
October 22, 1944

Darling Alvin,

Its Sunday afternoon so I have plenty of time to write- maybe. I've been trying to talk Dad into going to the show tonight but so far I haven't been able to convince him yet.

Teachers meeting was terrible as usual. Miss. Kittle is an old maid and she really looks like one. She's the determined type too. And personally, I don't think I like her very well.

I didn't have time to finish this last night after all. Caroline and Mildred came over.¹⁴² Mildred got home Tuesday.

¹⁴¹ Actor, Charles Boyer

¹⁴² Alvin's Uncle Bill's wife Caroline. Mildred was a daughter and also had been Virginia's room mate when they went to school in Hanover.

I did talk dad into going to that show. It was “Swinging in the Saddle” and “Abroad with two Yanks” with William Bendix and Dennis O’Keefe. If you ever get a chance to see it—don’t miss it. I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything so funny. It’s about a couple of marines in Australia.

I should have made out tests yesterday but I didn’t. I’m getting lazy. I want to go to Hanover Friday night for the Junior play. I haven’t seen a play in Hanover for ages.

Mom is going to the hospital sometime this week. I will be busy then. Joyce and Shirley will probably stop working altogether. They usually do when Mom isn’t home. I guess they know that I can’t make them. Dad will be shucking corn so he won’t be much help either. Mom wont be gone for very long though.

If you can’t read my writing blame it on Dad’s jacket. It was so cold in here this morning. I had to have a jacket and Dad’s was handy so I took it. It’s so big I have to make a complete search even to find my hands.

I have to go now or I’ll be late for school. Bye, darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
October 23, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I don’t have much time to write. I have to go to school in fifteen minutes. I just don’t have much time anymore. If I want to write in the evening, I have to wait until every body goes to bed. I just cant compete with the radio and then in the morning I’m usually late as it is. I wont be this morning though. I got up earlier.

I haven’t gotten a letter from you since last Tuesday. Gee, you don’t know what that does to my morale. It’s just about hit the bottom. Every time I don’t get a letter I always hope your coming home. So far nothing has happened. Maybe it will this time.

I still don’t have those tests made out. I imagine the kids wouldn’t care if I never got it done. I’ll just have to do it today.

The bazaar at Hanover is this week. That’s the only bazaar I missed in years. Last year I didn’t get to go to Hanover but I went to Reno. Theirs is never as large though.

I heard “Dr. Wassel” on Lux Theater Monday. It’s really good for a war picture. I don’t think I’d want to see it though.

Sport, that’s our dog, didn’t do such a bad days work yesterday. He killed a snake and a skunk. As Aunt Dora¹⁴³ would say “He’s a good varmint dog.”

I just have to go now or I’ll be late. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
October 26, 1944

My darling Alvin,

¹⁴³ Virginia’s Uncle Franks wife, Dora.

I got a letter from you yesterday but I didn't have time to answer it. It was dated Oct. 1. I had already gotten two that came after is so you see it does happen here, too.

Was that theme song supposed to mean something? I hope it was. It's only been about seven months since I've seen you but it seems twice that long. It would be ducky if you could be home for Christmas.

The kids have made enough money selling subscriptions for their newspaper to buy some games. The people we thought wouldn't subscribe were the ones who did.

Oh yes, did you hear Dewey's speech the other night? He was proof that Roosevelt tried to bribe some people to give money to the Democratic Party. So that's the kind of man you'd vote for!

I'm going to have a busy weekend. I have test papers and grades to average and, believe me, some of those grades are horrible. Maybe you should be here to help me.

I don't suppose I'll get home before nine o'clock tomorrow. I have to stop for my check and all the school board is shucking corn and I know when they quit. I'll probably be lucky if I get home before morning.

I have to go to town all by myself Saturday. I gave mom my library books to return and Dad decided to go to town in the morning. Result—Mom couldn't change them because the library is open in the afternoon only. Well I wanted to get a sweater anyway. Gamble's¹⁴⁴ really have some ducky ones.

I'm running out of paper and time so I'd better quit. I'll try to write tomorrow. Bye, sugar.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
October 28, 1944

Darling Alvin,

As usual I'm in a hurry. This time have to finish before the mailman gets here and before Mom and Shirley get the dishes done. For once, I didn't have to do the dishes. We have to clean this morning. Dad plastered yesterday and he got more plaster on the floor than he did on the wall. What a mess.

I really worked yesterday. I got all my papers graded, report card filled out and my report to the superintendent made out. It was after six when I finish but it was worth it. All the school board were home, too. That really was surprising.

We went to the show last night. "Make Your Own Bed" – Jack Carson and Edward G. Robinson in "Tampico". They weren't bad. Jack Carson really has a physique, hasn't he. I guess I'm like Elda. She didn't like him until she saw him without his shirt.

I got a letter from J.K. Odgers the other day. He was in my normal class at Morrowville. The letter doesn't mean a thing to me but it really would to Evelyn. I can hardly wait to tell her. It will really burn her up. There I go being catty again.

I doubt if you can read this. There are some days I positively can't write. On weekends I don't try.

¹⁴⁴ A store in Washington Kansas.

Dad has already thought up forty eleven things for me to do in town. He always does when I go by myself. I think I'll go before he has a chance to tell what they are.
I just have to go now. Bye, honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
October 30, 1944

My darling Alvin,

I got up purposely this morning so I have plenty time to write you and I still don't have much time. I'll just take time this morning because I haven't written you a decent letter for weeks.

I was supposed to go to a Halloween party at Bills last night but Mom didn't feel very good so I stayed home. Tonight I have to go to Willowdale for the kids party. That should be fun. Bill Bramlage will be a party in himself. Oh yes, he's engaged again. That makes about the sixth time. He doesn't want much. He told Uncle Art¹⁴⁵ she had to be good looking, have plenty of money and be willing to work in the field. He doesn't want much does he. Getting back to parties. I have to go to my own at school Tuesday afternoon and Tuesday night I'm supposed to go to Washington.

Aunt Susie, Uncle Art and John were up yesterday. John is really onery but he's cute. Every time he comes up I have to polish his fingernails. He wasn't very pleased with the results yesterday. I got some new polish and it wasn't bright enough to suit him.

I'm going to save all those clippings about Roosevelt and send them back to you after you lose. Even Uncle Art is for Dewey and he's a real democrat. By the way Aunt Sue is a committee woman. Do you suppose I could bribe her? Roosevelt does, why can't I?

How do you like "The Trolley Song"? I think it's cute but Mom almost murders me every time I sing it.

You must have been hungry to eat onions. I think I would have to be starving. They make me sick. Mom always gets mad at me for taking them out of salads and stuff. They aren't bad with hamburgers or in soup but otherwise ----- ugh!

I got the kids Christmas presents Saturday. I just thought I'd be prepared. Anymore if you wait until December you just can't get anything.

Zabokrtsky's are going to have their card table at the party tonight so I'm going to find out when your coming home. Mom doesn't believe in that sort of thing but Aunt Susie and I do. We're going to get a ouija board. They a little better than card tables.

John is supposed to visit school Wednesday. That is if Aunt Susie comes up. I'll probably have to spend the rest of the week trying to find the thing he carried off.

I saw Velma's brother Saturday. He's in the navy. His mother had a stroke last week and he just happened to be in the states. That was really lucky. That's another thing I have to do, go see Mrs. Elliot. She really a swell person.

I was going to tell you something else but I forgot what it was. It must have been a lie. I guess while I'm at it I'll ask the card table who'll win the election.

¹⁴⁵ Arthur Lutzmeir married Virginia's Aunt Susan (Susie) and they had one son, John.

Well, I guess I'd better quit. I have to find my purse yet before I go to school. By the way, it's beginning to get cold so you'd better hurry. Bye, darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. My car has a heater.

Western Union Telegrams

K CK SVC Hanover Kansas Our NL 22 N to should be Miss Virginia Wilkinson
Repeat Wilkinson

AH Topeka Kansas 23
919PM

K CK 12 AH Topeka Kansas 749pm 23
Miss Virginia Wilkinson
Hanover, Kansas
Darling will arrive Marysville 1230 noon. Meet me on highway one.

Alvin
920pm

Miss Virginia Wilkinson
Hanover, Kans.

Dear Virginia call me Friday night at six. I have good news love.
Alvin

Hanover, Kansas
November 15, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I won't have time to write very much tonight because its rather late and I have to go to bed. Morning always comes too soon to suit me.

I didn't get a letter from you today. The first time I haven't gotten one since you've been at Topeka.

I made a cake this evening. It was horrible. It doesn't taste so bad but oh, how it looks. It's been so long since we've had enough sugar to do any baking. I've almost forgotten how. Tomorrow night I have to make pies. I guess I'll make four so that I won't have so much to do Friday. I never made apple pies by myself before. Maybe I shouldn't make so many. Anyway Sport¹⁴⁶ gets plenty to eat when I cook.

I have only four or five more chapters to read and I'll be through with that horrible personality book. If I can finish it by Sunday I'll take it up to Evelyn. I only hope she had hers finished. I want to get all this torture over as soon as possible so that I can read mystery stories.

¹⁴⁶ Wilkinson family dog.

I hope it's warmer tomorrow. I sat by the stove and froze all day. I envy Mom. She can stay inside all day. Never has to get up in the morning to build the fire. And most important can sleep late. That's the only thing that appeals to me.

I'd better quit now, darling. I'm so sleepy. Goodnight.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
December 5, 1944

Darling,

Well, here I go again. I haven't written a letter to anyone since you've been home—oh yes. I did write to Evelyn—well anyway I'm all out of practice or something. Next summer I'm not going to write to anyone—not much anyway.

Am I ever sleepy! I'll bet that bed is going to be surprised to see me so early. I'm going to have to catch up on my sleep so that I can stay awake during Christmas vacation. Speaking of Christmas, honey. I do wish you would tell me what to get you for Christmas. I don't have the slightest idea what you'd like, darling.

Father bought or rather traded horses today. The kids were really tickled about it. They could hardly wait to ride her. I wish I could ride her to school tomorrow. The roads are horrible. I had a h___ of a time this morning.

I finished that reading circle book this evening. Is that ever a relief. I hope that next year if I teach they'll have something a little more interesting. Maybe I should suggest something. I doubt if they'd appreciate it.

I got a Christmas card from Wink today. He's a little early. I think I'll get mine Saturday. I can't remember who I have to send them to. I can never remember from one Christmas to the next.

I don't have my hair put up yet. I guess I'll just put up the front. I can't see the back anyway. Maybe I'll wear it up.

It's really lonesome around here this morning without you. It wasn't so bad at school but this evening is positively empty. I guess I just have to dream for the next three weeks.

Well, sweetheart, I think I'll go to bed. Have lots to do tomorrow morning. Goodnight honey.

All My Love and
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
December 7, 1944

Darling Alvin,

Look at that date. I didn't even think about what day it was until I wrote it. Three years is long time.¹⁴⁷

I'm going to try to get some letters written at school today. I think I'll only have Geneve and Jimmy. Nadine and Barbara are going to Leland Hillyers funeral. I'll only have one grade. Maybe I can even get some semester tests made out. I hope. I really have a mess of them. They'll probably be a mess when I finish too.

We made those yarn dolls yesterday. We also made some lambs with white yarn. They're really cute. I'd been looking for the pattern all fall and yesterday morning Shirley asked me if she could take it to school. Both she and Joyce knew where it was all the time I was looking for it. Oh, brother!

How soon will you know if you can come home for Christmas? I have my fingers crossed—I even have my eyes crossed.

I'm ready to go to school but Geneve isn't here yet. I've been going to school past Wulff's.¹⁴⁸ That road really is a mess too but it still isn't as bad as the south road.

I went to Toonerville for gas last night and was I ever relieved when I got there. The gas gauge said--- 0 minimum.

Joyce hasn't been to school since you left. She had to ride the pony and got her cold back. Daddy gave her some whiskey. Say that's an idea. I think I'll get a cold too.

I should put my hair up yet this morning but I won't have time so it will have to be straight. Maybe I'll have time to put it up before school starts. I think I'll get an end curl in a couple of weeks. I would get it next week but we have to take Mark to the doctor. I think he misses you too.

It's almost nine and Jean isn't here yet. If she isn't here by nine I'll have to go anyway.

I'm going to Marysville Saturday afternoon if Darlene will go along. I don't like to go by myself. I have to go to Washington in the morning to apply for B stamps¹⁴⁹ and to get my mail from the superintendent's office—if any.

Well it's nine so I gotta go. Bye darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Xxxx

Hanover, Kansas
December 8, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I'm really in a hurry this morning, darling. I have about ten minutes to write. I don't know where time goes. Maybe it's because Dad has been getting up at seven instead of five. The only thing wrong with that is—I have to make the fire. Dad is doing chores so I go back to bed and wait for it to get warm. Speaking of fires, we had a terrible time at school yesterday. First it was too warm, then too cold and then we started all over again.

¹⁴⁷ Japan attacked Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. This is what brought America into the war.

¹⁴⁸ Wulff's lived one mile west of the Wilkinson Farm.

¹⁴⁹ Gas ration stamps.

Remember what I said about getting so much done yesterday. Well—I made out two test, started to fix the sandtable and graded a few papers.

I hate to think of driving home tonight. I all but got stuck last night. I had to back up three times before I got up that hill south of our place.

I'm sending you one of the lambs we're making at school. They're supposed to be lapel pins but so far we haven't been able to find any pins.

We got \$15 from Uncle Walter for Christmas yesterday. We'll have to be nice to him, wont we, honey? Really though he is a swell uncle. Uncle Bud is still my favorite though.¹⁵⁰

Mother put a dress on Mark this morning. He really looked sweet. He didn't like it though.

I'm waiting for Geneve again. Yesterday I had just finished putting water in the car when she came. I think I'll have to start filling the car again this morning. Maybe she'll come then. It looks like just as soon as you go back the weather improves. I guess it could have been worse. Honey, much as I hate to I have to quit. Bye Sweetheart.

All my love & kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
December 9, 1944

Darling Alvin,

You will have to overlook the pencil. I can't find my pen or ink. I've finally come to the conclusion that I left them in the car which is stuck on the hill south of our place. What a mess. I finally walked home. Pop went after it and got it in a worse place. Oh, brother.

The mail man just went so I guess I won't get this mailed until this afternoon—if we go to town which we probably won't but should because both cream cows are full and so is everything else. Dad has been going to town everyday this week but something always changed his mind. Maybe it was because I had the chains.

Honey, what do you mean?—You hope I'm praying that you get to come home. Darling, that's silly because you know I am. I even wish on Lucky Strike wrappers. When you think of it as two weeks it doesn't seem so long but fourteen days seems like years.

You should graduate again, honey you look swell in a cap and gown. I looked horrible. Not only that-- I almost smothered in the darn thing.

I had to laugh when I saw the article in the Washington paper about you spending the week with Bill. Who put that in anyway?

Pardon my writing—I'm doing it on my lap. I don't why I'm sitting by the table. It's more comfortable this way.

I should be doing dishes but I think I'll finish this first. It's more important than dishes anyway. Mom is giving Mark his bath. He doesn't like it even a little bit. He's alright until she take his shirt off and then he really yells. I think he'll grow up to be a jitterbug, he really likes to dance.

I hope I can find some Christmas candy today. I doubt if I can. I imagine I'll have to wait until we go to Marysville next week.

¹⁵⁰ Alice Wilkinson's brothers, Walter and Bud (Harry)

Verlin¹⁵¹ had to go to Leavenworth yesterday. Darlene should know if he passed today. I'll bet she didn't sleep well last night. I wouldn't have.
Well darling, this is the end of the paper so bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
December 10, 1944

Darling Alvin,

I just finished addressing Christmas cards. I had to do mother's, too. I thought I'd never finish. I like to do it though.

Am I ever sleepy. I really think I'm sleepier now than I was when I stayed up until three. After getting up at five for so long I doubt if I could ever sleep until ten. Dad has been getting up about seven thirty and I still wake at five and then can't go back to sleep.

I think I'll try to wrap some Christmas presents yet this afternoon. I hope I have time.

I have a lot to do yet. I should finish that book report, too. Mrs. Ratenke gave us an extra month—for a Christmas present. I want to get mine in before Christmas vacation anyway.

I'm reading a good book—The Glass Slipper. I really like it. Have you read it or do you just read those you were telling me about?

Darlene hadn't heard from Verlin yet yesterday evening. He was going to come out as soon as he got back.

This seems like the dullest Sunday I've ever known. Maybe its because you aren't here. Golly I can hardly wait until you get home again. I don't know what I'll do after Christmas. I won't even have anything to look forward to except April and that's a long time.

I just heard Larry Stevens sing "Three Goes That Song Again". I like it, don't you?

