

June 23, 1945

Dearest Donna,
I have two wonderful sweet
letters from a dear and wonderful
sweetheart to answer this Sunday
afternoon.

Forgive me for not writing in
the last ten days for I have
been very busy, moving and putting
up telephone lines which is the na-
ture of my new job (part of it).

Communications officer for the 82nd
Battalion.

I really enjoy the clippings you
send - no one else sends them to
me.

I am glad you took all the snapshots -
I hope to get them soon. For I want
snapshots of you and the family
more than any other thing you
could send.

It is now time for the cherry
trees to be ripe - all over the coun-
try you see millions of cherries -
the trees are planted along the roads
and around the cultivated fields. Every -

day the owner of this house brings
in cherries, two plates piled 12
inches high of red ripe cherries. It
is good for one too since the army
can not give us fresh fruit from
home.

Damn the family for eating all the
please you find for me - please
send me some more when you
have time, will you?

How you done any painting home?
you all don't speak of it anymore.
I cannot tell you how soon I

expect to be home, but don't worry
about it cause I'll let you know
as soon as I can, if I can.

And gosh Donna, don't worry about
scraps behind the lines. These Germans
haven't got nerve enough to try any-
thing like that - most of them are
glad to see us and we are so safe
as in our own back yards.

Hope you are well for I couldn't
be healthier - give my love to
Curtis and Claire, and please continue
writing.
The Lady Jackson
J.P.



Berlin
July 6/1945

Dearest Denna,

Received several letters from you in the last two weeks. Surely enjoyed all of them, and the clippings, postcards and snapshot (of Jano Dan, of Dan, of Jan, you & Dan).

Haven't had a minute's rest for the last week - we moved up here the 4th of July - didn't get here until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning on the 5th - it is cold as the devil too. For the first time this afternoon I went without a coat but it started raining after supper and is still raining, is cold now too.

As yet haven't seen any of Berlin - we are down in a far south eastern corner - a residential suburb with lovely homes - great huge houses with expensive furnishings, beautiful grounds, and needing a little repair.

Near my quarters is a lake around which many rich Germans have built great homes with ovens, gardens, pools, swimming, pools, and bathhouses. The electricity is intact, but we have no warm water.

We have taken our own house
for a lounge and affairs mess. It
is modern, well design, expensively
furnished; we have engaged a dozen
German women and gals to cook and
serve food. Except for the American
woman and her family, we could not
do better in the United States.

My room has a balcony that projects
and over the terrace, and looks over the
lawn to the garden. As I write now,
both doors are open and I am sitting
almost on the balcony. It is quite
quietly and peaceful.

I am very happy that you and Betty get
along so well, she writes constantly of the
wonderful visits she has with you and
how much she loves you.

It is time to close now. Please
do not think I am depressed for I am
not. I am very well and quite happy
as can be expected.

I have you

Yours,
Joe Jr.

Am looking forward to receiving your
Magazine again.

Becklin

July 10, 1945

Dear I. D.,

Received my first mail today in
five weeks, was very happy to have
two letters from you, and one with
clippings. Also received the N. M. Magazine
which I enjoy so much.

Thank you so much for suggestions
in your June 28 letter - early enjoyed
them of the family - prefer to keep them,
if you don't mind - It is almost all
I have to see what is happening at
home.

I expect to come home in Dec or Jan,
but order may be changed again - now
I am in Berlin, and enjoying it. We
are living in excellent quarters in a
residential suburb, have a club and
nice mess hall.

The food shortage does not affect us
too much, and I am not hearing
any more.

Have received your 24th letter, am
ashamed that I have not written
more often, but there are so many
people to write and so much to do -
I will now catch up on my
letters.



I am pained because in all of the pictures you sent to me, you are not in any of them. Why not?

Hope you will send me some more pictures oh how I love them! And I do enjoy the N.M. Magazine and please keep sending both it and the clippings. I told you before I got the postcards, didn't I? Showed them to my friend "Missouri" and he didn't have anything to say.

Please do not worry about my getting hurt over here - I couldn't be safer in my back yard. Glad to have all of the news of Betty, Don, Lawrence and of the family.

Hope you are not working too hard with the boys in the hospital but I know they appreciate everything so much

Germany is still a beautiful country at present the Russians have complete control in this area. I am doing fine, have my chin pointed to sky, and do not regret a thing. Write as often as possible and all my love to you forever
Your loving son
John.

