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Cleveland, Ohio.



Pvt. John Leisz
703rd Engineers
Petroleum Distributing
Camp Claiborne, La.
U.S. Army.

2:00 P.M. Monday 3-29-43

At the Engine House.

Dear Jack:

I tried to write this letter last Saturday, but we were kept pretty busy. So, I am starting this one in the afternoon to see if I can finish it today. The kids told me that I should wish you a happy birthday for them. That goes from all of us on this your 22nd one of your life. Ma was out to our house yesterday and we took a ride out to the cemetery. That is without a doubt the coldest spot in Cleveland. It must have been about 20 out there yesterday, so we just said a few prayers and drove back home. We picked up Billy on the way and had supper at our place. Ma and Billy went home about 10:00 o'clock. She thought the paper-hanging job was pretty good. Outside of that we didn't do anything.

Jack, I don't know if you're the only one that reads these letters or not, so I don't think it advisable to write too much in detail. I am investigating what you told me in your last letter to see if that thing can be worked out without any kick back on you. It seems to me that that is for your benefit and isn't to be abused, because of unfavorable reactions. Of course if it can be arranged some way or other, why we'll see what we can do. Another thing I was going to mention, was your income tax. I don't know if the army told you that you had to file or not, but according to the paper, filing for last year's income is necessary and everybody must file. I suppose you have already done it, but I thought I would remind you so that you can do it, if you haven't already.

About taking out more insurance, that is entirely up to you. You know if you can afford to pay for it or not, and five thousand is quite a bit to carry. Of course, I think insurance is a good thing if you don't bite off more than you can chew. If you want to take more its up to you and Ma, because she will be beneficiary on it and that's between you. So you see that I can't help you out there, because it's your own personal affair, and suggestions just create doubt in your mind. You know how much money you have got to have to keep going, and what you can spare for insurance. After all, Ma is not a young woman like your wife would be and she isn't too bad off right now, but like I said that is up to you if you care to make her feel that that protection is her due.

About your car, I didn't get down to take the battery out last week, but I don't think it will hurt it to stay in the car. A battery is only good for so long once the water is in the cells, and then it doesn't matter where it is because it deteriorates at a given rate, unless it's kept charged. I will look at it and see if there is anything left in it. Maybe i'll take the car off the jacks and see if it'll still run. They may want to get licenses for it and have Jo and Ann learn how to drive it, so they can get around a little on visits.

Well, Jack, on your birthday there isn't much to say only that 22 more years will sure fly by fast; and I hope 22 after ~~XX~~ those. So, keep a stiff upper lip and don't let anything get you down too far, because we all have troubles and worries and life is never a bed of roses for anybody. Just keep your fingers crossed and make things come your way by prayer, work, and hope. You know an awfully good saint to pray to as a last resort is St. Jude. He sure works miracles a lot of times. Just try it for a month or so and see. Well, luck and best wishes for the future,

Your brother, Joe.