

Merrill O. Burton

Letters to/from/about Merrill

August 12, 1942

To

August 1, 1948

Merrill O. Burton

Letters to/from/about Merrill

August 12, 1942

To

August 1, 1948

Leonard Burton (lb)- Merrill's Brother

Merrill Burton (mb)-

Kay Burton (Stoudt) (kb)- Merrill's wife

Wanda Burton- Leonard's wife

James Brown- Chaplain of 381st Bomb Group

Lilah Pirece- Mother of Ralph Powell, Ball Turret Gunner with
Merrill on 5-30-44; KIA

Mrs. Bredeson- Wife of David Bredeson Co-pilot with Merrill on
5-30-44; KIA

Allen (Alvin) Berry- Navigator with Merrill on 5-30-44; POW

Nadine- Wife of Jim Marbry, Radio Operator with Merrill on
5-30-44, POW

Anna Hassink & Christien Loyson- Caretaker(s) of Merrill's grave
in Holland

Letters to/from/about Merrill O. Barton 1942 - 1948

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
1942			
lb	Imperial, Ca	8-12-42	mb
mb	Van Nuys, Ca	8-25-42	lb
mb	San Antonio, Tx	10-23-42	lb
mb	San Antonio, Tx	11-6-42	lb
1943			
mb	Preflight	1-6-43	folks
mb	San Antonio, Tx	2-15-43	folks
mb	Spartan/Muskogee, Oh	3-2-43	folks
mb	Grenville, Tx	4-24-43	folks
mb	?	Mothers Day 43	Mother <i>5-9-43</i>
mb	Grenville, Tx	Memorial Day 43	folks <i>5-30-43</i>
mb	Majors/Grenville, Tx	6-22-43	Dad
mb	Ellington Field, Tx	8-11-43	folks (repeated text?)
mb	Ellington Field, Tx	8-27-43	folks
mb	Pyote, Tx	9-4-43	Leonard & Wanda
mb	Alexandria, La	10-5-43	folks
mb	Baton Rouge, La	10-17-43	Mrs M Burton
mb	Baton Rouge, La	11-9-43	folks
mb	Grand Island	12-2-43	folks
	Marriage Announcement	12-10-43	
1944			
mb	Somewhere, England	1-3-44	folks
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	1-15-44	Mrs Burton
mb	Somewhere, England	1-26-44	folks
mb	Somewhere, England	2-1-44	Mother, Dad, Dick
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	2-24-44	Mother, Dad, Dick
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	3-13-44	Mother, Dad, Dick
mb	England	3-17-44	folks
mb	England	3-21-44	kids
mb	England	3-31-44	folks
mb	England	4-15-44	Dad
mb	England	4-30-44	folks
mb	England	5-14/17-44	mother
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	5-23-44	Mother, Dad, Dick
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	6-14-44	Mr & Mrs Burton
War Dept/Ulio	Washington	6-16-44	Mr Burton
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	6-17-44	Mother
Mrs Stoudt	?	6-19-44	folks
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	7-6-44	Mother, Dad, Dick

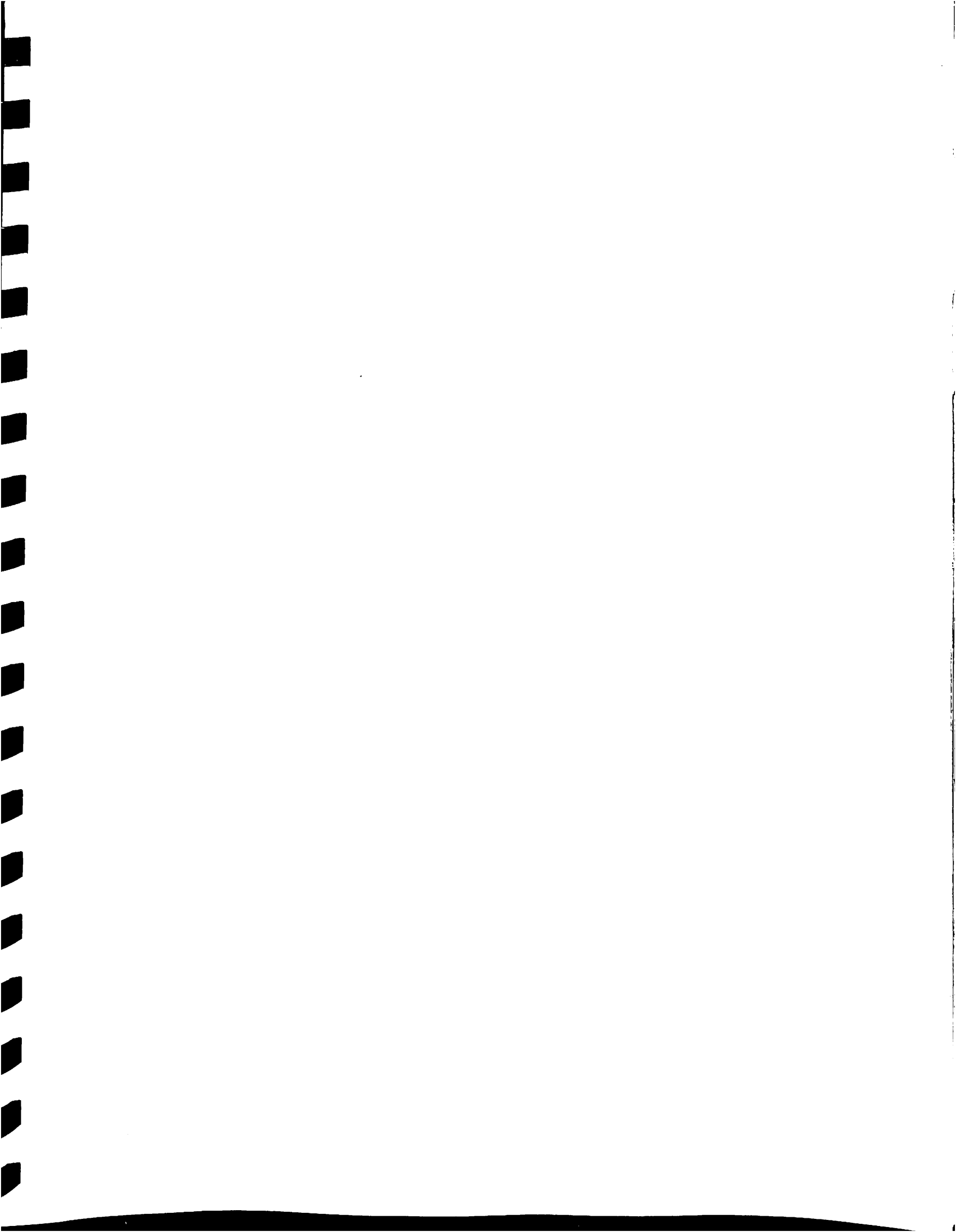
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	7-21-44	Mother, Dad, Dick
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	8-18-44	Mother, Dad, Dick
Wanda?Kath	LA, CA (Western Union)	9-20-44	Mr & Mrs Burton
kb	Van Nuys, CA	10-10-44	Mother, Dad, Dick, Wanda Mr Burton
Army/Finter	Washington + list of other on board	10-17-44	Mr Burton
Army/Arnold	Washington	10-17-44	Mother, Dad, Dick
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	10-19-44	Wanda & Leonard
James G? Brown (Chaplain)	NY, NY	10-31-44	Mrs Burton
Lilah Pierce	Durango, Co	11-1-44	Mrs Burton
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	11-2-44	Mother, Dad, Dick Wanda & Leonard
Mrs Bedeson	San Diego, Ca	11-7-44	Mrs Burton
1945			
Ins/McCoy	Washington	3-29-45	Mrs Burton
AllenBerry	?	6-26-45	Mrs Burton
E Bredeson	San Diego, Ca	7-2-45	Mrs Burton
Nadine	?	7-11-45	Mrs Burton
Army/Arnold	Washington	Memorial Day 5-30-45	Mr Burton
1946			
kb	Van Nuys, Ca	5-17-46	Mother, Dad, Dick, and all
War Dept (Witsell)	Washington	11-22-46	Mr Burton
A Hassink	Holland	11-15-46	Mrs Burton
War Dept (Prenn)	Washington	12-17-46	Mrs Burton
1947			
Fam Hassink	Heer, Holland	1-29-47	familie
Christien Loyson	Heer, Holland	3-27-47	Mrs Burton
Hassink	Heer, Holland	10-17-47	family
Mrs Hassink	Heer, Holland	6-25-47	fam Burton
Christien Loyson	Heer, Holland	6-26-47	Mrs Burton
Mrs Hassink	Heer, Holland	7-47	fam Burton
Hassink	Heer, Holland	8-25-47	family
Christien Loyson	Heer, Holland	9-16-47	Mrs Burton
Mary/Ella Burton	Harlem, Montana	12-1-47	Am Graves Reg
In Memory	Harlen, Mt	12-10-47	
Gen Dist/Blair	Ogden, Ut	12-29-47	Mrs Burton

1948

Christien Loyson	Heer, Holland	1-1-48	friends
Army/Larkin	Washington	2-9-48	Mr Burton
Christien Loyson	Heer, Holland	5-19-48	friend
Mr & Mrs Hassink	Heer, Holland	6-3-48	Mrs Burton
Mrs Hassink & fam	Heer, Holland	8-1-48	Mrs Burton

Misc

Berry? (Navigator)	? Germany	5-44	Notes
Mrs Anna Hassink	Heer, Holland	?	Mrs Burton
Christien & Fietie	Heer, Holland	14 Feb &	friend
Com General	Washington	??	??



Calendar for year 1942 (United States)

January	February	March
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 2:○ 10:● 16:● 24:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1:○ 8:● 15:● 22:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 2:○ 9:● 16:● 24:○
April	May	June
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1:○ 8:● 15:● 23:○ 30:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 7:● 15:● 23:○ 30:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 5:● 13:● 21:○ 28:○
July	August	September
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 5:● 13:● 21:○ 27:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 3:● 11:● 19:○ 25:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 2:● 10:● 17:○ 24:○
October	November	December
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 2:● 10:● 16:○ 24:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1:● 8:● 15:○ 22:○ 30:○	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 7:● 14:○ 22:○ 30:○

Holidays and Observances:		
Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jun 21 Father's Day	Nov 11 Armistice Day
Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday	Jul 3 'Independence Day' observed	Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Jul 4 Independence Day	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Apr 5 Easter Sunday	Sep 7 Labor Day	Dec 25 Christmas Day
May 10 Mother's Day	Oct 31 Halloween	
May 30 Memorial Day	Nov 3 Election Day	

Calendar generated on www.timeanddate.com/calendar

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Leonard Burton	Imperial, California	8-12-1942	Merrill Burton

Mr Merrill Burton
c/o Calif Aircraft Corp
Box 170
Van Nuys, Calif.

Dear ~~Mr.~~ Have been making slow time but are well on our way sure is HoT!! here on the desert. Had 4 flats but have a good spare left. Will write more later.

Love Leonard

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Van Nuys, California	8-25-1942	Leonard Burton

Mr. Leonard Burton
St. Regis Hotel
El Paso, Texas

Van Nuys,
Aug. 25, 1942

Dear Leonard

I'm sure slow about writing and right now I haven't much time but there is one thing I have to find out about. That is -

Bob Ennis has been after me for his trailer hitch and I figure it is still on your car. So - can I go down there and get it or can you have some one there ship it up here.

If I knew where I could get another one to replace it, I'd get that and you could keep the other one.

Bob has asked me several times if I'd found out about it yet and I keep stalling him off but guess will have to do something soon.

Let me know right away if there is any way I can get that one back.

I'd be willing to take a bus down some Sat. nite and come back Sun. to get it if there was some way I'd be sure of getting it when I got there.

We still haven't shot any of the picture we were planning on but will start next week if not sooner. So I'm not sure I'll be here this week end.

Everything is going much the same as always.

Haven't been getting around much and have only seen Wanda 4 or 5 times. She said she'd heard from you several times and seemed to be standing up under the strain pretty well.

I figure on buying a car when we get back from location so I'll be able to get around a little.

Well, better sign off now. Will try and write more news soon.

Love, Merrill

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	San Antonio, Texas	10-23-42	Leonard Burton

Aviation Cadet Center
San Antonio, Texas

Oct. 23, 1942

Dear Leonard

Well, I'm in the army now. Got in here last nite at 6.30 (Thurs.). Sure was a rough trip down. We had a special train. 450 guys on it. all the cars were so old they were about to fall apart. I was on the best car in the train and the least crowded. only 11 of us and most cars had 35 or 36. And the __ engineers we drew must have been kicked off freight engines. Sure handle that train rough. We didn't see anything worth seeing from the time we left San Berdo~~x~~ until we got almost to Kelly Field. Lost about 3 bucks in the poker game and had a lot of fun though.

Last nite we didn't get to eat until after 9 and in bed after 11. Up this morning at 5:30, breakfast at 6:15 and from 7 to 12 we stood in line to fill out insurance papers.

This afternoon is free until 4 and what comes then I don't know.

Boy, this place is huge. We've only seen a little bit of it so far and won't see much more for sometime.

It will take up several days to pass our exams to see if we are to be pilots, bombadiers, navigators or ground crew. Then we have to wait 3 or 4 weeks before getting into pre-flight and I don't know how long before we fly.

I think I'll like it fine after the strangeness wears off.

I'll write more soon. Answer as soon as you can.

Love, Merrill

P.S. ~~US~~ address on envelope.

USA

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	San Antonio, Texas	11-6-42	Leonard Burton

Army Air Forces
Aviation Cadet Center
San Antonio, Texas

← Squadron 105, Flight "A"

Nov. 6, 1942

Dear Leonard

Well, things are moving along slowly but surely here. I was finally classified all right as pilot. Now all I can do is wait until we can do some flying, which will be about Feb. sometime.

I got a letter from ^{omey} ~~On~~aw?? Yesterday. I'll have to answer it right away. Seems like I spend most of my free time writing letters.

I haven't heard from Kay yet. But should in a day or two.

We were finally issued some clothes yesterday. No more Cadet uniforms. We are issued regular army stuff. I'm sending a couple of bucks with this. Will you please send Kays picture. Put it in the small frame if you can. Also send a tube of that Fungi Rx salve. and send about 15 clothes hangars. Send the wire ones that you can hang pants on. I can't get off the post to buy anything so I'll have to have you send it I guess.

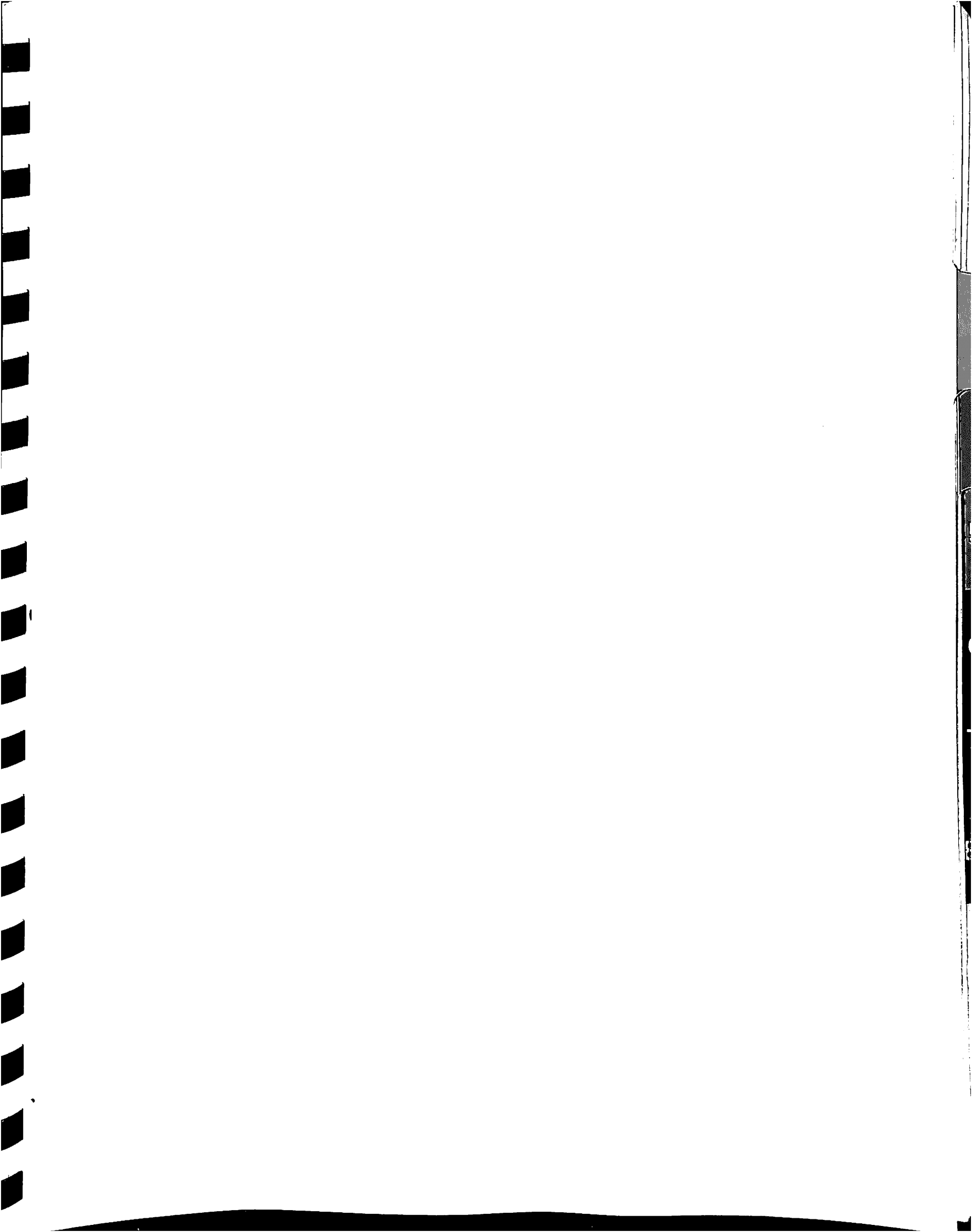
I don't know when I'll be able to send the clothes back that I wore down here, but very soon I hope.

We got in a bunch of new guys yesterday. Some civilians and some guys from the regular army. Most of them are from up New York way.