Pardon the pause. I just did chores. It's really cold. I hope it gets warmer before Christmas. I'll bet I'll freeze before I get that school house warm in the morning. I think next year I'll hire a janitor. Do you want a job?

Harry James just came.¹⁵² His band always reminds me of dances at Hanover. I really don't know why. There's no resemblance in the music.

I have to put my hair up yet. The last time I put it up was Thursday. It doesn't look so bad considering it hasn't seen a hair pin for over two days.

We finally got the car home. What a mess. The mud was almost over the rear ax and it was beginning to freeze. We took the horses over to pull it out and then didn't use them.

Well darling, I just have to stop now. I should write to Delores and Evelyn but they can wait until have more time. Bye, honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

¹⁵¹ Verlin Gross went to Ft. Leavenworth Kansas for an army physical.

¹⁵² Harry James was a Big Band leader and a trumpeter. He came on the radio while Virginia was writing.

Hanover, Kansas
December 11, 1944

Darling,

Honestly honey, I feel horrible and I'll bet you think I am too. It's that mailman again. He didn't take your letter this morning. In fact he didn't even come near our place. He does it every time I want to send something important.

Your letters are swell, darling. My morale hit the top when I got it this evening. So far I've read it four times.

What do you have in your pocket? A hole? No really. I only need one guess. Christmas can't come too soon for me.

I doubt if you'll get the picture for Christmas, dear. In the first place it won't be ready by Christmas and in the second place I don't want it to be a Christmas present.

Verlin didn't pass. Because of Infantile Paralysis.¹⁵³ I guess. I'll bet Darlene is happy here, too.

I don't think you're a jinx. It snowed here too. Flora says it isn't going to snow for awhile—I hope—but usually after he says that—it snows.

What did Dick¹⁵⁴ say? Why do I have to wait until Christmas? Why can't you tell me now? Please tell me now. If you wait until Christmas I'll forget to tell you to tell me what it was and I always ask and ask before you'll tell me and anyway I want to know now.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you. I got my ring fixed Saturday. I was going to leave it but he said he could fix it then so—he did. Last time he did it for nothing. I'm convince--this is a funny world.

The car isn't running again and the nicest fellow took me to school. Who? Well—wait until Christmas—I might compromise if you'll tell me what Dick said. Please tell me.

Are people run down when they're married, honey? How could they? Still I guess they could anyway I don't think I will be. Or will I? I guess I just have to wait and see.

I'm not sleepy tonight. Maybe I've caught up on my sleep. It took me long enough. I should write to Henry¹⁵⁵ before Christmas. Dad is supposed to because he's Henry's favorite uncle but you know father. And when it come to writing letters he's even worse.

I have to take the kids to Washington next week to a lecture some Artic explorer is giving. They couldn't get candy this year so they're going to have him and a parade of reindeer, Siberian sled dogs and so forth. I rather dread it. Those kids are hard enough to keep track of at school but in a crowd—oh brother!

I'd better quit darling. I want to do my fingernails before I go to bed. Goodnight honey. I love you too.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

¹⁵³ Polio

¹⁵⁴ Alvin's brother, Dick.

¹⁵⁵ Henry Ham, Albert's sister Gladys & Russell Ham's son.

Hanover, Kansas
December 13, 1944

My darling,

You didn't have anything on me today, darling. It 6:30 P.M. and I haven't been up yet. But believe me I didn't sleep. My stomach felt like it was having a war of its own. I think it was. I also had a headache. In fact I was a mess—as usual. I hated to miss school. It means I'll to teach eighty three days next semester instead of eight-two.

I got two letters from you this morning. They made me feel lots better.

Honey, please, tell what you want for Christmas. I haven't done any Christmas shopping yet—and only eleven more days until Christmas. Poor me.

I don't know how Butch¹⁵⁶ is. I haven't seen her since teacher's meeting but Mark is O.K.

Mom washed today. She said she missed you putting the lid on the machine.

Joyce dropped a gallon of cream on the floor this evening. What a mess. Am I ever glad I didn't have to clean it up.

Here I am again. I had to stop because it was getting to dark in my room. My writing looks it, too.

I know I'm a big disappointment to you darling and I'm sorry. It just seems like I never have time to write when I want to. Or if I do have time the mailman doesn't come. Maybe I can make up for it when you come home.

You know very well I wouldn't be looking for a farmer. Yes, dear, I think I would prefer to live in town with you. I think I'd live on a farm if you were there.

Kay Kyser's orchestra is now playing "The Dance of the Spanish Onion". Corny!!

What did you do to Ruby while you were home? I can almost imagine.

I guess we must be missing something by not being married. It sounds that way, doesn't it?

I have a mess of tests to make out yet. I wish you were here I'd put you to work.

I really need a compact, honey. I lost the last one I had. In fact I've lost every one I've ever had. They're so easy to lose at dances but I won't be going to many dances for a while so I shouldn't lose this one.

I think I'll go to bed again, darling. I'll write again tomorrow. Goodnight, sweet heart.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

xxx

P.S. What does S.W.A.M.K stand for?

Hanover, Kansas
December 14, 1944

Darling,

I have a little time before school is out so I'm going to start this letter. I have the kids working on presents for their fathers.

¹⁵⁶ Evelyn Ebling's nickname was Butch

I'm sure your letter went off this morning. I put it in Charlie's box. Even then he'll probably forget to take it.

Mark is a month old today. He's really growing. He has a double chin. Dad's birthday was Tuesday.

I'll have to quit now. I'll be back later.

I got your package today. They're wonderful honey and so are you. I don't know how I'll ever thank you for them. Wait until I show them to Evelyn. She'll positively turn green with envy. That compact in the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. Sometimes, darling, I wonder if I deserve you. There's only one thing that bothers me. How did you know what shade to get? Its perfect.

I can't ride Bess because dad traded her for the other horse. Geneve and I are going to ride her in the morning though because Dad wants the car tomorrow. Eight miles—without a saddle—Oh brother! It's a good thing tomorrow is Friday.

Dad went to Bills¹⁵⁷ sale today. I'll bet Bill wishes he would have sold out to you now because things didn't sell good at all. The horse—Mildred's—brought at four dollars and Daddy wanted to trade a cow for her this fall—Golly!

Will you see if you can find any Christmas candy down there. Its positively extinct around here. I'll have to have it by next Friday. I'm going to look for some in Marysville Saturday but I have positively no hope.

Why do you have such a terrible time opinion of women? Personally I think they're pretty nice. I'm one, you know.

When Joyce saw the compact and powder she said she wished she was in love.

I'm going to decorate the school house tomorrow. It's going to be a job, too, without a ladder. I'll have to use my desk and a bunch of books. I'll probably fall and break my neck or something worse.

I have to wash my hair tomorrow. I usually wash it every week but this time it's been almost three and I can really tell it when I put it up.

I'd better go to bed because I have to start before eight in the morning. Goodnight, honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

xxx

Hanover, Kansas
December 15, 1944

My darling,

I just finished reading the Washington paper. The only interesting thing in it was that the Chamber of Commerce is planning a dance for next Halloween. Oh yes, Morrowville defeated Washington.

I think I'll stay in bed tomorrow. I don't think I'll be able to move. I dread sitting now. We even had a saddle but it didn't seem to help much. I think I prefer Daphne.

¹⁵⁷ Bill Lampe, Alvin's Uncle, Mildred's father.

We decorated the schoolhouse today. What a mess. I hope I never have to do it again. We almost ran out of crepe paper and I tipped the lamp over.

I was supposed take our Christmas seals to the superintendent tomorrow but I don't think we're going to Washington. Anyway I forgot to bring them home.

I have to put my hair up yet before I go to bed and I'm so sleepy. I haven't been sleepy—really sleepy—for a long time. Maybe I'll be rested by Christmas vacation. I'd better be. Only nine more days until X-mas but that's such a long time. You know you've only been gone ten days? It seems longer than that, doesn't it?

We, you and I, received a special invitation to the family Christmas dinner on Tuesday. Do you think we can? I hate to miss it because Aunt Gladys' going to be there—maybe— and I'd like to see them.

Mom wants to know if you can get cigarettes there. She wanted some—for father for Christmas I suppose.

It seems like I'm always waking you up, doesn't it? I promise you I won't this time. It is fun though. You always look so sleepy. I imagine I did, too. Gee! Aren't memories wonderful?

So far I have two tests made out. Murder! I wanted to work on them Sunday but I couldn't bring them home. I'll think I'll get them done though.

We got a mess of Christmas cards today—Aunt Edith, Aunt Edna, Dr. Haverland,¹⁵⁸ and Deloris and family.

I had a time with Nadine today. Out of twenty-four questions in history, she had four correct so I made her find the answer in the book. She didn't like it very well.

Mark stayed with Grand and Grandpa today while Mom was in town. Grandpa held him all morning and Gran all afternoon. I know what we can look forward to tomorrow.

Well, darling, my eyes keep closing so I guess I'd better stop before I go to sleep. Bye, honey

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. I love you
xxx

Hanover, Kansas
December 17, 1944

Darling,

I just have a few minutes before dinner so I'll try to get this written. It's almost one but its Sunday and we never have dinner before that—as you know. I'm never hungry before then because we always eat at one at school

I didn't get a letter Friday but I got two yesterday. I didn't get a chance to read them thoroughly before Saturday evening. We went to Marysville and the mail didn't come until later so I whizzed through one and half of the other before we left. I read them both again while mom was at the clinic.

Mark weighs nine pounds now. He really has grown, you wouldn't know him.

¹⁵⁸ Dr. Haverland owned the farm the Wilkinson's lived on.

It's a good thing you don't act like that when you go to a show with me. I'd murder you. You must have gone to free shows to learn all that or did you learn it?

Why won't you tell me what Dick said? I can't wait a whole week. I might even tell you who took me to school. I think you know him. He's tall and dark.

I don't want to teach next year either. And I agree, year is longer than I thought it would be. I've found that out the last two weeks.

I'm crazy about perfume, darling. Danger sounds interesting, doesn't it? Why don't you use your nose?

I'm reading a new mystery story—The Patient in Room 18. Very interesting. Some one stole the radium.

Mary Small is singing "There Goes that Song Again". I love it, don't you?

I had to leave but now I'm back again. Its almost ten and I'll have to go to bed soon so that I won't go to sleep when you come home. There must be a grease spot on this paper. Don't ask me how it got there. Shirley probably did it.

I don't think I'll tell you who took me to school. I don't think you'd really chew my eraser would you? I don't think you could with one arm

Joyce is now wearing all three pairs of my slacks. I don't know what she'll start next.

You won't need to sleep when you get home, darling. I'll see to that. I'll take that back. You probably need sleep but you won't get it.

I hate to go to school tomorrow. I have so many tests to make out. I think I'll keep a copy of all of them so that if I do teach I won't have to make them out again. I probably wouldn't have the same grades.

I had the silliest dream last night. I can't remember what it was all about but Susie, Shirley Hoffman¹⁵⁹ and I were always climbing stairs.

I guess I'd better quit, darling. I am getting sleepy. Goodnight, sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. I think I'll dream about you tonight. That won't be hard to do.

Hanover, Kansas
December 18, 1944

Darling,

I'm so sleepy. I don't know what's wrong with me. I guess I just need someone to keep me awake. Next week you can have that job.

I didn't get home until after six tonight. I had to see the school board. The only thing I got out of it besides my check was my income tax report. So know anything about income tax? You'd better learn because you're going to have to help me make it out. Won't that be fun? That's what I think, too!!!

Friday isn't so very far away—only four days. That's still too long to suit me.

Joyce is sick now. It must be catching. I don't think she had the same thing I had because she doesn't feel bad in the same places. It must have been something else to.

¹⁵⁹ Class mates

I heard “Berkley Square” on Lux Theater this evening. It’s sort of corny. I didn’t like it very well. Our radio battery is almost down.

Mark is on a new schedule now. Mom can go to bed at nine. I wish he’d have been on that schedule when you were home. Now it won’t do us much good.

I got my Christmas tree today. I cut the top out of the tree down at school. I had to cut a few more branches. It doesn’t look so if I do say so myself.

I’m just swamped with work. I still have papers from Thursday to grade. I hope I can get it all finished this week. If I can’t it will have to wait until next year.

What are you getting me for Christmas ? Hummmmm--? Will you tell me or do I have to wait until Christmas again?

If I didn’t love you so much I’d quit and go to bed. I haven’t been so sleepy since you were home.

I have to take the kids to Washington Thursday. I hate to even think of it. I wish you were here to help me.

No wonder I’m sleepy it almost eleven thirty and I have been going to bed a ten.

When are you going to come down Friday evening or Saturday. The sooner you come the better I’ll like it.

I tore off a fingernail this evening and it still hurts like—well, it still hurts. It never fails. I just get a new bottle of polish and they start breaking off.

Who is Dean? I don’t remember you saying anything about him when you were home.

I think I’ll stop now, darling, before I fall asleep. Goodnight, honey.

All My Love and Kisses

Gin

XXX

Hanover, Kansas
December 20, 1944

Darling,

This is going to be short because I have to work on those horrible tests again. I don’t think I’ll ever get them finished. I still have English, Reading 8, Arithmetic 5-8, and Geography 8. Do you think I’ll get them finished before ten tomorrow. I have my doubts.

I didn’t get a letter today. I’ll probably get two tomorrow. I thought after you were that close it wouldn’t happen but it does.

I’m sleepy again. I don’t know what’s wrong with me. I think I’ll try staying up once and see if that will help.

I finally got our tree decorated. I could have done much better if I hadn’t had so much help. Those kids are more trouble.

The roads are horrible. I’ve never seen—or felt—so many bumps in my life. Bollinger¹⁶⁰ graded the mile past his place. I suppose ours will have to wait until he feels like going out again. Anyway I won’t have to drive over it Thursday.

¹⁶⁰ The man who ran the county road grader.

We only have three days to wait now. I'd be a lot happier if it was only one—or none. It would be wonderful if you were here now. I know I wouldn't get those tests finished. I wouldn't mind very much. Not until tomorrow.

I'll be glad when the Christmas program is over. It gives me the whim whams. Sometimes I think all those kids are morons.

I'd like to go to Marysville Saturday to finish my Christmas shopping. I guess I'll have to finish in Washington unless Father changes his mind. He wants to go to Washington.

I got a letter from Delores today. I haven't heard from her for ages. She teaches Herkimer. She five or six boys all below the fourth grade. I'll bet she has fun. I'd like to trade schools. I'd rather teach little kids anytime—especially boys—did I say little?

I think, darling, I'd better quit. I have so much to do. Bye, honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Xxx

Hanover, Kansas
December 20, 1944

My darling,

This is the last letter I'm going to write—for seven days anyway. Maybe I can catch up on my other letters. I only have two and I don't want to answer Evelyn's yet and I could wait to answer the other, too. I'll have more time in January—I hope.

I got the packages today and I opened them. Was I supposed to? They're really swell. You must be related to Santa Claus. You're too good to me. I think you're spoiling me. I love it though. I'll thank you when you come home. I can do it much better then.

I have a terrible headache. I didn't get those tests finished and had to do it at school. I spent the rest of the day grading papers. I still have a mess to grade—Friday. Golly, I'll be glad when I have my reports and report cards finished.

I'm so disgusted with the weather. It was so nice until today. Anyway we'll have a white Christmas.

I have to go to bed early tonight so that I can get up and take those kids to Washington. If it snows too much maybe I won't have to. I don't want to go.

Guess what? I made chocolate pudding for supper and it didn't have lumps. I don't know how I ever did it. I'll bet I couldn't do it again.

I didn't get a letter again today. Was I ever disappointed. I thought sure I would get it today. Well, darling, let's hope I get three tomorrow. I'd even be satisfied with one.

I have to do my fingernails yet before I go to bed. I don't know what I'll do with the one I broke. I guess I should file them all off but I hate to.

The last few days have really been long. They just seem to drag. And to think I still have two more days to wait. They're going to seem like years.

I just tried to put Mark to sleep. I couldn't do it. He's so sleepy, but he's so stubborn too. Maybe he's just spoiled.

I'm so tired I think I'll wait until morning to do my fingernails.

I'm going to stop, honey. If I don't I'll never get up in the morning. Bye, darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Xxx

P.S. How did you know I liked Marcheta?

R.R. No. 1
Hanover, Kansas
Dec. 21, 1944

Dear Alvin,

I have a few minutes before I go to bed so now I can write. Want to thank you very, very much for the Ko-Ko-Mos. When we got home tonight we saw three packages. I said they were all for Virginia. But we lifted one by one the last one was ours. We couldn't hardly wait to open it. When we did we found the hard? candy there. Of course daddy wanted one right away. When he bit on it he said it was brick. We saw Virginia's musical powder box. Mark likes to hear it. You must give me one. (I like to hear it)

XXXXXXXXXX

And I do mean you X

Your Loving Sister-In-Law
Shirley Anne

Dear Alvin,

Boy is the candy good. Thanks a lot. When we got home we could hardly wait till it was open. Daddy had to have one. Daddy and me rode the horse Sunday but dad said I kept sliding him up on the bone. We galloped. I can hardly wait till you get home. One morning we went up to Charlie for the saddle. And we got them out of bed. Boy Gin was crazy about the powder box. (And so was I.) I am sleepy so I'm going to bed.

