

Korean Peninsula



94-680586



The letters contained within this collection offer a personal and poignant glimpse into the life of Cpl. Richard Rosa during his time stationed in Korea from July 1954 to April 1955. A member of the 57th Field Artillery Battalion, part of the esteemed 7th Infantry Division, Cpl. Rosa's correspondence to his family in Schenectady, New York, reveals both the daily realities of military life and the enduring connection to loved ones across the globe.

The 7th Infantry Division, known for its distinguished service during World War II, was an integral part of the U.S. military presence in Korea following the end of the Korean War in 1953. During this period, the division was stationed primarily along the heavily fortified demilitarized zone (DMZ), which separated North and South Korea. The 57th Field Artillery Battalion, equipped with heavy artillery, played a key role in the division's operations, providing critical support to infantry units and ensuring the security of the area.

Through these letters, we gain insight into the life of a young soldier in a foreign land, navigating the challenges of military duty, the uncertainty of the post-war Korean peninsula, and the emotional toll of separation from family. Rosa's words capture not only the routine of military life but also the longing for home, the camaraderie between soldiers, and the sense of duty that defined his service. These letters serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless individuals during a time of global tension and conflict, and they provide a personal account of history from the perspective of one soldier far from home.

July 22, 1954

10:30 P.M.

Dear Ma and Dad,

Well, I thought I'd drop you a few lines tonight. I've been on duty in the bunker and nothing is happening. This Bunker really leaks. Half of it is all wet. Luckily we are in a dry spot in the corner. They have the stove going and it is very comfortable in here. The lights are on also. I wouldn't mind bringing my bunk in here.

I suppose you can guess that its raining out. It is the same rain that started three days ago. It-is getting pretty muddy out. The road conditions are red; which means only necessary traffic is to travel on the roads. The little creek I told you we had in back of our tent isn't so little anymore. If it keeps raining day & night it will soon be over the bank. I don't know what we would do then.

I haven't received any of your letters in the last two days. I hope its just the mail being fouled up. I should get some tomorrow morning tho. I don't remember if I told you or not, but I got ~~any~~ another letter from Uncle Nicky with a 3¢ stamp on it. It does take a little more than a month like that.

I haven't been doing a darn thing lately. I had a full night's sleep last night. I went to bed about 8:30. I got up about 6:15, went and ate breakfast, and came on duty. I got off at 9:00. I washed, took off my boots and layed down for a while. I read a book most of the day. It's a good book but I only read it when there isn't anything else to do. The next time I go down to the battery which may be tomorrow I'm going to get a physacology book. Its spelled wrong I know. Its a USAFS course book that one of the guys has got. It's a college course also. I think I'll need that. I want to be able to take the tests and get college credit because I'm not enrolled. I might enroll and take a couple of courses. Even if I don't they are good to read through and maybe get a little something out of them.

By now I guess your vacation is all over with. Did you get all of your work done, so you could get a couple of days camping or travelling in. Let me know what you did do any way.

Hows the garden coming. I suppose everything is all up by now. We had a salade here today that made me think of it. We did tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, lettuce and cabbages. It was pretty good. Not like the tomatoes and cucumbers from the garden tho.

Well they just pulled a sneaky one. The lights went out. And you might know that the lantern hasn't got any gas in it. So I have three candles going near me. They don't give the best light tho.

The other kid has a radio that is on C.Q. tonight. They have some pretty good music on. before I came over here tonight I was listening to some good music from "The Embers" in New York.

Guess I close now. I have to call down some patrols and then get ready to go wake up the kid that comes on after me, then go to bed.

Your Son,

Dick

AFTER 5 DAYS, RETURN TO-

Pat Richard Rosa 24351246872
Hq Btry 51st Fla Bn. APO #7
Co 4th San Francisco
California



Free
Air Mail

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr Mrs Benjamin Rosa
44 Wilson Ave
Schenectady 4,
New York

Korea
10

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10:30 P.M.

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I suppose you can guess that it's raining out. It is the same rain that started three days ago. It is getting pretty muddy out. The road conditions are red, which means only necessary traffic is to travel on the roads. The little creek I

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I haven't been doing a damn thing lately. I had a full night's sleep last night. I went to bed about 8:30. I got up about 6:15, went and ate breakfast, and came on duty. I got off at 9:00. I washed, took off my boots and layed down for a while. I read a book most of the day. It's a good book, but I only read it when there isn't any thing else to do. The next time I go down to the battery which may be tomorrow.

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Well they just pulled a smoky one. The lights went out. And you might know that the lantern hasn't got any gas in it. So I have three candles going near me. They don't give the best light tho.

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The other kid has a radio that is on C.B. tonight. They have some pretty good music on. Before I came over here tonight I was listening to some good music from "The Ambassadors" in New York.

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July 23, 1954

Dear Mom and Dad,

Nothing to do so I thought I'd write again tonight. How is everything going at home. I haven't received any of your letters for some time now. I here they have grounded the mail planes in the states, so that is probably the reason.

How is the weather at home? I hope you are having nice summer weather. If you are take advantage of every minute of it. Boy the rain we are having could make anybody very discussed. I can't even remember when it started to rain steady, but it must have been over a week now. The last few days it has been pouring instead of just raining too. The creek is as I told you only about twenty feet to our rear. and it really raising and starting to come over the banks. In fact nearly all the guys are outside right now banking it up. They are filling sand bags and making a wall. If it doesn't stop tonight or tomorrow I'm afraid even that won't be any help. I hope it stops raining soon that's all. Everything is wet around here. The tent is all damp. I have a little leak right over me. If I touch it, it will leak more so I'm suffering with it for now. The roads are all muddy. Some of them are washed out. The ones going up to the OPs are so muddy trucks can't get up there to them. Oh well, it has to stop some time.

I have the grave yard shift tonight, it being from 3 to 6. I'll sleep tomorrow tho. I almost forgot I might not. We have a full field inspection to lay out tomorrow morning. That won't take very long tho. This morn. I slept all morning until 12:00/

I told you that the tent was about to fall. Well, this morning the wind was blowing pretty good, and the pole broke. We got another one from supply and fixed it. It should hold for awhile.

Well I think I get some sleep so I won't fall asleep tonight on switch. Write and let me know what is happening back home. Your darling little daughter could also write a letter once in a while.

Your Son,

Dick

Post Richard J. Rosa Y6 51246 872
Hq. Btry 57th F. A. Bn. APO
C/o PM San Francisco
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Your Son,
Dick

July 26, 1954

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well I finally got some mail today. I hit the jackpot too. I got eleven letters! I received three of yours, the ones of July 9th, 16th, and the 14th. Boy it was really good to get that mail. I'll be pretty busy answering it now. I'll have to make the time. All I feel like doing now is laying around, and listening to the radio, or sleeping. You asked if we had a radio and if there is any music on it. One of the guys in the tent does have a radio, one of those Zenith trans-oceanic ones. They are a very good radio. If I had 16 months over here I think I would invest in one. They have good music most of the time. At night especially. They have music all night long on three or four different stations. The music is either popular or jazz. Once in a while they throw in a western tune tho.

Well I'm glad we aren't the only ones having rain. Boy one of these days its going to stop. It started out to be a very nice day. The sun came out and it was hot. Right after chow this afternoon, it started to cloud up and all of a sudden it let loose. It stopped for a while, but only to start up again. Right now it isn't raining.

It was nice last night. The creek or river as it is now cleared up pretty good, and I took a shower in our little shower. I really needed one too.

It was a little cloudy after chow last night as I said, but I did manage to take some pictures. I finished the last roll and I had it sent this morning. Glad to hear you finally got those pictures I sent. I didn't take any at the train station. They were, I think, taken when we got off of the boat. When I get home I will explain them to you. I'm sure glad the ones in Pusan came out. I was afraid they wouldn't because we were bouncing in the trucks and it was cloudy. Don't worry about film, I can get all I want over here I think. They only cost \$2.75 too. You can just imagine the profit they are making on it.

Don't bother to send any games like you mentioned. If you can send a package when you get the time, you know that the food will always go. The food would be better kept if they were sealed, although you also put your cookies in too. You could also send some books along too. They get books at the P.X. but I'm in not position to get any. Maybe an Esquire, true, Argosy, ones like that.

