

July 21/43  
10 P.M.

Dear Sam

(My enclosing copies)  
Two letters we got today from  
Joe - Remember they are  
in answer to ones that were  
written April 22 and he  
got them July 10th. Forget  
about the typing. Didn't I  
tell you I had signed up  
for a brush up course - paid  
7.50 or half the tuition and  
then only went for 2 days for  
2 hrs each - It would take  
me 2 months and that would  
cost 30. then a job only  
pays 20 for typing - 20% out  
for Victory Tax - plus old

age security - plus carfare and first money  
dresses and stockings etc - I wouldn't  
even clear the \$10 I get for David food  
he decided to stay home - Plenty of  
defence jobs in Jersey but that would  
mean up at 5.30 and home at 7.30 -  
not work it. That college must be  
some beautiful place after seeing  
those lectures - Speaking of this  
chancery Dots had sent you some.  
She sent home 3 films and I had  
some made but dammit now I can't  
find the films they must be some  
place around but where? Sam  
Charlotte gave me a whole box  
of V mail paper I'll enclose some  
with your sneakers and pulis but  
I guess Joe's air mail comes through  
quicker than any - today letters  
came in 11 days, so from now on I'll  
send all mine air mail - I wish  
some of our other and faster mail  
would catch up with him. I hope  
this dissenting don't get serious - remember  
that what put him in the hospital  
for 2 weeks at Columbia.

I guess Joe finally got paid  
because today a foot check for 50  
came through - That's what he wants  
put in the bank for him. He must have  
sent it through the govt.

Odd Dan but every time mail comes  
it seems to come from the 3rd you or  
the same day and Dots letter was

almost a duplicate of yours -  
it where her money went  
this month. She has me on the  
spot - last month I paid out  
18.00 for her bills - July 35.00  
and bought I spent her 10 towards  
her ticket home, besides Donley  
paid out 25 for her Municipal  
Credit last month. I am afraid she  
have to put a check pin on  
her as I can't keep it up.

Hasn't forgotten your medal  
I am but once have to wait till  
I can get to Barclay St to  
duplicate it - We went to  
Drogs last night, they were  
asking for you, I am  
thank Brainer but no, he  
was near enough to speak - he  
was headed down 92<sup>nd</sup>

St from 3<sup>rd</sup> till <sup>4</sup> and thought  
possibly he might be going  
to John's. Didn't Peggy write  
you yet - I gave her your  
address immediately.

No Cordy isn't married yet -  
if she does it won't be till  
Fall. She leaves in the  
morning for Gloucester.

Need to get Martha to check  
on Peter's address but she's  
never home. Here's the one  
he had when he got married.  
You caned drop him a card  
and to check by the address,  
in the meantime see my  
again to speak Martha.

apt 3-S.

337-S Caylew Ave

Oak Park

Chicago, Ill.

Peter's mother called me

ups town just to look - They get mail  
every day and so far Felis hasn't  
been in combat - I don't think there  
is any fighting going on in India.

V. Betty - Chey and I are going to  
Surbay's tomorrow night for dinner.  
This will be our second time  
since Dot left. I hear Camora  
is home on her 8 day furlough  
from New River S.C. She was  
moved from Virginia. Jim's  
ship gets husband Friday but he  
doesn't know exact date of shipping  
out. Did I tell you they havent  
heard from Alfred in 6 weeks.  
I may see Helen Friday if she  
comes down.

I talk about all the news and  
I still have to repeat it to Dot &  
Joe Savoos

Good night {  
Love from mother.

P.S. Did you know from July 18  
to 27<sup>th</sup> is Novena feast of St Jude  
and St Ann - 26<sup>th</sup> is St Ann's feast  
day.

I will try to mail packages tomorrow  
There should be one more piece of  
I forgot felins I expect more of these.

Sat July 10th, 1943,  
2:30 P.M.

In North Africa..

Dear Mom:

Well I've gotten some more mail Mom. I got it two days ago, but this is the first chance I've had to answer it. I got one from Ann Hill, a card with 2\$ in it & wrote and thanked her for it yesterday.