Sincerely,
Joyce

P.S. I am catching up on my sleep so I can stay awake when you come home. (Ha, Ha)

Hanover, Kansas
December 29, 1944

My darling,

I have about two minutes to write and I have to help Mom get supper then. I think we're going to have hamburger—I hope.

I have to write to Evelyn yet tonight about that New Years dance. I really don't know whether I should go because I'll have to go to school the next day—which reminds me, I still have that place to clean.

Golly, honey, it doesn't seem like your really gone. It seems like you ought to come back again tomorrow. I wish you could. I'm going to be so lonesome. I guess I can still dream.

I hope you can read my writing. I'm lying in the middle of the bed on my stomach. It's comfortable anyway.

We should have met Ruby last night. She had some things you had forgotten. When I started home from Bills this morning both the doors were locked and the keys were in the car. Was I ever scared. Dick finally got the keys out with a wire. Good old Dick!

I'm going to have to hurry, it's getting dark. Gee, darling, I'm going to miss you tonight, every night and day, too. It's going to be so long before I see you again.

I just looked at my writing and even I can't read it. You'll need an interpreter.

Do you want to know something? The fourteenth of February is in the middle of the week. Maybe I can come down on the tenth or seventeenth. I wish I could come down sooner.

I think I'll start making a dress tomorrow because I won't have time to do any sewing this summer and I'll probably need something to wear.

I have to go now, darling. I'll finish this later.

Here I am again. Did you miss me, honey? I hope you did or should I say I know you did?

Are you going to make any New Year's resolutions? I've already made mine. I hope I don't break them. They're wonderful.

We're listening to Jimmy Duraute.¹⁶¹ Corny! I think I'll go to bed so I don't have to listen to it. Good night darling. I love you so much.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Hanover, Kansas
Jan. 1, 1945

Darling,

Happy New Year, honey. What did you do today? I hope you had a good time. I did. I've been home all day—doing nothing. I didn't even help mom with dinner. I guess I'm just lazy.

I took Mom to town Saturday. I wanted to stay home but Father did too so--! I saw Darlene and we visited all the stores. I don't think we missed any. She and Verlin are going to get married before school is out. I guess I'll have to give her a shower. Oh yes, Duane came home last night. He's going to Maryland after he goes back. I'll bet he has to go across. Poor guy!

I started to make a dress yesterday. I sewed on it for awhile today. I don't think I'm going to like it. It blue plaid searsucjer -princess style. The pattern looked good on the envelope but on me—ugh!!

I call Evelyn about going to that dance but I doubt if she will go because it's so cold. I wish she would. I'm in a dancing mood.

¹⁶¹ Comedian

I think I'll sell Daphne this summer. I hate to keep the old thing too long or it will probably fall apart or something. After the war I won't be able to get much for it anyway. What do you think about it, darling?

Golly, honey, you don't know how much I miss you!!! It's so darned lonesome around here without you. Do you think you'll get to come home before school is out—just over a weekend or something? Do you know when they are going to operate yet? Will be able to write honey?

I found that anklet Saturday and I'm sending it to you with pleasure. My ankle is still sore.

Ida Mae¹⁶² is visiting Gran. She said Aunt Gladys and Uncle Russel thought you were wonderful. Isn't that ducky?

Guess what? Verlin and Darlene want me to go to a dance in Linn¹⁶³ next Wednesday. The only objection is—I hate Linn.

I'm getting hungry. I don't know how I could be after all I ate for dinner but I am.

I looked at my hope chest this morning and I've decided I'd better do something about it. It's practically empty.

I'm going to quit and see if I can find something to eat. Bye sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Virginia

P.S. Steam off the stamp. There's something important under it.

Xxx

(Under the stamp was written: Was it hard to get off?)

Jan. 2, 1945

Darling,

You must be improving, honey, they have you in A-1. Really, I'll be glad when it's all over. Do you think it will help? I hope it does.

Back to school again—murder!! Was that school house ever cold and I had to clean up that mess. I'm glad I won't have to do it next year. I think if I give another program I'll furnish ash trays. I don't know if I'll ever be able to get all the cigarette ashes off the floor. I got it all clean except the blackboards. I hope somebody kicks me next time I use so much glue. Would you like to?

I still haven't answered Winston's¹⁶⁴ letter and I don't think I shall. I'll tell Velma to tell him I'm not going to so he won't be expecting it which he probably isn't anyway.

I'm not going to ask you what you were going to ask me and didn't but I'd like to know anyway. You can tell me if you want to—even if you don't want to.

You don't have to rub it in but I still think Dewey was a better man. Just wait until next election. I know I won't vote for Roosevelt – so there, too!

¹⁶² Ida Mae is Gladys daughter. Grand daughter to Linnie and Henry.

¹⁶³ Linn Kansas

¹⁶⁴ Winston Elliott. His sister is Velma.

If among all that toothpaste you happened to get some liquid Pepsodent you don't want, you can give it to me. I haven't been able to find any since last winter.

I don't think James Wilkinson is any of our relation. I never heard of him anyway. I'll have to ask Gramp.

Am I ever relieved that I don't have to teach agriculture this semester. I have to teach Four Centuries in Kansas instead. Today, I learned that Kansas is the most healthful state in the U.S. Aren't you glad you're here? If I learn anything else I'll let you know.

I finally got my report finished and Saturday I pressed all the clothes I wrinkled while you were home. I thought in Marysville that dress was wrinkled but I didn't see half of them then.

I have a horrible cold. If you were here I'd probably give it to you.

Don't thank me, darling, for those seven days. They were the most wonderful I ever had too and I know the rest of the days we spend together will be as good if not better.

I can't think of anything else now so I guess I'll stop and work on my dress before I go to bed. I love you darling, goodnight.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Xxx

P.S. Don't waste your surplus kisses on Philbert¹⁶⁵ yet—waste them on me—What am I saying?!!

Jan. 3, 1945

Darling,

You're wonderful honey. That compact is beautiful. You really spoiling me but I love it. I've looked at it about forty eleven times since I came home and every time I like it more.

I'm going to have to stop for supper. I'd hardly gotten started. I'll be back later.

Well, darling, here I am. We had corn, macaroni and tomatoes, beans and apricots. It was good.

You should write more letter like the one I got today. It was swell. I always did like long letters.

I hope you can read this. I'm writing it on my lap.

Honey, I promise you that after we're married I'll never make you do dishes unless you want to. I hope you want to.

I don't know what the news is going to do about our engagement. It hasn't come out yet this week. I don't know what Aunt Maggie¹⁶⁶ will say. Plenty I imagine.

If all you need is loving, darling, I can take care of that. And how! I'll show you how much when I see you.

Golly, just think—I have only eighty more days to teach and it will all be over. For which I am going to be very thankful. No more cold schoolroom, no more coal buckets to fill, no more mice to worry over, no more papers to grade, no more tests to make out. The only thing I'll miss will be — no more pay checks.

¹⁶⁵ Alvin told Virginia he would name a child Philbert.

¹⁶⁶ Virginia's grandpa Henry's twin sister, Maggie.

Speaking of mice, there were three in the waste basket this morning. I don't know how they could have gotten there. Jimmy killed them for me.

I doubt if I could make dresses out of sugar sacks, darling. I can't even make them—period. They always have the curves in the wrong places as you could see from the one I fixed while you were home.

I have to put up my hair yet before I go to bed. I hate to even think of it. I guess I'll have to get that end curl pretty soon. Probably then I'll have to put it up oftener. I usually do.

I wish Dad would finish with the paper. I'd like to know what's going to happen to Shakys. Golly--pruneface Flattop, Shaky-- I wonder who they'll think of next.¹⁶⁷

I miss you terribly, honey. I thought it was bad last time but this time it's even worse. I wish time would skip about three months. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

I'm running out of paper so I'd better quit, darling. Goodnight sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 4, 1945

Darling,

How do you feel, honey? Golly, I've had the whim whams ever since I got your letter tonight. I wish I could have held your hand. I'm doing it now in spirit if not in person. I don't care what they take out—just so they put it back. They can't have your heart, though. I have first claim on that.

We're going to Zabokrtsky's tonight to see Duane and to eat ice cream. Brr! That's another of Fathers corny ideas. I'd rather have chili. I'll have it for Barbara's birthday party this month. Her birthday is in June but we won't be able to celebrate it then so –

Were you serious about having Dick live with us? I really wouldn't mind. After all he had to do for us while you were here he probably wouldn't.

I'm going to miss your letter, darling. I didn't think you'd be able to write. You know, I haven't done so bad. I've gotten a letter from you everyday. I got three Tuesday – that was even better.

I sent for a blouse last week. I should get it tomorrow—I hope. Blouses are almost extinct in Washington and Marysville. I need some new slacks, too. I had three pairs but Joyce took over. They were getting pretty old. The last pair though were practically new.

I guess I'll ask Verlin when he's going to get married. I wonder what he'd tell me. Whatever it is it probably wouldn't be true. Oh well, I didn't expect to get the truth.

Did I tell you I'd finished Personality Unlimited? Was that ever a relief. I guess I'll have to send it to Evelyn now and let her suffer through it. I feel sorry for her.

I'd better quit darling, as much as I hate to, and get ready to go. I'm hoping and praying you're all right. Bye, honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

¹⁶⁷ Cartoons in the newspaper.

Jan. 5, 1945

Darling,

I was going to read the paper before I wrote to you but Father beat me to it so I decided to read it after I wrote you.

Are you all right, honey? I've been worrying about you all day. I wish I could be there.

I've had a trying day. I couldn't keep the school house warm enough. I broke a brake rod on Daphne.¹⁶⁸ Barbara, and Nadine weren't there in the afternoon and I had to find something for the sixth grade to do—especially Geneve. I had a terrible time getting Geneve and Nadine to clean up the junk they had piled in the Library—you should see the walls. The back wall is filled with army pictures and part the north wall with navy pictures. If they find any more I'll have tack them to the ceiling.

Calvin Tegethoff¹⁶⁹ has to leave tomorrow. His folks really feel bad about it. His Dad was crying when he came up after Barbara and Nadine. Golly, I had the queerest feeling. I couldn't imagine why he was crying.

I haven't said anything to Dad about selling the car. It wouldn't make any difference what he thought. Mom thinks it's a good idea, too.

If you want me to come the eleventh, darling, that's when I'll come. I wish I could go sooner. Maybe I can.

Honey, I don't care what you do. What do you want to do? If you know what you want that's all that matters—even if it does take a long time. We can talk about it when I come down.

It's beginning to look like I'm going to have a Valentine Party. The kids want one and they'll probably keep asking until I give in. I hate to even think of it.

Wulffs were at Zabakrtskys, too last night. Also Verlin. The ice cream was good but it was really cold.

I should write to Evelyn but I'm too sleepy. Maybe I'll have time in the morning. I should write to Delores too. No wonder I never hear from them.

I'd better quit now. I have to put up my hair yet. Bye, darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 6, 1945

Darling,

I didn't get a letter today. I'm glad you didn't write, darling. I miss it but you probably needed rest more than I need the letter.

We have company—Charlie and Guila. Darlene went home with Verlin. He's been staying up here almost all week.

I have a couple of arithmetic problems to work tonight. My answer doesn't agree with the answer book. I'm probably wrong. I never could work brokerage and stocks and bonds. If I can't get the right answer I'll send them down for you. I'll bet you'd enjoy it wouldn't you.

¹⁶⁸ Virginia called her car Daphne.

¹⁶⁹ Calvin was leaving to go into the military service.

Am I ever having horrible luck. The starter on the car only works when it feels like it. I didn't get the blouse I sent for and I had to go to town by myself.

I went to Hanover this morning. The main reason was that I missed the mailman and I wanted mail your letter and then I had to give that book to Evelyn. She talked like she and Vernon¹⁷⁰ might get married this summer. We didn't have much time to talk because her folks came home for dinner about fifteen minutes after I got there. Every time I see any of Dad's relatives they always want to know if your dad was the Lampe who went with Agnes¹⁷¹ and then they tell me all about it—Today I learned how they happened to meet. Is there anything you would like to find out about your father's past. My relatives could probably tell you. They always make it their business to find out all the can about any Wilkinson that ever had a date—so you know what your in for. I'll bet no family ever gossips as much as ours.

I was hoping I'd see Bob or Francis or Charlie.¹⁷² They were all called last week. Bob and Francis had just registered in December. Anymore they really take them in a hurry. I really don't think Charlie will pass. He had Infantile paralipsis to but not as recently as Verlin. I wonder what Susie will do without Francis?

If it's a nice day we're going down to Uncle Arts. I wish you were here to go with us.

All right you won last time but let's see you read what's under the stamp on this letter without steaming it off.

I have to stop now. I'll write some more tomorrow. Goodnight, honey.

I'm back, darling. We just got home from the show. I haven't been to a matinee for ages. What a crowd. The show was really good—Since You Went Away. Have you seen it? As yet I haven't decided which was better—this or Going My Way. You should have seen me cry. It was so sad—especially when Robert Walker was killed. I mean when they got the telegram.

I'm holding Mark. I've been trying to get him to lie quietly but I guess that isn't possible. You don't mind if he reads what I'm writing, do you?

I think I forgot to tell you I got Philbert's money. I might have told you but I can't remember it. I thought you'd probably want to know.

Bonnie¹⁷³ was here this afternoon. She wanted someone to go horseback riding with her. Too bad we weren't home.

You never did tell me how you knew what shade of powder and etc. I used. How did you, honey? Maybe it was intuition or did you guess?

I can hardly wait until Monday night. I hope I get a letter. I've been going around like a moron all weekend—or is that anything new?

I still can't get the right answer to those arithmetic problems. I think I'll let Mom work on them. I hope she can do them.

We're going to have chili for supper. I wish you were here. I know its good because I tasted it.

I have a headache. It must be from that darn show. It was so long. It seemed longer than Gone with the Wind.

¹⁷⁰ Vernon Jasch did marry Evelyn Ebling. Years later, two of Alvin's daughters, Lynn and Nancy were friends with Vernon and Evelyn's daughter, Gayle Jasch.

¹⁷¹ Agnes, who was Frank Wilkinson's daughter dated Alvin's father (Arnold Lampe) when they were younger. Virginia's grandfather Henry was Frank's brother.

¹⁷² Friends from Hanover.

¹⁷³ Bonnie Waterman

I hate to think of going to school tomorrow. In fact, I hate to think of going to school period. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they hired two teachers for every school and you were the other teacher.

I still don't have that end curl. I dread getting it. Do you really think I should?

We didn't go to Uncle Art's this morning. It was too damp. It was nice this afternoon though. I wish it would stay like that.

Golly, honey, even February seems far away and I'm getting so lonesome without you. How long do you think you will be at Topeka? I don't suppose you know though.

I'd better quit darling. I have to get up early tomorrow and I am just a little sleepy. Goodnight, sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. Let me know how you make out with the stamps.

(Written under the stamp is "You think your smart, don't you? I love you anyway.)

Hanover, Kansas
Jan. 8, 1945

Darling,

You're so wonderful, honey. I was only expecting one letter and got three. But you still shouldn't have written Thursday. I love you all the more for it though.

I think I'm going to walk to school tomorrow. Now the battery is down—the generator isn't working. Maybe I should sell it before school is out. It wouldn't be a bad idea at that.

Darling, I didn't have the slightest idea you'd have any Pepsodent. I thought it was extinct. Thanks anyways.

I honestly don't know a thing to write. My mind is absolutely blank—as usual.

You must feel bad, honey, all your letters are dated 1944. Darn. I wish I could be there with you. I miss you so and I have over a month to wait. I'll be glad when my waiting day are over. That won't be long. I hope.

I'm glad your Mother likes me, dear. I'd feel terrible if she didn't. I assure you the folks like you—even Joyce and Shirley although they don't show any outward sign.

I've been writing on this for over an hour and I still don't it finished. Oh well, I still have another hour before I have to go to bed. If I can't finish it in another hour I'll postpone going to bed until I do finish it.

What do you mean—all those clothes? I didn't mention only a dress and a blouse, did I? That isn't very many. I wasn't planning on going any place when I got them. I have to have something to wear, don't I, darling?

What book do you have that is more interesting than Personality Unlimited? — Bedside Esquire? I'd like to read it. Do you suppose the district would let me read it at school?

I have to put my hair up yet before I go to bed. Or anyway I should because I didn't last night but I don't think I will.