I received letters from Aunt Flo, Aunt Mary, Mrs Eiser, Bobby. I wrote a letter to Frank and when I get these letters answered I'll write him again. I hope you had the papers sent to Hq Btry, 57th F. A. Bn. when you told them to start them. If you sent them through 7th Reg. it will take more like two months to get them. It will be good to start getting them. Glad you sent Downbeat. I'll be waiting for it.

I was very sorry to hear that Ward Arnold had passed away. It would be very nice to send a card.

I suppose by now all the house has been painted. Is the garage finished yet/ Did Dad get the overhead doors for the garage?

By the time you get this one Cindy will probably have had her pups. I hope they are nice pups. Dad had better pick the best one out for me. I suppose Pepper will be a little jealous at first.

I haven't been down to the battery in over a week. Sayfrid is still down there in survey. He will probably make Pfc this coming month. I might if they haven't forgotten about me being up here.

Its pouring out again. You can't win over here. Maybe it will stay for sure around the 15th of August. Whats the weather been like at home. I hope you are getting a few hot days.

Has Dad been fishing lately? If its been cool and raining a little he probably has.

How is Grandma Nero and Grandpa Romelli feeling.. In the letters they mentioned they weren't feeling their best.

Well, there isn't anything else I can think of now so I guess I'll just have to close for now. I'll be waiting to hear from you tomorrow morning. I'll try and write again tomorrow. That's if I get some envelopes.

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July 30, 1954

Dear Mother and Dad,

I received your letter of the 23 and it was the only one yesterday morning. I didn't get a chance to write yesterday so I thought I'd write now. Its 6:45 in the morning and I just came on duty. I ate breakfast before coming over. What di we have! Eggs of course. Last night we had a good meal we had steak. It wasn't the best, but it was steak. I want to try to get his letter mailed by eight o'clock or it won't go out until tomorrow morning.

Well how was it going back to work after those two weeks. Did you get everything done that you planned on doing? The house must look alot better now that it is painted. It sounds as tho Cindy has, or is going to have, quite a place there. Where are you going to put the coop? Way down in the back where you had pepper at one time?

The picture of guys getting drafted I looked at. I only know one fo the guys. The guys coming in now, don't know how bad it can be when they first come in. They'll be down at Dix where they can come home every weekend.

Well we have had two pretty good days so far and today looks like another. About 2:00 last night it rained tho. It got a little chilly too. How's the weather been at home. I suppose its still hot out, with no rain. It would be alright if you took some of the rain we are having over here. I suppose by now you are getting everything out of the garden. We had a salad the other day, it tasted pretty good. It had tomatoes, onion, cucumbers, and cabbage in it.

Well, tomorrow is payday. I hope they have my pay record in Div Arty so I'll get payed. If I don't somebody is going to hear about it. I haven't been down to the battery in a long time now. We are away from things, but it hasn't bothered me yet.

Well this is all I can think of now, so I'll address the envelope and bring it over to the tent and have one of the guys mail it for me. I can't leave the switch back too long. Write soon.

Your Son,

Dick

Post Richard Rosa 44 51246872
Wg Btry 57th Inf Bn APO
C/o P.M. San Francisco
California



I rec
live Mail

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr Mrs Benjamin Rosa
44 Wilson Ave
Schuectady 4
New York

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Well this is all I can think of now, so I'll address the envelope and bring it over to the tent and have one of the guys mail it for me. I can't leave the switch back too long. Write soon.

Yours Son,
Dick

July 31, 1954

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well I thought I'd write a letter as long as I haven't got anything else to write do. I'm a little mixed up with work today. I was suppose to go on from 12 noon to 3:00, but I couldn't because I had to go down to the battery to get payed. We just got back and its 4:15 so I couldn't do the 3 to 6 shift either. I'll have to go on from 6 to 9 tonight. Then again from 3AM to 6AM. I had from 12 to 3 last night and nearly fell asleep. I guess I manage tho.

I never went through so much trouble getting paid as I did today.. We were the first ones in line and the last ones to get payed. Here's what happened! I guess I told you that they try to make everybody put money into soldiers deposit. I went to get payed and he asked me how much I was going to put in, and I told him I wasn't going to put anything in. Also the other three guys told him the same. He told to go think it over for a while. So we went and sat down. That made me all the more determined that I wasn't going to put any money in. After about two & a half hours we finally got payed. I got \$127 all together. I guess that is about two months pay. With the two allotment checks it wasn't too bad. By the way I was put in for Pfc over here, but I doubt if I'll make it because I didn't put any money in that thing.

I was thinking about sending some stuff home, if I can make it down to the P.X. I was down there the other day looking around. They had those _____, jackets, fish poles, binoculars, dolls, and a lot of other stuff. A kid in our tent has a camera I might try to get, not his tho. He got it over to 107th Reg. P.X. It is a "Contessa" "Zeiss Ikon" with Tessar lens of 1:2.8, f-45mm, has a syncho compur shutter. He paid about \$90.00, that including a nice case. It has a range finder, light meter and a lot of other things. The shutter speed goes up to 1300. I suppose they all look nice but this is one of the best ones I've seen for the price. The other was a contax which cost \$187. If you have a photography book with prices see what they cost at home. Another thing. I have a pair of boots with hob nails on the soles. They are a size 11 and I was wondering if Dad wanted them. I have no idea of how much they are worth tho. They were gotten from an English soldier, I should say British. If you want them I'll send them home.

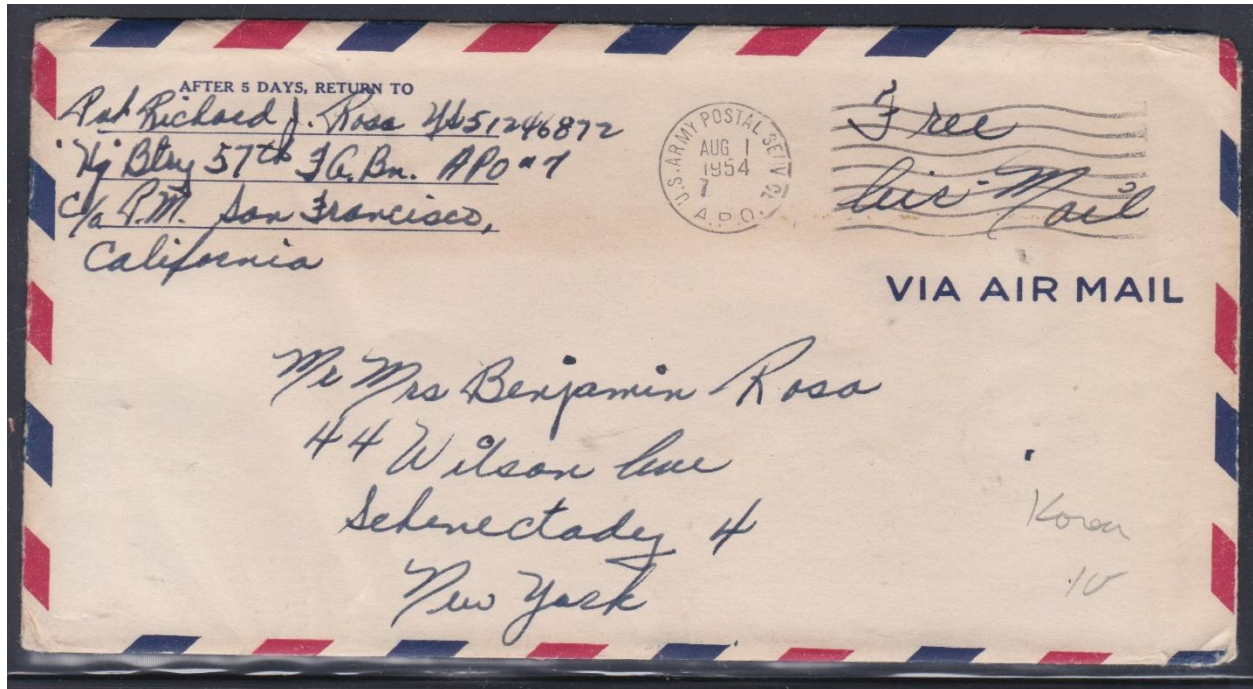
Well I got my first Works News today. It was the one of the 2nd of July. I haven't received any Stars yet. I didn't get any letters so I guess I'll be caught up on writing for a while. I hope there will be some tomorrow tho. I think I'll go down to the battery tomorrow if I get a chance. I want to get some things at the P.X. too. I'll stock up on film too. I went up to the OPs today but didn't take my camera along. I couldn't have taken any pictures because I was with the Lt. I've got some very good pictures to take tho. We went to the three OPs and 5C was the best one. You can see all over the place. What do you think of the pictures enclosed. They didn't come out too good tho. I'm going to get the negatives and have some more made. I was thinking of having them done at home and you sending them back to me. It would take a little longer but they would be much better pictures.

