Thursday Evening.
April 8-43

Dear Little Boy of Mine:-

Here I come with my daily letter and I hope you will be able to make it out. Iam so tired that I don't know whether I am a foot or a horseback. My back feels like a horse's back that had had a heavy rider on it all day. I went over to the lot to rake and burn and am I feeling the effects. I only got a little done and hope I can finish it this week or first of next. I think I needed to use the pitch fork to pitch the grass first then rake. It is so thick and deep with so many week stocks that it sure is a job. I hate to leave it in that condition because after another year it will be terrible.

You said you were listening to Richard Crooks and I guess I told you in my letter of Monday night that I was doing the same thing as I wrote you. Oh how i love to hear him sing and try to listen to his expressions so that they will help me out. It brought back memories of how we listened to him and how Wayne and the rest like to hear him too. I wonder if we shall ever see them all again.

It is fine that your new boss reads his bible, I hope he can understand it when he does read it. I am sure that he will think my little boy is all right when he comes to know how wonderful that he is too. Well I am sure that if he reads his bible that he will not bring booze into the camp and get himself tight.

We have had two days of bright sunlight and it has been warm too after the sun gets up but it sure is cold at night and early morning. I was so hot and tired when I came home from the lot that I had some ice tea. Bobby was sure all in and has folded up in the rocker to sleep while I write. I can fold up pretty easy too and will as soon as I finish this letter. I won't have to be rocked to sleep that is sure. Tomorrow I go to take my lesson and do some errands up town such as get my shoes and some food because I am not going to go up again this week.

I don't blame Buras for making the boys wear dress clothes up town. Here they have beach patrol and if any of the fellows are found without dress suits after a certain hour of the evening they get the brig. Of course there are so many here now and this being the air base I think that it is fit and proper do have them do that, but out in a small group like you are it may be different yet he wants them to do what is right and to look nice. Tell him I said "Hurrah".

So you heard from Margaret and Earl, so did Sister Noland. I would too if I would write her but I have just been too busy this winter to do it and now that the weather is nice I am still plenty busy. Sister Noland said that Margaret was planning on coming to Ott soon.

We just must go see the boys sometime when we have the opportunity as they are so far from home and Raymond has been plain sick from homesickness. Dutch takes it all as it comes and I'll bet poor little Benny is plenty heartsick and homesick both. Poor Kid. We can phone 600 and ask for them when we get there and they will come to the gate and see us if they will not let us in. Alta said that they only let relatives in but to phone them and then they will meet us at the gate. Yes you told me that you couldn't get the tires from that boy but we will be very careful in driving and I feel sure that you can get recaps as long as you have the car to do driving down to Kentwood and to N.O to the base, etc. Raymond told his mother that if he had a car he sure could use it as they let the ones who have a car use quite a bit of gasoline and I know the boys here get special gas too.

Gee but I am getting sore thro my shoulders and arms. I will have to get busy again tomorrow and work it off after I come home from town if it don't rain. It looks like it to night. Dorothy wanted to drive down to Cliffland tomorrow afternoon when she gets off work if it don't rain.

She has to work until 3:30 every day. Morrells are having a hard time to get stock now, and a lot of the men are quiting and going out to the air port. Men who are not in essential war work will have to get a different job or be drafted. Tom Dial is in the paint gang and he is going to try to find something different as he will be drafted for farm work if he don't and he hates that.

If you think you will be glad to get back home, just remember that I will be glad to see you back here too. I am just as happy as a person can be the that there is a slim chance for sea duty. Believe me that is the dear Lord answering prayer and how I praise him for it. He has been with our boys over there and leading them to many victories. I pray that he will be ever by Bud Welshons side protecting him and bring him safe back home.

Well I geuss that I don't have any news much tonight either. I told you all the new things that I knew in the letter I sent out this morning so I will have to meet up with some news before I will have anything new. Harold, Edith and the boys want to see you and so does Bonnie Price. Oh, dearest you just don't know how they all want to see you. If you get in here before noon Sunday you will find the water hot so that you can shave and clean up and me all ready so that we can hop in Jennifer and go to church. I will not go unless you come first so that we can go together and then I want to see you first. That is one privelage which is all mine.

Will Buras let you cook on the elctric plate like Jim did or does he think it out of place. Well I got the bedding all in moth balls today and got out my pillows, cases, sheets and things which I might need down there. After I get things lined up I will bring out your suits, coats and my coats and hang them in the back bedroom where they will be in the light and the moths will not be encouraged to eat on them like they would in that dark closet. I will spray them with Larvex besides. If you get here the 18th it will be only nine more days. Oh, Boy. I know that I will enjoy the south. I have always wanted to see it and never dreamed that I would in this fashion.