I'm hungry. I think I'll eat in place of fixing my hair. After all the noodles I ate for supper I shouldn't be hungry. But you know how it is—Anyway I like crackers and milk.

Honey, I'm going to quit. I'll try to do better tomorrow, really I will. Goodnight, sweetheart.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 9, 1945

Darling,

Have I ever had a day. I'm all pooped out. I walked part to and from school—Sam took us—also Chris. Are you jealous? Oh brother!! Chris was going to take us all alone tomorrow but darn it! Dad fixed the car.

I wouldn't want to be a nurse, darling. Speaking of nurses, Geneve and Nadine are playing hospital. I don't know where they got the idea but I hope it wears off soon. They have that bench at the back of the room loaded with bottles filled with bluing, cake coloring and so forth. They use the organ for a telephone and elevator and the key hole in the coatroom door for a patients mouth. I wonder what they'll think of next.

Darling, you'd better stay in bed or you're going to catch h—from me, too. I want you get well as soon as possible, honey, even if you don't like to stay in bed.

Why did they let a German go through? I wouldn't think they let him.

I had so much to write and now I can't think of anything. I've had the worst time writing letters lately.

I just remembered I have a geography test to make out for Barbara tomorrow. I should have done it today but I forgot all about it until now. Africa is so hard to make a test over anyway. I'll be glad when we get to South America. I was always fond of that. Might be because I studied when we had it last year and I didn't study when we were on Africa.

I haven't worked on my dress for over a week and I probably won't for another week. I hate to put on the sleeves. I'm glad it doesn't have a collar.

Shirley just read the letter she wrote to you. I haven't laughed so much for ages. She told us she put X's in all the crevices. Maybe we should do that.

I hope Mom let's me sleep until eight thirty tomorrow morning. She called me at six this morning, Murder! I didn't get up until seven-thirty though.

We have 5 weeks and four days wait, darling. That such a long time. And Alvin, you know I want you to come as often as you can. You shouldn't ask silly questions like that honey.

It's almost ten so I'd better quit. I have to put up my hair yet before I go to bed. Bye, darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. .. -/. .-...-/./. ./..-- --./.-/. ..-./.-./-..

P.S.S That code, honey. If you can't make it out I'll send you the key.

Xxx

(Shirley's letter)

Jan. 1, 1945

9:00 pm

Dear d-d- little cuss,

Didn't mean it? We got our calendars. Joyce has a book named Walking On Gold and mine is Story Parade. I have read half of my Christmas book. We ate chocolate chips a whole ago. Yesterday we popped popcorn, mm good. School is the same only I got sent back to my seat today. Three are writing tonight. Sunday we went to the show. There was a fat guy at a canteen and was worrying about Susie Fleming. Sad it was but it was also good. We made a hay house tonight. Mother is looking at my book right now. It has lots of good stories in it. Say you put nineteen forty – four on your last letter. Joyce, Virginia, and I are writing tonight. Doctor Swine is getting the best of Steve Roper and Joanne Goodbody.¹⁷⁴ Do you know what happened to Snowflake? When there is time to write I can't and when I don't have time I can think of the most things to write about. Would you like us to take your shoes off right now. Everybody is tired. Mom is going to feed Mark right now. I wrote with pencil because I couldn't find my pen. Mark is giving the signal for mom to feed him. Everybody is going to bed. Well Mark has his supper. Well, I had better close. Your Sister in law and sweetheart. Shirley
(Note: X's are all over the pages of this letter. X stands for a kiss)

Jan. 10, 1945

Darling,

I just finished supper. We had soup. I thought it was good but Dad didn't like it—as usual. I'm beginning to get caught up on my letter writing. I wrote to Evelyn at noon. I'll bet the poor girl will never get over the shock because I answered her letter only five days after I got it. I still have about three to write.

Golly, I think this week has gone slow. Last week was bad enough but this week is worse. It seems like I've been going to school for a month. Christmas seems so far away.

Pop finally got the ford running again—all except the brake rod. I'll have to have it fixed Saturday. What do you mean—they're worse than children?

I got an advertisement for caps and gowns today—me, with only one eight grader. I wonder what they think I am?

I've just been elected to pop corn. Isn't that ducky? And I was going to put up my hair. I tried something new last night and you should have seen my hair this morning. Words couldn't express it. I'll never do that again.

How is your dancing coming, honey? Evelyn and I have been talking about going to Marysville again but we haven't gotten there yet. Every time we plan on it—it's too cold or something is wrong.

Wasn't it lovely out today? I wish I could have had school outdoors. I didn't even have to drain the car.

I'm getting sleepy and at eight-thirty, too. I guess I'll get up earlier tomorrow and see if that helps. I didn't get up until 8:30 this morning. I could have slept until noon if Mom hadn't called me.

¹⁷⁴ Dick Tracy comics.

I think I'll make an appointment with Elsie Saturday and get my hair curled much as I hate, too.

I wish I could think of something to wear tomorrow. I don't have anything to wear to school anymore.

Well darling, I guess I'd better go pop that corn so that I can go to bed. Bye, honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 11, 1945

Darling,

Another day is almost gone. That's make one less to wait. Time really went slow today. I thought the third period would never end. I guess the kids felt the same way. They were restless all day. I couldn't find enough for them to do.

I'm sorry about the letters. I know you've written every day. I didn't mean that you hadn't. I just meant that I didn't get them when I should have. You couldn't blame me for being worried about you, could you?

I read the most interesting story today. It was the private life of Rochester Anderson. He has a cute wife even if she is a Negro. I also worked out the photo quiz in Look. I made an average of seventy. I still think the actress they said was Lillian Gish was Norma Talmadge.

So you wanted me to hold your hand while the nurse was already holding it. I like that. It's too bad you couldn't have been conscious to enjoy it.

I hope we get to Barnes Sunday. We haven't been down there for two or three months. I wish we could have gone while you were here.

I don't know whether I'll make a good mother or not. Your guess is as good as mine. I'm afraid I'm not getting very much experience. I'm not home enough, I guess. No, I haven't given him a bath, I haven't even changed him. I think girls are easier to take care of. It always seemed like Janice was less trouble than Mark.

I merely asked how you knew what shade to get. I didn't expect a lecture. You should have told me when I first asked you then you wouldn't have needed to get so disgusted about it.

I have mess of booklets and book reports to grade yet tonight. I wish I could get someone else to do it. I'd rather grade arithmetic any day. At least you can be absolutely sure you're giving them the right grade. I'm afraid I'm too easy on them.

I imagine we'll have a mess of company tomorrow. Tom¹⁷⁵ is selling Uncle Franks farm and we're the only relative that lives around here anymore. It's too bad you aren't here. You might want buy it. What am I saying?!!

Well, I'm almost at the end of the page and anyway I don't have any more time to write so -bye honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. I love you too.

¹⁷⁵ Tom Wilkinson is Frank and Dora's son.

Hanover, Kansas
Jan. 12, 1945

Darling,

I have about fifteen minutes to write. I have to stop then and put up my hair. I wouldn't only tomorrow is Saturday and I don't like to wear it up to town. I'd like to go to Marysville but I have to go to Washington to turn in my book reports. I have a few more weeks but I have them finish and I want to get rid of them as soon as possible.

I just finish supper. Bill¹⁷⁶ brought the tractor over this evening and Pop took him home before supper. It's nine now and he still isn't home so mom and I ate. Bill's are going to move to Beatrice. Isn't that ducky?

I guess being single does have its points, doesn't it? But then being married does too. You shouldn't worry, darling. It doesn't help.

After tomorrow Daphne should feel like a new car. She'll be all fixed up. Until the next time something breaks. I hope she waits until she's sold.

I think I'll make some popcorn balls when the rest of our family gets home. We haven't had any for a long time and they don't take much sugar.

Calvin went Catalina Island. At least he got to go where he wanted to. Alma is going to stay in Marysville.

I just told me I didn't see why married men should get to go in town so much oftener than single ones and she said maybe the single men didn't have anything to go for. I guess that could be true.

I'd love to read to you, honey, but I'd rather have you read to me. What are you going to read—the Bobbsey Twins or Little Men? I think I'll have to read the G-String Murder. I read the review and it sounded very interesting.

You know I'd like it if you could get a furlow. The nights would be something even if we couldn't be together during the day.

I guess I'll go up to see Elsie tomorrow and see when I can get an appointment. She might accidentally have an opening tomorrow—I hope.

Do you know what the stomach said to the girdle? Don't fence me in.

I was really proud of Nadine today. She made 96 on a history test. I almost fainted from the shock.

Well, I just gotta go or I'll never get to bed. Bye, darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. The first one sounded wonderful to me.

(This letter is in the form of a Jigsaw Puzzle. It has a dough boy in the upper right hand side. He is saying "It's a Military Secret". On the bottom of the cart is printed Puzzle Letter 31, Fresno Art Novelty Co. Calif.)

¹⁷⁶ Bill Lampe, Alvin's uncle. Bill and Caroline Lampe lived near the Wilkinsons.

Hanover, Kansas
Jan. 13, 1945

Darling,

This is just to pay you back for all that code. I had a terrible time reading it. Next time I'll find a code you don't know.

I just heard a cute joke I'd better tell you before I forget it. One day the minister came to call and Junior came in just as he left. He asked his Mother who the minister was and she said he was the man who married her. Junior said, "Then what is Pop doing at our house?"

Guess what? My dear cousin Bonnie¹⁷⁷ got married. Isn't that wonderful? She and Bob must have made up. I got a partial invitation to her shower. That is her Mother said I was going to be invited. She made a list of her five closest friends—The ones invited to the shower. I was one of them. Maybe I should take back some of the things I said about her. I would if she wasn't so cattie.

Darlene and Verlin are going to either Wichita and Topeka to work after they are married. It would be swell if they would go to Topeka and you would still be there this summer.

I hope you have as much trouble reading this as I have writing it.

Today Darlene, Betty, Elwood and I went to the court house to see Loren Tegethoff. She works for the probate judge. A couple from Nebraska, the girl was from Beatrice. Her name was Carmichael or something like that, were getting married. They looked so self-conscious, I wonder if I'll look like that.

We're listening to Judy Carnova. I haven't heard her for ages.

I'll write a long letter Monday to make up for this. I'm sorry, darling but I just couldn't resist it.

I hope it's warm when I come down. What do you want to bet it's snowing or something worse. I can hardly wait. I miss you so, honey. And February is so far away/

And you are not an old broken down soldier. Why do you say such things? The next time I'm going to do something drastic if I'm with you. I'll tell you what I'm going to do when I see you.

If South American are lousy lovers I know you're not a South American. I still like to teach about South America. We're on Austrailia.

Well, darling if I'm going to Barnes tomorrow I'll have to stop. Bye sweetheart I love you.

All my love and kisses
Gin

Jan. 14, 1945

Darling,

I thought I'd better write another letter. I began to feel sorry for you. I know how disgusted I'd be trying to put that thing together before I could read it.

We went to Barnes today. It was raining when I got (up) but by ten the sun was shining so we went. Then it began to rain before we started home.

¹⁷⁷ Bonnie Lull. Bonnie's Grandfather, George Wilkinson, was a brother to Virginia's Grandpa Henry Wilkinson. Her mother was Beulah Wilkinson Lull

Aunt Susie was sick. We got dinner and did all her dishes. I've never wiped so many dishes all at one time in my life. We had a good time though.

I hope it doesn't snow tonight. I hate to drive in it. I wish spring would stay all year but then it would probably be muddy.

Darling, do you know a Henderson boy at the hospital? I don't know what his first name is. His brother thought you might know him.

Oh yes, you must have made quite a hit with John.¹⁷⁸ He won't answer Aunt Susie unless she calls him Alvin. He told her he fell out of an airplane and broke his arm.

Darlene said she was coming down for supper tomorrow night. I hope she does.

Excuse me for half an hour, will you? I want to listen to William Bendix.

I'm back, darling. It took almost an hour. I listened to Snooks, too. Jerry Dingle was cute. He pretended to hear a cowboy. Did you hear it?

Shirley knew you dated your letters 1944 because she heard me tell mother. Heaven only knows I wouldn't let her read your letter.

I have a sore leg, too. I ran into the stove door—the little one on the bottom of the stove in the living room

I was going to put up my hair but I think I'll go to bed instead. I'll put it up at school tomorrow before the kids get there.

Dan Hopkins just gave the weather report. When he started he said it would be fair and warmer in the morning then at the end he said it was going to be colder.

What is a reconditioning hospital, honey? I don't exactly know. Does that mean they aren't going to do anything about his stomach.

I have a cold again. Isn't that terrible. It isn't bad though. I just can't breathe through my nose. I hope I don't have a cold when I come down.

Well, sweetheart, I'm going to wash my face and go to bed. Goodnight, darling.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. I liked all those crevices

Jan. 15, 1945

Darling,

I just got back from taking Darlene home. We were both so sleepy. We sat around and yawned most of the evening. I think I ate too much. That usually makes me sleepy.

You must have winter fever, darling. It isn't spring yet. Maybe you're just early—wartime or something like that.

Darlene and I were picking out jobs for Verlin. He has to get into war work or he'll be called again. We finally located a good ad. We're going to get him a job as a dairy man and let Darlene deliver the milk.

That card was cute. I've never seen any just like that before. If she doesn't answer your letter maybe you should send it back to her.

¹⁷⁸ Virginia's (paternal) Aunt Susie and Uncle Art's son, John.

We just found out Johnny Bugg bought Jack's Café. He has lady Bugg and two little Buggs. He should name one of his kids Bed.

Did you miss me, honey? I just put on some cold cream so if you smell cold cream, you'll know it's cold cream.

Guess what? I figured it up today and school will be out April 20. I thought it would be later than that. I'm glad it isn't. School is getting so monotonous. I'm not the only teacher who feels that way, I guess. Evelyn is getting tired too.

It takes two days for your letter to get here now. I don't know why it takes longer but it does. Our mailman has been coming earlier maybe that has something to do with it.

You really sound like a husband, darling. You sounded almost as if you'd had experience. You know, I think I had better make a list of all the things you're going to tell me after we're married. I've forgotten most of them already. Will you tell me about that dream when I come down?

You probably know more about keeping house than I do but I'd still rather do the housework than teach. I wonder if we would act like Ben and Ermel.¹⁷⁹

You're doing better with your letter writing than I am. I still haven't written to Delores. She'll probably think I'm mad or something.

I changed Mark tonight for the first time. Does he ever kick. I thought I'd never finish. It would have saved a lot of time if mom had done it.

I've got to stop, honey. It's almost twelve and I have to get up early tomorrow. Bye, darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 16, 1945

Darling,

I thought I'd start early today. I have almost half an hour before the bell rings. The kids are all pretty well occupied so I won't have to worry about them. The nursing fad has worn off. It didn't last as long as most of their silly ideas or maybe they're cured the coal room door.

I really made out a good history test this morning. I'll bet even you couldn't pass it. I'll have to revise it a little before I give it to Barbara. It really isn't so bad. I think I could pass it. I ought to be able to pass my own tests.

I guess we're going to have a Valentine party for the mothers. I hate to think of it. I wouldn't have to give one except for Mom. The kids ask when she's around—Mom says I don't see why you can't—I'm stuck with it. It's at times like these I wonder why Mother's were invented.

I just leaned against the stove and got scorched. I won't tell you where. You'll have to use your imagination.

Barbara is having a hard time with conjugation, especially to see. I always thought it was fun.

Do you know any Valentine games? I have a few but not enough. We had a Valentine party at Circle¹⁸⁰ once but I can't remember what games we played.

¹⁷⁹ These people were on the school board and Virginia went to them to get her paycheck.

I have to go to Toonerville after gas tonight. I guess I'll have to ask Goolie why he thought I was married, the old soak.

I should grade Jimmy's back arithmetic but it can wait until tomorrow.

I feel like something exciting was going to happen today. I wonder what it could be? I need something to pep me up.

Wiench's moved last week and they're trying to get Dad to take his place on the school board. When I was in town Saturday the superintendent gave me his appointment. Did he ever hit the ceiling. They wouldn't get him on the school board, etc. etc. Sunday he told Uncle Art about it. He was on the Willowdale school board. Anyway yesterday he told mom he was going to take it down and show it to George Doeble. He's the director and has to sign the oath—I repeat Father's are funny people.

I hope you can read this the way I'm scribbling, I rather doubt it. I don't think my writing is improving. I think Harton didn't improve any last year. She dictates even faster than Taylor—on an average and his speed was eighty words per minute. Golly, I can't even spell today.

I have to stop now, darling. I'll finish this tonight. Xxx

I'm back as you can see. I just broke the chain on my watch, darn it. That the second time only this time I think it can be fixed, I hope.

Mom must have been thinking of you today. We're having beans for supper. Flake hominy, too, do you like it? I'm not very crazy about it.