How is everything at home! Nothing much happening around here, as you can figure out. I was talking to Sayfrid today. He said he might go to survey school for two weeks. They have to send one man from the section, so he is the newest on so he thinks he'll be going.

I can't think of any more to write so I guess I'll have to close for tonight. This letter probably won't go out until Monday morning, so I'll try to write again tomorrow. Until then-

Your Son,

Dick



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any pictures because I was with the Lt.
Sgt. got some very good pictures to take
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can figure out. I was ~~late~~ talking to Sayfrit
today. He said he might go to survey school
for two weeks. They have to send one man from
the section, so he is the newest one there so he
thinks he'll be going.

I can't think of any more to write
so I guess I'll have to close for tonight. This
letter probably won't go out until Monday
morning, so I'll try to write again tomorrow
until then -

Your Son
Dick

Sept. 27, 1954

Dear Mother, Dad, Carol;

I haven't received any mail from you in the past four days now but I thought I'd write tonight being as I didn't write yesterday. I've got the six to ten night shifts. I've still got an hour and a half to go yet. Nothing has happened here since the last time I wrote. We don't know when we are moving back to the old area. It's sometime during the first week of October tho.

Home's the weather been at home? Boy last night was a cold one. In fact it was the coldest one we've had. It went down to 29° above. That's pretty cold for this time of year. I get off duty at two in the morning and I was shivering for ten minutes after I got into bed. We got our winter sleeping bags today, so I'll be a little warmer. I've been using two blankets at night, and have been fairly warm.. It only proves one thing and that is that winter is just around the corner. Last year they tell me it was warm enough to go swimming yet. During the day it is fairly nice out tho. Its just like November weather.

Last night you'll never guess what we had. One of the guys that is leaving pretty soon cleaned out his huge box and gave me some stuff. He gave me some pop corn and cocco, two cans each. I guess he was just too lazy to make the stuff. I went over to the mess hall and got some sugar, oleomargarine, and two cans to make it in. We made it and it turned out good. The cocco would have turned out better if we had some milk tho. I've got another can left so I think I'll make it again come night before the oleo spoils.

I have the fans wrapped and ready to send home to you. I'll try to get them out to you tomorrow morn. I still have to have the customs form signed by an officer. I hope you will like them. I think they are the kind you wanted, although they aren't too large. I've also put in a letter-opener. I'll get another one for myself when I go on R&R.

How's everything at home? I hope everyone is still in the best of health. Have you been over to see the Grandma's recently? How are the pups doing? Have you picked a name for our little one yet? Have you found any buyers for the other ones yet?

I suppose you've been busy canning all week. The gardens should be just about all picked over.

Well, I stopped writing a little while ago because we decided to make pop corn and cocco again tonight. It tasted better tonight than it did last night.

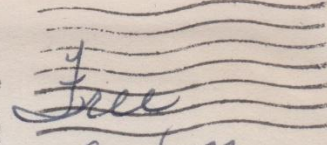
It is a little after 11:00 now, so I think I will go to bed. I don't think it is as cold as it was last night, but it is cold out. It was 29° above last night.

They got mail in tonight down at the Btry because I just called to find out. I hope I'll get some mail. I'll write again tomorrow so until then write soon.

Your Son,

Dick

McC Richard J Rosa #51246872
HQ Btry 57th FA Bn APO #7
C/S A.M. San Francisco, Calif.



Air Mail

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr Mrs Benjamin Rosa
44 Wilson Ave
Schenectady 4,
New York

Koran 15

Sept. 27, 1954

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4.

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They got mail in tonight down at the Btry because I just called to find out. I hope I'll get some mail. I'll write again tomorrow, so until then write soon.

Yours Sincerely
Dick

Dec 15, 1954

Morning 5:30

Dear Mother & Dad,

Just a few short lines to let you know that everything is still alright. Today's another day and will start playing the game in a little while. The people running this school don't show me much. We should be out of here next week this time. I just hope I make it through and graduate. We have to start giving classes this Friday and I haven't even started on my outline. I can't find any books around here on Liaison. I might just give it anyway. Enough of this school and their crazy ways.

How's the weather there at home? Boy, let me tell you it has really gotten cold in the past couple of days. It was real cold last night and its colder this morning. It was suppose to go down to 12° above this morning. I don't know if it did or not. I'll bet its alot colder up where the btry is tho.

What's new there at home? I suppose there isn't anything. Have you got your Christmas shopping done yet? I was just think about that as I noticed a couple of days ago the sign in the P.X. with the number of days left for shopping before Xmas. Did you get the packages I sent from Japan yet? I was thinking that when you get them you could take and give some of the silk pictures away for presents. There are two of ~~the~~ Christ which you could give one each to the Grandmas. You could pick two more and give on to Aunt Mary and Aunt Agnes. Don't give the hand embroidered one away unless you want to, as they cost quite a bit more than the others. I'd like to see a couple of them hanging up when I get home. Let me know how the packages are when you get them. I hope everything is in one piece. I'm worried about the music boxes and Photo Albums that also have music boxes in them.

Well its about time for reveille so I;m going to have to say solong for this morning.

The NCO Kid,

Your Son,

Dick

Dec 18, 1954

11:30 P. M.

Dear Mother & Dad,

I've got the time so I thought I'd write. Its 11:30 Saturday night and I've got fire guard. I have to stay awake until midnight, then the next guy takes over for an hyour.

There still isn't much to write about. I'm working pretty hard down here and boy, I can feel it. I'm glad we'll be getting through so I can get some sleep. We are now in our last week here. Most of this week is student instruction. I gave my first talk yesterday morning, and it was better than I thought it would be. I got a 76 on it. On the first one they mark you way down, so as to give you room for improvement. I have my lesson plan for my next one just about finished. I have to touch it up a little, then study some more then give my class Monday.

Well, I never finished the letter last night as the lights went out, so I'm doing it now. I'm on CQ now, and I'm just getting comfortable again. I came in the orderly room this morning at six o'clock and the stove was off and it was freezing in here. Lit the stove then a kid came and relieved me so I could go get chow. Just got back, although it wasn't much of a breakfast. I have to stay in here until noon, so I'll finish this letter then work on my talk.

I think I told you I finally got some mail, and I really got some. I can't recall just how many I got but it was a real pile. I also got two packages. One from Aunt Mary and the other from a girl from Mechanicville. I really never thought of getting anything from her. Her folks have a store there so that was probably one reason why she sent it. She even sent this writing paper & envelopes, as if I need them. I've got a huge box full of writing paper back at the btry.

In another three days I'll be all through with this place. We are ~~seed~~ scheduled to graduate this Thursday morning. I should pass without much trouble. If I get good marks on the next two talks there will be no sweat. I have passed all of the tests we have had so far, and only have three gigs. I wish my marks were a lot better then I'd make top ten. If I did that I'd make Sgt before I leave here for home. But you know as well as I do that it doesn't make any difference I I go home a Pvt.

I finally received a letter from Sayfrid and boy, he must really have it made over there. He really rubbed it in talking about the nice post, barracks, beds, with sheets, the showers. Its just like stateside or better. I have to write to him today I think because he has the money he owes me and doesn't have my US number. I also received letter from Bobby Mullen, Uncle Nick, Bobby, Mrs Eiser, and of course from you, Dad, Carol.

I haven't received that other letter about the hunting outcome, so I figure you didn't get that buck this year. Well, Dad, we'll try next year that's all. Did any of the guys down the shop get one? At least you can say you got a shot at that spike horn. How's the dogs doing with the rabbits? Have you taken them out at all yet? How's Duke coming along? I hope Mama doesn't spoil him before he learns to hunt. You should be teaching Pepper the tricks of any of them. But its hard, as they say, to teach old dogs ne tricks. Have you any pups left there now, or have you sold all of them?

Well, how's everything there at home? I suppose your doing your last minute shopping. How does downstreet look this year. Have they got it all lit up or not. How's the weather there. I should

think that you do have snow for Christmas. We have hardly none at all here. It snowed last night but not oo much. By this afternoon it will be all gone. It is making up in coldness what it lacks in snow tho. A couple of mornings it was really bitter out. This morning it's mild tho.

