

January 20th 1944.  
6.45 A.M.

FEB 4 REC'D

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Dear William & Philinda:

It has been quite a time since I have had a chance to sit down and attempt to get a letter or at least a few lines to you, Sarah has been doing most of the writing as she does write long hand and that is almost an impossible task for me.

Your last letter received was on January 7th and was written on December 3rd, the time is not so good, but as long as they come through we shall not complain. I think that one of my letters must not have reached you as I remember asking several questions that I have not heard from. One thing, which was quite unimportant, was how you are able to get your liquid refreshments at the price that you do. Liquor is very scarce and quite high in Ohio, at least, it is on ration and the last period was from Dec. 1st to Jan. 17th and you could get one quart of whiskey and one bottle of cordial or what they might have.

In one of your letters you ask about your insurance policy and whether or not it was affected by your being abroad, from what I can find out, your being abroad does not affect it at all. In regard to the Midland Mutual policy, I believe that this can be changed to a life policy at almost anytime now. I shall talk further with Kirby Dickerson about it. You know that Bill Grieser is with the USO and is in Oklahoma and likes it very much.

It is surprising how many of the boys are gone, mighty few are left and they are now taking the older and married ones, for instance, Cy McKinney and Don Lindrooth both have to go soon. Walter Kinney is home on furlough, has been in for over a year now and was in one camp for a year and has been transferred to Texas, thinks that they are preparing for a "canoe" trip as he calls it, Rudy Schenk was in the store the other day and told me that he had a Christmas card from you and was much pleased.

I had a letter from Janie a few days ago and they are awaiting the event and said they were "expecting" at any time now. Norman is still in Seattle, you know the office is being closed there and he will be transferred to San Francisco, just so he does not have to leave the country it will be fine.

We had a very nice Christmas as Sarah has told you all about, we were at Betty's and they had Aunt Bertha and Esther, I had a nice turkey ordered and gave it to them, he weighed 19 1/2 lbs. and was really good. Our presents were all very nice and we really had a good time. I am wondering if you ever received the box that we sent to you. It was mailed on October 19th and I will give you a list of the contents: - one white shirt, 2 Pajamas, four dress ties, shaving kit, (soap, Cologne and powder), handkerchiefs for Philinda, butterfly pin and earrings. I do hope that it has arrived for they would not let me insure it.

I am sure that I told you that Mary and Leonard gave you and Philinda a 25.00 War Bond for a wedding present, I have it for you as also the \$500.00 bond which the Park National delivered to me for Philinda. You must write to Mary and Leonard if you have not already done so. Grandpa is still in Newark and is as well as usual.

Did we tell you that Ollie Irwin passed away, he had had heart trouble for quite a time and went down to fire his furnace and passed out. He would not stay at his son's house at night as he said he did not like their beds. When he did not come to Clyde's for breakfast, on time, he went up and found him. It was a nice way for him to go for he was so active and could not have stood it to be confined in bed. He was with the store for forty seven years and was past eighty two years old.

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Talked to Merril Montgomery at Rotary this week and he says that John is still on the Texas border and likes it very much. He really did well for himself when he went into the Cavalry. Bob Gulick is in the South Pacific and has seen some real action, he is a naval flyer, Bill Gulick is in Panama with the Navy.

I told you in one of my letters, which may not have reached you, that I had finally disposed of the farm to Tom Powell. I got just what I owed John Taylor for it and was glad to be relieved of it as it was really a burden in these times, no help, no gas and no tires. I kept fifty bushel of apples which will carry us through the winter with plenty to pass out to our relatives and friends.

We now have parking meters around the square and they are going to put in about three hundred more adjoining the square. Think that they will be very satisfactory. You can park 12 minutes for 1¢ and so on up to two hours for .10¢.

The merchandise situation is still very unsatisfactory and our shelves are almost bare. Of course we have so little help that it makes it very difficult to get out of the store and when night comes, I am ready to call it a day and retire for the rest of the evening. We are invoicing now and that makes it harder than ever as I try to wait upon all of the trade and get the other boys do the counting. They talk as though they would release more material for consumer consumption in the future and I hope that it will come to pass.

Your black suit case finally arrived and that he been quite a long time ago, it is stored in the back bedroom under the bed and I think that it contained all that you mentioned. Also we received your watch, mailed from Washington and we have heard nothing further about it so let us know if you will have us do anything with it.

We are having the Bond Drive at this time and I imagine that it will be rather difficult to make our quota of \$4,000,000.00 plus for Licking County. Our War Chest went over in good shape, our goal was \$116,000.00 and it went over the top for which I was much pleased.

Your letters, especially Philinda's are quite interesting and we do enjoy them very much. You are in a very interesting place, even though it is the "White Man's Grave". Alex Turner once told me that when he was just out of school a firm wanted to send him to Nigeria, but he had had a friend who had been there and he told him to stay away as a white man could not live six months in that country. Imagine that conditions have changed some since that time.

Do you hear anything further about your having to go into the army, I hope that you will not have to go, but it would not surprise me at all if they did call you. The thought over here is that Germany can't last much longer and let us hope and pray that such is the case. When they are out of the way the other will be much more simple.

We have been having some very nice winter weather, very little snow and rain and we really need much moisture in the ground for the spring crops, especially the wheat which will be a short crop if we do not get more snow or rain.

Melody is getting along fine in school and likes it very much. We have all had colds and the grippe, but are better now.

Love and best wishes, *Daddy*