

April 8, 1945
Sunday p. m.

Dear Bob,

Its been some time since I've heard from you directly but I do talk to your folks occasionally about you. I understand that your mail hasn't been reaching you very rapidly but the last I talked to your Mother she said that you had finally received some of your mail and among it was a letter from me. I'll admit that it has been quite some time since I've written you but I think I have a good reason for not writing. I have been working rather long hours at the office which doesn't allow much time to take of my personal correspondence. During the last two or three weeks I've worked every nite for at least a couple hours each day and when I get home I definitely am in no mood to write letters. I am at the office now and am all alone which is a perfect atmosphere for me to write. I'm not much of a letter writer any way and when there is anything going on, I am even worse.

Your Mother informed me that you had a very narrow escape the other day. Now look, Bob, we'll have no more of that! After all the war in Europe should be reaching an end, and when the end comes we want you to hurry home. If I remember correctly we have a big date when you get home----you know, we're to have a good 'hell' game topped off by at least one big pot of coffee. The bigger the better.

Shortly before Brownie and Bob left the base here, your mother had us over for dinner and it was a very lovely one at that. We got so tickled at Doran! He could hardly wait until we finished eating to get into a good black-jack game or one of our good old rummy games. I've never quite decided if he was afraid we would eat too much or if he was just anxious to take our money. While Bina and I did dishes, Pete, Earnie, Doran, Bob, Brownie and Gene played black-jack, then when the dishes were done we got in to one of those rummy games. We used to call it nickle rummy but we got especially free with our money that nite and played quarter rummy. I donated 75¢ to the cause, then dropped out of the game. I think Brownie finally won the pot. After that we played some other kind of rummy and naturally Doran walked off with that \$6.00 pot. At the rate money was changing hands, you would have thought it was a gambling house. We did have a grand time. Sure wish you could have been there. When you get home we'll have a party that will top all the previous parties we've had. Is that a deal?

I hope you don't mind that I'm wirting this on the typewriter, Bob, but if I don't make too many mistakes, I'm sure it will be much more ligible. I've been trying to get the company to furnish me with another typewriter--for some reason this one doesn't seem to have enough spelling lessons to spell its words correctly. I'm sure you have had experience with one of these machines so you should know what I mean.

Vernon has been home and gone again. It was really wonderful to have him home again but I've never seen three weeks fly by in such a hurry. One day he was here and the next he was on his way to California. He looks better than I've ever seen him look in spite of all he's been through and seen. He didn't seem particularly nervous but he did a lot of serious thinking. He left two weeks ago last Friday nite for Santa Monica, Calif. for two weeks rest and to get his next assignment. WE've only received one letter from him since he left which probably means he's on his way to his next base. Sure hope he stays in the states for a while but he is rather anxious to get to the Pacific. Personally, I'd say he's a glutton for punishment but I guess he knows what he wants. He received your letter while he was home and answered it the same day. Its too bad I can't follow in his footsteps, now isn't it? He had mailed your letter before I had given him your new address, so it will probably take some time for it to catch up with you.

I noticed in last weeks paper that both Shorty and Wilmer Landon have completed their required amount of missions so they should be coming back to the states before long. While Vernon was in London he got to see Wilmer and he says he has put on some weight and looks much better than he ever did. I'm beginning to think the climate or something over in Europe is good for you fellows. I'll not deny though that there some very definite draw-backs to being over there.

Melvin Sellens, Glen Dumler and Rex Wolf are home now. Both Melvin and Glen have been overseas for some time but Rex just had a delay enroute from one base to another. Think he is to be stationed at Norman, Okla. as an instructor now. Before Melvin came back to the states, he stopped on Gaum and that is where Billy Ingram is now. From what I hear they really had a bull session which isn't hard to believe. I know very little about Glen but Melvin has been in three major battles and it has aged him considerably. Besides that he had grown a mustache (the filthy things!). They each have thirty days leave but where they go from here, I couldn't say.

I understand too that Ralph Resley is on his way

home and should either reach the states or be home sometime this week. He left the states a year ago Christmas so he hasn't been overseas quite eighteen months as is the usual time the navy keeps the fellows over there. It shouldn't be too long before Kenny should be coming home unless the army decides to keep them over there until the whole thing is over. It's been a long time since I've seen him. Sure would be swell if he could get home before too long.

Anna is still on Treasure Island and really thinks the WAVES is okay. I think she will be home sometime the end of this month or the first of May. She has never sent a picture of herself so I'm very anxious to see her. She's really having herself a time out there---gets to see a lot of the fellows she knows before they ship out and also gets to see others that are coming back. She will probably have some real tales to tell when she gets home and, of course, we'll be 'all ears'.

Have you ever seen anyone you knew since you've been over there? I sent Dick Spencer your new address shortly after it was changed, so if he is still over there and is any where near, he will more than likely try to look you up.

I suppose your folks wrote you about the basketball tournaments but just in case they didn't, I'll go over them briefly. We came out first in the UP League, beat Hays Hi to take the lead in the regional tournament, beat Abeline in the semi-finals, and went to the state tournament at Emporia. We played Turner the first nite and what a game. We listened to it over the radio. It was nip and tuck all the way through except for a couple times that we had a seven point lead on them. In the last few minutes of play, Turner sort of turned the tables on us and beat us by three points. Just imagine after all that good playing, we were defeated by three stinken points. Perhaps its a good thing we got beat by them with such a small margin because in the finals Anthony beat the socks off Turner. In the AA games, Salina defeated Topeka by two or three points so they were the champions in the Class AA games. I know so few of the kids on our team that I still picture you, Bud, Dick and the rest of the kids that played when you did, when I hear or see a basket-ball game. Those were the good old days, weren't they, Bob?

I haven't written much and can't think of any more to write so guess that means its time to stop. I'll write when I can and you do likewise. Take care of your self, Bob, and hurry home.

*Love
Ange'*