I'm glad to hear that you got those packages alright. I think you are only missing one package and that has another velvet jacket and the silk pictures in a tube in it. Now on those silk pictures, I want you to pick the best ones and keep them. The ones that aren't so good you can give away. You can give one to Aunt Mary, Aunt Agnes, and one each to the Grandmas, when you get them. Also I told Uncle Nick that I got Beverly a little robe. I think the smallish one of the ones I sent you can give her. If I recall it should be, one of two, of the small white ones with red trimmings. The other is for Linda, unless Uncle Charlie wants a small jacket for her. Aunt Mary never told me how much she wanted to spend on a doll, so I still haven't got one for her.

I sent out all the Christmas cards you sent, and it took care of everybody to the T. I sent just about everybody one in my little address book. I haven't had time to write to anyone so I hope you'll explain it to the grandmas, Uncle Nick, as I've received their letters. Also Aunt Mary for her package. I got the package at the right time too. I ran out of shaving cream and was going to get some at the PX that night, but I opened it and found a big can of Aeroshave.

Well, there isn't anything else to write about so I'll close for today. By the time you get this letter Christmas should be over. I hope it was a very nice one for everybody there at home. I'll try to make it the same over here. I'll write again as soon as I get the chance. Until then keep writing.

Your Son,

Dick

Dec 22, 1954

Dear Mother and Dad,

There isn't much to write about, but I'm going to write a few short lines anyway. Well, tomorrow is the big day for us. We graduate in the morning. I don't know how I made out, as like the rest of the guys. I made out pretty good in my talks tho. I got 20 out of 25 possible points. Made 75.5, 86, and 84.5 on my three talks. I don't think I did bad being it was my first time I ever gave 20 minute talks. If I did better on the other stuff and that's I'd of come out alot better.

Well, how's everything there at home. Everything is still alright over here. I can't say that it seems like Christmas tho. Here it is only a few days before Christmas and it seems just like another day. There's not a bit of atmosphere right here. I suppose you've got the tree up by now, unless you're waiting until Christmas Eve. Has Dad got the turkey yet, or am I wrong in saying your Darling turkey.

Have you got much snow? We had some snow the other night and it's nearly all gone. We have a little left that froze. In the mornings it's pretty cold. During the day you can go with a wool and your long underwear tapes on. I hope it stays like this for a long time too.

Well I have to go eat chow, as it getting near noon time. I'll try and write to night.

Your Son,

Dick

Dec 25, 1954

Christmas Morning

Dear Mother and Dad,

I hope everybody had a very merry Christmas and will have a happy New Year. It is Christmas here and a pretty cold one. First of all let me tell you that I'm back at the btry. now, and all finished, and graduated, from the school. I was a little disappointed that I didn't make one of the top ten men in the class. I, myself, really thought I did, but never the less its all over with. As soon as I can I'll send the diploma home for you to save.

I don't know whether its me or not, but these tents are a lot colder than the quancets. The cold air comes in through the floor, the sides, top, and the doors. They were suppose to winterize them but never did. I'll stick it out no matter what until I leave.

I'm in the two digit numbers now, with 96 days left until I'm eligible to rotate. But they're going to be the hardest and coldest ones too.

When I got back to the btry yesterday morning I had a real load of mail. I received all of your mail up to the 14th. Those letters are real cute with the seals on them. I also got the camera case and glasses, plus the box of candy. I also got a box of candy from Mrs. Eiser, and another from the Coulter's. I got another from the Marra's. I think you mentioned another package, so I'll be looking for it. We opened them of course and one of the boxes of Fanny Farmer is just about gone.

I am sleeping in the survey tent instead of liaison. The guys in here are a lot better, so I took the advantage of coming back from school and moved in. There were alot of guys that got drunk yesterday. We had a 1/5 in the tent here, but I didn't even touch it. Quite a few guys went down to the EM Club and got drunk. The drinks were free last night too. I guess I wasn't in the mood or something, so I just played it cool. Read my mail, papers, Works News, the packages and then went to bed. Every time I think of mail I think of all the letter writing I have ahead of me. I got a couple of things I thought were real nice from one of the girls I'm writing. She sent a fairly big Santa Claus, and a Merry Christmas thing made of paper that folded up. We have them hanging in the tent here. I also have one tree ornament hanging up.

I was glad to hear that you got the other package. You said you liked the silk pictures. Yes they are nice but the others are twice as good. That's the embroidered one.

I don't remember how many table clothes I sent. I think it was five tho. A pink, red, white, blue, and green. I was going to get a yellow and another white, but I don't think I did. You should have all the packages now. You said in one of the china sets one of the dishes were broken. Well the packages were insured and you could report it. Then if I'm not mistaken you can both of those sets in the states, because of that, and he said they could. I'm to hear the white nob on the cue stick is broken. I had him put it on special too. There was a black one on it.

You said you had a money order there ready to send. Well, don't send it. I don't need any money now. If I go on R&R I might. Until then you use it if you need it, and I know you can use it.

Aunt Flo sent me \$10 for Christmas and I still have the \$5 she sent for my birthday. With that new car of hers you'd think she'd save it. I'll write and thank her tho. I suppose I should have gotten her something while I was on R&R. If you get her dress size or her measurements I'll get her a Japanese dress or robe of some ~~time~~ kind. This also goes for Carol. I would have gotten at least one while I was there, but the sizes of their dresses are alot smaller

I also got six dollars from Uncle Nick which I can't use, as I'm sending it home. I have to answer his letters also. I see he got laid off and has another job now. Like Dad said he should have got the job he had for him in #273.

I also got the music news you sent but of yet I haven't got the Beat. I'll probably get it soon. Unless it was the one of Dec 1. If so I got it. I just happen to think that I did get one while at school.

Glad to hear that the dogs are alright. Duke sounds like he's growing into quite a hound. I hope he can find rabbits as well as he can moles. I don't suppose he's getting used to the collar yet either. By the time I get home he should be pretty good size.

I got your, short, letter of six as you called it. I'm having trouble writing six pages today even. It was too bad that other party got the deer before you. Have you gotten any more rabbits? I hope there are plenty of them around. What dogs have you been taking out. How is Cindy and Pepper doing. Cindy should be really running them. It sounds like its pretty cold at home if you have five inches of ice on the lake. I don't suppose too much different than over here. The rice patties are all froze over solid. The creeks around here are also froze along the sides. Well like you said I'll be home for trout fishing. We're going to have to get out and get some of those big ones too. If I keep mentioning how much time I have left over here just don't pay any attention to me. We have five guys in the tent and we're all getting short. Bush has 27 days to due here, Donatton and Kincade have bout 70 some, and me the 96, Noble has the longest to go, Bush is crossing off the days now. I mentioned Sgt Rush. Well he isn't short, fat and wears glasses. Hto e's just the opposite in fact. Maybe I haven't got a picture of him. I seen him at the school anyway. If I don't get a good job here I might write him and see what he can do. He said I would have a good chance of getting on switchboard down there. Old Rush will be going home in about 40 some days. If I go down to Florida anytime I am sure to stop and see him in N. Carolina.

The lights just went on so I can stop straining my eyes. We haven't eaten yet as its only 12:30. We are supposed to eat at two. I'll let you know what we had. I know the main pair is turkey. We got ten of them in but that has to be divided between the EM & the Officers. I was surprised to find out that we are going to have Red Cross women sleeping & living in our area. They are building their quancet now. By now you have read that the 24th is coming back to Korea. I just wish the 7th would move out before I leave. Sayfrid and the others that left are probably sweating it out over there wondering if they are coming back!

The guys were saying that I'm going into the orderly room. I haven't heard anything about it yet. I guess they think I can type. All I have to say is, they soon find out.

I can't think or anything else to write about so I'll close for now and write a few more lines after chow to let you know what we had. This letter won't go out until tomorrow morning anyway. Until then give my regards to everyone and I'll try to write to ~~every~~ at least one person every night. Wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for me. Until tonight –

Dick

I just got done writing to Uncle Nick. I have guard duty so I have to get some sleep now. I'll write tomorrow some time. Until then, I hope you had a Merry Christmas.

Your Son,

Cpl Rosa!

Jan. 12, 1955

Dear Mom & Dad,

It's me again, just writing a few lines to let you know that everything is still fine. I'll admit it isn't as easy as it was before tho. I can say that I'm putting in a good days work now. I'd rather loaf tho. I didn't get any mail tonight, but I'll look for it tomorrow night.