Well, I got to get going so Ill write more soon. Hope to hear from you soon. Say Hello with my best to Wonda.

a

As always, Merrill



Calendar for year 1943 (United States)

<p>January</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">6:● 13:○ 21:○ 29:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							6:● 13:○ 21:○ 29:●							<p>February</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">4:● 11:○ 20:○ 27:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28							4:● 11:○ 20:○ 27:●							<p>March</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">6:● 13:○ 21:○ 28:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				6:● 13:○ 21:○ 28:●							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
					1	2																																																																																																																																																							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																							
31																																																																																																																																																													
6:● 13:○ 21:○ 29:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																							
28																																																																																																																																																													
4:● 11:○ 20:○ 27:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																							
28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																										
6:● 13:○ 21:○ 28:●																																																																																																																																																													
<p>April</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">4:● 12:○ 20:○ 27:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		4:● 12:○ 20:○ 27:●							<p>May</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">4:● 12:○ 19:○ 26:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						4:● 12:○ 19:○ 26:●							<p>June</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">2:● 10:○ 18:○ 24:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				2:● 10:○ 18:○ 24:●							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																							
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																								
4:● 12:○ 20:○ 27:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
						1																																																																																																																																																							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																							
30	31																																																																																																																																																												
4:● 12:○ 19:○ 26:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																							
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																							
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																							
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																										
2:● 10:○ 18:○ 24:●																																																																																																																																																													
<p>July</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">2:● 10:○ 17:○ 24:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2:● 10:○ 17:○ 24:●							<p>August</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">1:● 8:○ 15:○ 22:● 30:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1:● 8:○ 15:○ 22:● 30:●							<p>September</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">7:○ 13:○ 21:● 29:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			7:○ 13:○ 21:● 29:●													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																							
2:● 10:○ 17:○ 24:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																							
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																							
29	30	31																																																																																																																																																											
1:● 8:○ 15:○ 22:● 30:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
				1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																							
26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																									
7:○ 13:○ 21:● 29:●																																																																																																																																																													
<p>October</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">6:○ 13:○ 20:● 28:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							6:○ 13:○ 20:● 28:●							<p>November</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">4:○ 11:○ 19:● 27:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					4:○ 11:○ 19:● 27:●							<p>December</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">4:○ 11:○ 19:● 26:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		4:○ 11:○ 19:● 26:●						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
					1	2																																																																																																																																																							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																							
31																																																																																																																																																													
6:○ 13:○ 20:● 28:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																							
28	29	30																																																																																																																																																											
4:○ 11:○ 19:● 27:●																																																																																																																																																													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																							
				1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																							
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																								
4:○ 11:○ 19:● 26:●																																																																																																																																																													

Holidays and Observances:

Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jun 20 Father's Day	Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day
Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday	Jul 4 Independence Day	Dec 24 'Christmas Day' observed
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Jul 5 'Independence Day' observed	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Apr 25 Easter Sunday	Sep 6 Labor Day	Dec 25 Christmas Day
May 9 Mother's Day	Oct 31 Halloween	Dec 31 'New Year's Day' observed
May 30 Memorial Day	Nov 11 Armistice Day	

Calendar generated on www.timeanddate.com/calendar

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Preflight School	1-6-43	Folks

Preflight School,
Jan. 6, 1943

Dear Folks –

I've gotten all your letters O.K. but haven't done so well about answering. The past six days I've had my right arm all tied down with gauze and tape so I couldn't write. I threw my right shoulder out of joint again and the doc's have had me sort of tied up. I still have my arm in a sling but I can write O.K.

I threw it out while wrestling during Physical training period. The other fellow got a little enthusiastic at a time when I was in a bad position. However it wasn't serious as it only came part way out.

Well, things have been going right along here. A week from today we will be upperclassmen. Time sure goes fast here.

I've gotten both of Dad's letters and enjoyed them very much. I hope to be able to answer very soon.

I'm not sure I thanked you for the xmas presents before. If not, I sure do now because you sure sent the things I can use. I got the last box of cookies too. And the pop corn balls. Boy, were they good.

But don't try to send too much of that because sugar is a pretty hard thing to get for you folks and I can have all I want here. [↓]one good thing about this place is the food. It is sure some different from the food in Classification Center. Right now, however we can't get any butter at all. Haven't been able to get any for several days.

It started to rain yesterday afternoon and has been raining pretty steadily ever since. We've sure had some lousy weather lately. Cold and windy and now rain.

One good thing about the rain, we can't go out and parade in the mud and parades are about the hardest thing here. you have to stand at attention or parade rest for about an hour and 45 minutes and your feet go to sleep and every muscle aches until you swear you can't sand still another second. Then they give the order to pass in review and when you start to walk you find that your feet are dead and you can hardly stand up. Add to that a good hot sun and you've really got something

^
and full dress uniform

I had intended to get some more snapshots but they have taken all cameras away from us so can't do that.

Had a swell letter from Mr. Kingsley which I must answer soon.

Got the Harlem News and the clippings today. That was sure to bad about the Allen girl. It would take someone as crazy as a Scifer kid to do something like that.

I haven't heard from Leonard for sometime so I guess I'd better write to him now too.

I had a nice card from Aunt Ada

I'll write more news soon.

Love, Merrill

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	San Antonio, Texas	2-15-43	Folks

San Antonio, Texas
Feb.15, 1943

Dear Folks

I've gotten all your letters but I'm slower than usual about answering this time I guess.

Been pretty busy as an upper-classman and especially the last week. We're getting ready to move out, to Primary. We leave tomorrow for Muskogee, Okla.

I'm sure glad I'm down south now, where there is no snow and it doesn't get very cold.

It has been cold enough to freeze ice outside and we have seen a few snow flakes but it didn't last long.

Sure was glad to hear that Dad got to go back East. Hope he got to see most of the folks.

I had a letter from Leonard a while ago. He was still working as usual. He didn't say much. I wonder if he is still figuring on going to Canada I hadn't had a letter from him for about a month and a half.

Had another nice letter from Mr. Kingsley. I sure do enjoy his letters. He writes almost as good a letter as Dad does, but not quite. I still have to laugh every time I think of Dad telling how the cow kicked him.

Our Group had their dance last Thurs. nite at the Service Club here on the ~~past~~ ^{post.}
We sure had a good time but it didn't last long. From 7:30 to 10:30. It was formal affair with the Cadet's in their full dress and white gloves and the girls in their formal dresses. It was quite a colorful show, quite a few of us had dates with girls we had met at a Tea Dance at the Gunther Hotel in San Antone a couple of weeks ago. For those who didn't have dates, the Cadet Hostess of the Post took care of them by inviting about a hundred extra girls. They arrived by bus loads and when they got off all you had to do was walk up and take one by the arm and there you were, all fixed up with a date.

We finished up our regular classes about a week ago but have been kept busy since learning all about chemical warfare and learning how to shoot .45 Colt automatics and .45 Calibre "Tommy" guns. Some fun. After shooting the .45 Colt I felt like I couldn't hit the ground with my hat but did quite a bit better with the "Tommy" gun.

Today is Turnabout day so the under classmen are having quite a time giving us the going over that we gave them for 4 1/2 weeks.

I don't how I'm going to like Oklahoma but it can't be much worse than what I've seen of Texas, at least we will be flying.

Meant to get something for you and Dad on your birthday but couldn't find anything I liked. I'm going to have some pictures made when I get to Primary and I'll

send you one as a substitute for something better. Anyway I sure hope you had very
Happy Birthdays.

^b I'll write again just as soon as I get to Primary.

Love from you Son, Merrill

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Muskogee, Okla.	3-2-43	Folks

Spartan Field
Muskogee, Okla.
Mar. 2, 1943

Dear Folks

Not much to write about but thought I'd drop a line anyway.

No flying today. This morning when we woke up there was a nice blizzard in progress. How this Oklahoma weather can change. It cleared up about noon and we had some fun out rassling around in the snow and having snow ball fights. Some different from San Antone.

I soloed last Saturday. The first one of my class to do so. Makes me feel pretty good. I only hope I can keep it up. They really demand precision flying here. So far I haven't found it very hard but our training has just started.

I don't know if we will fly tomorrow. It's getting steadily colder now and may be too cold to fly tomorrow too. Whenever we can't fly, we are free to go into town so time doesn't drag like it would if we had to stay in the barracks.

We took a lot of pictures today, so should have some in my next letter.

I talked to Kay the other nite, on the telephone and she had been home 3 days with the measles. She was feeling OK but didn't think much of having to stay inside all the time.

Mr. Kingsley did send a joke in his last letter. We all got a big kick out of it.

Leonard is worse than I am about writing. I've written him 2 or 3 letters but haven't got an answer.

Got a letter from Edna the other day so I owe her one too.

She says the only way she can get a letter from me is to have a baby and I understand I'm about due to write her another letter. I'm sure though that it isn't necessary for her to go to such extremes.

I hope the weather has been better there. It should be. It's all moved down here now. I suppose you're already looking forward to spring work.

Can't think of much else to say. So until next time -

Love,
Merrill.

Av/c Merrill O Burton
315th AAFTD SPARTAN FIELD
MUSKOGEE, OKLA.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Greenville, Texas	4-22-43	Folks

Greenville, Texas
Sat. April 24, 1943

Dear Folks –

Well, here I am, back in the State of Texas. Got here yesterday afternoon about 1 o'clock after a 7 hour train ride from Muskogee in a broken down chair car.

Boy, is this another change. Not at all like Spartan. Nothing but sand. Not a blade of grass in sight. And tar paper shacks for barracks. We weren't looking for this when we came here but I guess we can stand it for a couple of months.

I guess we will start flying again about Monday.

I can see now that flying these BT-13's is going to be the best part about Basis. I'm sure going to be tired of sand and tarpaper by the time I get out of here.

We won't be able to leave the post for at least 10 days and then we won't be able to get out over the weekends like the former Classes did. A new regulations say that no cadet may have an overnight pass.

Our class – 43-H – must be a jinx class or something. Every time we arrive at a new place they take some of our privileges away.

I'd hoped to get over to see Dallas once. It's about 55 miles away.

I had a letter from Leonard the other day. Guess he is still getting along OK. He sent some pictures of himself and the Stoudts and Wanda.

I still haven't sent that picture to you but will try and get it wrapped for mailing today. I've got some other pictures I want to send with it.

I expect you folks will soon be busy in the fields.

The mail just came in and I got the Harlem News. Thanks a lot.

Well, there doesn't seem to be much to write about this time but will write again in 3 or 4 days after we sort of get settled here.

Love to all,
Merrill.

Address –

Av/e Merrill O. Burton #
Class 43-H BARRACKS ET-144
AVIATION CADET DETACHMENT
MAJORS ARMY AIRFIELD
GREENVILLE, TEXAS

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	?	Mothers Day, 1943	Mother

Sunday, Mothers Day, 1943

Dearest Mother –

I meant to send you a card or something for Mothers Day but evidently they don't know what such things are down here because I was unable to find any.

Everythings going fine here. Have in 16 hours now in the BT trainer. About half of it solo. It's a lot of fun but some different from the Primary trainees.

We didn't like this place much when we first got here but are getting used to it now I guess. They keep us so darn busy that it's hard to find time to write much but will do the best I can. I think we're kept busier here than we were at Pre Flight~~X~~. We've been here over two weeks now but doesn't seem that long.

Had a nice letter from Kingsley the other day. He must have lost my last address because he sent it to classification Center and it had to go to Pre Flight, then to Muskogee, and finally here.

Went to church this morning – a habit I've sort of got into lately. The sermon the preacher gave on Mothers and Mothers Day was sure good. Made a lot of us boys wish we were home again.

I should have sent the picture a long time ago but there is no way to get to a post office here to mail a package. However, I bought a lot of stamps in a drugstore today, so will put some stamps on it and send it with our regular mail and hope it gets to you O.K.

Had a letter from Mary the other day. Hope I can answer it soon. I've got to try and find time to do more letter writing.

Well I better stop and do some more studying. All my love to you and Dad and Dick, from your son and brother Merrill

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Greenville, Tx	Memorial Day, 1943	Folks

Greenville, Tx
 Memorial Day 1943

Dear Folks –

I know I should have gotten a letter off to you long ago but first can't seem to get time to write. This won't be much but thought I'd better let you know I was O.K.

Everything is going just fine. I have in 55 hours now in the BT and should have about a 100 by the time I leave here. Getting so I know this ship pretty well now. Passed my final check on acrobatics the other day. Only have one more check to go and that's on blind flying.

I've been selected to fly in an acrobatic contest sometime before we leave here. The winner gets some war bonds or something.

We started flying nights last week. Fly 3 nites a week. Don't get much sleep. One nite I flew from 3 until 4:30 in the morning, got in bed at five and up at 7:15.

We had some nice cross country trips. The best one was to Texarkana, Arkansas, to Shreveport, La and back about 350 or 400 miles altogether.

We have started flying "under the hood" now too. That's instrument flying. It's awfully tiresome.

We've been getting a lot of rain the last couple of weeks. However, it hasn't interfered with our flying too much. It rains almost every week end though. Not much to do around here when we do get off to town. Go to church every Sunday and usually see a show.

We will leave here some time late in June and already we are beginning to ??? ??? ??? ??? still have no idea where we'll go from here.

Finished flying Tues. nite and since then we've just been puttering around the barracks.

After the pace we've been going, this sudden let down is no good. Guys get dissatisfied pretty easily. But I guess we will hold out till Monday.

I got a nice letter from Kingsleys the other day. Sure too bad about the Tangey Boy.

Had a letter from Omer too. I hadn't heard from him in a long time.

I sent an announcement to Mary and Lex up there because Mary said in her last letter that they were going home so you can see that they get it.

This is sure a mixed up mess here. Nobody knows where they're going everybody's trying to get packed, everybody wants to get out so they can see folks in Houston, and nobody knows whats going on.

We've been issued all of our equipment and its quite a problem packing it.
Winter flying clothes, Mac West, parachutes and other stuff, takes up a lot of room •

I don't believe any of us will get any time off between stations, so don't look for me home.

This is not a very cheerful letter but I don't feel very cheerful right now. We'll all feel better when we get to flying again, I reckon.

Just a glimpse of something besides are army post would help.

Well, when I write again it will probably be from some where else – outside the state of Tea I hope.

Until then, lots of love, Merrill

Texas

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Greenville, Tx	6-22-43	Dad

Majors Army Air Field
Greenville, Texas

June 22, 1943

Dear Dad –

Got your letter last week end and as Sunday was Fathers Day I figured I'd write a little myself.

Sure glad to hear things are going OK and crops looking good. Hope you don't have any trouble getting labor. I know that the farm labor shortage is pretty serious in many parts of the country.

This is quite a country down here. Flat as a table in every direction. Cotton is the big crop here. It's pretty country to fly over. Lots of woods and streams and everything is green. If only there was a hill now and then.

We took a cross country trip to Texarkana, upon the Arkansas border, then down to Shreveport, Louisiana, so got to see a good deal of eastern Texas. Gets pretty swampy down around Shreveport.

It stays so damn hot here all the time. Thunderstorms around every day but haven't been getting much rain lately.

We've just about finished our flying here ^{only} flying 30 min. a day. Just enough to keep our hand in.

We will be leaving for Advanced School the end of this week I think. We know where we are going but can't say until after we get there. I'll let you know as soon as I get there. I'm going to twin engine school which is what I wanted. I feel lucky cause a lot of guys didn't get what they asked for. Being as I'm going to Twin engine school I may be flying one of those 4 engine bombers before long. It may be I'd be sent up that way.

Jack and a couple of other cadets were supposed to fly back to Primary at Muskogee to talk to the cadets there to tell them what to expect in Basic school but think they've decided it's too far. Sure would like to go, though.

I haven't heard from Leonard for quite awhile so don't know if he is married or not but expect he is. If he is, he got a swell girl. I guess he has a pretty good job where he is at and would hate to leave although he mentioned in a couple of letters about jobs in the aircraft factories. I thin that's where he will wind up eventually. There isn't much else doing around L.A. now except factory work.

Have had a couple of letters from Mary since she got to Cheyenne. I gather she doesn't think to much of the place. I never could figure out why they left Gt. Falls. I guess this war makes everybody restless and they get the idea they could do more somewhere else.

Can't think of much else to write about now so better stop.
Kay called me the other nite and I guess she is getting pretty lonesome up there
but figures on sticking it out.

This is probably the last letter you'll get from me while I'm here so until I get to
the new post –

My love to you all,
Merrill.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Ellington Field, Texas	8-11-43	Folks

(on letterhead)

One important part of the advanced pilot training at Ellington Field is aerial gunnery. They learn and practice today for the real thing tomorrow. Aerial gunnery practice provides the advanced pilots tense and exciting moments – roaring through the air in formation toward an “objective,” counting their hits on the low target, give a taste of actual aerial warfare. Her again count teamwork and attention – soon the boys will be counting hits on real targets!

Ellington Field, Texas

Aug. 11, 1943

Dear Folks –

Reckon it's time I answered your last letter. t

Got by my birthday OK. Just another flying day. Received the package OK. / Too. Thanks a lot. We all sat down and ate it up right away because the ants and cockroaches are too bad to leave any thing around.

You asked when Kays birthday is. It's not until Jan. 19th.

I got a card from both Leonard and Wanda. First time I've heard from them in about 3 months. They seem to be getting along fine.

Did I tell you about our hurricane. You probably read about, if I didn't, I know for sure that I want to be down in a deep hole next time – if there is a next time – I'm in one of those blows. I've definitely had enough of the state of Texas and the South in general. Too hot, too many bugs and too many storms. The wind was above 100 M.P.H at times and there we were out in it supposedly holding down the planes but mostly just hanging on to keep from being blown away.

Weather has been bad the last few nites so we haven't been doing any nite flying. We're getting behind again. We will probably have to fly Sat.& Sun. nites this week. Which won't matter much because we are confined to post this weekend because of a few cases of infantile ??? ?? She hasn't written for sure yet. Se said she was quitting there the 15th and heading back to California.

With the last few nites off, I've been catching up on my letter writing. I still owe Kingsleys one though. h

I was going thru a lot of letters tonite, that had accumulated and in one Dad asked about Bob Ripley. I don't remember whether or not I told you about the last word I had about him. It's been a long time ago now that Dave Edwards in Calif. G Got a telegram saying he was missing on a Flying Fortress in the Battle of Batoon. I I haven't heard anything since. aa

I also ran across a clipping you sent me about Wayne Suhr X that you wanted back so I'm sending it now.