~~My dear Mr. Tolson~~
~~Received your letter~~
~~of the 11th~~
~~18~~
~~43~~

I received your sweet letter
number 87 yesterday
To be happy you are sheltering
some some pecans, I sure wish

I had some friends

I am quite well and healthy
Thank you the army does good by
its men.

Down town is nothing but
a mass of rubble - I saw the piled
up debris that use to be Wiltors
home and his office. It is not
pleasant to see these people starving
but it is not easy to forget similar
sights in Belgium, Holland, and France.
Yes, they really had it coming.

The Big Three are of course
shrouded in secrecy, not much I can
tell you about them - except Gen.

Marshall came rolling by
a couple of times.

Ting Pong, Volley ball, and
Cands take up much more time,
both day and night, than
any thing else - I intend to
boat on "Wahnsee" one of those
days.

Thanks you for sending the
clippings. It's late now, I must
close - hope you are well and
happy and it will not be too
long before I can see you
again. I am, as you advise,
being Patient.

Good Nite

Love you

Joe J.

1945

Berlin

August 4

Dearest Grandmother,

Received three letters from you today, oh was I gald to get them. I have not ha d but one letter this week and ~~these~~ of yours were more t han welcome. I really enjoyed all of the ~~clippings~~ the only ones that I have seen before being the ones on world e vents- the items of local interest and those concerning the Hell on Whells were ~~of~~ especial interest to me and I knock ^{my} ~~self~~ out reading them.

Yes it will be asn almost impossible job to educate the Germans to our way of thinking, but not an impossible one I think. The people here look and act as ~~American~~ as you or I with a few excepti ons which are fundament- al but jnot inherited, therefore we must start at the bottom and work up, exerting all our influence, imposed by force if need be, into teaching the m the democratic feeling. opinions and background. We must not set up ourselves as ideal, nor try to teach these people that The U S is the only decent place to live. Let them Have Germany and teach them to love her aswe love our home, but instill in them the needlessness of war and conquest.

This is ~~of~~ course my own humble opinion, and I am a fine one to talk for I want no part in occupying Germany to see thst these things are done.

We are too easy on the Germans, but ease and politefulness, sympathy for the hard-pressed is a time instilled principle of Americans and it can not be changed. It will work out for the best I am sure.

This talk of werewolfes is a lot of propoganda raised

and affirmed by a few people in the U S still under the influence of Nazi fifth columnists of which there are no doubt a large number still living, but all have changed their tunes and are working with the Americans at the present time. I am not saying that they would not take up arms against us again however for the people here are two-faced and ^{it} is quite evident.

I think and awful lot of the Mc Knights and I miss Wade very much. But you must help me convince the M c Knights that there was nothing fishy about the ^{way} Wade was killed, accidents of the type that killed him are quite numerous over here, so bad in fact that we have orders to collect all foreign weapons and turn them in to be kept until we are back in the U S. People here have not been taught the dangers of pistols in childhood, and there are many soldiers who have never fired nor owned a pistol, the most dangerous kind of a weapon.

My life here is full of ease and comfort. Daylight finds me working occasionally, but usually loafing, we are well fed, well quartered, and have time on our hands. I am even gaining weight.

The reason I do not write more is because I do, as does Betty, write every night for long periods of time to her. The fact that I am away from her is the most disheartening thing that has ever happened to me and I know you realize this donna. I am simply head over heels in love with a very precious girl and I can not help but myself, nor do I wish to.

I love you very much too donna and it bothers me when I do not write to you more- I guess I'm just not any good. Please please forgive me will you? And I promise I will try to write to you more often. In the mean time try to keep the letters and the clippings coming for I enjoy them so much. With this last batch of postcards I know I can

and affirmed by a few people in the U.S. still under the
influence of West fifth columnists of which there are no
convince my friend ^{you} Missouri of the finer things available
and commonplace in the state that I love.

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Always you are my most loved and devoted
adorable Donna

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Hanau.

Hanau, Germany
31 August, 1943

Dear Donna,
I know it has been a long while
I have written you - all my letters
stayed that way down there. I received
your letter yesterday. Thank you
for the clippings. I got your letters
up in the last hour last week.
They were delicious!! You were
Donna, they were so sweet.

So sweet to send them.
Betty should be staying with you
as I write this - I know you are
being wonderful to her. How do I
rate such a sweet grandmother?
V-J was just another event. I al-
most got excited at least I know I'll
come back some day - now I do not
know when it will be.

I've been happy almost all of
the time - but tonight I'm a little
blue - with you forgive me? I'm
thinking about home - birds and love-
birds and Betty, as is proper for a
young man in love, and it sort
of bothers me at times. And
I miss you all a great deal too.