Evelyn's sister was taken to the hospital today for appendicitis. I'm glad it wasn't me. Golly, if I had to spend that much time in a hospital I never would finish teaching school.

Dean and Mabel must have wanted a Pat and Mike. I'll bet they are happy about it. They should be.

About going to Oregon—that's up to you. But when are you going to get out of the army to do all this. I wish you would get a discharge.

Maybe if you would take a few links out that anklet it would fit better. I think I could even wear it then.

Golly, darling, I wish time would go as fast for me. It seems like you've been gone for months instead of weeks.

By the way, where did you get the pin up picture—from Woman's Home Companion?

I almost forgot, Margaret Rowland¹⁸¹ said the nicest things about you this evening. She also said she heard I was going to get married. How these things do travel. Evelyn must have told her.

Isn't it cold. I practically froze at school today. Someday I'm going to learn how to keep a room at even temperature.

I'd better stop, darling. Mom is yelling at me to go to bed so I'd better hurry. Bye, honey.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. How did you get 20 days. Its 25. Murder!!

¹⁸⁰ A social club

¹⁸¹ Someone who lived near the Wilkinsons.

Jan. 17, 1945

Darling,

I just finished starting the kids on some new story books. What a job. They have either read them all or they think the print is too small or too large or something is wrong. Geneve is reading Jungle Trails and Nadine started on Tom Sawyer but changed her mind. Personally I think we need some new books but try telling that too the school board. They're supposed to spend five dollars every year for books but I doubt they've bought any for the last twenty years.

Another thirty minutes and school will be out. Goody! Goody! This week hasn't been so bad though. It's gone fairly fast. Lots faster than last week.

This is really a horrible day. I thought I was going to have to scrape ice off the windshield but it melted.

I'm back again. Sorry I had to leave in such a hurry but Barbara was ready for history and we just had time for it before five.

I got stuck coming home. I stopped to let Geneve out and as you know it on a hill and it was so slick poor Daphne couldn't make it. Sam and Carrie¹⁸² helped me get out. Nice of them wasn't it?

I just finished pressing my blouse. The one I got pine tar on. It didn't stain as badly as I thought it would. Maybe if its washed a few more times it will disappear. Anyway its good enough to wear to school. I never did like it very well.

The "Town Criers" are singing "Idaho." Golly, that brings back some wonderful memories. I was a junior when that was popular. That seems so far away.

I hope we're together at least two to four of those months. I think I'll get a job some place in May. I'd just die at home with nothing to do for a whole month.

Did you hear that fellow on "Let Yourself Go" who got married and if they bought a house they wouldn't have enough money to buy furniture and if they bought furniture they wouldn't have enough money to buy a house to put it in. They really had a problem.

I think I'd better quit. I'm running out of paper and I can't think of enough to fill another page. Bye, sweetheart. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 18, 1945

Darling,

Pardon the pencil. I took my pen home last night and forgot it this morning. I almost forgot my dinner. That would have been tragic. I might have lost a couple periods. That doesn't sound bad either. Maybe I should forget it tomorrow.

Did I tell you we had a locker?¹⁸³ Well, we don't have it yet because they don't come in until February 1. Won't that be wonderful. I practically swoon every time I think of fresh sausage all year. I think dad is going to butcher Tillie next week. Poor Tillie! I wonder if she'll go to pig heaven.

¹⁸² Sam and Carrie Schaffer. When the Alvin Lampe children were growing up Sam and Carrie had the soda shop in Hanover.

¹⁸³ A meat locker that was at Hanover. One rented them to keep your meat in when you butchered.

I think the school board would get more for their money if they would get me a different chair. This one is so comfortable. I'd rather sit here and dream than work.

Golly, I thought my watch had stopped. That would have been drastic. I don't get to read your letters until five-thirty as it is.

I don't care if you show those pictures of Mark to your friends but for Pete's sake don't show them that horrible picture of me. If you did I'd-oh, Alvin I'd never forgive you.

I don't know where Mom was but she thought you only took one picture of Mark.

I just remembered something this morning. I didn't send Aunt Bertha¹⁸⁴ a birthday card. This is a wonderful time to think of it. Oh, well she didn't send me one either.

I'll bet you'd never guess what Beulah told Mom—she thinks I'll look better than I did before you came home. Mom told her it must be love. I guess she was right—Mother I mean.

I should be grading arithmetic papers. I have about half of Geneve's yet and Jimmy's and Barbara's. Maybe I should quit and finish them. Bye darling. Xxx

Here I am again. A little earlier than usual but I want to work on my dress this evening. Do you think I'll have finished by spring? I have my doubts.

We're listening to Bob Burns. He says men shouldn't be wolves. They can't have their cake and someone else's cookie. Also—men want a woman like a flower—rosy cheeks, lips like petals and then they look at her stems.

I'm sorry about the puzzle, honey. I wish I could have been there when you opened it. Don't make that letter too difficult. Golly, just think of how those poor kids at school will suffer if I have to stay up all night to figure out your letter. You should have opened the other letter first.

Why don't you buy a pipe if you want it and what do you mean—after I hold the purse strings? You don't need to worry about that. You can have that job.

You were correct, darling. You do use an with hour even if h isn't a vowel.

Did I tell you I got a new jacket. I really did need one. I have two but I'm going to give one to Joyce. The jacket is blue. I adore it. I've always wanted one like it. I hope I can find a skirt to match it.

Don't bother to look up that Henderson boy. They just wondered if you knew him.

What were you going to say, darling, that you were a cripple? I really didn't know what you meant but if that was it—it's a good thing you didn't say it. I'm almost convinced you are a drip. No, really I don't think you are but don't say things like that.

We're having lima beans for supper. Don't you wish you were here? I wish you were, too. Golly, I miss you so much darling.

I wanted to tell you something but now I've forgotten what it was. It must not have been true. Maybe I'll think of it tomorrow.

I have to stop, dear, supper is ready. Bye, honey. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

¹⁸⁴ Maternal aunt Bertha Wing.

Jan. 19, 1945

Darling,

I thought for a moment I had forgotten my pen again but I found it. Excuse me for just a minute, darling. I have to take that bracelet off. I still can't write with it on.

I'm almost frozen. I don't know what's wrong with that stove today it just won't burn. It isn't doing so bad now but this morning it was awfully cold in here. It's a good thing it wasn't freezing out.

I hate to think of driving home tonight. The roads are so slick and muddy. I wish the sun would shine. I'm getting so tired of these foggy old days.

This week had gone so fast. I wish they would all go this fast until school is out. Even the kids must have thought it was going fast. They all forgot about club today. It was the first time I ever had to remind them.

It's time for the bell, honey, so I'll have to stop. Xxx

I just got up. It's ten o'clock—P.M. I've been in bed since seven thirty. I'm still sleepy. No, I didn't write all those letters on the 15th. I must have been sleepy then, too.

And I did pick out a job for you. I'm sending the ad. Do you think you'd like it? I was almost sure you would.

{ Newspaper clipping reads: Dishwasher Wanted—Sudden Service Café, 509 Quincy. }

They should give Herb more to eat. Every time you write you say something about him waiting for you to go eat.

Your Mother doesn't have anything on Pop except that his experience wasn't so painful. The first time he changed me, he held me up to show mom after he'd finished and they fell off.

I'm going to have to get up early in the morning because I have to wash my hair and after I wash it I'll have put it up which takes up about two hours which I could easily use for something else—like working on my dress. I'm going to finish it this weekend—I hope.

Darling, do you think you might get to come home for your birthday? Golly, that would be wonderful. I hope you get it. Let me know as soon as you find out.

I think I'll go to the show tomorrow afternoon. I won't have anything else to do. I don't know what its going to be. One is a crime doctor picture, I think.

I'd better quit honey. I'll try to write a long letter tomorrow. Bye, darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses

Gin

Xxx

Jan. 21, 1945

Darling,

I was going to write you last night but I went to sleep waiting for the family to go to bed. Not that I can't write when they're awake but you know that Dad always listens to the radio until after ten. Last night it was eleven—anyway that's what Mom said. I didn't wake up until midnight and then I couldn't go to sleep again. Maybe I should have gotten up and written then. Oh well, it couldn't be mailed until tomorrow anyway so I'll write a long letter to make up for it.

Isn't this snow ducky. I love snow until it starts to melt. I wish Darlene was home. I get her to go sleigh riding with me. Maybe I'll go by myself. I wish you were here. I'd like to have

a snowball fight. As long as you could only use one arm I'll bet I could beat you. I haven't had a good snowball fight since I was a freshman. I won that one. More fun.

You old meanie! Couldn't you let me be ahead one? I'll bet you did have more trouble writing it than I had reading it.

Darling, I hope you can be home for our Valentine party. It would be sort of a birthday party for you, wouldn't it? I was going to ask what you wanted for your birthday but—ask a silly question and you get a silly answer.

Darn it. I wanted to get some new fingernail polish yesterday but I forgot it. I always forget something.

Honestly, honey, you should be here. You could eat onion and I'd never know it. The whole family—except me, had been eating them all week and that's all you can smell. It practically knocks you over when you open the door.

I'm going to finish my dress this afternoon. I'll be glad. I'm getting tired of working on it. It's almost the simplest one I've ever made but I still don't care much for the pattern. The only thing I like is the color.

I'm not going to tell you what Margaret Rowland said until I see you. You'll have to remember to ask me. Then you'll know how I feel when you tell me that. I really don't mind though. Most of the things I'd rather have you tell me than write them.

Betty Elwood and I are going to give Darlene a shower. Won't that be fun? I like showers. We had more fun yesterday. We sat in Betty's car and honked at Verlin. He didn't know who did it until we told him.

What Reader Digest did you find that article in, I'd like to read it. Did you reading "Guisseppi and the Sergent"? Cute wasn't it?

I hope you can read my writing—I can't. I'm writing on my knee maybe that's the reason.

I have to stop for awhile, darling. I'll finish this later. Xxx

Here I am again, honey. I really don't know much more to write. I can never think of anything to write.

I almost got my—I cant even spell—dress finished. All I have to do is put in the hem and finish the placket. I should be able to finish it next weekend.

I may not be able bathe Mark but I'm getting plenty of experience in keeping him from crying. Which reminds me, your going to get in on that when you come home. You see Mom has been making me sleep on the day bed so that Mark can sleep with me after she gets up except that he doesn't sleep—he yells. The point is when you come home, you'll sleep there and you'll have to play with him to keep him from crying. Won't that be fun at six or seven in the morning? Maybe mom will take pity on you.

Well, darling, I'll admit this isn't very long but I guess I'm just not in a letter writing mood. Bye, sweetheart. I love you, darling.

Xxx

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 22, 1945

Darling,

Isn't this a wonderful day? I hadn't seen the sun for so long I'd almost forgotten what it looked like.

I only have about fifteen minutes to write and then I have to stop and grade arithmetic papers and make out tests. I don't have many left—just a couple reading and english tests. I honestly think I hate them worse than the kids do.

Speaking of the kids—they're playing hide the eraser or something and they're about to drive me nuts. I didn't three kids could be so noisy. They're even worse than Joyce and Shirley if that's possible.

Geneve isn't here today. She's sick, I guess. Delmar stopped this morning and told Mom I wouldn't have to pick her up.

I found out what was wrong with the stove. I had clean it out. The ashes had caked on the grates. I don't think it had been cleaned for years. I almost froze before I finally got it finished. I felt like sitting on top of the stove.

I just remembered some thing else I didn't get Saturday—white crepe paper. I really didn't need it this week anyway. Next week I'm going to have to build a log cabin or help the kids build it. I hate to think what it will look like.

I put the hem in my dress last night. What a job. My poor finger is so sore. Mom wanted me to use a thimble but I can't sew with a thimble. What am I saying? I can't sew period. I do like the dress better since its finished.

Easter is really early this year. I can't remember when its been as early. Golly, Ash Wednesday is on Valentines Day. Did hear Jack Benny last night? Wasn't it good? Especially when Rochester was ironing Jack's underwear an Jack told him to open the back door.

I'd better stop, honey, it's time for the bell. Xxx

I'm back. Are you surprised? You shouldn't be.

I was wondering if you ever made out that letter I wrote yesterday. I don't know how you could. It was so mixed up. After every sentence someone would yell at me and when I started to write again I couldn't remember what I was writing in the first place. I had a terrible time.

Golly, darling, I had no idea you got that much stationary. And I thought there was a paper shortage. Was I ever surprised. I didn't expect that much. I couldn't imagine why the package was so big. When will I ever use it all? Golly, I'll have to write over a hundred letters for a few months yet. You know we should be expert letter writers, we do enough of it. I don't do enough. I still owe a couple of letters. Speaking of stationary, which I was, how do you like this? Ten cents a package. I hate to take stationary to school in the morning and bring it home again at night. Maybe I should just take it to school period.

Oh yes, I got the invitation which I told you I was going to get for Barbara's shower. Now I'll have to write to Evelyn so we can go together. I saw her Saturday in Washington but I didn't get to talk to her very long.

Speaking of your Dad, I dreamed he was home last night. Now I'm wondering if he looks like he did in the dream. Who knows—maybe I'm a mental genius or is that possible.

I just have to stop now, darling. I almost didn't make it this morning. Bye, honey. I love you .

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Jan. 23, 1945

Darling,

I write to you every day and still I have to look at a calendar before I know the date. I think instead of getting new wrinkles in my brain I'm losing them.

I wrote to Evelyn this morning. I hope she comes out sometime this week. I'd like to know what goes on between her and Vernon. I'd like to kick her for what she did to Wilber. What a brush-off. After he left last winter she wrote to him three or four times a week and then just after he went overseas—also just before he was going to propose. She stopped writing. She writes to him once in awhile now he's in Germany. How did I know he was going to propose. I read the letter. What a letter!

Did I tell you I was going to an end curl Saturday? I might back out yet. I'd like to go to Blue Rapids Sunday. Elsie told me I looked thinner than I used to. Imagine that. Of course since I last saw her I lost five pounds. I wish I could lose that much more. I think I could if I really tried.

I hope I get two letters tonight. I should because I only got one yesterday and I usually get two on Monday.

I wonder what's going to happen to Granel Gertie. Poor Shakey, what is he going to look like when the ice melts. He's really going to be preserved. I'll bet they never thought of that.¹⁸⁵

What did you mean about the South American women not being like the men. Was Donald Duck in South America. Personally, I prefer Bugs Bunny.

I'm going to have to stop. It's time for school. Bye, honey. Xxx

Here I am again, as you can see. I just finished filling the lamps and as usual—I spilled it.

I got three letters tonight, one from you, one from the chairman of the Infantile Paralysis fund and one from Slim. I told you about him when you were home. I went with him when I was a freshman and sophomore. He's really a nice kid. He used to be a little on the bashful side—in fact—well, I'll tell you when I see you.

Personally, darling, I prefer Frankie. I wonder how they ever happened to choose Lawrence Tibbett for a program like that. I agree with you about Bing.

Those pictures were good. I didn't know whether I should believe you or not. I'm going to keep them until after Saturday so Gran can see them. You don't mind do you?

You don't have to make fun of my wiggle. I can't help it. I can't turn that cistern without it.

I didn't hear "People Are Funny" but I'll bet I could live in a store window for \$500. Tell me what happens. Did you hear Judy Foster this evening? What a mix up.

Which letter did you like? I can't remember what I wrote. Your letters still take two days, darn it! I wish there was some way to hurry them.

I haven't had that picture taken yet and I probably won't want to for awhile after I get that darn end curl. If I wasn't so tired of putting up my hair I wouldn't get it.

I'd better quit now. I have some work to do before I go to bed. Bye darling. I love you so much.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

P.S. You should write more letters like the one you wrote Sun. XXX

¹⁸⁵ Dick Tracy Comics

January 24, 1945

Darling,

I'm going to have to write this in relays because I won't have time to write and noon and I'm writing between classes. Right now I'm waiting for Nadine's reading. I don't know what I'm going to do with her. She doesn't like her name and signs all her papers Janet. I thought if I didn't say anything she would forget about it but she hasn't.

Dad got his books—for the school, you know. And, golly, if he can't write any better than Wiech I'm going to disown him. His writing isn't so bad, its his spelling. I wish you could see the original. I thought my sixth graders couldn't spell but compared with that they're geniuses.

I'm going to try to write to Delores today. She probably thinks I've forgotten her.

I just remembered someone else who should be invited to Delores's shower. It's a good thing Betty is helping me. We're really going to have a crowd. Delores has so many cousins that are about her age. Golly. I wish I had even half as many.

I get my check Friday. It a good thing because I almost broke which isn't a new experience. I'm broke most of the time --- not entirely but oh, so close.

I had a terrible time with Mark this morning. I wanted to sleep and he wanted to sit up. He won.