Also a couple of pictures that were taken at Basic at Major's Field. Not very good, but they show the airplane anyway.

Well, the day of days is drawing closer and life here is becoming easier. About all we do now is fly, eat, sleep and fly which is what ~~we~~ want so haven't much kick ~~we~~ coming.

Did Leonard and Wanda send you a picture? They look pretty good, I think. Can't think of anything else right now so will sign off until later.

Love always,
Merrill

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Ellington Field, Texas	8-27-43	Folks

Ellington Field, Texas

Aug. 27, 1943

Dear Folks –

Got your letter the other day and it reminded me that it was time I wrote again.

Well, it's almost over now – at least this part of it. Will we be glad to get out of here!! We've been restricted to the post for three weeks now and things are going from bad to worse. Especially since we've finished flying and have nothing to do. Tempers are getting short and dispositions bad. Getting so you speak softly to you're best friend.

The restriction seems so silly that none of us can understand it. The reason they give is a few cases of infantile paralysis in Houston. But they let all the regular soldiers and the officers go into town, only the cadets are restricted and as soon as we get our commissions, they'll turn us loose. We're made immune, I guess, by act of congress.

Kay has been down here a week but of course I haven't been able to see her. I guess I'll be able to see her Monday, graduation day. She's staying with Leo's wife in town. Having a time talking them into staying until we do see them. They're about ready to go back to Calif.

If I never see the state of Texas again, it will be too soon to suit me.

Jerry, the next two pages are repeated from Memorial Day letter. Can't find the end of this letter. Marked in folder. Maxine

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Pyote, Texas	9-4-43	Leonard & Wanda

Pyote Army Air Base
Pyote, Texas

(also know as RATTLESNAKE BOMBER BASE)

Sat. Sept. 4, 1943

Dear Leonard & Wanda –

I'm writing this letter from some where on the surface of the earth – they tell me it's part of Texas but I'm sure this can't be part of the U.S. God! What a place! Only in Texas would it be possible.

The only thing this country is good for is rattlesnakes & horned toads, and I doubt if they would stay here if they had the ambition to move on.

After standing up in the aisle of a train, out of Fort Worth, almost all nite, we arrived in this hole about noon. Got off and looked around. Took 4 guys to hold me from getting back on that train. The town has about 75 people, a R.R. station, a filling station, a drug store, a theatre, 2 stores and a couple of beer halls. Oh yes, and a broken down hotel where Leo's wife is staying. You never saw such a bunch of broken down, sway backed, unpainted old board buildings in your life! And all around is desert as far as you can see.

The post is less than a mile from town and its much better. They have a good officers mess with good food and a nice officers club with a much nicer bar. We live in tarpaper barracks but that's not so bad. A darky boy keeps them cleaned up.

This is a base for B-17's and we were sent up here to be co-pilots. So far, haven't been up yet but have spent sometime in the cockpit trying to figure it all out. Boy, it's a lot of airplane, and I don't mean maybe!!

We're supposed to leave here in a couple of weeks for our 2nd phase of training some where in Southeast U.S. We haven't got all our crew yet but I guess we will pick them up at the next base.

It's rumored pretty strongly that after the second or third phase of training, the copilots will be sent back here as first pilots to start making up crews of their own. I hope its true. The rest of the crew will get a copilot from Transition School, go to their last base for a final going over, then go across.

Nothing definite on it however. Nothing is definite in the Army anyway.

We are also supposed – to get 8 days between here and our next station which will be in Louisiana I think. With travel conditions the way they are, I don't know whether I could get out to Calif. & back to La. in time or not. And in the second place, it would cost just a little to much money, I'm thinking. However, I shall keep it in mind & work on it. We don't get travel pay to our next station so that makes it bad.

Did Katie get home yet? I've been wanting to write here ~~every~~ every day but I didn't want to send a letter so that her folks would get it before she got there. That would spoil her surprise.

Gee, was I glad to see her. She was just about the loveliest sight I ever saw. She's just the same Katie. A little fatter but you kids can beat that off of her. Time was short down at Ellington and I was busy a lot of the time ~~as~~ ^{so} it seemed as if I hardly got to see her at all. I sure hated to say good bye to her and leave her there in Houston. I know how lonesome I'd have felt if had to see her leave first. Bad enough as it was.

I sure hope she had a better trip than we did. I'm glad she didn't have to make it with us. That would have been too much.

The railroad thru here runs to El Paso and west. We are about 250 miles east of El Paso.

Show Katie this letter and make her write, right away. You guys write too and let me know what goes on. I'll write again, just as soon as I hear from you. I am anxious to know how Kay got along. I kind of worried when I saw how the trains are crowded.

I wish we could get started here. It's always like this. They rush you to a new station where you sit around on your butt for a week, wondering what it's all about.

I guess we'll get ~~gong~~ ^{going} in a few days and probably when we do, we'll have more than we can handle.

I guess Leo's wife and Henry Browns wife are going to stay at the hotel in town but how they can stand it is more than I can understand. Course it won't be for so very long.

I sure got a swell kid as first pilot. His name is Svereika (SP) but he doesn't look it. Tall and lanky and blond and he really knows a "Fort" inside out. He's been flying ~~then~~ ^{them} about 4 months.

I think I've jabbered enough for one time. Kay can probably tell you a lot more.

Is Cort ~~X~~ still with you? Tell him I said hello and asked about him.

Say hello to everybody else and tell them to write. Herb & Gwen especially.

My very best love to Katie and

Love to you'al from

Merrill (Just call me Lieut.) Burton

P.S. Get that stuff!! I can hear Kate now. MOB

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Alexandria, La	10-5-43	Folks

ALEXANDRIA ARMY AIR BASE
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

Tues. Oct. 5, 1943

Dear Folks –

Time I wrote a few lines anyway. I got both your letters. One of them was waiting for me when I got back from Calif.

I had a swell time while I was there. I was lucky going out. Got a seat on American Airlines from El Paso to Los Angeles. I had about 5 ½ days there and came back on the train.

Everybody is just fine. Leonard and Wanda look fine. Both are working. They have a nice place and a nice car and are getting along swell. I jumped them about writing and I'm going to write them a letter and bawl them out some more. They're not so busy that they can't write.

I'm glad the crops are good and hope you get the best prices. Wish help wasn't so hard to get, so you wouldn't have to work so hard yourselves.

Dick must be getting to be a pretty big guy now, huh?

I guess Kay wrote and told you we plan to be married. Some way we've got to arrange it so you can be there or so we can get ~~to~~ to see you. *up*

I hope I get more time off than I did last time.

We're working hard here and doing a lot flying. The old "Flying Fortress" doesn't seem so bit anymore and ????? missing some of page?

So I finally got my picture in the G.F. Tribune. Any what a picture! The army can certainly take some dillies.

Did I tell you I got a letter from Thor Johnson, from College Station, Texas?

I got a letter from Mary the other day. Guess they didn't buy a house after all.

I don't know much more to write.

Don't care much for La. Too cold & too damp. Been fighting off a cold ever since I got here. The western states are still the best.

Well, I've got to get to bed. Got to get up early tomorrow and go to school, and fly tomorrow afternoon. We have a pretty tough schedule. We go to school and fly both for 3 days, then the fourth day just have school, then school and fly for 3 more days and the eighth day we have off. Today was the ~~eight~~ day. *eight*

Doesn't amount to much though because we flew last nite, so didn't get in till 2 A.M. Slept till 10 this morning and didn't get off the post until almost 1. Back early this evening because we have to get up early tomorrow.

Oh, well, that's the army.

Love to you all,
Merrill.

Author
M Burton

Location
Baton Rouge

Date
10-17-43

Addressee
Mrs M Burton

POST CARD OF LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL, BATON ROUGE

Dear Folks –

Just a line from Baton Rouge. Had the day off so George & I decided ^{to} see Huey Long's town. This is certainly a beautiful building. We just finished going thru it. Everything is going fine and will write more soon.

Love, Merrill

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Alexandria, La	11-9-43	Folks

ALEXANDRIA ARMY AIR BASE
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

Nov. 9, 1943

Dear Folks –

Guess sit must be a long time since I've written but there hasn't been much to write about.

We're approaching the end of our training here and about all we do is fly long cross country flights. Been up to Nashville, Tenn., over to San Antonio, Tx. and up in the pan handle of Texas.

Don't know of much of any news.

be We should be ready to leave here about the 25th of this month. We will go to Nebraska or Illinois when we leave here.

We're still wondering if we get leave when we finish here. Here's hoping, anyway.

Kays and my plans are going to be knocked into a cocked hat if I don't get leave. We are entitled to a leave, but getting it is something else.

We had pictures taken of the whole crew together the other day and as soon as we have some made up, I'll send one. I've seen one and its pretty good.

I haven't had a letter from any of the kids for sometime, so haven't heard anything new from them.

Today is our day off but we flew last nite until after midnite so didn't get up until 11 o'clock today. Have to get in early tonite so a day off doesn't ??? (missing)

I guess I'll go in an see a show this afternoon and that will be about all.

They opened the new Officers Club last Sat. nite. It's really nice and gives us a place to lounge around in our free time, instead of staying in the barracks all the time.

Sure has been cold lately. get frost every once in awhile and the other morning after a rain, there was ice on the puddles.

I see in the paper that the Dakotas and Minn. Got quite a blizzard. I suppose you got some of it too.

Had several tornadoes in La. & Miss. last week but none close to here.

Did you get all the beets out before bad weather came?

I can't think of anything else. Hope everybody is OK and hope to see you sometime before Christmas.

Lots of Love,
Merrill

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Grand Island, Nebraska	12-2--43	Folks

GRAND ISLAND ARMY AIR BASE

Dec. 2, 1943

Dear Folks –

Here it is, a new place and a new month, so time I wrote again.

Arrived here Sun. P.M. along with a few snow flakes. Didn't snow enough to even whiten the ground and has been pretty nice since. A little colder this morning.

I wrote Mary a letter as soon as I got here and she called me last nite. Said she was coming down this week sometime. Len couldn't get away so she is coming alone. We're only a little over ~~20~~ 30 miles from Cheyenne and I hoped I could get up that far, but I guess I won't be able to. ³⁰⁰

We haven't been doing much of anything since we got here. No flying at all.

Most of our outfit is getting ready to move but a few crews, mine included, aren't doing anything and looks like we were going to stay awhile. However, we never know from one hour to the next what is going on.

I called Kay the other morning. Everything is going OK out there.

I sent her one of the crew pictures the same day I sent you one and I must have been a little confused or something because the papers I meant to send Dad were in her envelope. She will send them on to you.

I'm glad to be out of the South. ??? in Louisiana. I've seen all the South I want.

It's pretty dull just sitting around the Officers Club without a thing to do. Sure wish I could find out what is going to happen.

We haven't been able to go to town yet so haven't even had the diversion of looking over a new town.

Didn't get any chance to look over the towns we came through on the way up here. We came through Little Rock, St. Louis and Kansas City. Two nights and two and one half days, to make the trip. These troop trains really move slow. We had Pullmans though so the trip was in comfort.

How is everything at home? Did my foot locker arrive thru yet? The key is with the papers that Kay got, I guess.

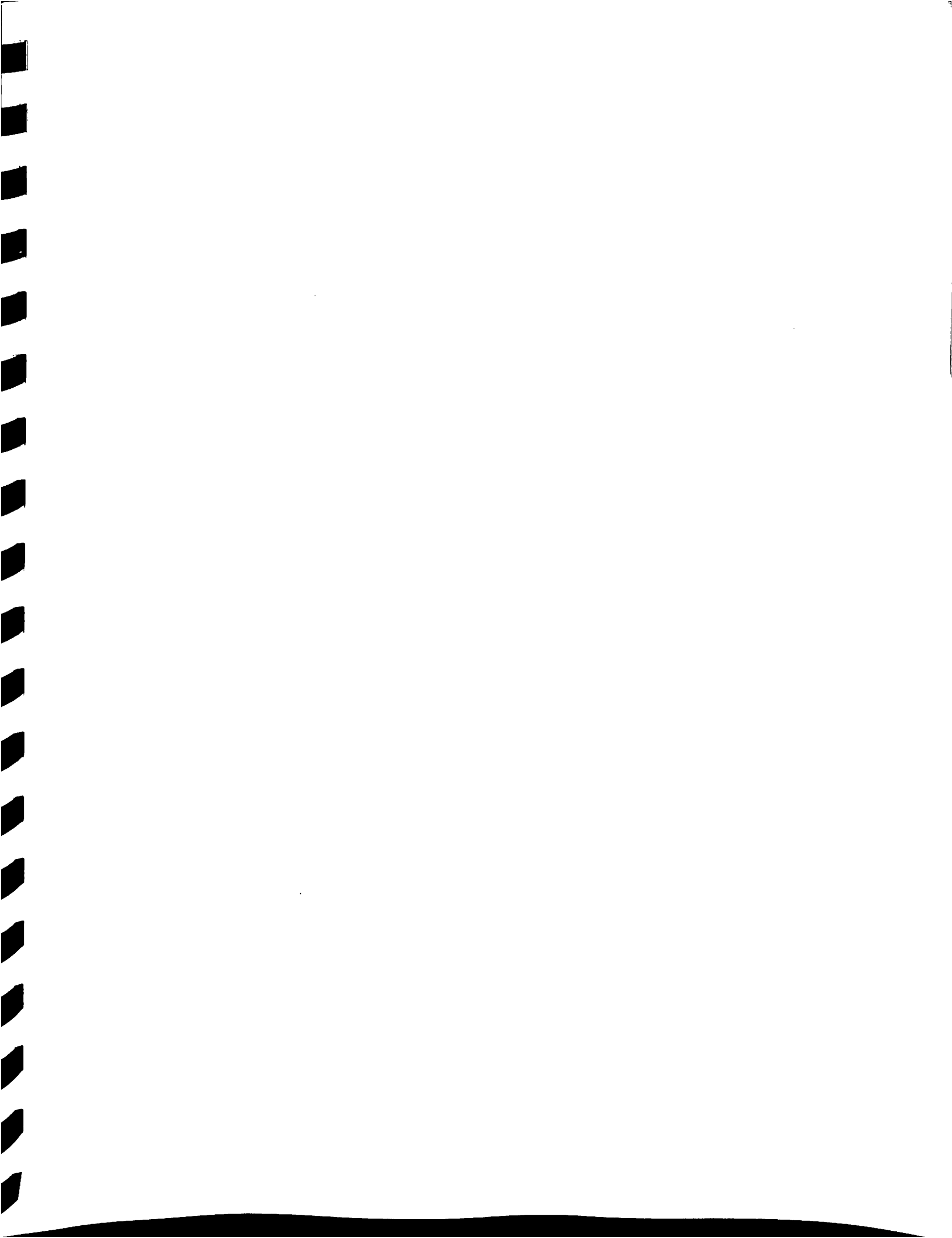
I think I'll be here long enough so you could write if you write right away. They told us at Alex. that we wouldn't be able to receive mail here but we find that we can.

Can't think of much else so will close now.

Lots of Love,
Merrill.

Married
Lieutenant Merrill Otis Burton
Miss Katherine Mary Stoudt
Army Air Base
Grand Island, Nebraska

December 10, 1943



Calendar for year 1944 (United States)

January							February							March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	26	27	28	29	30	31					
30	31																			
2:☉10:☉18:☉25:☉	1:☉9:☉17:☉23:☉	1:☉9:☉17:☉24:☉31:☉																		

April							May							June							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
						1			1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30					
30																					
8:☉16:☉22:☉30:☉	8:☉15:☉22:☉29:☉	6:☉13:☉20:☉28:☉																			

July							August							September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
30	31																			
6:☉12:☉20:☉28:☉	4:☉10:☉18:☉26:☉	2:☉9:☉17:☉25:☉																		

October							November							December							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
						1					1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
													31								
2:☉8:☉17:☉24:☉31:☉	7:☉15:☉23:☉29:☉	7:☉15:☉22:☉29:☉																			

Holidays and Observances:

Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jun 18 Father's Day	Nov 11 Armistice Day
Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday	Jul 4 Independence Day	Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Sep 4 Labor Day	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Apr 9 Easter Sunday	Oct 31 Halloween	Dec 25 Christmas Day
May 14 Mother's Day	Nov 7 Election Day	
May 30 Memorial Day	Nov 10 'Armistice Day' observed	

Calendar generated on www.timeanddate.com/calendar

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Somewhere in England	1-3-44	Folks

Somewhere in England.
Jan. 3, 1944

Dear Folks –

It's been an awfully long time since I wrote and I have no excuse either. ^{is}

Well, here I am in England – a little sooner than I expected but here ~~??~~ where the work has to be done so the sooner we get a t it the sooner we get back I reckon.

In the rush of leaving I didn't have time to write but I asked Kay to.

I wish you could have been at Grand Island for the wedding. When I talked to Mother on the phone, I told her Kay and I might be married if I was there long enough but the connection was pretty bad and I wasn't sure she understood me. When I talked to Mother I expected to be leaving the next day, and before Kay arrived so wasn't planning very strongly on getting married and of course could make no plans, as it was, we really had to rush. As it turned out, our departure was delayed and so we had three days anyway.

I'm really glad we got married and I hope you get to meet Kay and her folks soon. You'll like them all, I know.

How has everything been this winter? I hope you had a nice Xmas and have a swell New Year.

I believe this year of '44 will bring many changes in this world conflict and all for the best.

As you probably know, we flew over and had a nice trip all the way, except it got pretty cold at times.

England is pretty much ~~??~~ ^{is} what we expected. A little colder and wetter than ~~X~~ ^{as} expected but the winter ~~??~~ ^{is} that way I guess. The farms are quite ^{are} small and very green. Every field ~~??~~ ^{is} surrounded by a stone hedge fence. The buildings mostly stone or brick. The whole country gives you the impression of being very old – as of course it is.

But there are a lot of things in the U.S. we regard as necessities that are really luxuries over here. And the States don't know what rationing is like. You can really tell that England has been at war for a long time. Almost everyone you see, men and women are in some sort of uniform.

The people as a rule are very friendly and treat us swell.

Life here isn't so bad. The food is good and we get plenty. We had turkey for Christmas and New Years.

I can't tell you any thing about what we're doing but don't worry about me. I'm just fine and everything is going swell.

I left before the Xmas package got to Grand Is. but ~~??~~ ^{one} of the other boys brought it over so I got it before Xmas. Thanks a lot for everything. Over here those things really go good.