Gee I am so tired that I couldn't sing even Yankee Doddle tonight. I am sure going to get to bed soon. Geuss I had better go now, Eh? You should see the gardening and chicken raising which is goingon in every ones back yard this year. Victory gardens everywhere. I have got the itch too but what good would it do for me to plant anything. I wouldn't get to use it. I don't think we will have any peaches this year, the trees really look dead, all the old stock. The plum trees are just about ready to burst into bloom if the warm weather continues. My feet were just black when I took off my shoes and stockings this evening so I had to have a foot washing. Well I will close now and go takee a look at the night and then go to bed. I love to go out and look up at the sky when the stars and new moon has come out even if I do see green and red stars everyonce in a while for the boys do night flying nearly every night. When they were out last night they flew so that we could see them down at the river. Bobby got his squeeze, a special one for you. He gets squeezed and kissed and loved until he is squeezed to pieces. He is such a joy and comfort to me, to have something to keep me company here alone in the house. And then he is my little boy's sweetheart and that means a lot to me. He is so faithful, he has kept me from going daffy, having him with me.

Well I am going to sign off for my arms and sides ache like the toothache, I sure will be plenty sore to sing tomorrow. She will bawl me out for doing such work the day before my lesson. So long for now my sweet and I'll be seeing you soon and you will be back in the old home. What joy. Bless you my dear and hurry home, Bobby and I can't hardly wait. Be sure to call me when the train gets in. Thanks for the coffee stamp. I will use that tomorrow. So by for now and sweet dreams to my little sailor boy. Will be looking for your letter tomorrow. Love Mother & Bobby. Phone No is 3918-W remember

Friday Evening.
April 9-43

Dear Little Boy of Mine:-

Well, well, tomorrow is Saturday and I hope that just a week from then you will be taking the train at 5 P.M. I hope Mr. Buras has come to know that you are one who deserves a break and will let you start early so that you can get home on Sunday and thereby have a chance to see Hudge if he gets to come home at that time. Wouldn't it be grand?

I get your letter this morning and you said that you didn't have any news that you are just counting the days and so am I. But I don't know what could be any better news that that anyhow do you?. When I woke this morning it was raining as I thought it would be. I went to take my lesson at eleven, which is to be my last one and Mrs. Steltz said it makes me so D--- mad to think that you are going away just when I get you going good on your singing. She said they would have to discontinue the Merrell chorus in another month due to so many of the men being called into service.

After I finished my lesson I went on over to Noras to get my Spencer uplift and she gave me a beautiful hand painted chop plate that she had, it has the yellow roses on it and I have put it in the top shelf of the corner cupboard with my milk glass compotein fxr front of it and then the yellow hobnail salt and pepper shakers and the yellow vinegar bottle on that shelf and it sure does look pretty. She wondered what she had that you would like to have as a keepsake and as we looked around we decided on the chromium boat which Merle had given her at one time, so you have a boat now after all from A Marine to a Coast Guard fellow. So there.

I got my shoes at the shop and a pound of coffee and some cream puffs and came on home and had a lunch. I am saving my meat coupons to get some butter and some meat for when you are here. Bobby whined around and kept it up until a while ago when I had to go down and make a fire, it is warmer out of doors than in the house because I didn't have any fire yesterday evening after coming in from the garden lot. As soon as the house warmed up he went in and laid down in the living room and has been content ever since.

I didn't get to church this evening as Edith Clossen called up and Avinell has been feeling just grand ever since last Saturday. Not sick at all and Edith said she has been flying around and working like a Turk. Well I told her to look out now and to keep her shoes on because she would be Grandma before very long, and told her to tell Avinell to hurry up because I wanted to see Jr. before we left. Edith is not a bit well, she is dizzy so much of the time that it is hard for her to keep the right side up. She has been taking vitamin shots and the Dr. said she had low blood pressure.

Well I got a letter from Gussie today and they are now settled in Silvis, Ill with Ralph. They live just one block off the main road to Chicago on 10th St., They have a five room house, not big enough to hold all of their beds so they had to store some in the closets and this fall she wants to get a bigger house and keep roomers again. She wanted to know all about you and me and Aunt Lilly and Martin but she never bothers to write to them. Funny how they can ride past here day after day like Newt did and never poke their noses in but come up for information every so often just to keep a check on us. Well she won't hear from Aunt Lilly for she is defenetly done with her.

