

Tuesday, June, 29, 1943, 19.a.m.
In North Africa.

Dear Mom & Dad:

Here I am again, doing my darndest to write a letter. You don't know how hard it is to say something, when you don't have a letter to answer. Oh; I know its not your fault Mom? that I have no mail. I know that is plenty of mail for me at my last station, Sale; because one of the fellows that just came here lately said he saw a stack of it for me. Its just a matter of time till it catches up with me Mom. I know your angry with me Mom for not writing but please forgive me I couldn't very well write when we were coming across because we were never at one place long enough, and now that I am settled I don't have any letters to answer, but as soon as I get some I promise to write as often as I possibly can.

Is Frank still at Camp Croft Mom or has he moved on. Where is Dot now? I wrote Dot and addressed it to home. I knew you would forward it. I haven't Frank for the simple reason that I thought he had moved on. About that package I asked you to send me Mom; I don't whether you'll have trouble sending it or not. A lot of the boys tell me their mothers have had trouble sending packages. Why I don't know. The ruling is supposed to be one package a week. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb package, can be sent any time without request. Anything over a lb. has to be requested by me. All you have to do is show my letter when you mail the package, make sure you have the envelope too with the A.P.O. on it. Mom would you have Dad hunt around and see if he can buy me a good pipe. I chewed the end of the stem off this one, but I still can use it. I have been useing my pipe quite a bit now. I like itba lot.

How are you and the "Chief" making out Mom? Do you still have your can of beer nitely. Boy how I miss that. We get beer here every once in a while and its real good, cold too. We don't have it bad over here Mom; believe me. Its sorta hot during the day but the nites are always cool so we can't complain. I'll tell you what I would like you to do though, how about getting me a subscription to "Life" Magazine and the Daily News. If I get them I'll be all set. If you can get me a camera and some, I mean much, film I'll appreciate it very much, but don't go out of your way, its not too important, but I would like to have some pics to remember this all by. I think on this next page Mom I'll knock off a few lines to the Chief.

Dear Dad:

You know Chief I should be mad at you. Since I have come into the service I don't think you have written me more than 4 letters. I know you have been busy with your work, but your Old Stick _ in _ the Mud is worth a few letters ain't he? So what do you say Dad, in the future how about a few more letters. You know Chief I'm sorry we didn't get together more when we were home, Frank you and me. These occasional fishing trips weren't enough. I know, your work didn't permit you much free time but when this is over and I get home, you Frank and I are really going to have some fun. You know I've never seen a Big League Baseball game, that's something we could do, we have to get some hunting in too. You think about that Dad. When I get back we three are really going to have some fun, to say nothing of some bigger and better beer parties, huh;

We all folks I'm running out of words so I might as well close. Just pray that this is over soon and that we're back together again. Bye now and write often.

Love always.
Joe.

July 24th, 1943
10 p.m.

Dear Dot:

Another copied letter of Joe's enclosed. Had one previous to that requesting tobacco and Baby Ruths, etc. All this is mail written in June and only beginning to come through now. I do wish we would get one written since the invasion started as I know he must have at least written a short note. Am anxious to know if he recovered from that dose of dysentery.

While I think of it Dot Crowley told Katty John was getting a 3 week furlough, and in addition to that he might be sent back to the States. He's been away over a year hasn't he..

Look you gotta be more specific as to date of furlough.

Poor Jimmy is worn out asking when you expect to get home as he is hoping he will still be at the Brooklyn Navy Yd. His ship was commissioned last Friday. Helen came down Thu.nite and as she didn't know her way around I had to take her to the Yd. Results; I talked the C.O. or whatever he is in navy terms into letting me in on Helen's invite. What an experience. After the ceremonies we had lunch aboard right in the sailors galley, and what a lunch, had to get our own trays etc and empty them when we were finished, like any other sailor. Home at 3.p.m. Jimmy arrived later for supper and stayed all nite, which entailed my getting up at 5.30 a.m.

Last nite he was here again and will be back Wed.nite. When he comes he stays overnight. Sooooo let me know the exact date of arrival so I can let Jimmy know.

Took a flier to Conn Sat nite as felt no one would bring

Me down and I couldn't let the summer go by without getting her. She is here now, and I suppose Kate and Ane will take their turns before goes back, and Auntie as usual is going to write Ellie, as I told her I wouldn't call Ellie up. I got therep at 9p.m. after running into Helen Gabe on the train. Left after dinner on Sunday, but even so Auntie managed to ask how much I was getting from you, Joe and Fan. She is in hopes you will find time to go up but also hopes you will arrive without Toughey and Gil. From what I gather Unk don't give a hoot about them either. Auntie stressed the fact she wished you would drop Helen A. a card.

Heard El. had a son last Sunday July 25th so called Mrs. Mac. today. El is fine but baby not expected as it was premature, 8 months. El doesn't know this. She is at the Victory. Mrs. Mac had it christened yesterday Daniel something else. Called in a baby specialist and he said while there's life there is hope. Ned Mildie is in Montgomery, Ga. and hates the place, he has had a 10 day furlough so they think he is slated for across.

Didn't send that statement to be mean, but just to let you know how finances are. Worse than when you were all home, not to mention that I have had ~~xxx~~ two allotment checks for \$5.00 each from Joe. Pop only knows about the second one and he thinks I banked that for Joe. I hope some day to make them up for him. The next couple coming through I'd like to sneak towards trying to get some taxes together. You know that sword still dangles over my head and sooner or later its going to descend. I hope your still remembering ~~me~~ that part of me in your prayers, so has was driven all matters pertaining to finances out of your head, if so, I'll join up.

Guess this covers everything Dot.

Love from mother.

James T. Kirwan, S.K. 3/c U.S.N.
U.S.S. Charles J. Badger, D.D. 657
Fleet, P.O.N.Y. City, N.Y.