We are rationed on ~~X~~ ^{candy} and cigarettes but ~~??~~ ^{we} get enough cigarettes.

Miss something to read more than anything ^C can't by any magazines of any kind.
Do you think you will get to go to Calif. this winter? I hope so.
I'd better close for now, I'll write soon. Write as soon as you can because it takes
mail quite awhile to get here. Be sure and use the address below.

Lots of love always,
Merrill.

LT. MERRILL O. BURTON
ASN 0-690042 CREW ~~37~~ #
A.P.O. 12662 C/O POSTMASTER
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, California	1-15-44	Mrs M Burton

WESTERN
UNION

5 HA WN M~~X~~

Van Nuys Calif Jan 15 1944

Mrs M W Burton

Harlem Mont

Letter from Merrill today England his address Merrill O Burton 0690042 Crew 37 APO
12662 care Post Master New York City

Katherine
927 Pm

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Somewhere in England	1-26-44	Folks

Somewhere in England
Jan. 26, 1944

Dear Folks — ^k

^I Know you're probably anxious to get a letter so here goes. Don't worry if I don't seem to write too often. You know how I am about writing. I'll try and drop a few lines every few days though.

I'm feeling fine and everything is going O.K. Things are not too bad over here and we are growing used to the weather.

Haven't received any mail yet but have hopes of getting some soon. If mail would start coming through everything would be lovely.

It's pretty hard to write very much because we aren't allowed to write very much. That is about what we do and etc.

^H Haven't been to town so can't tell you anything about that. Saw a couple of movies here at camp but nothing much.

The food has been good and I have a darn good appetite.

How have things been at home? Has it been a tough winter? Do you hear from Kay?

If you can find some candy bars to send over, would appreciate it a lot. Everybody misses the candy. If you do send some, better check at the post office on the size of the package. There is a limit on the size that can be sent.

I believe you have to show them my letter requesting that you send it so this should do.

Hope to hear from you real soon.

Love to all,

Merrill.

Note: Cheyenne, Wyo. Parcel Post stamp where Merrill is requesting candy.

[↑]
(2-19-1944) was on letter

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	Somewhere in England	2-1-44	Mother, Dad, Dick

Somewhere in England
Feb. 1st, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad, & Dick –

I can't remember when I wrote last so it must have been some time ago.

Everythings just fine here. Feel good and have been taking things easy. Sort of getting used to this climate now, though at first I didn't think I'd ever be able too.

Went to the show tonite but it was an old one that I'd seen before so I didn't enjoy it much. However, it's about the only place to go.

Still haven't received any mail which is disappointing but I imagine it's being held up somewhere. Just in case I messed up the address, I'll give it to you again in this letter. The other boys are getting mail so I should be too.

Do you hear from Kay? Gosh, I wish I'd get a letter from somebody so I'd know how things are going.

Do Leonard and Wanda write very often?

Won't be so awfully long before spring is here again and you'll have to go back to work in the fields. How was the winter? Pretty tough?

If you are wondering if there is anything I need, I can't think of anything except some candy or cookies. We sure do miss those.

How are you getting along in school Dick? Doing any stepping out? Write if you find time.

Say hello to the Nelsons when you see them.

Can't think of much else now. Sure hope I hear from you soon.

Lots of love,
Merrill

ADDRESS –

LT. MERRILL O BURTON 0-690042

381 BOMB. GRP 533 SQDN.

APO #634 C/O P.M.

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Note: Harlem, Mont. Parcel Post stamp next to request for candy and cookies.

%

(2-21-1944)

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	2-24-44	Mother, Dad & Dick

February 24, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad & Dick

Well I imagine youre all happy at being united again – I got your letter Mother, a week ago & now am getting time to write

I hope you had a pleasant trip from Cheyene home & am glad you had a nice time at Mary's. I certainly wish you could have stayed longer here, it seems you scarcely got here when you left again. I'm sorry that, you Dad & Dick, couldn't come but I can well imagine what would happen to the farm, on the other hand, I can imagine what happened when Mother was gone. Whats the matter with your cooking skill you two guys didn't even cook a spud, but maybe you cooked an egg or two but how I'll bet you were glad to have mother back & I'll bet she was glad to get home too. I thought we'd have to hog-tie her here.

Well we've had nothing but rain the past 5 days, today its pretty & clear, sunshining and all. So we took on the washing today. We had a terrible storm Sun, Mon, & Tues. & the Water & Power Co was on a strike & we had no lights for 2 nights going around with candles cooking dinner & all. But I'd rather be without lights & see those fella's get their raise They really have it coming, 15.00 a month. Its such a darn Political & corrupt outfit, I'm glad the Army took over, May be they'll straighten them out now, I hope so.

I had a letter from Merrill yesterday & he had finally gotten some mail it was written on the 6th, that day he had received the first mail So he should have plenty by now.

I haven't seen much of Wanda & Leonard the past few days. Incidentally he forgot to send the avocados so will send some others soon The rains been so bad & trees falling on high ways & Med? that I haven't been out very much to see the kids.

I'm not working at present, the place where I did work have been cut so on their production that they don't have enough business to warrant my services – so am on the hunt – I'm going to try to get something in Van Nuys so I won't have so far to drive. I'm feeling fine now & rare'n to get back on the job, can't stand this sitting around any more.

Well no more news from here, so write us soon & let us know all your news.

Much Love
Katherine

mud

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	England	3-1-44	Dad

England
March 1, 1944

Dear Dad -

Guess its time I wrote a few lines to let you know that everything is O.K. Got your v mail letter the other day and got Mothers letter day before yesterday. The one she wrote after she got home. I've been getting mail quite regularly for some time now. V mail doesn't seem to come as fast as air mail most of the time.

Everything here goes along the same. A little work to do ^{once} over in a while. You've probably read about some of it. Will see if I can find a couple of clippings out of our paper, "The Stars & Stripes", to send along. You probably read the same thing back there but they may miss something.

Gosh, you folks have sure done ^{well} we to get everything paid for in so short a time. Sure have down a swell job. Don't see how you did it. It's true that if things had been like that when we were home, it might have been different but in my case, after I got tangled up with flying, I don't know. I do know that I wish I had been in on the job you've done on the place and there were a great many times when I almost went back.

I'm glad Mother got to make the trip but sure wish you both could have gone. Mother has probably told you all about the girls and things in Calif. so there isn't much I can add there.

Don't worry too much about the candy I asked for. We get a little each week but it's English candy and not R-l-s ?? and not nearly as good. As for papers, we don't read much except the "Stars & Stripes" but if you could get the Harlem News and send it over I'd like that. I know there is not much news in it but the local news is always interesting to me.

What do you hear about the boys from Harlem who are down in the S. Pacific?

Got a letter from Edna and one from Mary too the other day. All mail is coming through pretty good. About 9 or ten days usually. Haven't gotten any packages yet but probably will soon. Kay has sent one too.

I thought the joke you wrote was pretty good. Not quite as good as your usual standard but still pretty good. I haven't heard any good ones but found a couple of rather doubtful ones in the paper and will send them along.

How's Dick doing? I'll bet I won't know him at all next time I see him. He must be pretty big now.

Clarence and Edna are doing pretty fair too from what Edna wrote. Sure glad to hear that everybody up there is doing so well.

We read quite a bit about the soldier vote ^{pretty} over here but there doesn't seem to ^{be} too much interest in it. Over here, all that seems ^{petty} small and far away to worry about until we finish this. The thing that really gets the boys going over here is the strikes back there. Most of them seem to be making good money and we need the stuff they're

making. Besides that they're in the good old U.S.A. If these boys over here were to get a hold of a bunch of strikers, hell would be to pay for sure.

That's one thing I sure have to admire about the English people. They've been at war a long time and some of them have taken plenty but you'll never see greater unity of people anywhere.

We had a U.S.O. show at the theatre tonite and after seeing some pretty bad ones over here we weren't sure we ought to go but finally did. And am really glad we did. It was, I think, the best show I've ever seen anywhere. I haven't laughed as hard or enjoyed a show so thoroughly in a long time. This show business sounds kind of silly sometimes but boy, these shows the U.S.O. puts on at the camps is a good morale booster. It's really good to see folks from home put on a how in good old American style and to hear some good American jokes. They told one about Hitler an Goering & Goebells driving down the road and they ran over a farmers dog. Hitler says to Goering "Herman, you go and apologize to the farmer while I wait outside". Hermann goes in and pretty soon he comes back loaded down with cheese, bread, wine and bee. Hitler couldn't understand it and he says "Hermann what is this? I told you to apologize for killing the dog, not rob them". Goering says "I don't understand it. I went in and said "Heil Hitler. The dog is dead and they loaded me down with cheese, bread, wine & beer".

Well, that should be enough for tonite. Better get some sleep. Three may be work tomorrow. Write soon and I'll try to do the same.

Love,

Merrill.

P.S. I hope you get a chance to kiss that blonde soon. To be frank, I hope I get the chance too.

beer

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	3-13-44	Mother, Dad & Dick

March 13, 1944

Dear Mother Dad & Dick.

You've probably given me up as one of the members of missing persons but no such luck I'm still around & ornery as ever. In your letter to Mother you said you hadn't heard from Merrill in 2 weeks - I guess he's been busy, but he's all right. The last letter I had from him I got in 6 days from the time he mailed it, so that isn't bad time - in comparison to 20 days on others. He said he had a 2 day pass & went down to London, stayed at a Red Cross Hotel like & saw a few of the Historic interests there, Westminster Abby, Regent St, Broad St, Picadilly Square and etc.. He still thinks our cities are better. I can't say that I blame him, although I haven't been there. I share your thoughts Mother He has sent me 2 clippings from the newspaper there. He said they were a bit about what was going on over there. Meaning I presume, they were raids he had gone on - The Schweinfurt raid on the 27th of Febr. & the Ball bearing factory raid on the 28th. He said he would send them from time to time, so now I know hes flying. When he got back from his trip to London he said there were 12 letters waiting for him 1 from you, 1 from Edna, 1 from Mary, 1 from my mother, 1 from my sister & 7 from me so he said he had a swell time catching up on home news.

Wanda & Leonard are fine still working hard. I don't see them much during the week but try to get down on the week end - I haven't gone to work yet, but have a number of things lined up. I went down to Civil Service board and got a Senior Steno Clerk rating for Gov't work, so now I'm waiting a placement here in the valley if its possible. In the mean time I'm working part time in a gas station I like it for a change Its good to be out of doors.

I hope you all are well & fine & Edna's too - Say hello to them for me. In Merrills last letter he said her oldest boy was 11 and he could hardly believe it.

We're all fine & have been enjoying some nice weather up to today its clouding up & may sprinkle before the days over.

I'm enclosing some pictures the ones we took that Sunday 2 of them didn't turn out but heres a set of the ones that did.

Well I haven't any more news so will finish up before mail man comes. Write when you have time I always lie to hear what doin', I'll write when I hear from Merrill again.

Love
Katherine

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	England	3-17-44	Folks

England
March 17, 1944

Dear Folks –

Been too long since I've written so will try to catch up on what little news there is. Everything is going fine. Been resting for several days so are ready to go again. Just laying around over here is hard too. Seems like a waste of time.

I'm sitting here shivering and wearing an overcoat. It's pretty cold and they give us coal dust to burn in these English stoves & the combination just doesn't work. That's about the only real kick I have. We can't get enough coal to keep the barracks warm.

Well, Spring will soon be here and you folks will be going to work. Sure hope you have another good year.

Mail has been coming through regular, for which I am thankful.

I may be going to London again soon so will have more to tell you about the big city. Want to see more of the old historical places and see what I can buy to take home.

Say, do you think you could find and send some unpopped popcorn, sure would like to have some if you can.

Something like that we can fix up over our store in the barracks in the evening. My mouth waters just thinking about popcorn.

Well, I better get to bed. Tomorrow may be the day our rest come to an end.

Loads of Love,
Merrill.

Note: Harlem, Mont. Parcel Post stamp next to request for popcorn. Dated Apr 7 1944.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	England	3-21-44	Kids

England
March 21, 1944

Hi, Kids -

I got your letter some time ago and I guess I'm not so good at writing either, since it's taken me so long to answer.

Everything is going pretty good over here. At least I'm just as healthy and ornerus, as ever. We get plenty of work to do, which you probably read and hear about. It's not too bad, although I've prayed like a good Christian on several occasions. I've been intending to write for several days but when we get back we're so tired we first fall into bed. *ornerus* *just*

We had a St. Patricks party Sunday nite at the officers club. We all got anywhere from slightly to stinking drunk. I was approaching the stinking stage. Got to be at 1:30 and they work us up at 3:30 for the hardest day yet. I was so tired last nite I could hardly walk. *bed*
woke

I got a letter from Mother day before yesterday and she sent a clipping from a news paper talking of a crash at Palm dale which killed the son of Billy Sunday. That didn't interest me much but the other pilot, also killed, was Geo Davy, the guy who taught me to fly. Sure was surprised to hear about it. *Palmdale* *Davy*

Wanda, I can't tell you how sorry I am about Harry. I never knew him but from what everybody says he must have been swell. I should liked to have met him and known him better. Guess may be these airplanes are dangerous and I'll be doubly careful. *maybe*

I'm glad Mother got down to visit you. I knew she'd like the girls. I never worried about that. I sure would have like to have been there too. We could have had a hell of a time. Kay sent me some pictures while she was there. Mother looks well. *sled*

Mother told me Dick was making an ice shed ?? out of the old washing machine engine. I've been trying to get him to write but he hasn't as yet. I've been away from home so long that I probably don't seem like a brother anymore. *darn*

How do you like the studio work? Wanda must be doing dam good now with this last raise. You kids should be able to save a little.

Dad wrote and said they had everything paid for now. Boy, he sure has done a

??? missing page 5.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	England	3-31-44	Folks

England
March 31, 1944

*this morning but
the snow*

Dearest

~~Hi~~ Folks -

I probably haven't written for sometime again and your wondering about me but everything is O.K.

How are things at home? Spring work will be starting darn soon, won't it? The farmers here have been in the fields for about two weeks now. We got a snowstorm all melted this afternoon and now its muddy again. Getting pretty cold tonite though. Maybe will have clear weather tomorrow for a change. Well, ??? (possibly missing page) as we came across and all are getting along fine.

Haven't had any mail for a couple of days and mail hasn't been too regular lately but I think it's because the change in APO number. Did I give you the new number? Its 557 instead of 634.

Well, that's all for tonite.

Write soon.

Loads of love,
Merrill.

of

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	England	4-15-44	Dad

England
April 15, 1944

Dear Dad –

Got your letter the other day just before I went on pass so didn't get around to answering till now. Went to London again. Think I'll go somewhere else next time. I'm getting tired of looking at London. This is not much for writing paper but I ran out of the other and it's almost impossible to buy any. Here it is the middle of April already. I suppose you're starting spring work now. Spring has sort of come to England too. Lots warmer than it was but the weather hasn't improved any. Got a box of candy from Kay today and I've been sitting here eating it so fast, I'll probably get a good bellyache. I'm writing this without paragraphs so it may sound sort of jumbled. You mentioned liking Kay for not minding the idea of a farm. It's true, she doesn't. In fact she likes that sort of thing. I don't mind the idea myself but am not making any plans yet. We'll be up to see you first thing when I get back – I hope. Also got a letter from Helen Nelson Lee today. She wrote a swell letter and told me what she knew about all the kids around town. Boy, they're sure scattered out. I enjoyed reading the Local news from the Harlem paper, that Mother sent. I'll bet that Bunny McGuire has had a time down there fighting Japs.

Sure surprised me to hear Clarence Watkins got married. I can just hear the old lady asking him if he did it to escape the draft. *darn*

It does sound like the farm was a dam good deal. Boy, sugar beets are really bring (sp) a price, aren't they? They are starting their spring work over here now too. A lot of the farmers use horses, and darn good ones too. Great big fellows. But I've seen a lot of American tractors too. John Deere Gen. Pur. with rubber tires; Case Gen. Pur. And several Cat "22"s and RD-4s and Allis Chalmers Crawlers. They really farm every square foot over here. And this land has been farmed for so long that they really have to use the fertilizer. I think some good legume crops would help over here.

I got a swell letter from Uncle Art, telling me about life on the Alaskan Hiway. I'd sure like to be up there for a little hunting.

Well, I guess after tomorrow I'll be riding as a 1st Pilot instead of Co-pilot, and have a crew & ship of my own. Not much difference. A little more responsibility and a chance to change the 2nd Lt to 1st Lt.

I found a little clipping in the paper I thought was pretty good and am sending it along.

This is about all I can think of tonite. Hope to hear from you again soon.

Lots of Love from your son,
Merrill.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Merrill Burton	England	4-30-44	Folks

England
April 30, 1944

Dear Folks –

I guess it would be a good idea for me to write all the letters I can while I've got the time. I'm on seven days leave with not a thing in the world to do but loaf. What a wonderful feeling!

X I'm staying at what was once a beautiful hotel on the sea shore but is now a Red Cross Club. It's beautiful here. It's a sleepy little city and seems so far removed from a war that I can hardly believe one is going on. I think in peacetime this was probably a resort town, and still is for us.

Last nite we had a dance and we really had fun. There are quite a few American Red Cross girls here beside the local English girls.

They have all sorts of sports here for us to play or we can just lie around and sleep. We get American newspapers too. A little late of course. We don't have to dress military as long as we're around the club. No ties, leather jackets, anything. It's really great.

I don't believe I really needed the rest but wouldn't turn down the chance when they offered it to me.

I suppose you knew that the length of our tour here had been extended from 25 to 30 missions. I hope I get to come home for awhile when I finish – which shouldn't be very long now. The chances of getting home look pretty good.

Leo Brown, my old buddy in Cadets, has already finished and gone back. He came over the same time I did.

I went over and visited Dick Carlson, the kid from Glendale, Calif., before coming up here and he's doing fine too. His Mother and Kay keep in touch with each other pretty much, I guess.

I won't get any mail while I'm here, so I'll probably have stacks of it to answer when I get back.

That's about all I know today. We ^{will} try and write again in a day or two.

Lots of Love, Merrill

I guess I told you I have a crew of my own now. They're are pretty good boys and we've been out several times together.

Author
Merrill Burton

Location
England

Date
5-~~17~~-44
14

Addressee
Mother

England
May 14, 1944

Dearest Mother –

Today being Mothers Day, the least I can do is write you a letter, I guess, and wish you the very, very best always. Wish I could give you more than just a letter.