You know, I was going to write this in red ink but I was afraid it might embarrass you so I didn't

I think I'll get another library ticket. I have plenty of spare time now. Or maybe I should start another dress. Well, anyway it was a good idea. I'm going to see if I can get a skirt to match my jacket in Marysville. By the way, how did you happen to be looking at dresses?

Pardon me, darling, I was dreaming again. I think I'll have to take this chair with me when I leave. Sometimes I have the most wonderful dreams.

I'll be glad when this day is over. I feel like heck and I just know I'm going to get stuck. I almost got stuck last night.

Honey, I'm going to stop now and write to Delores. I'll finish this tonight.

XXX

Here I am, darling. It's good thing I wrote most of this letter this morning. Did I have an exciting afternoon. I was sick so I let school out at three. I left the car at Tegethoff's because Frank didn't think I could get it home and Barbara brought us home in the wagon. I'll bet you'd never guess who taking us to school tomorrow—Sam. Isn't that wonderful?

You should write more letters like the one you wrote Sunday night. I've read it six or seven times and each time it sounds better.

I got a bulletin from Mrs. Ratenke today. There going to have a dinner at the next teachers meeting which is February 3. How will I ever stay awake after going to a shower? If they have an interesting speaker it might not be so bad. He sounds as if he might be interesting. I hope he doesn't speak very long.

And Alvin, you are not a dip even if I did say you were. What sort of ideas did you have darling? Not that it makes any difference. I love you the way you are. If you were here now I'd let you kiss me, believe me! I miss you so darned much.

I'm sorry you have a cold. I can sympathize with you. I know just how you feel.

I can't think of anything else right now, honey, and I have to get up early tomorrow. Bye, darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Xxx

January 26, 1945

Darling,

I've been trying to get a letter started all morning but this is the first time I've had a chance. I've been either making out tests or grading them all morning.

Sam brought us to school again this morning—in the car. What a change. I'm going to drive my car home tonight if I can. I don't know how far I'll get. That road is really a mess. It has about six wagon tracks all in different places.

Dad wants to buy my car. I'll bet he doesn't though because he won't want to give me even half what I could get for it.

Did hear Bing Crosby sing "Only Forever" last night. It was heavenly. I haven't heard that song for such a long time.

I wish it was about nine tonight. Why? Because I'm going to bed then. I have to get up at seven tomorrow. I'll probably go around half asleep all day. You know, like I did when you were home only then I had a reason. I wish I had the same reason now. I miss you so, darling.

I have stop now, honey. The bell again. Xxx

I'm a little late tonight. I didn't get home until almost seven thirty. I didn't get stuck either. I had to wait for Frank to get home so he could sign my check.

I read that article in the Reader's Digest. Was it on the radio? I would like to have heard it.

Darling, I do concentrate on you and its wonderful. I don't know how your Dad got mixed up in it, after all I don't even know him. That was a nice family wasn't it. I hope we do have twins or even triplets.

You should write at night, too, honey and then Herb couldn't bother you.

I'd better quit. I have to get up early tomorrow. Bye, darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Xxx

January 28, 1945

Darling,

I just finished taking a bath and I feel wonderful—just like writing you a nice long letter—well anyway letter and it should be long because I didn't get to write to you yesterday. I was gone. Did you miss me? I put Mark to sleep. Believe me, I'm getting plenty of experience at that and keeping him from crying.

I'm sending those pictures. I didn't get to show them to Gran but she can see them some other time. That picture of Jimmy is good, isn't it? It looks just like him.

What did the fortune teller tell Herb's wife? Can't you tell me now? Why do I have to be so darned curious?

I was gone again. Did you miss me this time, too? I put the chains and license--how do you spell that word?—tag on Daphne. Did I have a time! It took me over an hour to put on those chains. What a mess! One side was too long and the other one wasn't long enough. And that jack—murder!! I was never even that close to one before. I finally figures it out—after I had almost broken it. Oh well--! I finally did get them on but Dad have to revize them a little bit.

We're listening to Gildersleeve. He's pretty good tonight. LeRoy and Marjorie's aunt came to visit them and she's trying to reform them. It's a little difficult to write and listen to the radio.

Mailing that letter in the afternoon doesn't help either, darling, it still takes two days.

What are your postwar ambitions, the ones you're looking up. I mean. Was it one that you told me about?

I was hoping Darlene would come down this afternoon but I guess she wasn't home. If it wouldn't have been muddy I think Evelyn would have come out. She's owes me a dollar and a quarter. That wasn't the reason I wanted to see her though.

Oh yes, I got that end curl and it isn't so bad as I expected it would be but it isn't good either. Of course after it grows out a little bit it will look a lot better. It should look pretty good by spring and that's all that matters. It seemed strange to wake up this morning and not have to take out pin curls before I could comb my hair.

I stopped again, darling. This time for supper. I was going to finish my dress today but—I didn't. I did do some sewing. One good thing about that dress—it won't wrinkle.

My cousin, Henry, is supposed to be home now. If he comes up I hope he does while I'm home. I'd like to know how long he'll be home.

Maybe you should let me answer some of your letters. I wouldn't guarantee they'd answer but then next time you wouldn't have so many to write. It might a good idea if I'd answer my own first.

Do you realize we only have two weeks to wait? What do you want to bet its going to be snowing or raining then?

I just finish polishing my fingernails. That's the third time since you've been home. You can see how many times I've gone anywhere that amounted to anything.

I'm going to quit and go to bed, darling. I slept until nine this morning and I have to get up earlier than that tomorrow. Bye, darling. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses

Gin

xxx

January 29, 1945

Darling,

Look at that date. Today is Kansas Day and I didn't even think about it until now.

I have exactly two minutes to write before the bell rings. It took longer to sweep today than it usually does. I finished counting the money for the infantile paralysis fund. Not that we had much to count but most of it was in small change.

We don't have Deans yet. They have more money than anyone else in the district so we can't leave them out.

I have to ring the bell. I'll be back in a minute.

I'm back but it took a five minutes. Honestly, I can't even spell anymore. Maybe I'm in rut. That's as good a reason as any.

Isn't this the most ghastly day! I'm getting so tired of snow—and the mud that follows. After this spring I don't care if I ever drive another car. Well, anyway not for a few days.

I think I'll skip the teacher's meeting Saturday and go to Marysville—if the roads are good. I've been trying to think of a good excuse. And even if I didn't go, there's dozens of things I could do at home. Well, I'm not going. I talked myself out of it.

I'm going to have to stop for awhile. Bye, honey. Xxx

Here I am again, darling. Am I ever sleepy but then that isn't unusual.

I got two letters today from you. I came home and Mom gave me one. I went to Toonerville and when I got home she gave me another. Our dear mail man had left one at Zabobkrtsky's.

Darling, you shouldn't be jealous of Slim. You don't have any reason to be. He's an old friend and that's all. And he wouldn't have written to me if he had known about us. What do you mean—the only girl who ever wrote to you? What do you think I am? Women aren't hard to figure out. After all, would you write to someone who was engaged—well I wouldn't!

A furlow in March would be wonderful if you couldn't get one in February. If I had to wait until March I'd—well. I guess I'd just have to wait but it would be horrible. I hope you can get one. I miss you so, darling.

When Van Johnson visits the hospital, let me know. I'd like to be a war casualty about that time. By the way, what was censored after—"the leap". Or do I have to wait until I see you?

That is terrible about Freddie. I can understand how his folks must feel. What does Ruby say about it?

I'm going to love putting up with you all the rest of my life—even if you were worse. Is that possible?

Am I ever mad at Joyce and Shirley. I raved all Sunday afternoon about tearing the labels off my bottles. If there's anything I hate it's bottles with pieces of labels. And tonight the label on my hand lotion was in ribbons. Murder!!!

I don't know why Shirley asked you that. I've strictly forbid her to even touch your letters and I didn't put her up to it but I would like to know.

That pin up picture was all right but I'd like to see one that was better.

What is depressing you, honey? The same thing that's depressing me? I think my morale is drooping just a little. I need you to send it back to the top again.

If you're president, darling I won't write "My Day", I'll write "My night". I'll bet it would be a lot more interesting than Eleanor's column.

I'm still sleepy, darling, so I'm going to stop. Goodnight, sweetheart. I love you.

All My Love and Kisses
Gin

Xxx

January 30, 1945

Did you hear Bing and Frankie sing together. It wasn't bad.

Darling,

Guess what I just did? At last I wrote to Delores. It's about time. I wouldn't blame her if she'd never answer it.

I had so many things to tell you last night but I was sleepy and didn't have any more paper. Now I can't think of even one thing. Speaking of being sleepy, I still am. I had to take care of Mark this morning and as usual he had to sit up. I think I'll have to invent something to hold him up so I can sleep. I'm so glad you're going to walk the floor with ours.

I'll bet Evelyn or Darlene or someone wants me to go someplace tonight. My hair needs putting up, my nails are semi-polished and I don't have anything to wear. I'm going to have to fit my blouse one of these days. It's too big and has to be taken up all over.

I'm glad you like me the way I am but I'd be very happy if I could lose five pounds ~ in the right places and don't ask me where that is.

Nadine is fixing the sand table. I gave them each a month. It saves me lots of work and time.

I heard the cutest joke yesterday about the way the Russians were advancing. A teacher told her class the Russian Army was only ninety miles from Berlin. One little boy said "But, teacher that was an hour ago." Do you know what Patton's new slogan is? Take a good look before you fire. It might be the Russians.

Here I am again, darling. I'll bet you didn't know I was gone either.

I'm so happy about your getting a furlow. You must have sneezed when you asked the doctor, did you? I hope nothing comes up to stop it either. When will you come -- what day I mean?

We're listening to the president's birthday party. I'm going to listen until Jack Benny and Bing Crosby comes on and then go to bed. I didn't have to wait very long. Here's Jack Benny.

I have a tummy ache. I must have eaten too much. Maybe I'll know better next time.

I probably won't be very sleepy when you first get here but oh brother~when you leave. You're going to have to do a better job of keeping me awake this time. You can help teach if you want to. What would you prefer ~ arithmetic, reading, English, health, history, geography, citizenship, spelling, writing, or Kansas history? I imagine you'd know more about the last.

If you had as much to do as your mother it would probably take more than two letters to get one. Someday you'll know just how it is.

I enjoy the cartoons, darling. I could spend hours looking at cartoons. I used to in high school during my library hour but I don't have time anymore.

Mrs. Roosevelt is speaking now ~ Oh corn~~~~

We haven't been listening to the Hit Parade lately either. Dad prefers the National Barndance.

What do you think Gravel Gertie is going to do? Sometimes I think that's what I should do ~ be like Gravel Gertie, I mean. On second thought I don't think I'd care for it.

You know sometimes I wonder how we think of enough to write every day. When I wrote twice a week, it seemed like it was much harder than it is now and I usually didn't write as much either.

Oh! Bing Crosby, now I can go to bed. Bye, darling. I love you.

Always Love + Kisses,
Gin

X X X

P.S. I guess now we can change our theme song to "I'll Be Seeing You" Again.

January 31, 1945

Darling,

I have about five minutes to write before dinner. I thought maybe I should get a head start because I have to sweep this noon. That takes from twenty to thirty minutes so I don't have much time left to write.

I think the folks are going to town this afternoon. I had about a dozen things for Mom to get and then I forgot a mess of stuff. I always do that.

I was going to get so much done last night and ~ well, I didn't. I put up my hair, did my fingernails and finished your letter. I think my morale would really be droopy if I didn't get a letter from you every day.

I'm back again. Sweeping took a little longer than I expected. I still have about ten minutes to write before Nadine's English.

Guess what I started to read yesterday ~ for the third time ~ Tales from Shakespeare. It was the first book I picked up so ~ I'm reading it again. I think MacBeth is best or Comedy of Errors. Which do you like?

Alvin, how could you be so mean? I was never so disgusted. Wouldn't you be surprized / How do you like that? Surprise spelled with a z, if I did send you some of that stuff? Come to think of it, that wouldn't be a good idea. Oh! What's gonna happen to you.

I don't think we'd better do any washing while you're here. Those pictures give you too many ideas.

I think I have a rival. Nadine kissed me today and said it was for you. You certainly get around, darling.

I'm going to stop now, honey. I'll try to write more tomorrow. Bye, darling. I love you.

All My Love & Kisses,
Gin

XXX

May 1, 1945

Darling,

Wasn't it a ducky day? And I do mean ducky! I didn't go to school. I couldn't get there. The mailman got stuck and Dad had to pull him out with the team so I know I couldn't have got there. I'll have to go down as soon as it gets dry and get the rest of my stuff. There isn't much. I brought most of it home yesterday.

I'll be back in a minute. I have to get Mark. He just woke up.

I'm here again, darling. Did you miss me very much? I'm awfully lonesome. I hope you get to come tomorrow. If you don't I'm going to town and drown my sorrow by getting a dress—if I can find one and I probably can't so I'll just have to keep my sorrow.

I guess I'll do my fingernails tonight so that if you come I won't have to bother with them tomorrow. Did you see my new nail polish? I don't like it very well.

I spent all day pressing, sewing on buttons and etc. What a job. I didn't know I had so many clothes with missing buttons. I still have a few more. I'm going to have to wash some anklets and shoe strings tomorrow morning. I wish I knew when you were coming so I could meet you at the highway. Its awfully muddy.

I can't think of anything else, honey. I had so much to tell you. I love you, darling.

All My Love and Kisses

Xxx

Gin

(Alvin and Virginia were married May 5, 1945)

June 12, 1945

For my favorite husband –

Darling,

Gosh, honey. I'm lonesome already and its going to be worse tonight. I wish when I woke up in the morning you'd be there. Did you notice ~ I didn't cry. I'll admit I felt like it. I still do.

I hope you get back in time, darling. I'd never forgive myself if you didn't. I was almost sure I'd have a flat going home but I didn't. I got home about ten after four.

I'm going to Hanover in the morning and I have to take Mom to Washington in the afternoon so I won't get any laundry done before Thursday. Why don't you bring those stripes and patch and etc. with you instead of sending them?

The folks are planning on going fishing Sunday down at Uncle Art's. We're going to have chicken for dinner and maybe angel food cake.

Darling, how many pictures did you say we had taken. I thought you said twenty but its thirty. Maybe something happened to it.

I fixed that package for Vern¹⁸⁶ tonight. I sent him five of those steel leaders¹⁸⁷ that leaves you about seventeen. Is that all right?

You forgot to give me those addresses. It won't help to send them unless you remember it before you get this. I'll wrap them and we can address them when you come home.

Oh, darling, you can't imagine how much I miss you and love you. Or maybe you can because I know you're feeling the same way.

I think I'll stop and go to bed. I'll try to write a longer letter tomorrow. I love you so very, very much.

All My Love & Kisses,

Your loving wife,

Gin

XXX

¹⁸⁶ Alvin's Maternal Uncle Vern from North Platt Nebraska. Alvin and Virginia spent part of their honey moon at there farm.

¹⁸⁷ Fishing gear

P.S. Don't forget to send what I wanted – or wait until Saturday nite and give it to me without the
(can't be read as letter had been wet and the ink faded.)

June 13, 1945

Darling,

I'm in a very low frame of mind today so this won't be very long. I've been busy all day and I'm lonesome and still miss you so much. I wish there was some way I could go back with you this week-end. If I don't go to work or do something next week I'm just going to die of loneliness.

I took our stuff to Hanover this morning and I got some banana's. I'm saving them for this weekend, but they're so ripe they might not keep.

Dad's cousin died yesterday and the funeral is tomorrow but he's so busy I doubt if he'll go. He's been disking and I think he's going to start planting tomorrow.

You went back too soon, darling. Aunt Maggie was at Gran's today. Mark kissed her and I felt like kicking him.

I saw Evelyn today. She's working at Perry's¹⁸⁸ in Hanover. All the women are working and Frankie was doing the cooking.

I'm going to stop, darling. I have a terrific headache. I love you, darling. There's so much I'd like to tell you but I just can't put it in writing.

All My Love & Kisses,
Virginia

XXX

P.S. I wrote a letter to Vern's but it wasn't very long so you'd better write too. I love you so much, honey.

P.S. Do you know a boy named Berniece or something like that at the hospital. I'll tell you why when I see you. I still love you, darling.

XXX

(inside the envelope it says "I love you more than I did Yesterday")

June 14, 1945

My darling husband,

Happy Flag Day, honey. I'm still in a low frame of mind ~ what mind? so don't expect too much. I washed and did part of the ironing this afternoon. It was too cloudy all morning. And I'm all poohed out. I haven't been so tired ~ from ordinary work ~ for ages. I'd like to go to bed now. If I work like this every day I'll probably be thin again by Saturday ~ well maybe the next Saturday.

I love you, darling, and I miss you so much. I wish I could be with you or you could be with me or something. Its so darned lonesome here without you. I think I'll start wishing on Lucky Strike wrappers again.