All day today we were in the supply room trying to get things all straightened out. We got some of it done, but we still have alot to do yet. I got another kid in there with me. He used to be a clerk in the orderly room, so he'll be alot of help in typing and paper work.

Glad to hear the weather is warmer at home than it is over here. Last night it went down to ten below zero. Tonight it is quite abit warmer. Right now, 9:30, it is 18° above. It started about 5:30 but it stopped/

How's the car running? I don't suppose it has been polished in a long time. Did you ever get seat covers for it. If you keep a blanket over the front seat it shouldn't get too dirty. How are the floor mats in the car now.

Well there isn't anything to write about so I'm going to close for tonight. I feel asleep after chow and I only woke up a little while ago. I think I'll go to bed now. Until Tomorrow night.

Your Son,

Dick

Jan 15, 1955

Dear Mother and Dad,

I thought I'd drop you a few lines tonight, before I went to bed. Here it is Sat. night and me with about 85 more days over here. I hope it goes by real fast. We have 12 more men going home tomorrow morning from here in HQ Btry. There are I think 42 men going altogether from the Battalion. I was just informed that nobody in our tent here got any mail. So I guess I'll have to go down after it tomorrow night and get some. There really isn't anything to write about tonight.

I started to write last night but never finished. The generator isn't working too well and last night it stopped. They started today finally, but it still isn't working too good. This isn't an excuse but I was just about dead to the world. I came in after chow and fell asleep right away. I've been working pretty hard in that supply room, and I think it's catching up with me already.

It's pretty cold over here now. The last couple of days it has been fairly nice during the day. Today it snowed a little and just about everything is covered with snow. We got a pretty strong wind this evening too. A few times I thought the tent was going to blow over. It is cold out tonight and it's a good thing I haven't guard of any kind.

I got some mail this afternoon, which I didn't tell you about. I got two Christmas cards. One from Jane ~~Guaco~~, and Uncle Charlie. Also seven *** ** News.

Well, what's new at home there? I hope everything is still OK. Have you got the wiring done yet in the cellar. I would be easier if you could do the washing in the cellar. How are the dogs doing?

I can't think of any more to write about now so I'll close for tonight. I'll write tomorrow sometime, Until then.

Your Son.

Dick

Jan. 17, 1955

Dear Mother and Dad,

I received a lot of good old mail last night. As I said I missed it the night before. I got three letters from Mom. I got Dad's and the "Music" I wanted so much to write last night in answer, but I was really tired. I also had fire guard and had to get up at 2:30. I have to settle for writing tonight tho. It is good to hear that everybody and everything is still fine there at home. The mail is all broke down and I guess I got all mine last night. I'm satisfied tho and I'll wait until tomorrow night to get some more.

Sorry to hear the weather is cold there at home. I'll bet the roads and places are all slippery. We had some snow a couple of days ago, but its just about gone. Sunday night we had a good wind and it blew what was left away.

It sounds like the dogs are taking advantage of the cold too. They probably run around the house. So Duke likes the pillows in the palor. He is taking right after Cindy and Pepper. If he takes after Cindy in hunting he'll be alright.

As I said I got the music and have read it. I'll be looking for the last Downbeat you've sent.

You mentioned about the missing dish. Well I sent the details about them. I sent the name and the number of the set They said you could get the sets in the states. I didn't think it would be at Montgomery Wards tho.

If you haven't put those money orders in the bank, the next time you go down put them in. I don't need any money over here now. I am making the fantastic salary of about \$135 a month now. I don't think I'll be able to go on R&R again being they have me in supply. The only way that I could go is if they got in a Supply Sgt.

We haven't gotten anything in the PX of ours so I can't send the stuff Aunt Mary, Uncle Nick, and Uncle Charlie want. What size jacket would Linda wear. I'm looking for a camera yet for myself. I wish I could go to Div and look around at the PX. I want to go to the British sector too.

I got a letter from Bobby last night also. He, like Dad, told me about the hunting they have been doing. It sounds like you had quite a time hunting in all the snow & ice. I guess there must be a lot of snow up north if they had about four feet in the woods. I don't know if one walleyed is worth that much work.

Well its getting late and we have to make reveille in the morning. I'll probably have Cpl. Of the guard tomorrow night. This supply room is running me down already. This cold I've got doesn't help it any either. So I'll try and write tomorrow night but until then I'll say goodnight.

Your Son,

Dick

Jan. 18, 1955

Dear Mother and Dad,

I didn't get any letters tonight but I did get the "Beat" you said you sent. It is late now but I thought I'd write before I went to bed. Oh, and I also got a Christmas card from Evelyn and Tony Martytelli. It was post marked from Frisco. Calif. And it got me wondering if they were out there for vacation.

Well how is everything there at home? So far everything is ok here. Its going to be rough in a couple of weeks tho. When Danny goes home that's going to leave me in charge of the supply room. Just thinking about it starts me worrying. All I can do is do my best and start counting the days. Its down to 83 days now so it isn't really too long.

The weather was pretty nice today. It wasn't cold, but it is a little now. When the wind starts blowing that's when it is really cold. I thought I'd have guard tonight, but I didn't

I nearly bought a movie camera tonight. The P.X. has four of them in there. They had a Bell & Howell and a Keystone. They were both 8mm. I like both of them but I'm not sure if I want one. The bell & howell is supposed to be a good one. It was model 252 and had all the speeds. The Keystone Capri was nice but only had one speed. If you see Uncle Charlie ask him if he can say which is the best 8mm to buy. Not only the two I mentioned, but all makes! If I can get a good one for a good price I'll buy it. I can't get down to Div to myself a good 35mm camera yet. I also want to go to the Hong Kong tailer they have down near there. Oh well I might get there yet.

How are the dogs doing now. It sounds like Cindy hunted pretty good when you took her out with the rest of the dogs.

Its late and I think its time to hit the sack. I have to get up in the morning, and be out there for reveille at 6:30. I wish I could sleep until 8 or 9 every morning. So until tomorrow night I'll close and look for your letter tomorrow night.

Your Son,

Dick

Jan 21, 1955

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well I didn't get a chance to write last night because I had third relief guard. I didn't get much sleep last night and had to work all day. After I came back from chow tonight I layed down, and I fell asleep. I woke up a couple times and finally got up. I guess you look for a letter as much as I do so I'm writing. I got your letter of the 14th this morning, along with some papers.

There isn't anything to write about but I'd like to clear up a couple of things. First of all, I did get a \$5.00 money order from Aunt Annette. Why I said I didn't was because she sent it boat mail, a three cent stamps, and it didn't get here until yesterday.

When I said I was extended ten days doesn't mean I'll be here the whole month of April. It simply means this. I was eligible to rotate April 1. Now I am eligible April 10, which makes it 30 days prior the date I get out, May 10. They are flying some guys home, but only a very few. So, I'm not planning on flying home. If I do, I'll consider myself very lucky. I don't think I'll be going on R&R after all.

This place is getting worse every day. By the time I leave I'll be a nervous wreck. These dumb 2nd LTs really wouldn't make good Pvt's. In my opinion they're all the same.

The weather is still about the same. We even have some snow left around the area. It was colder than I thought last night. I only put my field jacket on last night for guard and When I went out I nearly froze, so I stayed inside most of the time near the stove.

I've got a cold and can't get rid of it. It really isn't a bad one yet, but I suppose it's a wonder I haven't got a worse one.

Well its after 11:15 now so I'm going to sign off for tonight. I'll write tomorrow night. I'm waiting to hear from your daughter so long as she seen the MP & NT game. Too bad Pleasant lost. Until tomorrow night.

Dick

Jan. 22, 1955

Dear Mother and Dad,

I received Mom's short letter of the 13th this afternoon. I went down for the mail earlier tonight but as we say, "Have-a-no." We are now having mail call twice a day. It seems like I only get mail in the afternoon tho.

The weather is fairly nice here. Today it was like a spring day. The sun came out and warmed it up a little. It is fairly warm tonite for the time of year. How is the snow at home. How much has added up now. It seems like we've been lucky in having mild winters.

Well the supply Sgt is going home the 26th and the load is going to be given to me. I know I can't possible do it but I'll do it until they put somebody else in there or I rotate. We had a pretty good first Sgt but they transferred him and we got a real dummy now. He is actually stupid. He must have an I.Q. of about 30. With Killian here, I had a chance of making Sgt, but I won't with this guy. I really don't care if I do make another one. I'll be very lucky if I do tho.