I've been getting your letters regularly and I'm glad to get the News clippings. I haven't received any Harlem News as yet.

I got another box of candy from Mary and one from Kays sister, Bev. So I don't lack for candy. Haven't had any mail for a couple of days but probably will get some tomorrow.

I haven't been doing much of anything since I got back from leave. The crew I had before I went on leave, are flying on their own now. So I haven't had a crew. However, one of the other pilots finished up yesterday and I guess I'll get his crew. I hope so, because they are a bunch of good boys.

I should be finishing up before long but can't be very sure that I'll get home for quite awhile yet. I'm sure hoping I do get back for awhile at least.

The weather has been a lot better lately. Even warm enough to be out without a jacket, which is a change. It rained last nite some but ~~was~~ pretty nice today, except for a little wind. *was*

Spent a very lazy Sunday today. Except for a parade we had this afternoon, in honor of several fellows who received the DFC.

The other afternoon I flew co-pilot for one of the Colonels and we went up to Scotland. Gee, it sure was pretty. It's not flat like England. Has a lot of hills and valleys and lakes.

Kay writes that everything is going fine down there and she likes her job pretty well. She was telling about her Dad shearing ~~(sp)~~ the ~~sheep~~. I guess it must have been pretty good I'd like to have seen it. *sheep.*

By the time you get this you will probably have all the crops in. I hope you have another good year. I hope too ~~X~~ that the new machine for blocking beets works out OK. *Hence* will save a lot of time and work.

Sure That's all I have for now. Will write again in a few days.

My very best love ever ~~X~~,
Your son,
Merrill.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	5-23-44	Mother, Dad & Dick

May 23, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad & Dick

I know I haven't written you for such a long time, I'm ashamed I've been working rather long hours, as the older employees at the Post Office are taking vacation also, rather irregular hours, and I'm usually tire or just too lazy to write. I owe Mary a letter too, so tonight I think I'll catch up on some of my letter writing.

When I got your card, Mother, I hadn't heard from Merrill either – it was about 3 weeks before I heard I got a letter the some day your card came.

He's been on a 7 day rest leave – somewhere in England I suppose, quite aways away from any War activities. He said it was or rather used to be a tourist resort, & was very nice there. I suppose you've heard from him by now. I was almost crazy with worry – but I guess bad news travels fast.

Hes back again at his base, & the crew he was flying with are flying on their own, so now he has a crew made up of veterans, some, he says will finish before he will. There is some talk he says, of keeping them there after their 30 missions, but I hope not. I think they should let them come home, but I guess they know best I suppose they're keep them for the ??? Xmas or perhaps, they're all banned on traveling out of England.

I saw Wanda & Leonard the other nite, and their land-lords daughter is coming home, so the kids have to move. They haven't found a place yet – I imagine they'll have quite a time, as places are awfully scarce around here. That's about all the news from them I know right now.

We're all fine, eating, sleeping, and working as usual. We have two calves now – Both our heifers (sp) came fresh. So we have lots of good milk My garden is just beautiful We're having, onions, swiss chard, radishes, & beets out of it now. Something got on the spinach when it first started so I don't think it will be so good – Its coming along pretty good now – My potato ? plants are starting to blossom already. Things sure do grow here. I suppose your garden is just starting about now. But your spring comes a little later there I guess.

How are Ednas – I hope they're all fine, give them my best – Let them read this, & won't have to write two letters.'

Merrill wrote he'd receive the Air Med .. & had 3 oak leaf clusters added to it, meaning he's been awarded for 20 missions so far. He said the D.F.C. (Distinguished Flying Cross) was given when they finished 25, and he should get it real soon. However they raised the minimum from 25 to 30. So 30 is now the top. He also got his 1st Lt. bar, so he's doing just fine. Except that if it wasn't for this War, he would probably be doing better. Gosh I wish it was over with. Its so terrible, and of course I can't leave the paper along. I have to read all the gruesome stuff.

Well we all send our love, & I guess I'll stop for now, will try to get around to writing sooner next time Hope you all are fine & well

Love
Kate.

P.S. I'm glad you liked your Mother's Day gift – I didn't quite know what to get.

Author
Kay Burton

Location
Van Nuys, Calif

Date
6-14-44

Addressee
Mr & Mrs Burton

WESTERN
UNION

2HA K NL

VanNuys Calif June 14 1944

Mr and Mrs M W Burton
Box 357 Harlem Montana.

Your message received today was terribly shocked.
Merrell undoubtly all right. Furnther information
will come from war dept. Don't give up hope and keep
chin high. Love toall

Kay. 9 11AMK

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Commanding General, Army	Washington	?	?

Adress reply to

COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25 D.C.

AAF 201- (5233) Burton, Merrill O.
0690042

Further information has been recieved indicating that L. Burton was a crew member of a B-17 bomber whicyh departed from England ona bombardment mission to Dessau,Germany,on May 30th. Full detaile s are not available, but the report indicates that during this mission our planes encountered enemy aircraft and in the ensuing battle your son's bomber sustained damage.Lt. Burton's Fortress was last seen as it left the formation about 11:09 a.m. in the vicinity of Magdeburg, Germany. The crew members of planes returning from this mission were unable to give futher information with reference to the disappearance of this aircraft.

Due to necessity for military security, it is regretted that the names of those who were in the plane and the names and addresses of their next of kin may not be furnished at the present time.

The great anxiety caused you by failure to receive more details concerning your son' s disappearance is fully realized. Please by assured that any additional information received will be conveyed immediately To you by the Adjutant General or this headquarters.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
J A Ulio, Major General	Washington	6-16-44	Morris Burton

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

AG 201 Burton, Merrill O.
PC-N ET0091

16 June 1944.

Mr. Morris W. Burton,
Post Office Box 357,
Harlem, Montana.

Dear Mr. Burton:

This letter is to confirm my recent telegram in which you were regretfully informed that your son, First Lieutenant Merrill O. Burton, 0-690,042, Air Corps, has been reported missing in action over Germany since 30 May 1944.

I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay, and, if in the meantime not additional information is received, I will again communicate with you at the expiration of three months. Also, it is the policy of the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces upon receipt of the "Missing Air Crew Report" to convey to you any details that might be contained in that report.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under was conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize. Experience has shown that many persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as prisoners of war, but as this information is furnished by countries with which we are at war, the War Department is helpless to expedite such reports. However, in order to relieve financial worry, Congress has enacted legislation which continues in force the pay, allowances and allotments to dependents of personnel being carried in a missing status.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,

J.A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	6-17-44	Mother

June 17th, 1944

Dear Mother.

I have been so slow in writing you since my trip down to see Mrs. Berry – but have felt so low since - & have actually given all hopes up. I read Alvin's Diary & the last entry made by Lt. Brederson, after returning from the flight of the 30th of May, had been mis-interpreted by me all these months. She gave me the two books, he had written in, so am sending them enclosed for you to read. I don't think there's a chance any more, hence, my slowness in writing after my trip down there. She's a very nice woman, was married ? before and has two children by her first marriage – It seems she & Alvin were married just before he went across too.

You can mail these books back to me when your finished, I thought may be you'd enjoy reading some of the interesting, yet terrible experiences the boys went through I felt hesitant in sending them then thought perhaps it would be better this way than trying to explain in a letter.

I would love to have you come down for a visit – It may do you a world of good. But as far as Berrys' are concerned, I don't think there'll be any hope for our loves. I truly think he's gone now. Have a nice visit with Mary – Tell her I'm sending something for the baby next week, but had to wait until ?????

I just wish it was me having one that's all. If you should decide to come down, be sure & wire me when you'll arrive so I can meet you.

Give my best to all the Calverts & my best always to you. You've been very wonderful to me, Mother & I want you to know it, now without slighting anyone.

Love always
Kay,

P.S. I almost forgot. Kansas City mailed me a check for \$281.200, which was in Merrills things – Doesn't sound right to me – but I guess they know – they again said his things hadn't been received in K.C. but would ship when received there. I'm beginning to think someone stole his things. It's a damn shame. Those things should be here by now. Love K.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Mrs Stoudt	?	6-19-44	folks

June 19 – 1944

Dear folks- I should have written sooner but my heart just aches for you all & it is so hard to write – Merrills just can't be gone he was Our boy too – I know I could not have loved my own any more _ Poor Katherine I feel so sorry for her – It was about the hardest thing I have ever done – I had to go where she works to tell her – she says she will not believe he is gone – he will come back I have worried so long for him – the last whiles I just kind of felt better & new some how he as going to make it. The last letter he told Katherine he he was almost through & said Oh Gee Oh Gosh – We think it was his last mission – Then she got a letter yesterday written the 29th – I know he will come back to Katherine & us all – Poor dear she has worked & saved all her nice cloths to have them when Merrill came back & they could go back to see you folks.

Every one he knew loved him & prayed for him & I know he will come back we can bring him back we were all so proud of him & I told him so in every letter I wrote him He sent me such a nice letter on Mother's day –

Try & be brave my dears & we all hope & hope for h is safety

All our best love any sympathy go to you sincerely

Mrs Stoudt

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	7-6-44	Mother, Dad & Dick

July 6, 1944 –

Dear Mother Dad & Dick –

I'm again ashamed for not answering your letters sooner – I'm sending the one letter from the War Dept. back I hardly know what to write, I just wish we could be together I think it would be better for all of us. I think Merrills all right in fact I feel it so strangely, it seems to haunt me – As I said before our imaginations & wondering this & that are the worst of all, its just the uncertainty that about drives you nuts. I just don't know exactly what to do about his pay – I'm afraid that if I have it sent here, he may need it later on & it would be so hard to get it to him. I just don't know what to do. I haven't talked to the Red Cross yet, may be they can suggest something. I don't know. If you hear anything else be sure & wire me, collect if you want to. I won't mind. I wish I had a baby or one on the way, I'd have part of him any how.

Leonard & Wanda are fine & living at 8350 Tobias Ave, Van Nuys, in case you didn't have their address. I think Len is gaining a little weight, which he can use. He was awfully thin for a spell.

I had a nice long letter from Mary & she's fine, I suppose you've heard from her lately. Her letter was very nice, & I'm going to answer it tonight.

I had so many nice letters from all my friends, I just don't know when I'll ever get around to answering them. Ive been working just 10 hours a day for almost 3 weeks now, & I like my work & it helps me a lot. I've had an advancement I'm now writing Money Orders & also work on the out going mail – So I've been busy & tired. I guess I'm just a sissy, after all you all do in a day on the farm, in a day.

We've been having nice weather here for about 2 weeks not cold not warm, but just right, mornings are a little foggy but otherwise pretty nice, It certainly hasn't been hot for this time of the year.

All the family is fine & send their bet. So keep praying & all will come out for the best. I know.

Lots of Love to all &
Edna's too
Katherine

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Kate Burton	Van Nuys, Calif	7-21-44	Mother, Dad, Dick

July 21, 1944

Dearest Mother, Dad & Dick –

Received your letter and the enclosure yesterday. I feel somewhat relieved, at least we know about where he might be – and as long as it has gone now without hearing any detrimental news I think its very good. If anything awful had happened we'd have heard by now, so I feel almost positive that he's all right. Inside I have that same feeling, so strong that I just can't be wrong. Im sending a letter that I got from the Chaplain of his squadron, perhaps he wrote to you too, but just in case he hasn't I'll send it on any way. I am answering the Chaplain's letter today too, & will also send a note to the Army Headquarters in answer to the letter you sent yesterday. I think its pretty fin that they send us as much news as they have, every little bit helps – The next news will be good I'm sure. I think Merrill is such a determine, & one with lots of stamina, that if a minute chance is given him he'll come through it O.K. As long as we haven't heard by this time I'm sure he's O.K. as for us OK goes in that place. I'll bet he's worried more about us here at home, than he is about himself – it's just like him you know.

We are all fine & keeping our heads & hopes high all praying silently (?) Dad was in France in the lat war for 2 years, & I believe he has been he most lifting to all of us, although suffered worse inside – He says his heart goes with every ship on a mission when he hears them tell of it on the radio and on D-Day was with every one of the boys landing on Normandy – I don't think Germany will last much longer. Do You

Mother, Lois, & Beverly all send their best love & prayers for you and I wish we could be together. I had a very nice letter from Edna & I'll answer it soon.

Wanda & Len are fine, working hard. Wanda is working 10 hrs a day 5 days a week up to 90c hr. now. She certainly deserved her raise. All the Aros (?) are fine too.

Weve been having some hot weather lately, & our apricots & plums are ripe, seems we're always picking something. I've dug up our potatoes & they're really nice. We sold both our cows, as hay was so high it wasn't worth it – also sold our pigs, now all we have is 2 calfs & 7 sheep. Its enough to take care of as dad works out every a then comes home & works & Grampa is getting too old to do what he used to. Well no more news from here, Keep you hope high I'm sure Merrill will be home for long.

Love Kate.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	8-18-44	Mother, Dad & Dick

August 18, 1944 -

Dearest Mother Dad & Dick -

I was so pleased to get your letter, some weeks ago now, but I've been so darn busy I haven't hardly had time to sit down and write a letter. I've taken on another job part time - People are just screaming for help & can't seem to get anyone especially, the non-essential industries - Since they changed my hours at the Post office to 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - I had all my mornings free, so I took a part time job in the Drug Store, on the corner right across from the post office - so I don't have to drive from one place to another. I work there from 8 in the morning til 12 noon - eat & then go to the P.O. & letters, I've just tried to get them written but never get sat down long enough. I work in the fountain part of the store. I never done any work like this before, & theres just enough diversion from each one, so that it really isn't such a long Day.

I had hoped by now we'd have had some news about our boy, but no soap. At this time tho, with conditions as they are in Europe, I hardly expect to get any word, until the thing is finished, Their Communications systems must be in terrible shape, after all the bombings & etc. I just feel so strongly inside that he's all right, that I just know it almost. Everyone seems to think the same, otherwise we would have heard by now. Don't you think? I have to think about it, as I get so nervous, wondering & wondering so, consequently, my 2 jobs keep me from thinking too much, although, inveribly your mind runs along that train? I miss writing my letters to him, too, its funny. I used to race home from work & write a letter, or often write them at the P.O. & send them out on one particularly good dispatch to N.Y.

I hope all of you are all right & feeling well. Don't work too hard in the heat. It takes too much out of you, especially when your out in the sun. So take it easy. But I can well imagine all the work there is to do one a farm. Your work is never done - I may come up to Montana with Leonard & Wanda - although it depends on what we know by then I'm not promising, just thinking it over. I have an Aunt in Bozeman, (Dads sister) & she wants me to come visit them too. So I may come up that way, but time will give the answer. I owe Mary a letter too, I may get at that tomorrow, as I may get the afternoon off. (I'm working Sundays too) -

How are Edna's - give them my best, & I hope they're all right - Edna is probably been working too hard. She should take it easier. (if possible).

Wanda & Leonard are fine I don't see Len very much only on Sundays when he comes to the Drug Store, & I make him a super Deluxe Sundae or etc. I stop by & see Wanda during the week at night but only for a minute or two. I wish she'd gain some weight - I think she looks awfully frail - Maybe its because I'm so fat that I notice it so much - But ten lbs. would do her good. With Len working nights & Wanda, days, they hardly see each other.

Well I guess I said enough our family is all fine & send their best to you, all. Will try my best to write sooner next time. Even if you don't get my letters often, I think

about you every day, & wonder how you are, & wish we could be loser together. In the clipping you sent, it mentioned the Distinguished flying Cross. I guess he got that on the 25th mission – I didn't know anything about that before. I wonder if they were right?

My best love to all for

Now

Kate.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Wanda & Kate Burton	Los Angeles, Calif	9-20-44	Mr&Mrs Burton

WESTERN
UNION

1 HA WN PD
UN LosAngeles calif. Sept 20 1944

Mr and Mrs M W Burton Box 357

Harlem Mont.

Leaving Wednesday Am will wire from Salt Lake time arrival Harlem

Love.

Wanda and Katherine
233 am

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	10-10-44	Mother, Dad & Dick & Wanda

Oct 10, 1944

Dear Mother Dad & Dick & Wanda

Excuse the smallness of this, but my intentions are honorable – I bought this note paper, to use in answering the many cards & etc., I had when I got home. I'll write a big long speed later, but I wanted you to ?? Had a nice time in Bozeman, left there Thursday, & got here Sat, 14th at 11:30 a.m. Mother met me at the train. Leonard left Sunday about noon, I stopped by, but he'd gone to work, so left a note & he dropped by Sunday & had breakfast with us. He's driving & should get there about Wednesday. May be Thursday.

I sure had a wonderful time, & have been telling everyone about it – These city Jerks wont believe me. I'm coming back up there real soon. I came to work today & Christmas is here. We can hardly get in an out of the Post office for packages I worked like a slave today & was wishing I was wheeling that trolley ? around instead. I gave the letter to the Red Cross & will let you know as soon as I hear. Write more later Love to all Kay

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
H H Arnold	Washington	10-17--44	Mr Burton

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
Office of the Commanding General
Washington 25, D.C.

October 17, 1944

My dear Mr. Burton:

With deep regret I have learned that you son, First Lieutenant Merrill Otis Burton, missing since May 30, 1944, has been reported as having died while he was in action on that date in the European Area.

It has been brought to my attention that Lieutenant Burton displayed qualities of a leader while he was in aviation training at Ellington Field, and they were valuable assets to him in his later work with the command. A skillful pilot, he developed into an excellent officer who performed the duties of his grade in a commendable manner. The worthy contribution he made will not be forgotten by those who served with him.

My heartfelt sympathy is with you and other members of the family in your bereavement/ I hope pride in the knowledge that your son volunteered to serve his Country and upheld the high standards of the Army Air FORCES WILL AFFORD YOU SOME MEASURE OF consolation.

Very sincerely,

H. H. ARNOLD,
GENERAL, U.S. ARMY,
Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

Mr. Morris W. Burton,
P.O. Box 357,
Harlem, Montana.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
C V Finter, Colonel	Washington	10-17--44	Mr M Burton

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

AFPPA-8

(5233) Burton, Merrill O.
0690042

October 17, 1944

Mr. Morris W. Burton,
Post Office Box 357,
Harlem, Montana.

Dear Mr. Burton:

For reasons of military security it has been necessary to withhold the names of the air crew members who were serving with your son at the time he was reported missing.

Since it is now permissible to release this information, we are inclosing a complete list of names of the crew members.