¹⁸⁸ Perry Packing Plant in Hanover. Years later Alvin and Virginia bought the property across the street.

Was Virg surprised to see you in such good shape? I can imagine. I'll bet he was a little disappointed. Does he still think you look like you weren't satisfied?

I forgot to tell you yesterday, honey. We got another wedding present ~ from Mrs. Kern. Another water set. It has orange-yellow and white flowers.

I'm expecting a letter tomorrow. I hope I get it. Honestly, honey, I'm just going to die if I have to stay here another week with nothing to do. I love you so much, darling.

I had loads to tell you today but I guess I've forgotten most of it so I'd better stop. I hope you get here tomorrow but I'm really not planning on it because I don't think you'll come until Saturday. I love you, darling and I miss you all the time.

All My Love & Kisses & _ _ _ ,

XXX

P.S. I love you.

Virginia

June 17, 1945

Darling,

So far I've found two things you forgot. The camera and those letters. I'll send the letters if I remember it before I seal the envelope.

I'm sure glad you got that ride, darling. I don't feel so worried now. I'm still worried about your pass. I hope you come out all right. Honestly, honey, I think I just live for week-ends. Aren't they wonderful?

I hope I can get most of my sewing done this week ~ just in case I do get to go back with you next week-end. I'm not planning on it too much but I'm hoping.

Did you say you were going to call Toonerville? You'd better because Bill's road is so bad and anyway someone is always there. After I got home I couldn't remember where you said you would call.

I'm going to Hanover Tuesday and I'll send those sacks to your mother then. I may not be able to get your shoes then. He didn't know when he'd get them finished.

I had something else to tell you or ask you or something but I can't remember it now.

I'd better close, darling. I want to clean my rings while I can still see them ~ I mean while the sun is still shining. I love you honey and I miss you already.

All My Love & Kisses,

Your ever loving wife,

Virginia

P.S. I love you even if you didn't tell me what you paid for my rings.

P.S.S. I like it better when you bring it minus the "container".

June 19, 1945

My darling husband,

I just reread your letter and I discovered I missed part of it. After you told me to go to Bill's I guess I was in a hurry or something. And after all if your husband was coming home and you hadn't seen him for two whole days, you'd be in a hurry, too.

I'm going to have a surprise for you when you come home this week-end. You'll never guess what it is and I'm not going to tell you. You'll have to wait and see.

I've been trying to save the beer until next week-end but I don't know how long I can do it. Dad almost opened it this afternoon.

I was sort of surprised at the mailman this morning ~ he came. Maybe Joe Benda should have told him off before. You'd never guess now that it was raining this morning.

I'll forgive you for making me wait. I didn't mind, darling. And besides there were lots of times when you had to wait on me. What are the little-things you should have done and didn't? I can't think of any little ones. Of course there were a couple of big ones but they were your fault we both worked hard enough. In fact we spent almost a whole day once ~ remember?

I have a terrible cold. I don't know where I got it. My chest feels horrible and you should hear me cough. I sound like a coon hound.

So far I've made quite a lot of progress with my sewing. I made an apron and a dress – all but the hem. I made these sacks with the roses in them. I'm going to try to find a pattern in Hanover for those other sacks I was going make like that one I made today because I don't want two dresses alike.

Aunt Susie got some white sharkskin from sears¹⁸⁹. I'd like to have some but I don't think we can afford it and besides I have enough dresses ~ almost and besides I probably wouldn't have time to make it.

I wrote Herb's address on his letter as you probably noticed. I thought you might not have it or know it.

I was going to start reducing tonight but since we're having such a good supper, I'm going to wait until tomorrow night. Our menu is the same as last Friday night so we'll be starting a new strawberry bed.

Gosh, I miss you, honey. I think I miss you and love you more every day. I know I love you more. I hope you can come home on Friday again this week. There's so much I'll like to tell you about how I feel darling, but I can't put it into words.

I'd better stop, honey. I love all these pictures and sacks to wrap yet tonight. I love you so much, darling.

Your loving wife,
Virginia

P.S. XXX *(there is a red lipstick kiss and after it she wrote)* ditto – ditto – ditto – ditto – ditto

June 20, 1945

My darling husband,

I'm awfully tired, honey, so this probably won't be very long. I've been working on your surprised all afternoon. I hope you like it. I didn't even get the hem put in my dress.

We're going to Washington tomorrow. I didn't go to Hanover today because Dad wanted to go after the ice box and he couldn't get it in his car. I had Mom mail your letter, your Mothers sacks, and the pictures in Barnes.

I didn't do something you told me to. I completely forgot until this morning. Dad thinks they'll live. I couldn't find a bigger can so I left them in the can they were in.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁹ Sears and Robucks was a mail order catalog business.

I was awfully disappointed this morning. I was expecting a letter this morning. You must have got there too late or been too tired.

The folks just got home. Aunt Susie said one of their neighbors went fishing in Coon Creek Sunday and caught all kinds of catfish. Too bad we haven't had time.

I'm going to stop, darling. I want to wash my hair yet tonight. I love you so much darling. I miss you terribly.

XXXXXXXXX
Your loving wife,
Virginia

June 20, 1945

My darling husband,

I just got home from Washington. Dad went in to see how the pigs were selling. Oh yes, the calves have recovered.

I got your letter this morning but he only came to the corner so I had to take it to town this afternoon. You might not get it until Friday if you're there which I hope you're not.

I've been doing quite a bit of strawberry planting myself recently. We haven't had any strawberries since Monday.

I was relieved to find you didn't have any about that pass. I'm always worried until I hear from you.

I didn't jump up and down when I read about your getting a discharge—maybe—but I felt like it. I'll love as a civilian too, darling, even more than I do now. You couldn't be a better husband, darling. No one could be better. It will eliminate the problem of finding a place for us to stay for two weeks at least. It would cost, too much to go down for just two weeks. I'd still like to though. I hate to waste those two weeks.

I'd better stop, darling. I have some more work to do on your surprise. I love you, sweetheart.

Your Loving Wife,
Virginia

xxx

Other letters included with Alvin and Virginia's letters.

(This is a loose page of a letter that was written by Alvin. It has the U.S. Army seal at the top. It may go with some of his early letters, but I am uncertain where. Virginia said she knows some of the letters were lost or ruined with the fire. This could perhaps be a part of one of those. It starts out on the top of the page)

on Sat. morning. I've only read two (Sunday) papers in three weeks.

Yesterday I went to town for two hours just to shop. As for Christmas shopping I have given it up, that is except for a few things. Tell me what do you want from me. Last year you caused me weeks of worry so this year I'm taking the easy way out and asking you. You name it. As for me I'm restricted because I can use very few things and those I have. I received a letter from Mildred and she broke the old news to me about it. Anyway her letter was sure happy.

As for the weather it rained three night last week, but to-day was a beautiful day. It will be a full moon this week so that means cold weather. We are getting use to it so maybe when we are here a couple months we won't mind it. "I hope!"

Both bro & Uncle George wrote me but news was scarce. I understand Geo. is in it again. At least he gets the real thing.

It is daylight for a change. All my other letters I wrote at night.

(Postmark on letter, Oct. 25, 1944)

From: Mrs. M. Lampe

462 N. LaSalle

Beatrice Neb

Dear son,

Alvin I have an idea you think I am awful but I do think of you so much & I do hope your doing O.K.

Yes I had to laugh when I got Virginia's letter she said her mother said it must of been sugar bowl business again. I think she may be all right. George says she was cute. She can write a nice letter tell her to come and see me sometime.

I've been cleaning house I guess I am getting old sure gets me panting. I've had rhumatisum in my feet & hands it was so damp for a wk the kids are all well

Say Virg is in Carolina & so is Dean maybe your surprise will be that, Virg is in cast from arm pits to knees Childric is in town so far no more known then that.

I sure think of those poor kids out there in France & every where & I am just afraid it will last all winter. Did I tell you Loyld Hubbard is missing since sept. 17 sure a lot of our boys gone some of there wives are sure taking it hard. Deans wife is expecting another baby

Well be good will try write a few lines again soon

Love Mom

(In this letter from Alvin's Mother are newspaper clippings from the Beatrice Newspaper. One Head line reads:)

Americans enter St. Lo; Beatrice's Own Company C at Grips With Nazis:

Boatman says Germans fight to last minute. Chalk up mile gain despite mortar and Artillery Barrage.

A major portion of Beatrice's own Company C, national guard, have gone into their first combat action in the bitter fighting at St. Lo, in France, dispatches from Europe revealed yesterday.

The company is a part of an infantry division. A battalion attached to this division is commanded by Lt. Col. Alfred "Jim" Boatman of this city.

(Another reads:)

Ferocity of St. Lo Fighting Equals Bloodiest D-Day Landing

By James C. McGlincy:

Outside Saint Lo, July 15 – "Advanced three hedgerows." That's the way the message read which reached this command post this afternoon. It summed up the whole bloody battle for Saint Lo.

In the attack on Saint Lo, which began last Monday, a gain of three hedgerows represents a sizable advance.

This isn't a spectacular battle. There are no break-throughs, no end runs, no big bag of prisoners—Just a steady fight day after day that is whittling down both sides.

The Germans are being beaten here. There's no doubt of that, but it's no garden party. It's a rough show, probably as rough in its way as the initial landing on the toughest beaches on D-day.

The outfit attacking Saint Lo has fought ceaselessly all week. Almost every day this week I've been on this front. Almost every day it has been the same story—our boys have jumped off in the morning.

They've found energy when they thought there was none left. Maybe they've had one or two hours sleep. Maybe none at all. Maybe they've been shelled all night. But in the dawn they've gotten up and started forward again.

But they aren't kidding themselves. They have been having a tough time and they will be mightily grateful when they can have an end to it. One of those kids came to Maj. Paul W. Krznarich, Mesa, Ariz. To report this evening. He was Henry H. Noonan, Santa Ana, Cal. He was just a private but he knew his fighting, this thin kid with the serious eyes and four days growth of whiskers.

He squatted on his heels and told what he'd seen. The Germans had one field covered by a machine gun set with its muzzle dead level with the ground so that you didn't have a chance even lying down.

Beatrice Company Wins Praise for Normandy Fighting

Activity of Beatrice men in the 134th infantry's assignment to the fierce fighting in the St. Lo sector of Normandy, revealed by The Times 10 days ago, was amplified yesterday with more news from old company C member—inevitable word that at least six casualties had occurred in the Beatrice Unit.

Highly Trained

Commanding office of the infantry battalion is Lt. Col Alfred C. "Jim" Boatsman of Beatrice. Among his company commanders are Captains Fransis Mason and Lorin "Lou" McCown, both of this city. Mason and McCown were mentioned in a special dispatch from Normandy to the Omaha World-Herald by a staff correspondent. Mason was a mail-carrier and McCown a stereotyper before mobilizing with old company C. in December, 1940. Both left with company C as non-commissioned officers, raising to the commissioned corps and winning advancement through three years intensive training from California to Alabama.

The dispatch cited the 134th for "signal honors" and said it is recognized as "clearly the class of infantry units in its division" The 134th flag bears the official state seal and the motto: "There Is No Place Like Nebraska."

The U.S. Army's official statement relative to the 134th as released by army press offices, follows:

"The fall of St. Lo and the action around this German stronghold are only two high-lights in the brilliant record created by the United States 134th Infantry Regiment in the Normandy campaign. At 0515, July 15, 1944

, the regiment attached and took high ground north of St. Lo. And the north bank of the Vire river. By 1400 hours (2 p.m.) the same day they captured the town of Emelie, approximately two kilometers north of St. Lo, the offensive being spearheaded by infantry companies commanded by Capt. John E. Davis, a North Dakotan, and Capts. Lorin S. McCown and Francis G. Mason, both of Beatrice, Neb.

"Fire power, grenades and bayonets featured the successful routing of the enemy from well prepared emplacements and foxholes. By 2230 hours (10:30 p.m.) the same day elements of the 1st. Battalion were on the northeast slope of Hill 122, North of St. Lo. At 1430 hours (4:30 a.m.) the next morning the offensive was resumed and by 1900 hours (7p.m.) the next day these elements of the 1st.Battalion had advanced to the village of Boiseaudre"

At the outset the 134th's normal Nebraska membership was augmented by Nebraska selectees. Most of the noncommissioned officers have been chosen from among those early members. The commanding officer was waged a constant fight to hold the veteran Nebraska members in the interest of esprit. The regiment was in Minnesota Maneuvers in 1940, Louisiana in 1941, moved to the west coast for coastal defense right after Pearl Harbor. From Camp Rucker, Ala, in April, 1943, it went to Tennessee maneuvers in 1943-44. West Virginia mountain maneuvers in February and March, 1944, and arrived in England in May.

(More loose newspaper clippings:)

Sgt.Lt. McGirr Killed in France

Albert Conley receives the Bronze Star

Picture: Friends meet in Hospital... Alvin Lampe, Herbert Schidler, Virgil West, John Liedtke, Thomas Gerdes, Ray Glasgow. All in Winter General at Topeka, Kansas.

Pvt. Robert Knowles returned to Ft. Ord, Cal.

Marcella Traubel joins WACS

Sergeant C.E. McCall in a V-mail to his wife, he is back in England after 2 operations, and is getting along well.

T-Sgt. Richard T. Shores 15th. B-24 group was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for a bombing mission over oil refineries at Vienna, Austria last June.

S-Sgt. Frederick Moehl Killed Dec. 13th. Beatrice Graduate 1940.

Pfc. LeRoy A. Boettcher of Wymore was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation. First Marine Div.

L. A. Boettcher received a medical discharge.

*Sgt. Glen J. Barber wounded in action.
George Fulton's son Robert Killed in French fighting.
Pfc. Carl Kitsmiller drown while on patrol duty on Bougainville island.*

*(Several clipping list Beatrice area boys wounded in France:)
Sgt. Fred H. George, Sgt. Glen Barber, Staff Sgt. William Nydegger, Sgt. Raymond Rehm
Sgt. Alvin Lampe, Dean Lietdke, Cpl. Freddie George, Virgil West,
Killed in Action: First Lt. Fred McGirr, Sgt. Eugene McCall*

(This is a letter from Herb Bixby, a friend from Company C.)

Southern France

March 27-45

Dear Toad,

How's the boy, getting better by now I hope. I just come from a show with "Pollock" Sadowski and B. Frost (2nd Bat.) Remember Sadowski; used to be in the first Plat. Then went to 320th at Rucker. He was home on furlough when I was. We are still on our way back. We are at a rep. Center now. Polak has been wounded three times, Frost twice and me twice. That's the reason we got furloughs, I guess. I suppose you know where the Div. Is at now. don't you? I'm not sure but I believe it's in the seventh army. They been doing lots of moving around lately. Been in just about all the armies now I guess.

Two of us from "C" Co went home. Barney from the mortar Sec. was the other. Sure was swell to be home again. Plenty hard to come back too. While I was sitting in the show I was reading yours and Herbs letters I had in my pocket. I brought them along so I would remember your address and also remember to write to you guys. I think tho, you both owe me a letter.

I remember when we got in the same ambulance. I didn't think you were hurt bad but you're in the states so I guess it's bad enough. How's it doing anyhow? Also how's Herbs hand coming along? Tell him I'll write him a letter a little later on.

So you're on the verge of ruin, by getting married. I never thought I'd see the day. I guess I never will either, but good luck anyhow and give your future wife my regards.

I hope I get to see you and her sometime. By the way I nearly come to Kansas or Neb. on my furlough. I couldn't see wasting time riding trains tho, besides I had June to take care of. I would sure have liked to see you and Herb tho.

Before I forget it, tell Herb I met a guy today that went with Len when they left our Co. in Obispo. He used to be in G. Co. I guess. I didn't find out any more that that.

Sure would be good to have our old Co. together again, wouldn't it? Didn't know how well off we were, did we, always bitching. Boy, my bitching days are over. I thank God I got through St. Lo and as far as I am. I think I'm the most religious guy there is. I certainly believe in God and prayers now. I prayed many a time and I must have been answered. I'll tell you some stories some time. I haven't seen as much as some guys, but I've seen enough to suit me. All I want out of the army now is me. That'll be a happy day.

Pollock Sadowski says hello, he's a dead weight M.P. now back in Reg't. He says he'll look you up when he comes home from the S.W.

Don't listen to this bullshit (censored) artist, he knows as well as I do that I'll write to him from home when he's out there. The damned (censored) fool is jig crazy anyhow. Pollock Sadowski

This crazy (censored) is bucking for a discharge, on his eyes. He claims he sees spots and if that don't work he says his ears or something else is wrong. I had to laugh when we was at P.O.E. on our way back, he saw about 15 different doc's and told them each a different story. He claims he's got more in mind too. I think he needs a sec. 8.