This afternoon and earlier tonight I got a chance to listen to some good music. They had 90 minutes of "Jazz at its best" on at 4:00. Tonight Frankie Laine, Frank Sinatra, Billy May, Stan Keaton, and Woody Herman had a half an hour each with good solid music.

I just happened to think that seven months ago today I landed in Pusan. Also that I have eleven weeks to do until I rotate. It will come none too soon for me.

I got a letter from Uncle Nick this afternoon along with yours. I have to answer him tomorrow. I can't think about anything else to write about tonight. So until then I'll say good night.

Your Son,

Dick

Jan. 24, 1955

Dear Mother and Dad,

I went to the movie earlier tonight, but I had already seen it. So I went down to the mail room to see if there was any mail and I found out that there was no mail at all for D____. I'll have to wait until tomorrow then for your letters. Oh yes, I did get the "downbeat" you sent. It came in this afternoon but I didn't pick it up until I went down tonight.

Well, how is everything there at home? I hope everybody is still in the best of health. Is the weather still cold there? We are having some nice weather for some reason. I hope it doesn't decide to turn real cold after this. I'll be glad when Spring starts to roll around. I'm waiting so much for April to get here. Danny, the kid in supply, will be leaving the day after tomorrow and I'll be left alone. I don't know what I'm going to do! I don't know the first thing about supply and I'm a bit worried.

As you can guess, there isn't a thing to write about tonight. I just thought I'd write a few lines before going to bed. It seems like I'm always tired now. I just took a break to eat some tuna & crackers with the last of the boys. The chow here is still as bad as ever in the messhall. They have stew too much for me. It will be nice when I can eat what I want.

There isn't anything else to write tonight so I'll close for now. I'll look forward to getting a letter from you tomorrow.

With Love To All,

Your Son,

Dick

Feb 2, 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, I just got off of guard duty, so before I went to bed I thought I'd drop a line. I got your letter along with Aunt Mary and Mrs Eiser tonight. There isn't too much to write about like every other night. I'll try and think of something fast tho.

I bought some toilet water for you tonight. I am going to get a cigar box and pack them tomorrow if I get the time. I also bought two sets of ear rings. If anybody wants some Chanel #5 let me know. If you want more especially I think it is cheaper here than at home. I don't want you to start asking the whole town. I mean maybe Aunt Flo, or somebody else that would wear it. I don't know when I'll mail it but I'll let you know.

The weather is about the same as at home I guess. It is pretty nice out now. The snow we had is mostly gone now. The wind doesn't blow too much here, but it does, it really does blow.

This morning I went down to 8th army quartermaster. I tried to get some new lanterns for the old ones. They stopped doing business with the 7th Div. tho. I wanted to stop at the P.X. down there, but it was closed. I'm still trying to go down to the tailor and look at the jackets they have down there.

Well I'm tired and its eleven o'clock so I'll close for tonight and write tomorrow night. Until then

—

Your Son,

Dick

Feb. 3, 55

Dear Mom & Dad,

I received your letter a little while ago, so I'm writing before I go to bed. I just got through writing to Uncle Nicky. I also got the valentines you sent. I was going to send one but I didn't see any in the PX yet. Maybe they'll get some yet.

I still haven't gone to the Hong Kong tailor yet. Might try tomorrow if I get a truck. I don't know if I'll get the jackets they have made already, or order some. They haven't got any one button jackets made already. You have to order them. Are they still wearing one buttons a lot? I'll have to buy a lot of new clothes when I get home.

My hair has grown in nice but I might have to get it cut. The major we have doesn't seem to like hair long. I'm going to keep it like I have is as long as I can tho.

Well there isn't anything else to write now, so I'm going to close for now. I'll try to write earlier tomorrow night.

Supply Sgt Rosa,

Dick

Feb 8, 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just went down and got the mail. I was the only one who got any in the tent, except Kincaid, and he's in the hospital. I told you he had the mumps. He'll probably be down there for about ten more days. Noble, the kid that broke his ankle is back and on quarters.

Tomorrow is a big day. There are going to be three general's in the area. A three, two, and a one star. They are going to inspect our combat ready-ness. I hope they notice how short handed we are. We need men very bad. If anything ever started over here again it would be a losing game I think.

I told you about the jackets. Well, I still might get them home with out unraping them. It will cost me more money, but its worth it to me. Altogether, it will cost me about \$25.00 for the postage. I mean I have to send it registered airmail. I'll let you know how it comes out tho. It pays to have friends all over believe me. Andy, the mail man has the packages down the mail room and I have to go down and tape the packages up before they can go.

How's the weather at home, still cold out? Boy it was just like spring out today. You could go with just a T-shirt and it was warm enough. It is pretty chilly out now tho. I guess I didn't mention it but I'm on guard now. I have first relief and I get off at ten o'clock, or in 25 minutes. I'll go back to the tent and listen to the radio and write a couple more letters. I'm way behind on my writing. I wrote to Grandma Romelli this morning and Mrs Eiser a little while ago.

I think I told you last night that the Novaretti's got a new car. It must be quite the thing too. Pat wrote about two pages just about the car. As I said all the cars are real nice this year. Have you thought about getting one too. Have you found out if it would be possible to get a new Olds or Mercury out in Middleburg or Sherian Springs??

In your letter tonight you mentioned about the tarriff tax on the jackets. Also you said you were going to send me samples and stuff. I don't need any for. I'm not going to order any from here. I have the same thing Bob has from Mohan's. Did he say he was going to send for any? I don't think he is myself.

I don't think you'll get your perfume after all for your birthday. You'll get it sooner or later tho. If you want some more let me know and I'll get it. They haven't much of anything left in the P.X.

I got a letter from Sayfrid and I guess he really has it made, there in Japan.

Well, I'm off guard and its 10:45 already. So I'm going to close for now and wash up before going to bed. I'll write sometime tomorrow again. Until then

Your Son,

Dick

Feb. 13, 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, I received Dad's letter tonight, so I thought I'd better write. I wanted to write last night but I didn't get around to it. I went to the movie and by the time I got back it was nearly eleven o'clock. It's after 11:00 now too.

There isn't much to write about either. I sent the jackets home as I said. I want you to write as soon as you get them, and let me know if everything is alright. I hope they got there alright. I hope the perfume is ok and didn't break. I don't think it could have broke tho.

It was a nice day even tho it was a dull one. I hung around the tent and listened to the radio mostly. We've been talking most of the evening, and me trying to write a letter.

I did do something of interest tho. I hooked up my projector and showed some slides. It works very good. I can't wait to get home and see all the slides I sent. I know what you mean now when you said they look good projected on a screen.

Glad to hear the dogs are working fine. I hope you take them out the last couple of weekends like you said. Duke should be a real hunter by the end of the season.

Sorry to hear it turned cold there. It also did the same here, and it is still cold now. I hope it warms up again tho. Glad to hear you visited the Old Folks, and also that Uncle Marra is alright again.

Well I know it's a short one, but I have to get some sleep. I'll try and write tomorrow night, although I'll probably have guard duty. Until then –

Your Son,

Dick

Feb 14th, '55

Dear Mother and Dad,

I received two letters this afternoon and a downbeat tonight. There isn't much as usual to write about, but I haven't anything better to do. I am on guard now and it is 12:10 P.M, and I just got through posting a relief. I only had two hours sleep last night and I'm dead on my feet now. I didn't look at the guard roster and I didn't think I had any kind of guard. I was writing and listening to the radio until midnight then went to bed. At two o'clock a kid came and woke me and told me I had guard. I can't blame anybody but myself.

The situation around here is getting bad. There are gangs of Koreans with weapons holding up guys and even killing them. These people never had it so good, and they don't appreciate it a bit. Anyone leaving the area now has to carry a weapon and ammo for it.

I don't know if it is good or bad yet, but I got out of the supply room. I'm glad to get out of there, but I don't know what I'll be doing now. I hope I can cool it for the 45 days I have left. We are so short of men that I don't think that will be possible.

Well, how's everything at home? Is the weather still cold? It turned warm again here and is raining out now. Its not a heavy rain tho. I hope it stays this way for a while.

Glad to hear you stopped and visited with both Grandma's. If I ever get all the letters I have to answer I'll drop them a line again. Glad to hear everyone else in fine at home. Sounds like the rabbits are running good. Duke might make a hunter yet! What's this about that they stopped the third shift in #273? It doesn't sound too good. Well, I've got little less than a ½ hour left so I'm going to close for tonight. Got the next relief posted and my relief, then get some sleep.