The names and addresses of the next of kin of the men are also given in the belief that you may desire to correspond with them.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl
List of crew members & names
& addresses of next of kin

CLYDE V. FINTER
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief, Personal Affairs Division
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

1 st Lt Merrill O. Burton	Morris W. Burton Father Harlem Mont. P.O.box 357.
2 nd Lt. David L. Bredeson	Mr. Eden L. Bredeson. (Father) 3820 Grandada St. San Diego, Calif.
2ndLt. Alvin C. Berry	Mrs. Naomi E Berry (Wife) 400 North Gibson St. Compton. Calif.
T/Sgt. Robert J. Hammond	Mrs. Myrtle Hammond (Mother) 54 Jerome Avenue, Mineola, New York.
S/Sgt. James E Marbry	Mrs. Margaret N. Marbry (Wife) 8503 Hudson Van Dyke, Michigan
S/Sgt. Victor C. Pillot	Mrs. Veronica Pillot (Mother) Munson, Pennsylvania.
S/Sgt. Ralph J. Powell	Mrs Lilah Pierce (Mother) 544 5 th Avenue, Durango, Colorado
Sgt. Robert Hittel,	Mr. Wendel Hittel (Father) Rural Route No. 8, Beechmont Avenue, Mount Washington Cincinnati, Ohio.

?? Congratulations

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	10-19-44	Mother, Dad & Dick, Wanda & Leonard

Oct 19, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad, Dick, Wanda & Leonard.

Well I imagine Leonard has arrived by now if every thing went OK for him. I had a good notion to pack up & come back up with him. I sure love it up there, & as a matter of fact you could probably use another truck skinner. I certainly had a very nice time while I was there, to prove my point, I had 3 extra pounds of excess baggage, when I got home Must have been all those wonderful rolls, cakes, potatoes & yum-yum - I'm getting hungry thinking about it.

Sunday

I had to stop writing this, & finally today am getting around to finishing it. I tried to dye a light green sweater this morning, black, but it turned sort of gray - a real pretty color but, I think I'll dip it in some more black later.

Everyone here at home was fine when I got here, crazy as ever - I stopped in to see your Dad, Wanda, on my way home from Work & they're all O.K. & missing you I'm going down today & see what you had to say in your letter that I saw at the P.O. O'l Noisy me. I see ever thing.

I copied the letter from the War Dept, so am sending back the original. I'll send one other back when I copy it, the one telling about where he went & etc. The Redman Lodge, that Merrill belonged to, are holding a Memorial Servise in about 2 weeks in the Presbyterian Church in Van Nuys - Mr. Farrell, who's son & Merrill were such very good friends is making all the arrangements - Merrill used to spend the night at their place quite a lot. I think there is still plenty of time for those things - I'd like to have a little more information, & right now I don't think will be able to get much until things are quieter in Germany - and the letter in the second paragraph states that the report from Germany contained only the fact that he died on May 30th. Now I've given the letter (copy) to the Red Cross & may be they'll be able to get more information inside Germany, but it will take time.

Dick, right now Dad doesn't have any film in at the Drug Store but will probably get your number on the next shipment, I haven't yet had time to get down to Hollywood to one of those Jakes & Trick (?) Stores to see about "Whig-Bougs" but will try to get down some time soon & see if they still have them. Did the Radio tube that Len brought with him work, if not I'll keep trying. When I was in Bozeman, I left your name with a Radio Shop there, & when their shipment comes in, they said they'd send it to you at Harlem.

There's a boy around the corner from us, who was missing for several months, later reported killed - his wife made all the settlement with the Gov't. All of his crew were prisoners of War & never had any word about him for months - & he walked in the day before I got home. So I'll still cling to one small hope, that there may be a chance, &

it may be a mistake – Oh God, how I hope & pray so. I don't think life is worth living – it seems so cruel & cold. I seem to have lost all emotions, & am getting so hard & cold I don't think all of this would have happened if Wilson wasn't so strongly apposed & beat down by the isolationists in the last war. I can't believe God intended things to be this way. I think its all Man Made, greed, cruelty, & hatred.

I hope Dick hasn't killed or seared the cows to death by now & that your getting enough milk. One of our neighbors, just bought 2 tons of oat hay for his horses - \$37.00 per ton – How about that Dad?

I had a nice time in Bozeman I went to two Auctions. Herefords - & Short Horns – But I still think the Angus – are the best. I'm just a little prejudiced – I would certainly loved to come back up with Leonard, but Xmas & the P.O. I thought I'd better stay, they'll need all the experienced hands they can get. Is old Sam Hardy still with you – eating, talking, & doing as little as possible? Ho! Give him my regards & a kick in the rear for me – Remind me to Mrs. De Weese- Saddler, & etc. I'm sorry we didn't get over to see Gramma Watkins, she must be a wonderful person for her age.

Say Leonard I never did get an introduction of formality to the Great Bum Henry Brekke – alias Henrah! Nor a peek at him – Wanda you'll have to get a look at him & tell me when you get back. I'd sure like to go on that hunt. This country hasn't anything any more – Just climate & the ocean, the rest is just (Bush wah!) – They really don't know what living is. They're all so wrapped up in the city ways – I just don't like them any more. Are there any more homesteads up there? I think I'll come back with a weather proof tent & homestead, or get a job as a sheep herder – How does that sound.

I sure hated to leave - now I wish I was back. You, all really made me feel better, & were so nice. Thanks loads for a wonderful time.

Well I guess I've said enough for this time. None of it makes much sense, but I don't know what I'm doing half the time, anyway.

Wanda, give everyone a big hug & kiss for me, especially Dick – I can just see him Blush, but I love it, too.

Best love to all – and
we all send our best
Kay

P.S. Leonard, I hope you didn't have any trouble with your gasoline – I'm afraid for you.

Love

Kate

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
James Brown	New York, NY	10-31--44	Mrs M W Burton

Army Air Base.

381 ?? Base Group (H)
APO. 557 c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.,
Oct 31, 1944.

Mrs. M. W. Burton
Box 357,
Harlem, Montana

Dear Mrs. Burton:

How much nicer it would be to sit and talk with you about your son Merrill. He was a grand fellow, and I rate him as one of my finest friends in the army. It is men, such as he was, who made life great, made it worth living, and who represented the best of American manhood.

Merrill was always a gentleman on the base. I was proud of him, and knew that he must have come from a good home. You were right in saying that he was always a good boy.

I am glad Merrill's wife came to see you, and that you read the letter I wrote to her.

I know of no further news. If there is any, it will come from the government, through the International Red Cross. His personal things will be sent home at the proper time, I am not sure when.

It is hard for me to believe that these fellows, who were once with me – my buddies – are now gone. I saw them go away in the morning, I watched their planes go off into the air. All were so strong and well and happy. It seems that they are just gone for the day, and will fly back to me. I sit waiting for the planes. When one or several do not return, it seems untrue, and I cannot help feel that they are just away for a flight.

When word comes from the States – from the families – it is the first news I receive that a fellow will not come back. It is then I realize the horror of it all. Then, and then only, do I realize what these boys did for me. I feel terribly guilty – guilty that I sat here, and they went out for me.

I have gone on a mission over Germany with the men, against all rules and regulations (an got bawled out for it from Higher Headquarters), because I wanted to be with the men. I know of no other Chaplain in our Division, or over here, who has gone on a Bomber in a Mission.

But that was only once. I still feel guilty when I sit here, and see the men go out. Thanks for telling me about the farm. We'll be so glad to get home.

Let us all keep our courage high.

I thank you for men like Merrill

Sincerely

James Good Brown
Chaplain

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Leila Pierce	Durango Co	11-1-44	Mrs Burton

Durango Colorado
Nov 1. 1944

My Dear Mrs Burton

I received your nice letter. Thank you for writing. My heart aches for you for I know just how you feel. If we could only see why our fine boys have to die like this. I know God is good and that He knows the answer to all this, but that dont ease the hurt in the ease the hurt in the heart of each of us. I can hardly believe that it is true that Ralph wont be coming home. I had Prayed so hard that he would be safe and never thought anything else than that he would be home some time in June or July. You see I had talked to one of his buddies who had just come home in May and this boy said Ralph was almost through with his missions.

I got exactly the same messages that you did. I got my telegram on June 13 and then had a letter on June 19. Then on Sept 17 I had the telegram that he had died on May 30.

I have heard from all of the boys' families now and there were 4 killed and 5 are Prisoners. The ones who are Prisoners had their ?? of that back in from 10 to 14 or 15 days. I wonder why it took so long for us to learn about our? There is so much I cant understand.

Ralph was just 22. So young, he hadnt started to live yet. He wasnt married. I am glad for that, as there might have been a child left fatherless. He was a dear thoughtful boy. He was my second son. I have two others in Service. Norman, the oldest is in the Medical Detachment at Fort Ard, Calif. He most likely wont be sent away as he has asthma quite badly. He has been in for 3 years, is 24. Richard the youngest is 20 and also a gunner on a bomber. He will be shipped out this month I guess. How I hate to have him go. I have two small sons, half brothers of these other boys. They are 6 and 4. I am glad they are not older. I have never had any girls.

I am 43, and just a housewife. My husband owns and operates a Coal mine here. We own our home here in Durango and like it very much here. I have lived here Practically all my life. I was born in Durango. My Parents and my first husband (father of those three boys) are all buried here. So this is ??? ??? days. We have an ideal climate. Not too hot in summer and not too cold in the winter. It gets rather cold alright but never unbarable. And we do have the most beautiful scenery around here.

I would like to hear from you from time to time if you care to write.

Sincerely yours

Lilah Pirece

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	11-2-44	Mother, Dad & Dick, Wanda & Len

November 2, 1944
Van Nuys, Calif.

Dear Mother, Dad, Dick, Wanda & Len.,

Excuse the typewriter, I don't like to get typewritten letters myself but I thought I could write more faster this way. Even at that, this old typewriter isn't very good.

I called Mrs Berry, but she didn't have a telephone, so I wrote her a card an asked her to call me collect from Compton. Her husband, Alvin Berry was the Bombardier-Navigator on the ship. There were only nine on the ship. They have reduced the number to nine so as to utilize all the men, or else there was a shortage of one or the other. She told me that her husband had written her about that. She also had this very startling news.

Her husband is a prisoner of war and of course she can't get any information from him but – she had a letter from him a few days before he went down saying that he was going to be transferred to another crew on their next flight, and that was undoubtedly to Merrill's ship. The crew that he had been flying with were on that flight of the 30th of May, and saw the whole thing. This crew is now back here in the states and have written to Mrs. Berry and she told me what happened.

Merrill was the leader, (Flight Squadron Leader) and a Lt. Monnahan in another ship was second in command. They were approaching the target, with a full load of bombs, they had not yet dumped them. Then a squadron of enemy aircraft (fighters) came into sight. Of course they always try to pick on the leader, so as to disintegrate the formation, thus when they're separated from one another they're not so well protected. They started making passes at Merrills ship first, he said "about twenty passes were made at him in 10 minutes", Merrill radioed to Monnahan and told him to take over, and Monnahan said back, "I'm sorry sir, but my ship is also damaged, and am pulling out now," so Merrill told the third in command, (that was the fellow who wrote this letter) to take over, and Merrill left the formation. He said his engines were on fire, but the ship wasn't burning badly. Merrill went in one direction and Monnahan in another, evidently Monnahan's ship wasn't burning, as the fighters really picked on him after he left the formation, but they didn't bother Merrills ship. It glided off, and parachutes started coming out, and he said for the life of him he couldn't say how many chutes came out, as he was busy, fighting off the enemy. Then he said the ship sort of flipped over and went into a tail spin.

Now even if the ship went into a tail spin, there is still a hatch over the pilots heads, over the cockpit where they can bail out, and they could very easily have gotten out even then.

Now here's what puzzles me. How do they know that Merrill was killed, that day. If he went down in that ship, there wouldn't be anything big enough to tell it was him. If he didn't go down in the ship, he's still alive in Germany, I'll wager ten to one. Here's another thing. Mrs. Berry was notified in ten days that her husband was a prisoner, on the 24th of June, Sgt Hittel's folks heard in three weeks. Lets say within a month all of the boys who were prisoners were captured. If they reported Merrill as going down in the ship, and being killed on that day, why did it take four months for us to hear. The whole thing doesn't tie up to suit me. Either one of two things happened, either he went down in the ship, or he's being hid out, and we'll never know until those boys come back from Germany, whether or not he got out of the ship. Until then, I'm going to keep on believing in God, and Merrill, and that someday he'll come back. Merrill isn't the kind to take unnecessary chances and has the will, of do or else. If he was capable of radioing to the other ships, he evidently wasn't hurt then, and if the fighters didn't pick on him after he left the formation, I can't see any reason right now why he couldn't have gotten out of there, but as I say we'll have to wait until this DAMN was is over, to find out definitely.

I'm going down to see Mrs. Berry as soon as I can get enough gas together I'm kind of short right now, I didn't apply for my A Book, and when I did they took some of the tickets out. So that's the way it goes.

I'm sending Mary a carbon copy of this letter, this way it will eliminate writing it twice. I have written her another letter, and will enclose this one in with it. I'm also making her copies of the letters we had from the War Dept, and etc., as I thought perhaps she would enjoy having and reading them. This typewriter is old and sticky, but its saving a lot of work, I don't think I'd be able to get all these letters written if it weren't for this.

Everything is pretty much the same here, working every day, I'm still on the late shift, and I don't like it very well, so I've decided to take a short carrying route in town in the morning, and then work inside in the afternoon, and try to get away from that night work all the time. I think it will be sort of fun carrying mail, just a short route wouldn't be bad; and I've got a good pair of walking shoes, and that's the main thing.

I stop in to see your Dad, Wanda, and he's pretty lonesome, but I sit and chew the rag with him, and we win the war, election, and run the capitalists into the ground. The trouble is we agree too often, and there isn't much of the good old arguing. The more I hear and read about both sides of the election problem, sometimes I wish I didn't have to vote for either one. What I'm most concerned about is winning the war, and I think it's a crime, the way people aren't putting there all into it because of this election talk. Secondly, is a lasting peace, and I have enough faith in God, to know that this world can get along with one another, it wasn't meant to be a continual caos, and destructive world.

No one can tell me any different. Its been proven that American cannot live by herself, and policy of isolationism must be done away with.

Well I guess that's enough for now, and lets pray that we will get this War over with, and find out more about our dear Merrill.

We all send out love and best regards, I hope you've finished with the beets by now, and everything is hunkedindleing. I suppose all the men are cleaning their guns, buying grub, and getting out their heavy clothes for the hunt. I sure wish I could go with them. Maybe I could hit the broad side of the mountain with this hair-trigger 22 and then again maybe I couldn't.

Loads of Love to all –
Kay –

P.S. This is for Edna's too – Now at least we have an idea what happened.

P.P.S. Wanda Madlin ??? Admas got married

Love Kay

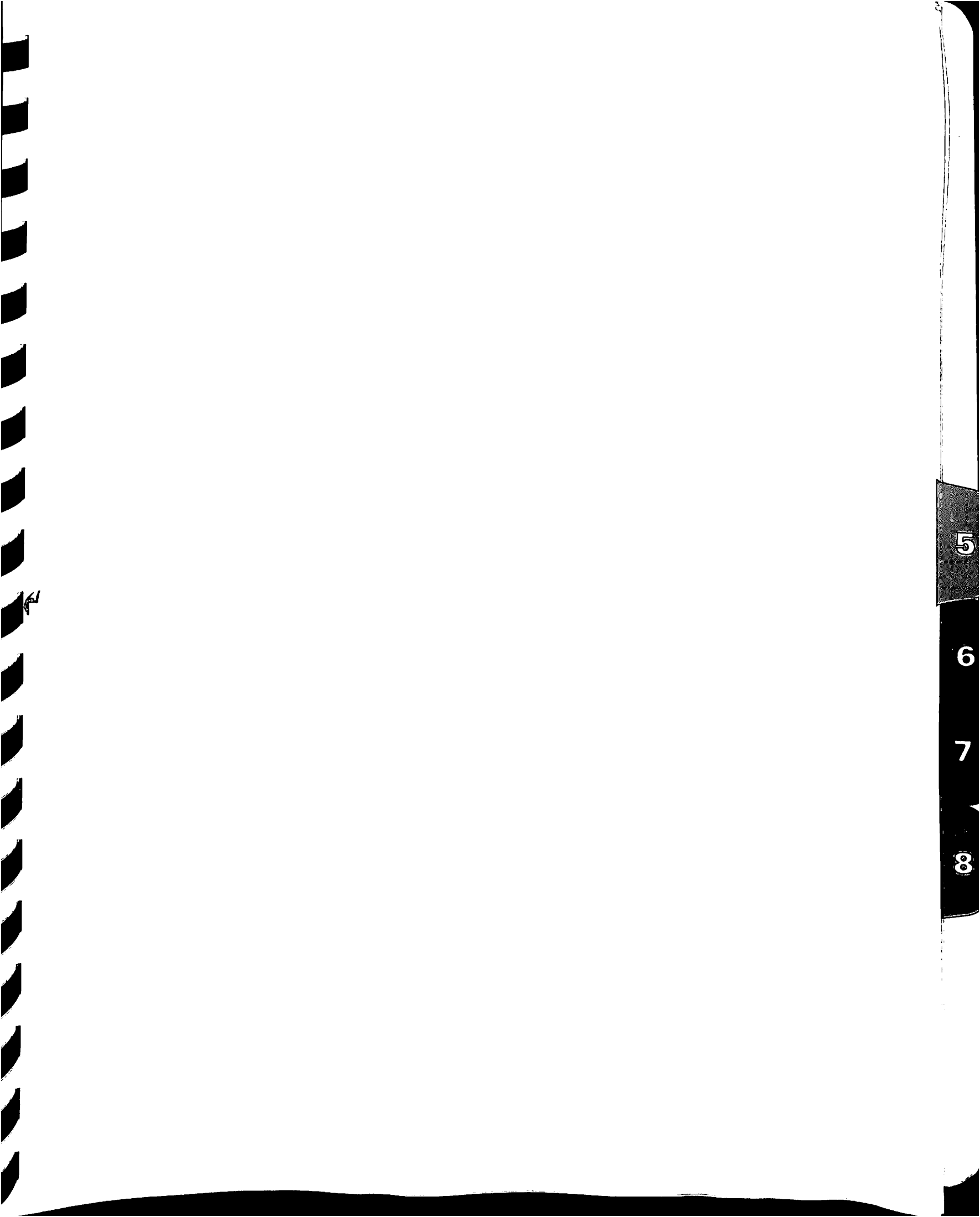
Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Mrs Bredeson	San Diego, Ca	11-7-44	Mrs Burton

3820 Granada
San Diego Calif.
Nov. 7 1944.

Dear Mrs Burton.