March
You know we should have gone out
to your farm more than we did
Donna. It's such a pretty farm, and
a good one. I used to always have
so much fun over at "Donna's".
How can a kid ever repay one who
has been so good and ^{sweet} and kind
and so volent as you have been to me
Donna? I think you are so wonderful.

We are in a little town near
Havana - comfortable and quiet - the
Germans do not bother us, and
we do not bother them. Everything
is a little confused now, so many
men with over 85 points are going
home, we have very few left.

But we won't keep anybody here
and will make out somehow.

I miss "Glophen" as the Germans
say. I hope you are well and happy,
I could not be healthier.

Your loving grandson
Joe Jr.

Included in Presidential Unit Citation awarded
to the Battalion.

Kanan

14 October 1945

Dearest Donna,

Today was a cold, cloudy, late fall Sunday - and tonight it is colder than ever. The last few days have been an Indian summer - warm and sunshiny - the trees are beginning to color to their fading coat of yellow and purple and gold - not like the old cotton-woods in the Pecos Valley, or the poplars and oaks and arched trees along the Gando - but it gives a feeling of beauty and peace when ~~one~~ one doesn't think of the time and distance from those who he loves.

I have been receiving many letters and notes from you Donna, I am sorry that I do not write to you more often.

We are preparing to sail to the states now - all of our equipment is being turned-in. We will be ready to go in two or three weeks. Isn't that a happy thought? I do so want to be with you and Betty by Christmas - pray with me, please.

Time to sleep now - Tomorrow will be another busy day.

Good night I love you
Kanan

1 January 1943
13 days

Dearest, Donna

I haven't written anyone for a long time now - seems like just has to get into the mood. It's turning colder every day now.

Even though we are in the South. Germany it will be a cold winter.

I'm hoping on some day before real winter comes, but I am still glad to be in the army of occupation. About the only thing that will get me back to the United States is to stay in the 2nd Armored Division which will always be a regular army reserve. Otherwise I will be left here in the army of occupation.

Betty wrote how lovely he stay with you in Powell - you are so grand Donna, so he and me - makes me love you so much!

I've found a golf course in Frankfurt, and Jim's coaching a softball team, so Jim's out doing a lot.

Are you going to have grapes and pears this fall? I hope so, and I

hope you send me some.

I've quit smoking - I feel better already - always knew I never should have smoked.

I have shirts and pajamas on my bed and on me now - what a sissy I turned out to be!

My work is complicated because of lack of men and materials, but it does keep me busy - for that I am grateful. I would be so homesick otherwise.

Well - I must get some "slofer" as they say in Germany.

Goodnite, write soon for I enjoy your letters and the sketches, hope you are well and happy - and I love you

All of my love for Chae and Curtis.

Kello to Mrs. Anderson.

30 October

1945

Warren

James & Patricia,

Time begins my fourth year in
the Army of the United States - does it
seem to you that three years ago I was
coming down to 400 W. Lee. bringing
my pals to see you and talk over
all the good times we've had, and hav-
ing a good time to talk about later?

Gosh, that was a long time ago...

I have really been busy this past
few weeks - I am in charge of turning
in all of our equipment - mechanics, tools,
weapons, ammunition, tanks, radios etc. - you
would be surprised at the great amount of
things we had.

Now I am almost through - a few
more "peeps" and "trucks" some armament
and I am finished - then my job will
be easy - and I am ready for a
rest too - I hope to take a leave,
but I do not know if I will
get it or not - cross your fingers. xx
Saturday I went to Bielefeld to get
rid of some equipment. Today I went
to Mannheim, a great industrial city -

what is left of it. Are you people at home seeing pictures of the terrible destruction and ruin that has befallen the cities of Germany - all of the cities down to the size of Roswell.

Imagine riding down a wide boulevard, or rather a one way street because of the mountains of rubble on each side from totally destroyed hotels, and factories, and apartment houses and homes, looking up and twisted hunks of steel protruding above tops and tops of crumpled brick and concrete. And while you are thinking about it, consider that it almost happened to New York City, Chicago, Dallas - Roswell. - I'll never forget that for a moment with you?

I am well and happy now - as happy as one can be with one's loved ones 7000 miles away, but such is war "Se la guerre". Oh, I must get a lot of sleep, must go back to Mannheim tomorrow. Thanks ever so much for the cake, the candy, and the tied socks - they are wonderful and all the men are trying to talk me out of them shortly. I have slept in them for the past four nights - so warm! All your love Geo. Jr.