Mrs. Steltz spoke about Camp McCain being in Miss and wondered if you were near it and when I told her where it was and that several of our boys from our own neighborhood was there she said if I got to go over to try and say hello to Roger Poling who is her daughter's boy friend. Puppy stuff you know, they were both in High School together. Benny Doup knows him.

I was talking with Ruby today and she said she was nearly sick wanting to see Benny. He doesn't complain but he said he sure would like to see the folks from home. He sent for his violin and they said he could have it so his mother sent it down to him and he gets a lot of pleasure out of it. I imagine that Benny gets rather lonely as he is so much different from Dutch and Raymond.

I hear the frogs singing a regular chorus tonight and old grandpa frog is out thumping on his old bass viol. I'll bet the fish are biting like nobody's business tonight since the rain. It is quite cloudy yet. The sun shone brightly just before it said good night and went down behind the park and then the clouds came together again and it has remained clouday since. If it clears up tomorrow I want to wash and then that will be my last so I want to make a good job of it.

Joe just told me good by on the phone as he is leaving on the Zepher Sunday evening. Nora is going to wind up affairs and then follow as soon as possible because she wants to get out there before Merle has to leave for service. He expects it any time now as he has had his first examination so I understand. Helen got a letter from Bennie yesterday which had been written March 23rd and he is in North Africa at Eron, at that beautiful port city, he was 15 days on the water.

My how things have grown and opened up since the rain, it is almost unbelieveable how fast they have come out. The cottonwoods are shedding their long red catkins or worm like blooms up town. I noticed them on the sidewalk as I came down from Nora's.

Next week is going to be a busy week for me finishing up the little things. I haven't taken up the insurance with Brenneman yet and I haven't paid the Metropolitan yet. It is paid until the first of May but I think I will pay it up to the 5th of Nov. when that policy of Vernon's matures and then after that deal I will start again. He declares that he should have that money but he will not. The check will be sent back to the company and then it can stay there until the smoke is cleared away and he sees things in a different light. Mable is bellyaching about not receiving her allotement yet and yet she was up town on the two days that I had to make hurry up errands to town on the check deal, etc and I of course would go into the dime stores to see that they were running them to suit me and she would be cocked up on the stool eating ice cream and drinking sodas, and such stuff every time. She has been laid off over at the lawn mower place. She is plenty sore at Marie because Marie wrote a letter placing the blame on Mabel for Vernon going to the army and Marie told him to burn the letter after he had read it but he didn't and she found it in the pocket of his work coat and so she is up and at her. Well all that outfit wants is someone that they can use to the limit and they found out that they didn't marry into the right outfit. They are mad because they couldn't work us or work Marie so they are mad at us. I can tell from what Vernon says and how he acts toward me. Well thats all right, he will just have to make the best of it. He can't say that I didn't warn him and I was careful to remind him of the fact when he claimed his right to the check.

Bobby has gone to bed and I think I had better take off too. I don't suppose that I had better write you after Thursday of next week had I as you won't be there and it would be a stale old letter when you get it. The days you didn't get any letter was due to Orpha being here, I suppose, or would it? No that wouldn't be it, there must have been something else that held it up. Well there is some on the way and more coming. I haven't turned the vibraharp up yet and tried it since I laid it face down with the weight on it. The belt is awfully loose and you may have to get one in Des Moines when we go up.

I'm sure glad that you like Mr. Buras. I hope he is a clean man and conducts the group in a strickly clean way or land on some of them. LeTureau's is the manufacture is it not?

I would laugh if you fellow beat that team. Well as you say, it is just for run. Alfred says that he has been playing ball too.

Yes I know your letter was brief but I know why and I don't blame you one bit. All that you can think of now is coming home and I am with you on the deal. I will have all ready that I can do and then we will have to finish up the finals when you get here such as checking the atticwindows and taking that dead branch out of the elm which might fall later on on the back porch roof and shuting off the water and lights. I couldn't hardly have that done before you come. You must remember we don't have any out door toilet any more. I will have everything done that I can and it will be a busy week for me. I have finished my sewing and the other dresses did not come so I will have to hustle some cotton dresses down there somehow.