I got a card with a 1\$ from you and a letter too. I got a letter from the Chief and one from Frank, they were all addressed to Columbia and were post-marked April 22. I sent the Hill girls one of those pics I had taken when I was on furlough.

So Vee failed in latin, now do you see why I didn't want Frank and Dot to join up, how the hell do you expect those kids to get an education when the brains of the family are in the army. If Frank and Dot were home that would never have happened. The only solution is to keep her in and make her study. How are Ronnie and Betty making out? Did they flunk a couple too.

Never mind about me carting your mug all over Europe. If you have the picture, I want you to send it, send some of all the family, the garden and the chickstoo. I've got the G.I.'s again Mom, you know what I mean, disentary. I don't mind the running so much its the cramps that go with them, I think I'm on the mend so don't worry about me.

Say Mom did you ever get that telegram and letter I sent from Florida beforeen I took off? I have long wondered about that.

Well Mom I want to write Dad a letter so I'll close for a while. Bye now and write soon.

Love always  
Joe.

O.P.S.

I never thanked you for the money, you shouldn't have done it Mom I don't need it, but thanks an awful lot.

Joe

Send me some stationery and air mail stamps.

Sat. July 16th, 1944 Q.M.C.  
E 3.39 P.M.  
In North Africa.

Dear Dad:

You old son of a gun you. So you finally got around to writing me a letter. But after reading it I can readily understand why you don't write more often. Yes Dad Mom does cover just about all the news when she writes, but I'll tell you what lets do, you write one letter and Mom write the next, that way I'll hear from you both more often. Then too she can give you all the neighborhood dirt and I won't miss out on anything.

The Father card that I sent you if I remember rightly wasn't very much. They don't put out nice cards for fathers. Why is that? I guess its the same old story. We do all the work, but never get the credit. I'm not slighting the mothers, now, mind you, but you'd think they'd give the Fathers a little more consideration.

You did some nice reminiscing there "Chief", but I think you left some out. How about the trips to the Killie pond, and don't forget the times at Flatlands Bay. How about those rides in the old

Maxwell. Do you remember when you used to take Frank and I to Lowes Bay Ridge to the stage shows. I'll never forget the times either that you took us with you when you went to get paid. You stopped to buy the license plates then you took us to dinner and the Fox movies and topped it off with a boat ride from the Battery to Staten Island and back to 6oth St.

And do you remember those trips up to the Scout Camp. Gee Dad those were the days. I realize more and more each day

Dad why you used to say A "If I could only be a boy again just for a day" This growing up isn't all its cracked up to be. Dad I realize now that my best days are behind me. But that's life I guess Chief, we can't stay young forever. But this thing won't last forever Dad we'll all be back home soon, then we can make up for some lost time, it won't be long either Dad take my word for it.

Say Dad you mention the gang at Boyles asking for me, well how about giving them my address and having them write me. If I get a letter from them I'd have something to write about, but if they wait for me to write they'll never hear from me. Remember me to Mr. Lovett too will you Dad? If I can possibly do it I'll drop him a line. You speak of that pint of beer and a snack at nite Dad. Sometimes I sit here and picture those juicy hamburgers on hot home-made bread with the juice and melted butter running down your chin. Boy, what I'd give for one of those and a cold glass of Ballentines, those were the days. Then too remember when we used to have a hot mess of crabs and beer after a hard days crabbing ou on the Island. Thats about the only thing I've missed since I came into the Army. Those midnite snacks at Shields were something that ~~me~~ couldn't be beat anywhere.

I'm sure proud of Frank Dad, I'm sure you are too. He beat my marks by 11 points. All I got was 169. But I never could shoot one of those hand held guns with the exception of the shot gun. But you give me a 250 cal. machine gun and watch me go to town. That Infantry stuff is O.K. but for me I like speed.

Well Dad I'm just about run out of words, but write again soon I've always enjoyed compositing a letter to you for I know you like to read them.

Bye for a while & "Chief" and write soon

Love always

Joe

1444

244-8781  
Dorothy



Pfc. Francis J. Shields 12110488

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