We received your letter also your daughter's letter and wish to thank you both. We wrote England for the next of kin and we waited a long time before receiving them but just as soon as we did we put in phone calls to quiet a few as we were so anxious to hear the news about the other boys. And so far we received five are prisoners of war and four reported killed. As you said in your letter it is hard to believe. Yes it is it happens so far away and the way it happens is what is so hard. But if the boys were killed I know God was with them. So many things happens in war one never knows and when a report comes from Germany I know it isn't always true. As we have friend out quite a few boys have been reported missing and later reported killed and later found to be alive. So we will pray our boys are safe and alive. The Red Cross in San Diego said they had quiet a few boys who had been missing and reported killed and found to be alive there are quiet a few in San Diego where the reports haven't been true. Mr Bredeson is a contractor and is kept very busy so much building going on. We have lived in Calif four years we moved here from Minnesota. San Diego is a very nice City but a very busy City now during war. We have a married son living in Dallas Texas so far he isn't in service and three children at home. The girl is 17 yrs. The boy 15 yrs and a little boy 2 ½ yrs old. David was our oldest boy and a very nice bright boy he was going to be married soon as he came home. He never said how many missions he had made not so many I don't think as he hadn't been across much over a month. Mabe the boys who are reported killed got away and are trying to get back and the German Government reportes them killed. You can't tell what the Germans report. It seems that if the boys were killed May 30th we should of got the message before 3 Months. As the prisoners were reported before. So many people have told us we should of heard before. I know a couple people here in San Diego who belong to our church got the messages in 4 to 6 weeks. They were killed in Germany. We won't give up hope. Mr Bredesons sister sent us a clipping last week of a boy who was reported missing then killed and found to be a prisoner of war in Germany. I'm inclosing one clipping my brother sent me of the same boy. Mr Bredeson's sister knows the people they live in Lisbon N. Dak. I'm inclosing a clipping of our dear boy. May God be with us and our boys and bring them home to us. Would like to hear from you again.

Mrs Bredeson.



5

6

7

8

Calendar for year 1945 (United States)

<p>January</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6:○</td><td>14:●</td><td>20:○</td><td>28:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				6:○	14:●	20:○	28:○				<p>February</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5:○</td><td>12:●</td><td>19:○</td><td>26:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				5:○	12:●	19:○	26:○				<p>March</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>7:○</td><td>13:●</td><td>20:○</td><td>28:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	7:○	13:●	20:○	28:○										
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																						
28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																									
6:○	14:●	20:○	28:○																																																																																																																																																									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																						
25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																									
5:○	12:●	19:○	26:○																																																																																																																																																									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																						
7:○	13:●	20:○	28:○																																																																																																																																																									
<p>April</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5:○</td><td>12:●</td><td>19:○</td><td>27:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						5:○	12:●	19:○	27:○				<p>May</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5:○</td><td>11:●</td><td>18:○</td><td>26:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			5:○	11:●	18:○	26:○				<p>June</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>3:○</td><td>10:●</td><td>17:○</td><td>25:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	3:○	10:●	17:○	25:○										
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																						
29	30																																																																																																																																																											
5:○	12:●	19:○	27:○																																																																																																																																																									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																						
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																								
5:○	11:●	18:○	26:○																																																																																																																																																									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																						
3:○	10:●	17:○	25:○																																																																																																																																																									
<p>July</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2:○</td><td>9:●</td><td>17:○</td><td>24:○</td><td>31:○</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					2:○	9:●	17:○	24:○	31:○			<p>August</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7:○</td><td>15:○</td><td>23:○</td><td>29:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		7:○	15:○	23:○	29:○				<p>September</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6:○</td><td>14:○</td><td>21:○</td><td>28:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							6:○	14:○	21:○	28:○			
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																						
29	30	31																																																																																																																																																										
2:○	9:●	17:○	24:○	31:○																																																																																																																																																								
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
		1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																							
7:○	15:○	23:○	29:○																																																																																																																																																									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
						1																																																																																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																						
30																																																																																																																																																												
6:○	14:○	21:○	28:○																																																																																																																																																									
<p>October</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6:○</td><td>14:○</td><td>21:○</td><td>27:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				6:○	14:○	21:○	27:○				<p>November</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4:○</td><td>12:○</td><td>19:○</td><td>26:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		4:○	12:○	19:○	26:○				<p>December</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4:○</td><td>12:○</td><td>18:○</td><td>26:○</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						4:○	12:○	18:○	26:○			
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																						
28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																									
6:○	14:○	21:○	27:○																																																																																																																																																									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																						
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																							
4:○	12:○	19:○	26:○																																																																																																																																																									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
						1																																																																																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																						
30	31																																																																																																																																																											
4:○	12:○	18:○	26:○																																																																																																																																																									

① Victory in Europe Day

② VJ Day. Signing of the surrender document on USS Missouri

Holidays and Observances:

Jan 1	New Year's Day	May 30	Memorial Day	Nov 11	Armistice Day
Feb 12	Lincoln's Birthday	Jun 17	Father's Day	Nov 12	'Armistice Day' observed
Feb 14	Valentine's Day	Jul 4	Independence Day	Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day
Apr 1	Easter Sunday	Sep 3	Labor Day	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
May 13	Mother's Day	Oct 31	Halloween	Dec 25	Christmas Day

Calendar generated on www.timeanddate.com/calendar

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
H L McCoy (Ins)	Washington	3-29-45	Mrs Ella Theresa Burton

Insurance Form 1579
VERERANS ADMINISTRATION

NOTICED OF SETTLEMENT
NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE

To: Mrs. Ella Theresa Burton
P.O. Box 357
Harlem, Montana

Date
March 29, 1945
NAME BURTON,
Merrill Otis
XC-3,703,670
N 6,152,875

You are hereby notified that, as a beneficiary of insurance in the amount of \$10,000.00 granted to Merrill Otis Burton by the United States under the National Service Life Insurance Act of October 8, 1940, as amended, you are entitled to monthly payments of \$57.60 beginning May 30, 1944. To continued for life.

The initial payment under this settlement will be dispatched to you at the earliest possible date. If you should change your address, the Accounting Division, Finance Service, Veterans Administration, Washington 25, D. C., must be immediately notified.

All future communications with reference to this case must bear the File Number XC-3,703,670.

Very truly yours,

H. L. McCOY,
Director of Insurance.

GPO 16-40850-2

IMPORTANT: If evidence to prove relationship and age, already requested, has not been furnished, it should be furnished as soon as practicable; otherwise it may be necessary to suspend payment pending its receipt. However, if evidence of relationship is being submitted for pension purposes it need not be duplicated for insurance purposes.

Author
H H Arnold

Location
Washington

Date
Memorial Day 1945

Addressee
Mr Burton

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

MEMORIAL DAY 1945

Dear Mr. Burton:

We are again mindful on this Memorial Day of our debt to those of the Army Air Forces who have given their lives for our Country. Their memory is always with us.

Very sincerely,

H. H. ARNOLD
Commanding General, Army Air Forces

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Allen Berry	?	6-26-45	Mrs Burton

June 26 - 45

Dear Mrs Burton -

I got home sometime ago to my wife and children and so of course we've been pretty happy now that it's all over. For you however I know that the end of the war in Europe did not mean the end of grief. Though I know that my grief could not match yours as you're his mother, I'll never forget Merrill and the other three. By this time I imagine you're fairly certain that Merrill will not come back. I delayed writing just in case there might be a chance because one can never be sure. But I regret to say that I was fairly sure of the fact that four members were killed one of which was your boy. I imagine you want to know what took place and where it took place. I hope this letter won't open a partially healed wound, and if it does I am very sorry.

It happened about fifty miles South West of Berlin not far from a town by the name of Dessau. It was about 11:10, English time May the thirtieth. We were hit by ME109s. There were five of them in the first attack I believe. Our left wing caught a 20MM and fired up Merrill took the ship out of formation. When he saw it was pretty serious he gave the order to bale out and tried to hold the ship level while the crew got out. Three of them baled out O.K. and then the left wing disintegrated and we fell into a spin with no hope recover. There were six of us that remained until the other wing and part of the ship disintegrated. Myself and the bombardier were thrown out and it's a shame that the rest couldn't have been thrown clear but to my knowledge they were not. I beleive they were still in when the ship crashed. I never got close to the wreckage when I hit the ground but the germans told us there we four bodies in the plane (whether they knew or not I'm not sure) and I am fairly sure that there were. In the event that he was killed he is without a doubt buried in a churchyard and in the Dessau Area. Merrill performed his duty wonderfully up to the very last and I have, and I know the other four who lived through it have a great deal of respect for your boy. Whether that is very comforting or not I don't know. Though I did not know Merrill very long I do know he was one of the finest fellows I've ever met but I'm sure you know that. I would appreciate an answer and will gladly answer any questions you might have if I can.

Sincerely yours
Allen Berry

Author
Mrs Bredeson

Location
San Diego, CA

Date
7-2-45

Addressee
Mrs Burton

July 2nd 45

Dear Mrs Burton.

Now that the war is over with Germany I was wondering if you have had any good news about your son. I have heard from 2 prisoners of war and it looks as if our son won't be coming back. One wrote and said the wings fell off the plane and the plane went into a spin and I suppose the rest were trapped in the plane. And five saved their lives. I've prayed and hoped they were alive all these months but make mabe yet something good will turn up and lots of boys who have been reported killed have come home. Have you recieved your sons personal things and have you received his identification tags. We received our sons things about 2 months ago but not his tags. This was is sure a sad story so many nice boys won't be coming home. But hope it will all end soon. Our summer weather is very chilly. And we have had rain. Which we hardly ever have in the summer. Rains starts out here in Jan. Well its getting late so will close. Hoping your family is well.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Your's Truly.

Mrs Edas Bredeson.
4063 Kansas St.
San Diego
Calif.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Nadine	?	7-11-45	Mrs Burton

July 11, 1945

Mrs Burton:

Was glad to get your letter and am sorry to be so long in answering. Seems as though can't settle down to do any thing Jim got home.

Guess our are proud of your new grand-son. Things sure do pile up when you are gone from home.

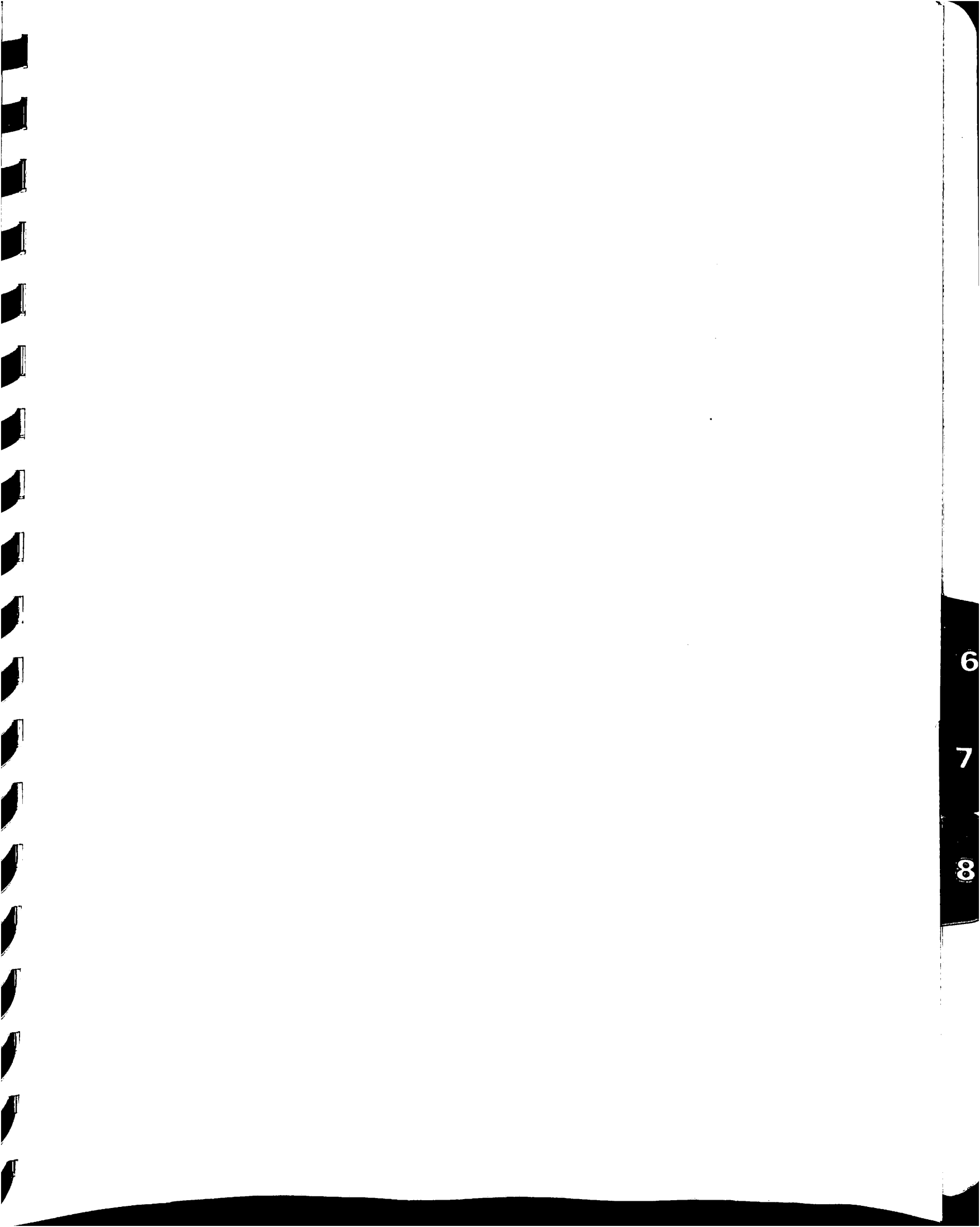
No Jim will not leave the States as far as we know. At least that is what the Army told him. He has to report to Miami Beach, Florida the 4th of August. Don't know just what will happen to him. Sure hope he gets a discharge.

How is the weather where you are? Boy t sure is cool here. Seems like the fall. Just wonder if will have any summer.

Well I can't think of any thing to write so will close for this time.

Your friend

Nadine



Calendar for year 1946 (United States)

January							February							March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
3:● 10:○ 17:○ 25:○	1:● 8:○ 15:○ 23:○	3:● 10:○ 17:○ 25:○																		
April							May							June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4							1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
1:● 8:○ 16:○ 24:○	1:● 8:○ 15:○ 24:○ 30:○	6:○ 14:○ 22:○ 29:○																		
July							August							September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
6:○ 14:○ 21:○ 28:○	4:○ 12:○ 19:○ 26:○	3:○ 11:○ 18:○ 25:○																		
October							November							December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5							1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
3:○ 10:○ 17:○ 24:○	1:○ 9:○ 15:○ 23:○	1:○ 8:○ 15:○ 23:○ 31:○																		

Holidays and Observances:			
Jan 1	New Year's Day	Nov 5	Election Day
Feb 12	Lincoln's Birthday	Nov 11	Armistice Day
Feb 14	Valentine's Day	Nov 28	Thanksgiving Day
Apr 21	Easter Sunday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
May 12	Mother's Day	Dec 25	Christmas Day
May 30	Memorial Day		
Jun 16	Father's Day		
Jul 4	Independence Day		
Sep 2	Labor Day		
Oct 31	Halloween		

Calendar generated on www.timeanddate.com/calendar

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Katherine Burton	Van Nuys, Ca	5-17-46	Mother, Dad & Dick, And all

Van Nuys, California
May 17, 1946

Dear Mother, Dad, Dick, and all –

Here a whole week has passed and I promised to send the letter I had received from the War Department on to you. It was quite a coincidence, I had mailed your Mother's day card, and the next day I received your letter.

I received the same letter as you did, so am returning yours to you. I am so glad to at last know something definite. I received Merrills ring that I had given him, he promised me he would wear it always. The only regulation against wearing jewelry on missions was an inscription, anything with any form of identification on it was prohibited, and the ring did not have any writing on any in inscription in it so I imagined he was wearing it. It came just a few days before the letter, so I figured he was wearing it and they had found his grave. I looked Peithen up on the map and it is just about where Alvin Berry said it would be. It is comforting to know just where he is.

I suppose you are all very busy with spring planting and irrigating, Dick graduating and a new Burton on the way. You all should take it easy, and not over-work it really doesn't pay, and you only feel all in and tired. Just slow up a bit and let old "George" do it, as the saying goes.

I am sending Dick a present for Graduation, along with a letter, he will undoubtedly do as he sees fit, but I would so much like to see him go on to more school. This world needs young and intelligent men like Dick, and he could do so much for others.

I hope Dad, that your health is all right now too, you know you can't go on forever the same pace as you did when you were 20.

I had a nice long letter from Wanda, telling me about their new place, It sounds much nicer than their place at Millers, although I'll bet she'll miss Marguerite. I'm so glad the kids did so well last year, and this year I hope will be much better. You know the whole world is depending on the farmers this year, a failure would be such a catastrophe.

I really don't know any more news from this end. We have been having awful weather foggy and cold, but today the sun is shining and it is quite warm. We had a spell of the same kind of weather last year about this time.

The army is planning to open Metropolitan Airport soon now, and as we have a small finance corporation formed now, and in the process of being incorporated, I will

undoubtedly be over at the field soon financing airplanes, and doing the work I love. A friend of mine has a hangar rented over their now, and will have an office for me in about two weeks, so that's where I'll be from now on.

Everyone here is fine and send their best, my grandmother is leaving tonight for St. Paul, and Chicago to spend the summer, and will probably return this fall. She certainly is marvelous for her age, she will be 82 next month, and makes this trip every year. Everyone that knows her can't believe her age, she certainly does wonders.

You'll have to excuse this typewriter, as it's a portable, and I'm all hands, and can't seem to get this little old thing to cooperate.

Well I must close now, and get this in the mail, best love to all. I hope you had a very wonderful Mother's Day, and my best to you always,

Love
Kay

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
A Hassink	Holland	11-15-46	Adjutant General

Request –

To

The Adjutant General's Officer
Room 1 E 537
Pentagon Building
Washington 25 D.C.
U.S.A.