Your Son,

Dick

Feb, 16, 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, I thought I'd drop you a few lines tonight. I didn't any mail today, but as I said I got two from you yesterday. Its 9:15 now and I just came back from checking the mail.

I had a busy day today, and somewhat of an enjoyable one. I went out to the field with the rest of the guys that went. The only ones that went out from HQ's were FD.C. and Wire sections. I went out as on F.O. I was on the O.P. all day. We left here at six o'clock and by the time we got to the range I was just about froze. We stayed there until about four o'clock then cane back in. We had shall we say visitors up there too. The I corps Commander, Lt. General Collins, and Maj General Seebree, 7th Div Comm. They fly in by copter and watched us fire. It seemed like they were very pleased too. We have what is called a BC scope. They are no more than big binoculars mounted on a tripod. I took a couple of pictures through them. I'm anxious to see if they come out too. I had to walk, climb, up that place about five times. It was quite a joke too. I'm all tired out now. It's just like going out hunting all day then coming home.

How's everything at home?? I hope the weather has warmed up a little there. It isn't too bad here during the days. I suppose the days are still alright.

Well I knew there wasn't anything to write about when I started. This is it for tonight. I'll try tomorrow and write. Until then keep writing.

Your Son,

Dick

Feb 18 1955

Dear Mom and Dad

I received your letter of the 11th this afternoon, so I thought I'd write before I have to go on the gate and not write at all. I don't think I told you, but I'm a gate guard now. There are three of us on it and pull four hour on and eight hours off. If we had another guy on it wouldn't be too bad. This way you don't get much sleep. We have to relieve each other for chow. I got 5 ½ hours sleep last night. I think I can get used to it tho.

Well how is everything there at home. The weather is still nice over here. By now I suppose the snow you had is all gone. Pretty soon we won't be getting any more snow. Spring isn't very far off. The wind and the rain will be here soon. That's alright with me, because

that means only one thins. I'll be on my way. The warm weather and fishing again.

Let me know as soon as you get those jackets, and of course what you think of them. If U had some money I'd go down and get a couple more, and a top coat. Although I guess four jackets is enough. I was also thinking of a suit, but I got the projector and clock.

While I was down to the P.X. today I was looking at some nice watches. They ran from \$80 to \$90 for the better watches that list for around \$150. Can McCabe still get them at ~~ret~~ wholesale or not. If he can I'll wait and get one when I get home, if not I'll get one before I leave here. As long as Carol got her new coat and has a good one for school. I want you, Mom, to see if the topper I sent home fits you.

Well, there isn't much to say tonight so I'll close and get ready to go on duty. I'll stop and see if I have any mail tonight then too. Until tomorrow If I get a chance to write.

Your son,

Dick

March 18, ;55

6:00 P.M.

Dear Mom & Dad,

Sorry I haven't written in the past couple of days, but I've been very busy. Until we get a couple of more men it will be as it has been. We still have only three men and none of us is getting too much sleep. We are supposed to get a total of five more men, but when is the big question. If we get them in I'm going to stop pulling switchboard, unless Lt Ammons says different. ____ shouldn't pull duty, so being as I'm it I don't see why I should.

I am supposed to go out and fire my carbine tomorrow, so maybe I can cool it for a day. The only thing wrong is that I have to clean it.

I didn't go in and get the mail this morning so I won't get any until tomorrow. I called and found out that I've got one letter from you. That's not counting today's mail that come in. I hope you'll keep writing and I'll write as often as I can.

The weather has turned colder over here. I thought it was going to snow the other night, but it didn't. It is windy mostly, and its cold too. I hope it doesn't start to rain until after I leave at least. How's the weather there at home? Has it started to warm up yet?

I got some pictures from Bob that he took at a wedding. I know both of the kids that got married. It sounds like there are quite a few people getting married.

How was the sportsmen show. I'll be it was something. They probably had everything you could think of.

Well I think I'll go back to the tent and wash, then go to bed. I'll be getting up early in the morning as it is. So keep writing and until tomorrow night –

Your Son,

Dick

March 20, 1955

1:30 A.M.

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well, here I am again your long lost son, I suppose your wondering what has happened. I just haven't had time to write that's all. I'll be trying to write everyday until I get ready to leave. As you can see I've got 10 days left until I'm eligible to rotate. They aren't getting anybody out of here on time, so I figure I have anywhere from 10 to 20 days left over here. I just hope its closer to ten!!

As you can see by the heading its early in the morning. I have the graveyard shift on shift. So far they have some real good music on the radio. If it keeps up I'll be able to stay awake. My eyes want to close so bad too.

I got another jar of instant coffee today along with milk, sugar, two big boxes of crackers, a big can of peaches and peanut butter and four qts of fresh milk. I only wish I had some of your cookies to go with the milk or coffee. It won't be long now tho, and I'll be pestering you to make some chocolate chips.

I went down to the Btry yesterday and the more I think of it, yesterday was my unlucky day. First off, I went down to take a shower at Service Btry. When I got back out to my jeep I smelt something strange. I looked the jeep all over and didn't see anything wrong with it. I got in and was going to start it when it happened!! My radio (army) started to spark and shoot blue flames out of it. I ~~did~~ disconnected it as much as I could. Then went up to HQ and took it to radio. They are sending it to signal to get repaired. I don't think it can be fixed myself. I was coming back about 8:30 and it was snowing. Me and my heavy foot was trying to get back as fast as possible. I took a short cut and that was my mistake I guess. When it rains or snows here the roads get very muddy and the shoulders are soft mud. So make it short, I was coming around this curve and the back end started to slide. Yes, right into the ditch!! I couldn't get out by myself no how. I had to walk about two and a half miles to the other road. I stopped a $\frac{3}{4}$ and after the rope broke a couple of times he finally pulled me out. It's a good thing I wasn't going too fast and didn't do any damage to the jeep.

Well this morning I went out with Lt Ammons and Colonel King. We went up to 229, which means nothing to you, and looked over the area. From up there you can see all over. I seen where they hold the peace talks near Panmoon jam. Also K-song, and where the ~~the~~ Polish, Sweeds are. I should have taken my camera but didn't have time to get it.

Talking about camera, I have my Contax all packed, and I'm going to send it home. I have to get a set of orders to put inside. I think it will get home alright. I'm sending it like I sent the jackets. I have the boxes ready for all the other stuff I'm sending home too. I'll have to wait until just before I leave tho.

How's the weather there at home? It sounds like you got winter all over again. As I said it snowed over here yesterday, but its all gone now. I'm glad of that too. It should start to warm up very soon.

I think I told you that I got your last letter, the one of the 11th. You mentioned Music and Beat. Well it's a good idea to keep them there and I'll read them when I come home whenever that is.

Glad to hear that Dad stopped once to see the old folks and they are alright. I'll have to write them before I leave here.

Well, I hope I get some mail tomorrow. I'll try to write tomorrow also. These two pens of mine don't want to write tonight. Until tomorrow then I'll say good morning.

Your Son,

Dick

P.S. I am enclosing a picture of a light meter. That's the kind I bought.

March 29, '55

10:30 PM

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, here I am again! I'm pretty tired tonight, so this is going to be fairly short. I went out and fired my carbine nearly all day today. I was all dusty from the ride, so when I got back I got in my jeep and went down to the btry to take a shower. While I was down there I picked up the mail too. I received your letter of the 22 and 23. The one being Dad's letter.

Glad to hear everything is going alright at home. We moved into another tent tonight so I'm not settled as of yet. I don't plan on getting to settled either. I just got through taking a couple pictures in here too. I want to finish the roll tomorrow if possible.

By now my room should be all done. I think it will look very nice too. The yellow should brighten it up alot. I take it you kept the ceiling white.

I found out that there are still seven men left from march that have to rotate. After that I am one of six eligible for the first of the month. I don't know when I'll be leaving as you can see. All of according how big the drops are when, it or they come down. I'll let you know as soon as I find out. They usually have a day or two to get ready to leave.

The weather is starting to get hot during the day. But as always it is cold during the night. O hope that cold and crazy weather you had is gone for now. It will be summer before we know it.

Well I guess this is it for tonight. I'll try and write again tomorrow same time. Keep writing and until next time –

The Short Timer

Your Son,

Dick

March 30, 1955

10:30

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well, I didn't get a letter tonight, but I thought that I'd write a little anyway. I came back from the btry a little while ago. There wasn't too much mail.