Say Toad tell Herb to write me all about our old girl friends in Calif. He must correspond with them, he always was good at writing letters. I kind of lost track with everybody I ever knew.

Oh yes I got to tell you how I was a hero to our home town people. I think I could have run for mayor and made it. I talked on the stage at the main theater back home. I was invited out to lots of places (never went) and had lots of drinks set up just because I had a purple heart and a couple campaign stars. It was a lot of fun tho, I wonder if people believed some of the stuff I told them. I told June the most stuff, even had her in tears a few times. I think she loves me but I'm bad at thinking right. It's a screwed up affair between us any how. I think I'll be a hermit or a bum after the war. I have learned plenty of help with that life, since I been in the army. I still can't start a fire with two dry sticks tho, I guess after I learn that I'll be ready for the outdoor life of a tramp. What else can you learn in the Inf? I guess I could pass as a bank robber too, I've learned plenty along that line, in some of these towns over here.

I can't tell you much about the Co. because I've been gone a long time. There wasn't much any more to tell when I was there last. There's less now I guess. I'll have to hold up the reputation of C. Co. myself I guess. I hope Hermy and Stome and Tee Hee and some of the others are there yet. I'll tell you more when I catch up with them. That's all for now. Write back. As ever Bix

(Don't know who this letter was from. May be from Virgil West and Mable.)

Still Winter Gen. Hosp.
6 May 1945

Dear Toad and Wife:

Its sure lonesome around this place since you have been gone. When you coming back or I should say when are you going to bring the remains back. I have been looking for your ghost to come waling in most anytime the last few days. Mab and me are beginning to worry about you for fear you mite have over did yourself. I know its easy to do. I can't wait to see the wife. I seen your (this is all there is of this letter.)

(From Alvin's brother George Lampe.)

May 23
U.S.S. Hopkins

Dear Virginia and Alvin

I was realy glad to hear from you two. I have been wondering wather you were married as yet, say what do you think I should get married that would be a laugh in the first place I have never found anyone who would have me and further more I could make a pretty bad sorta of a husband Im never home over twenty or thirty days a year, now wouldn't that make married life nice for some gal and even for myself I would only see my pocket book go down and never now

what become of one red cent Of course if I had a wife like Virginia it would be different. You can only find one in a million like her.

And I don't have much time for hunting when I hit the states. Say Alvin can your wife cook if so I bet she sure catches heck when it comes to chickens. I can see you now eating like you never eat before.

I only hope you get out of the army soon I have never envyed anyone who gets out of the service that has gotten a discharge. And I now you deserve one more than many who have already gotten one.

Yes I wish I were there with you Im sure that would call for a celebration for you and also for Germany surrender maybe some people would not celebrate it but I sure would. Say was reading this little fraze under your letter put there by the Hotel you were staying it says "two good hotels Under Walsh direction" That must be Ester Walsh old man If I would have know he was a big shot I would have made love to her and maybe got up in the chipps. Well that about all I can thank of now so will close Please write soon.

As Ever
George

G. A. Lampe Gm 1/c

*(From Bernie Nies
Deshom General Hospital
Butler, Pennsylvania)*

11-17-44

Hi Al:

Received your letter and sure was glad to hear from you. While I am near home and in a beautiful hospital but the same old story, how are you and that's the way it goes. Boy you should have seen my legs and ankles after I got here from (can't read), that is what keeping me from going home. I am going to try and make it Thanksgiving. That is about all we do here, eat and sleep. Hey do you have my fountain pen? You thief. I been having x rays taken and dental work done. I hope you have a good time on furlough and were done for now. Tell Herb I said hello. Best of luck and good health.

Pal
Bernie

(This letter is from Alvin's Grandmother. When Alvin was a younger and still living at home in Beatrice Nebraska, his grandparents, Henry and Julie "Ruby" Brouillette and her father Napoleon Marceau moved to California. They came through Beatrice to visit on their way. Alvin has fond memories of his great grandfather, Napoleon spending the night in Alvin's bed and they were up all night talking. The Skeet she refers to in her letter is her son Leon Brouillette and wife, Edith. Jerry, another son also lived in California. Betty is a granddaughter, Vivian's child. Her son Vern and wife Mil live at Farnam Nebraska. Their boys name was Doug.)

Mrs. H. P. Brouillette
4826 Lakewood Blvd.
Long Beach, Calif.

10-18-44

Dear Grandson,

Received your letter last week. I am always so glad to hear from you. I think of you often and wonder how you are and wish you could be home for Christmas but if you can get well soon we have to be satisfied to see you later. I am anxious to know what that surprise is you have for me. Maybe I can guess. I hope I am right. Well Alvin your mom sent me my letter you wrote and I am sending them both back to you and there is nothing in either one to be embarrassed about. They are both nice letters and I hope I can meet Virginia some day then I will tell you if she is alright- ha, ha. You ask if we are living near the boys. Well it isn't so far but to far to walk over. Skeet lives at Bellflower Calif. Its three miles from here and Jerry's apartment is about a mile and a half. So you see Grandma can't walk it but they come often and when they go anywhere they always take us along. So we have really enjoyed it and seen so many places and hope we can stay here but we can tell better next spring. Received a letter from Betty this week. Some kid isn't she. I haven't heard from Mil and Vern this week. I was slow in answering their letter so they might do the same. They sure have a cute boy and how I miss him. I kept him a lot when they went places. Your great Grandpa is feeling fine and likes Calif. He said to tell you he's waiting for you to go fishing with him. Alvin I am not sending any Christmas presents over seas this year but my gift to you boys this year will be masses and prayer's said for your safe return home. May God protect you. Will close with love from us all.

Your Grandparents

We haven't seen George yet. I bet he's gone again.



Virginia's High School Picture



Alvin during High School



Virginia, Joyce & Shirley



Virginia & Mark



Virginia on running board of "Daphne"



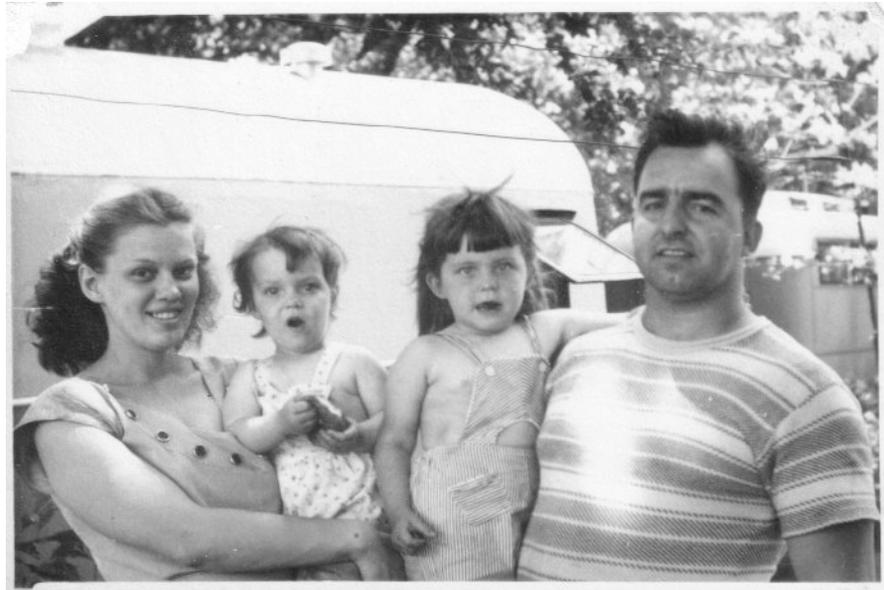
Carl, Alvin and George



Carl, Ruby, Millie and Alvin in Beatrice, Nebraska. Carl and Alvin were home on leave. The girls worked at Store Kraft Manufacturing.



Alvin and Virginia Lampe on their wedding day.
May 5, 1945



Virginia, Lynn, Patti and Alvin at Longs Park in Manhattan, Kansas.





Virginia made each of “the girls” in the family matching Easter outfits.



Patti, Cindy, Nancy, Lynn, Warren, Chris
Virginia and Alvin, 1969





Virginia, Joyce, Shirley
Albert & Alice



Virginia, Alice, Albert, Mark & Joyce Wilkinson



Carl, Dick, Alvin, Gerald
Don, George, Ruby, Arnold, Margarette, Janice, Shirley, Jimmy

FRIENDS MEET IN HOSPITAL . . .



Hospitalization at Winter General has meant the reunion of six Beatrice boys who served together in the same infantry company for over three and a half years before injuries received at St. Lo, France, caused them to be separated temporarily.

Arriving at Winter General on different dates, ranging from the middle of October to the middle of December, each man accidentally learned of the other's presence here, until all six of them were together again to compare notes on what happened to each during the short separation.

On Dec. 23, 1940, S/Sgt Alvin L. Lampe, Pfc. Herbert D. Schidler, S/Sgt. Virgil O. West, S/Sgt. John D. Liedtke, Pvt. Thomas D. Gerdes, and Pfc. Raymond Glasgow left Beatrice with the National Guard and were all assigned to the same company of an infantry regiment. For the next three years they trained in practically every part of the United States, going on maneuvers on both the east and west coast. In May of this year their infantry division departed for overseas; and after five more weeks of training in England, they landed in France

on July 5th, a month after D-Day.

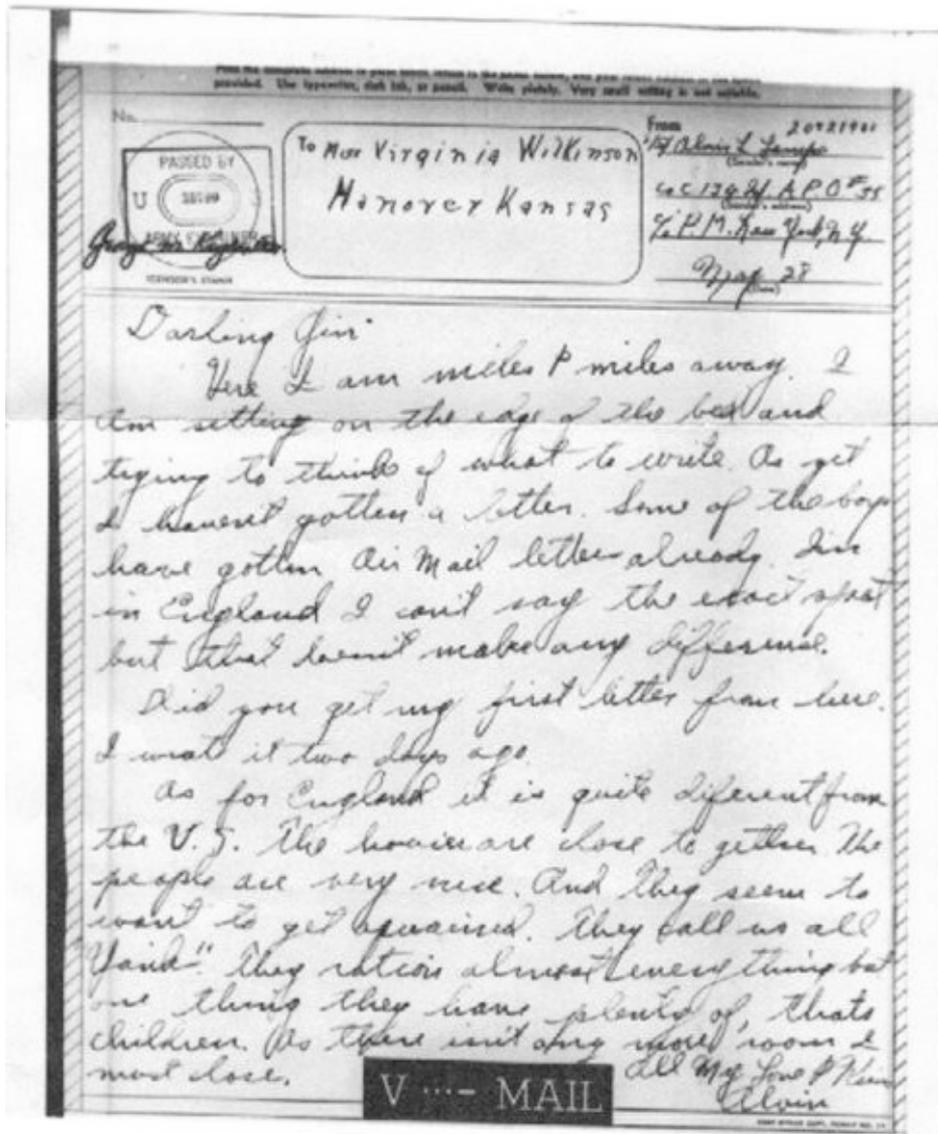
The company to which these men were assigned was the spearhead of the assault on St. Lo; and on the morning of July 15th five of them were wounded by shrapnel fire. The 6th man, Pvt. Gerdes, who had been transferred to the medical department, was hit on the first of August by a German sniper. All six of the men were taken back to England for treatment but were evacuated at different times, by different means of transportation; and, upon arriving in England, were placed in different hospitals.

Four Are Old Pals

The three sergeants and Pfc. Schidler, who grew up together on the "west side of town," have been buddies since pre-school days. Pvt. Gerdes and Pfc. Glasgow live on farms a short distance outside of Beatrice. Three of the men, Pfc. Schidler, S/Sgt. West and S/Sgt. Liedtke, are married. Mrs. Schidler and Mrs. Liedtke reside in Beatrice, and Mrs. West lives at Blue Springs, Neb.

Sgt. West and Pvt. Gerdes are bed patients but the other four spent Christmas at home in Beatrice this year.

A clipping sent to Alvin from his Mother; taken from the Beatrice, Nebraska newspaper. Raymond Glasgow, John (Dean) Liedtke, Virgil West, Thomas Gerdes, Alvin, Herb Schidler.



V-mail letter (See May 28, 1944)



Invasion
Day.

Darling Girl.

I have just a few
minutes to write before
lights go out. It sure
seems funny - lights out,
and outside it is still
day light.

I will always remember
this day. Although it is
not much different from
any other. They sure pulled
a good one on the false
report. I have been wonder-
ing if you have gotten

This letter was written on D-Day. Note that Alvin wrote, "Invasion Day."
(See June 6, 1944)

Jan. 13, 1945

Darling,

Love you

Had a very nice day &
 spent a good part of
 the afternoon with me &
 will still find &
 very much to do
 when we get home
 as far as the
 work is concerned
 I think you will
 find it very
 interesting.

Alvin wrote the first part of this letter looking in the Mirror.
 (See June 17, 1945)



Virginia, Alvin and Fuji



Carl Schidler, Herman Genrich, Alvin Lampe, Ray Rehm

My Father's Generation

My father grew up during the depression. This was a time in society, when the whole family had to pull together to make it. He grew up learning good work ethics among other values. This he passed on to his children. I remember him saying "A job worth doing is worth doing well." During high school he joined the National Guard. It was activated in 1940 for what they thought would be only a year. Pearl Harbor changed that.

July 1944 he was wounded in France at the Battle of St. Lo. Upon returning from England he was at Winter General Hospital in Topeka KS. In time he married, attended college and raised a family.

I was proud of my Dad and his service for his country. I remember my siblings and I would show our friends the place on his leg where you could still feel a piece of shrapnel. We picked up sayings from him. For instance, when we were weeding the garden we would say, "ours is not to wonder why, ours is but to do or die" When we were older he told us of stories of the war and his life in the army.

Years passed and time moved on. Sometime, when I wasn't looking, my Dad grew old.

In October of 2001 due to complications with illness we lost him. Before he took ill, he had registered to attend a program in April of 2002 at the Truman Center in Kansas City, MO. The French government, through the consulate in Chicago, was conducting ceremonies through out the country to honor those who had liberated France so many years before.

Several of my family attended that day in honor of my father. One of the speakers had been a child living in France at the time of liberation. He reminisced of that time and what the changes brought for his future. He told of the gratitude of the people for the freedom those soldiers brought.

There was seating in the front for those veterans who were able to attend. I looked across the crowd. They were wrinkled, gray headed, stooped, some with thick glasses, hearing aids, some with canes, or in wheel chairs. They gave for their country in their youth, but the ravages of time had caught up with them.

As the American Flag was carried in, all who were able stood. Many placed their hand over their heart and others came to attention and saluted. Over the speakers came the instrumental music of The Star Spangled Banner. Softly behind me I heard a woman's voice quietly singing the words to the song. One by one, others in the crowd joined in until the whole room sounded with voices singing our National Anthem. I tried to sing, but my voice trembled as my heart swelled and tears came to my eyes. I thought of the sacrifices and lives this generation gave in order to let freedom ring, not only in these United States, but in other countries that had been held in bondage by tyranny.

I couldn't sing the words at that moment, but I swelled in pride to be an American in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

-Lynn Lavon Salsbury
Daughter of Alvin LeRoy Lampe and
Virginia Mary Lampe



Alvin Lampe