I won't need any apartment unless you were going to stay with me too and so just a room in a private home would be enough and the meals I could get out and they will not be much if I can get fruit and vegetables. I am having to do without meat so much that I just go until I get so hungry that I can't stand it and then I take my spite, or should I say hunger out on a jar of tomatoes or green beans. So long as I get my coffee and some ice tea when it is hot I can manage. Maybe thro some of the church folks we can find just a room for sleeping.

Well, I guess I had better cut loose and go to bed. I will wash tomorrow if it is fair. If not I may go to town and get something to eat. I am out of lettuce, meat and all that but if I get eggs that will do me. Head lettuce is 15¢ a head now, can you imagine that? I hear them say on the radio that it is 30¢ in England and if it keeps on it will be that here. Monopoly and graft. Farmers are holding their hogs back until Merrells can't get any in at all on some days and when the announcement came out yesterday that there would be a ceiling on them of$14.50 you should see them pouring in today by the truck load. These farmers are nothing but cut throats. Joe Bensmiller has a nephew or brother, I forget which that paid over Eleven Hundred dollars income tax this year, so they are not hard run. Verla said that Grouch had to pay $106.00 this year.

So now Good night my darling and God Bless you and bring you safe home to Bobby and me and be sure to phone me when you arrive. Oh how happy I will be. I don't know whether I can stand so much joy all at once or not. Well I will take a big chance on it anyhow, won't you?

Sweet dreams of home and soon you will be seeing it. I dreamed of you last night and you were home and I know you must be dreaming too, so I will go to bed now and dream of you, my sailor with the Navy blue eyes. Good night, Good night.

Love Mother & Bobby

Bow-Wow (hurry up)

P.S. Almost forgot to tell you that the notice came today for your Government insurance. You can see it when you come home.

Wednesday Evening.
April 14-43

Dear Little Boy of Mine:-

I am so glad that this is Wed the 14th and it will be Saturday when this letter reaches you and maybe you will get it and maybe you won't.

However, I hope you take my advice and wear your blues and bring your pea coat because it is as cold as the dickens yet. Today it was only 22 above and we had snow flurries all day long. I managed to burn some of those boards that were out at the back because that was all that I had to keep the living room warm with. I shut off all the rest of the rooms and had to cook my meals in the kitchen and then bring them in the living room to eat them.

I called the coal man but they have closed up for the season and don't have a single bit of coal on hands. So I called our new neighbor as he has a truck and I notice that he hauls coal now and then so I called him, he is Naomi Mosher's husband and he is going to get a load of coal for someone else tomorrow and he will bring me a ton. I didn't want that much but if this kind of weather keeps up for a little while we will be using it, for you will be so cold all the time that I will have to get an incubator for you.

The smoke is still coming to the ground this evening so that looks bad, just like it would be cloudy and cold again tomorrow. I am sure glad that I was able to get the coal. Bobby sure is miserable from the cold. We are going to go to bed just as soon as it gets dark, it is past 7:30 now but we don't have any fuel so we will go to bed and keep warm until morning. I do wish this weather would break because it has just about got my spirits broken completely. I never was so darn sick and tired of a winter in my life.

As a rule we have a few bright warm days now and then but we have only had three or four at the most all spring. Hardly enough to get the outside cleaning ahd raking done. The grass is growing good and some things are coming out in spite of the cold but it is most unpleasant when the coal bin is empty but tomorrow there will be some and I can have the little old home nest nice and warm for my little Blue Bird when he comes home Sunday.

You can just bet that if we don't get any other directions from you or hear from you before noon that we will be there at number 9, Bobby and I . Then we will hurry home and get ready for church and then go up and give them an eyefull. You had better get a good deep breath and expand your muscles when you see Welshons coming toward you because you are going to get a real bear hug and I don't mean maybe. She said Sunday that I was the only person that would be any happier than they will be to see you, so that is going to be terrific.

I Got your 2 q uickies today and I am wondering if I will get anything tomorrow. Well if I don't I will know just how you are feeling about the whole thing and I am counting days, soon it will be hours, and then minutes and then I will be hearing the whistle of old #9 . God Bless it and bring it safely in with the most precious, most wonderful passenger that it ever carried, my little boy. Don't scold me if I bawl because I will be so happy that my bladder will slip up between my eyes I know but I am sure that I will not do as Lt Brown's mother did, run up and grab a man in uniform and hug and kiss him to find out that I had gotten hold of the wrong one, Oh no I know my little boy better than that. And so will Bobby. Now God bless you my lad, I'm wating and we will be seeing you Sunday evening. Oh how happy I am, my sweet.

Your Mother + Bobby