

Friday  
13 July

Dear B. D.

How are you old pipeline? I have just gotten your address, so I figured this would be as good a time as any to drop you a line & see how you are. The last I heard was that you were in the hospital at Topeka and were having quite a time of it. We followed each out of the old class of '41 through this damned war and have lost track of quite a few - I would, of course, like to keep in touch with everybody personally, but that would involve too much work, & since we come to deplore work in any sense of the word, I never did start correspondence.

I've seen exactly 3 Russell men since we've been in the service - no more no less. I saw "Fritch" Danielson when I was in Radio School at Sioux Falls, S.D., & I saw Virginia Crissman's boy friend (at the time) also at Sioux Falls. That was 2 yrs ago, & I've seen only one since - Michaelis (Mick). He & Peggy Lou stopped in to see us on their way to San Diego. He hadn't changed much

but was sure at odds with the U.S. Navy,  
we got a card from them a couple of days  
ago, & he said it looked as though he would  
be in San Diego for several months -  
flying the old navy work horse, the PBY -  
& how he hates it. I hope Wilmer is  
able to stop off here on his way to Santa Ana  
but I rather doubt it. Mick said Wil  
has actually gotten fat - can you beat  
that? Haven't seen Old Bot Dawson  
since he left Russell in '42 - but still  
have hopes of seeing him before he goes on  
to the S.W. Pac. I was reading in the paper that  
Dean Ostrum's outfit (-7<sup>th</sup> Arm.) was due  
to come back in September. ~~It is~~ Saint  
is in Love Field Dallas flying with  
the Air Transport Command. sure would  
like to see him as well as everyone else.  
Strange thing - most of my friends are  
officers. ~~Saint is still~~ troubled with Finch. ???  
As you know, Doc has become a father since  
I last saw you - no fooling Bob, ~~he is~~  
a cute little fellow - we've named him  
Ronald Guy - and he'll be a year old the

22<sup>nd</sup> of this month I had a picture  
with me, I'd sure put it in here. For  
th past 18 months I've been stuck here  
on this field as a radio instructor. We  
have th B-29 here and they are really  
pushing th boys through. I've been  
trying to get back on a crew for a year  
now, but my deaf left ear has kept me  
right here - I have what is commonly  
known as a "good deal" but wish to tell  
I could get overseas where I belong - 2 1/2  
yrs. in th states & in th army is almost  
too much for anyone. I wish I could tell you  
a little about th old home town, but I  
haven't been home for 19 months - Mich  
told me that about th only change  
was th number & size of th trees - bigger &  
more of them. Th Cotton Club is no longer  
th cotton club - new name, but I can't think  
of it. I'm afraid th wet county of Russell  
is due for investigation from th state.  
I understand that it is th wettest spot  
in Kansas (liquor of course).

Well Bob, I haven't much more to offer  
as you may plainly see, this letter was  
written in one helluva hurry, will

write again in a week or so & hope to have more news for you.

Ken is wishing you a very speedy & recovery Robin - and I certainly hope this letter finds you feeling well & comfortable. I know you've had a pretty tough time of it, but I also know you, & know you can beat anything you set your mind to - now I sound like something of a chaplain. Get well fast & kiddo, & Ken is hoping I get to see you soon -

Love & Kisses

D.C.

P.S. Suppose you knew Bud Smith is missing in action -

Sgt. J. A. Clewley # 31501614  
Squad "F"  
Lavis Mountain Field  
Tucson Ariz.



VIA AIR MAIL

St. Robert J. Dole  
Ward A-14  
Winter Hospital  
Topeka  
Kansas

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