I found out that there are only two more men to go in March. So, I may be on the next drop. I hope I am too. It may not be until the tenth of the month tho. When my time come I'll leave. I guess they might make me try and pay for the radio that burn out in my jeep. They sent it in and it came back as a repair of survey. By the time it gets finished with it will be about July.

How is everything at home? Hope everything is going along smooth. I suppose Dad is busy painting yet. How do the rooms look?

I don't suppose you got the projector yet? It shouldn't be too far behind the clock. I was just going to get another one, but it was unpacked so I didn't get it.

There was some brass here today. We had General Taylor and Sec. of the Army Stevens here. Yes, believe it or not. I was going to take some pictures but they weren't here even that long. I still didn't get the lens I mentioned. Maybe I'll get it tomorrow as long as I get payed.

There isn't anything else to write about so guess I'll close for now. Have to work and then get to bed. Until tomorrow –

Your son,

Dick

April 2, '55

Dear Mother and Dad,

Just thought I'd write a few lines before going to bed. Nothing much happened today except I did a little hiking. We went up to all our Ops today and one alternate OP. On the alternate we saw some things that were shot up. Also the bones of some four or five people that got shot. they were either British or Koreans.

It was such a nice day that we took the top and sides off of the jeep. I didn't want to because it's very dusty during the day & cold at night. Can't argue with a Lieutenant because they know everything!! Going down and coming back from the Btry tonight we nearly froze, like I told him we would.

Well, I'm getting shorter by the day now. I nearly left tomorrow!! A drop come down for three men and they put the names in a hat for a couple of men. There's seven of us eligible at the same time. I should be on the next drop when ever it comes down. As you said if you keep writing I'd get letters after I left. Well, you can stop writing as your quite right.

I got your letters of the 27th of March. You should have got the Contax either the 31st or the 1st. I'm very anxious to find out whether it got home alright or not. I have the Nikon all packed along with the lens, light meter, bag, and a few other things. It weighs alot so I don't think I'll be able to send it air-mail. I have to wait until I get ready to rotate to send them tho. They should be home about the same time I get there.

My room sounds like its really nice now. I'll be home to look at it pretty soon. I'll really appreciate a nice bedroom like that. I'm sure its nice if every body likes it.

I see they are fixing up the ball park. I hope they have a better team this year than they had last year.

Well there isn't anything else to write about so I think I'll close for night. I'll keep on writing and you can just wait for them. You can stop writing now. Until tomorrow –

Your Son,

Dick

April 3, 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, its me again with a few lines letting you know I haven't left yet. It's been a fairly nice day here. The sun was out all day but the wind has started to blow and it's a little cold. Its really still too cold for taking the top & sides off of the jeeps. Oh well, I should care! I went down to the btry this afternoon, and while there went to the show. They had all the best cartoons of 1954 on. They were all pretty good. Didn't get any mail because they only go for it at night on Sunday. They had some excitement down there the night before last. A quancet burnt down! It was the one the mail room and dayroom. There isn't a thing left in there. It's a good thing the assistant mail clerk got out of there in time, and got the \$17,00 dollars that was in there for money orders. Anderson the mail clerk was on R&R and every last thing he had was burnt in the fire. It's a shame but these things happen.

How is everything there at home. I hope everything is still alright. Boy I should be out of this place by the end of this week. If not I'm going to want to know a reason why!! I wish I knew when the drop is going to come down. I'm starting to get anxious now!!

The whole upstairs should look nice as soon as your through. Are you thinking doing the same with the wood work downstairs as you are in the bedrooms?

I didn't think it would start raining over here for a while but it just started to shower. I hope it doesn't rain too much. I'm glad I won't be here for the monsoon season again.

There isn't anything else left to write about, so I guess I'll close until tomorrow night. I'll inquire again tomorrow and see if anything new has come up over the night. I guess I'll just have to wait that's all though!! Until tomorrow night –

Your Son,

Dick

April 5, 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, I'm still here, so I thought I might just as well write a few lines letting you know what's happening. I haven't heard of any drop coming down yet. I hope there will be one down before the end of this week. There was no mail tonight, so I'm wondering if you have stopped writing already. I hope you write and let me know if you get the camera tho. I am still undecided whether to send this other package I have airmail or not. It must weigh at least 25 pounds, and at 80 cents a pound it costs quite a bit. The more I think about it the more I think it is worth it. If I send it boat mail I take a very good chance of getting it broken up. I've got \$25.00, so I think if I can get both of the packages sent for that money I'll send the one airmail and the other regular mail. You should get the projector any day now. I don't think any thing happened to it. It's in a pretty good box so it shouldn't have gotten broken in any way.

Well, I hope everything is still alright there at home. How's the painting coming along. What are you doing now, if you have mine and Carol's room done? I suppose your doing your own room.

Glad to hear the old folks are all in the best of health. I doubt if I'll have time to write to them before I leave, so when your there again tell them I was asking about them and everything.

How are all those hounds doing? I suppose Duke is still growing like a weed. Are you still taking them out up to the beagle club? They should be pretty good next season. How's the prize dog Pepper doing? I hope nobody is spoiling duke like that. Or has he learned to do them already.

I'm looking forward to seeing my bedroom too. It sounds very nice. I guess that desk will really shine.

Well, I can't think of anything else to write about. I hope everyone there had a very nice Palm Sunday. I never realized it was Palm Sunday until a little while ago tho. I'll write again tomorrow. Until then I'll say goodnight for now.

The Short-Timer

Your Son,

Dick

April 7, 1955

9:30 P.M.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, I went down to the Btry and picked up the mail. Yes, your letter saying that the camera got thru O.K. I hope the other one gets there the same. I think it is too heavy to send air mail tho. I guess I'll have to send it boat mail, or first class. I don't think there much difference in the time tho. Those weren't really the orders that were suppose to be inclosed but as long as they got there its ok. It might be because it was registered. I might take the chance and do the same thing with the other two boxes. You should get the projector pretty soon, so just wait until it gets there that's all. I hope you haven't had everybody handling the camera. What ever you do, don't touch the lens trying to clean it. If you don't use a lens brush or a something very soft it will scratch the lens.

Well, there wasn't any mail except for boat mail tonight. I'll be looking for a letter tomorrow. By now you've probably stop writing, which is the right to do. Its getting late and I'll close again for today. I'll write tomorrow if I get the time. We had a George and are suppose to have another one tomorrow. I'll ~~pl~~ probably move to the btry tomorrow night or Saturday morning.

Your Son

The Short Timer,

Dick

April 9, 1955

2:00 Afternoon

Dear Mother and Dad,

I thought I'd drop a line as I'm not doing anything this afternoon. I am all ready to go home. I cleared the btry and battalion this morning. I have my duffel bag just about all packed. I won't finish putting all the other stuff until I leave. We got some new guys in the btry and I found out that there are two boats at Inchon. They are the Patrick and the Mann. They are both two stackers too. I'm just waiting to leave Monday morning at six o'clock. I'll write tomorrow sometime for the last time while in the battalion. If I have the time while processing at Repl, and Inchon I'll write. I won't write on the boat, because there is no way of mailing it. When I get to the states I'll call if at all possible from Washington. If not I'll call you for sure from New Jersey.

Well, I have all my packages, two, taken care of. Its going to cost about \$30.00 to send them home. The one with the camera I'm sending airmail, the other two boat mail. That will leave me flat broke but I'm pretty sure we get some money before leaving Korea.

The weather here today is a little _____. We have had a fine mist falling all day. I hope it's like this Monday when we leave. It won't be dusty going down in the back of a 2 ½.

Boy I can't wait to leave this place. It doesn't seem possible that I'm really going to leave.

Guess What! I'm sitting here writing and the mail came in. I got your two letters and the Easter card. Also a Works News and three Union Star. I hope you have stopped writing by now. If you stop when I figure you did it will work out pretty good. If you didn't stop you should, because they'll be coming here after I leave.

It sounds like Dad is got the upstairs looking pretty nice. That's alright as it will be all done before fishing season. Its going to be nice being in a house instead of a tent.

You asked about the radio and if I have to pay for it. Well, as it is broke now I don't think so. If at all I might have to pay a little. Then I even doubt that.

Well, I guess that's about it for tonight. Yes, I stopped writing for a while! I think I'll go to the movie tonight. Until tomorrow I'll say so long for now.

Your son,

Dick