The undersigned, Hassink A. Dutch citizen, who adopted the grave of the American soldier

Burton Merrill O. of the U.S. Aircorps, died May 30 1945, number 0-690042,
Might receive any information about the home – address of the parents of this soldier.

Truly yours,

A Hassink

Heer, by Maastricht,
Holland, ... November ..., 1946

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
E F Witsell	Washington	11-22-46	Mr M Burton

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
AGPC-G 201 Burton, Merrill O.
(14 Nov 46) 0690042

22 November 1946

Mr Morris W. Burton
Post Office Box 357
Harlem, Montana

Dear Mr Burton:

A letter has been received in the War Department from Mr. A. Glassin, Gleeer by Maastricht, Holland, in which it is stated that he has adopted the grave of your son.

Since Mr. Glassink has expressed a wish to communicate with you, I am inclosing his letter which you might care to acknowledge.

May I express my full appreciation of the noble service rendered by yourson and his sacrifice in giving his life for his country.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General of the Army

1 Inclosure

Author
J L Prenn

Location
Washington

Date
12-17-46

Addressee
Mrs Burton

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO
QMGMR 293
Burton, Merrill O.
SN 0-690 042

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

17 December 1946

Mrs. Morris W. Burton
Box #357
Harlem, Montana

Dear Mrs. Burton:

Your letter concerning your son, the late First Lieutenant Merrill O. Burton, has been received in this office.

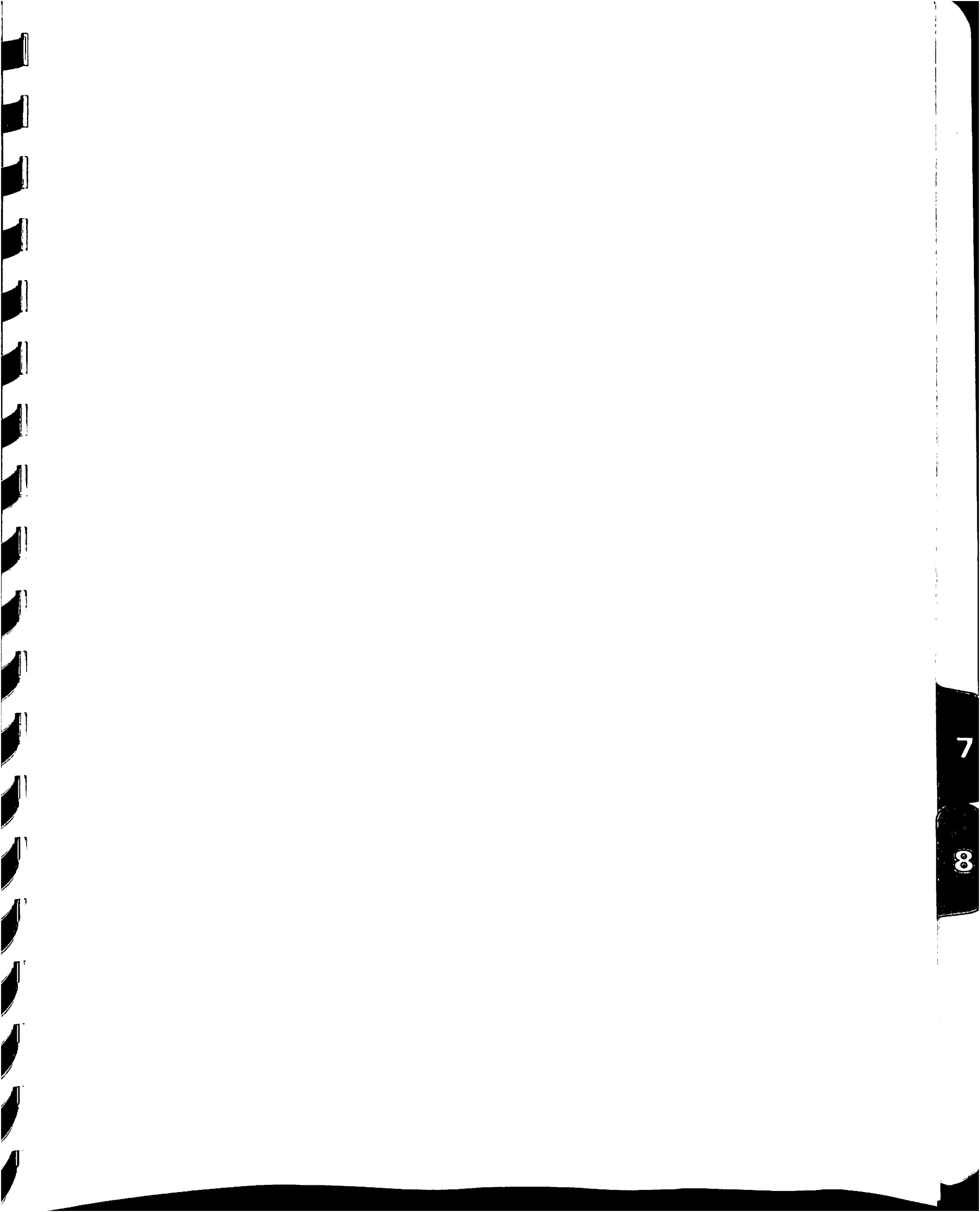
The official report of burial shows that the remains of your son were originally interred in Piethen, Germany, but were later disinterred and moved to a more suitable site where constant care of the grave can be assured by our Forces in the field.

The report of burial further discloses that the remains of your son are no interred in Plot RR, Row 12, Grave 299, in the United States Military Cemetery Margraten, Holland, located ten miles west of Aachen, Germany.

FOR THE QUATERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. PRENN
Major, QMC
Assistant



7

8

Calendar for year 1947 (United States)

<p>January</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">6:○ 13:● 22:● 29:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		6:○ 13:● 22:● 29:●							<p>February</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">5:○ 12:● 20:● 28:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		5:○ 12:● 20:● 28:●							<p>March</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">6:○ 14:● 22:● 29:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						6:○ 14:● 22:● 29:●						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																							
6:○ 13:● 22:● 29:●																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
						1																																																																																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																						
23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																							
5:○ 12:● 20:● 28:●																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
						1																																																																																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																						
30	31																																																																																																																																																											
6:○ 14:● 22:● 29:●																																																																																																																																																												
<p>April</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">5:○ 13:● 20:● 27:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				5:○ 13:● 20:● 27:●							<p>May</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">5:○ 13:● 20:● 27:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	5:○ 13:● 20:● 27:●							<p>June</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">3:○ 11:● 18:● 25:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						3:○ 11:● 18:● 25:●													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																						
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																									
5:○ 13:● 20:● 27:●																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																						
5:○ 13:● 20:● 27:●																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																						
29	30																																																																																																																																																											
3:○ 11:● 18:● 25:●																																																																																																																																																												
<p>July</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">3:○ 11:● 18:● 24:●</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			3:○ 11:● 18:● 24:●							<p>August</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">1:○ 9:● 16:● 23:● 31:○</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							1:○ 9:● 16:● 23:● 31:○							<p>September</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">7:● 14:● 22:● 30:○</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					7:● 14:● 22:● 30:○						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																						
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																								
3:○ 11:● 18:● 24:●																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
					1	2																																																																																																																																																						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																						
31																																																																																																																																																												
1:○ 9:● 16:● 23:● 31:○																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																						
28	29	30																																																																																																																																																										
7:● 14:● 22:● 30:○																																																																																																																																																												
<p>October</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">7:● 14:● 21:● 29:○</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		7:● 14:● 21:● 29:○							<p>November</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">5:● 12:● 20:● 28:○</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							5:● 12:● 20:● 28:○							<p>December</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="7">4:● 12:● 20:● 27:○</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				4:● 12:● 20:● 27:○						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																						
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																							
7:● 14:● 21:● 29:○																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
						1																																																																																																																																																						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																						
30																																																																																																																																																												
5:● 12:● 20:● 28:○																																																																																																																																																												
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																						
28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																									
4:● 12:● 20:● 27:○																																																																																																																																																												

Holidays and Observances:

Jan 1 New Year's Day	May 30 Memorial Day	Nov 11 Armistice Day
Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday	Jun 15 Father's Day	Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Jul 4 Independence Day	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Apr 6 Easter Sunday	Sep 1 Labor Day	Dec 25 Christmas Day
May 11 Mother's Day	Oct 31 Halloween	

Calendar generated on www.timeanddate.com/calendar

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Mrs Hassink	Holland	1-29-47	Fam Burton

Heer. 29-1-'47

Dear Mrs Burton

I recived your very cordial letter and are very thankfull for the pictures which when you send to us. It is just if we personal know him now Your son was a very nice looking boy tall and fine just like my husband He is two month younger as Merrill was He is driver of the touring car I will send you with this letter a picture of my husband me and my two chilteren It is not such a nice one but we shall take some and will send you a better one. Mrs Burton you asked in your letter to write if we use something But that is not where I write for If you will send something we are very thankful for it there is nothing to buy without points We will send you the money fore it but don't make an obligation from it. It is not there for that we take care of Merrill's grave.

It is our duty against you The years before the Americans came over here are very hardly for us but that is over now but is was a big sacrifice for the American population. I will end this letter for now We thank you again for the pictures and many greatings to you and you hole family.

Yours very truly
Mrs A Hassink and family

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Christien & Fietie	Heer, Holland	14 February	Dear Friend

Heer, 14 February, 1947

My Dear Friend.

Wednesday morning I received your very nice letter I can't tell you how glad I am to hear from you. It was just my birthday you are always so kind for me. I am glad to hear that you all are quite well my little girl is also in a good health But I got also again a bad cold that's always the same as I work hard in the shop.

Over here its not cold Its very nice weather for the time of the year but much rain and its very windy. Las Sunday, Munday and Tuesday we kept our carrival I don't know if you know that also in America but that is a realy nice time for Maastricht. Sunday and Munday I stay at home last Tuesday my girl-friend comes and asked me to go with her Than ? dress up myself in a Cassack and went out I forgot all my troubles and had a very nice day but now I am sick and in bed again.

You wrote also that you went to Spokame Washington to visit some of your folks that will be very good for you You will be back when you received this letter. I hope you had a good time overthere. If you know something about my boy-friend please write it to me soon I am a so longing for any news about him I would like to come to America and meet you and your family but I need a lot of money for that I have to work the hole week for my girl and my self. My earnings is 20 gildens in a week that's in American money 2 Dollars and that's not enough to live from I have to work also still is home at night when I come back from the shop to get some to safe but I hope to see America one time and if I can't I hope to meet you here in Holland Dear friend I have to end my letter again I still want to ?? that I did not yet receive your packet I hope you get the box I sent and that we write again very soon

Much love to you and yours
From your friends

Christien &
Fietie

Author
Christien Loyson

Location
Holland

Date
3-27-47

Addressee
Mrs Burton

MRS. CHR, STIEN, LOYSON
DORPSTRAAT NO 73
HEER, NEWAR. MAASTRICHT

Heer. 27-3-'47

Dear mrs Burton

You certainly will be surprised to receive a letter from a unknown and that's why I want to make me known I am a friend of mrs Hassink I always translate your letters for her and now I read about the boys who died with your son I wished to adopte a grave but they weve adopted a ???

I will tell you the reason why I want to take care of a grave When the Americans were here I was engaged to an American who I loved very much and I got a child from him who he never has seen I do not know if he has died or that he is in America, but I don't believe this He promised me to come back before my child was born, but I never have seen him again He was in Germany so I must believe that he died Now you can understand what it means for me in I would like to take care of a grave like it is the grave of my child's father So I shall do all I can It will be a consulation for me If you want to be so kind to give me the name of one of the boys than I will ?? ??? for ??? should like to and ??? ??? require that nobody knows ????? ???

Yours truly

????? ??? Loyson

Author
Mrs Hassink

Location
Holland

Date
25-6-47

Addressee
Fam Burton

Heer. 25 Juni 1947

Dear Fam. Burton

It's a long time ago that I wrote you for the last time But I went to my sisters house The 16th child was born overthere You can believe there was work enough and that is the reason why I did not write soner How is it with you and your family I hope they all are O.K. just like my family I send you with this letter some pictures we take them on Memorial day The one of Merrills grave is in it so nice but next time better It was very nice weather and very hot Our green was also overthere and just ?? a wreath I sha send you also a picture of that But in the afternoon there was not a change to take it and ? have to go back at night

Mrs Burton we recived your letter the ? after Memorial day so we couldn't ?? a ?? ? of your son the ??/ a pitty We keep the money and if you like it I shall buy a artificial wreath because we are laying always fresh flowers on the grave Mrs Burton I closed for now my children wuld like a tub with water on the country seat Its very hot weather and there is now surmming – both in the surroundings and now we have to do ti like this

Receive many kind
Wishes to you and
Our family

Your truly

Mrs Hassink

Author
Christien Loyson

Location
Holland

Date
6-26-47

Addressee
Mrs Burton

Heer 26-6-'47

Dear mrs Burton

I received your very nice letter some time ago I am sorry I didn't write before this. But I got so much to do and time goes by fast I am working in a beauty-shop and ou know there is always much work before feast – days so I couldn't help it How is it with you and your family I hope they all are in a good health I were sick I worked to hard in the shop and now I have to stay at home The doctor told me I am sinking to much about some thing and I can't get better I believe I start working again that's better for me Dear mrs Burton I cant tell you how glad I am to have an American friend to write to and I hope there are following many letters from you to me.

My baby is sweat little girl and I shall send you a picture of her and me with this letter. She is 20 months old now and I am 20 years old from Februari 1947.

Every day as I come back from my work I am going for a walk with her and then everything is coming back in my mind Dear mrs Burton I cant tell you in words how beautifull the time was that I were together with my boy-friend I don't know from what part of American he comes from I believe to remember he told me New York His name is

William James. Case. No 14023402
Loise D.T.C.
A.P.O. 562
Postmaster N.Y.N.Y

I thank you very much for sending me the names of the boys who were together with Merrill your sons It was a pity that I couldn't go to the cemetry on Memorial day 30 May But that was a wonderfull day Mrs Hassink toke some pictures I believe she will send them to you Dear mrs Burton I will close now and hope to receive very soon a letter of you

Thanks again for your letter

Yours truly
Mis Christien Loyson

Author
Hassink

Location
Holland

Date
8-29-47

Addressee
Familie (Burton)

Heir 29 Aug 1947

Dear Familie

We recived your letter and I heat myself because I waited so long again but I got now my holidays and I hardly go every day with the children it is very hot at present and if they have not any distraction they ar so tiresome I hope you will not take it amiss We hope you and your family are very well.

On Merrills birtday we put a wreath on his grave The cemetery is well patronized by the excursionists every week we go so his grave.

The meadows are very bare so that the cows become killed that's why we got a special ration meat We get a bad winter in view by vegetables and potatoes Every body prayd for rain but it's still dry and hot Three weeks ago we had a fire fortunately the fire was extinguished Our house has endured damage Daer Mrs Burton that's all I know for this time and I end my letter now with many greatings to you and you hole family

Your friends out Holland

Mrs. and Tam.

Hassink

Author
Hassink

Location
Holland

Date
7.?.47

Addressee
Family Burton

Heer. 7 ? 1947

Dear Fam Burton

This morning we recived your beautiful box and a letter I can't tell you in words how thankfull we are for every thing My little daughter came this morning and called mother ther is the postmen with a box of American I went down stairs and yes it was true We all are together when I open the box. We were very curious. The first present was for Jankone He want to fit his blouse at one Ellie was in heaven with the stuff for anew gown but also my husband and me are extremely glad with every thing. It was just Saneta Claus and every thing where we were in want of and could use so good. En the nylons Oh, Mrs Burton I dream about nylons But I cant I believe that they are so soon in my possession and every thing smell of soap and what a beautifull pillow slips It is just if you know wath I like But the beautifull presents are the pictures of your son and you with your husband We were in on ression so him we look at ??? ???? ???? the one word beautiful and the one of you and your husband is also really ell we give them two a place in our sitting room we are real pride of them. Mrs Burton we recived also your nice Easter letter yo wrote also that it was such a nice weather over here was it very bad and the pictures are all misearry it was gueer camera and the pictures are all twofld it was a pity because the grave was so nice with the flowers who we laydown for you We have this year many flowers in our garden than we can go often to the cemetry and put fresh flowers on the grave I like also flowers It is beautifull in this time of the year all is in blossom now When we look out of the window before and behind every where trees in blossom We left in the field with around us grase I believe that our surroundings are the same as yours. How is it with yor chickens I hope they are growing good I believe nice such a 200 chickens together and ther is work enough in a farm There is always much work in spring time also for us I have to begin with my haus cleaning other years I did it before Easter but I did in get soap in three month Las week we get some but then I burnt my arm we can start Its better now Mrs Burton when there is something that would please you asked and I shall send it because we down I know who we have to make good everything that we take care of the grave of your sons is our duty because I know yet when I take a look at the picture that I stay in your place as long as his grave in entrust to us Mrs Burton I ?? finish now onse more our thanks for your presents and our best wishes to you and yours familie

Yours truly. Mrs Hassink
And familie

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Mrs Anna Hassink	Heer, Holland	?	Mrs Burton

My dearest Mrs. Burton

A week ago we received your nice letter and yesterday we received the package from you what you have sent to us We always are very glad up a minut where it in Our home blubber tackle Jonhire ar happy and Ellie Don't know what the matter where and my husband coal of me oh Anna coming gively on the door the Postman is at the door with the package from America. My dear Mrs Burton I can n't tell you how quickly am an the door where for the package receives we have been waiting evry day for the package and now am be happy Elly where glad whit she handkerchief and the tireat Jonhire take the trieat out what you send us in she first package He sei I with the new trieat the soks for my husband are beautiful just I wounted him new soks if now is it okey My dear Mrs Burton you know here is al of Ration now we are all happy with what do you have do for our we thank you very much the sugar we take it way for Ellie her communion we have to give for donors and sugartreat I are with the nylons so ??? good and happy visit to Washington we are glad when you coming over here with Ellie her communion we have in the selfore thime memorial day Mrs Burton you write us that the women club from you a box sent to us we are glad and thankfulwe thank you en all Lady's very much. My dearst Mrs Burton I see that you al do for us what youcan do but I an not the idea frommy to set down that is the marry wath you do for us we will it make good with many prayer and visit to Merrills grave we have now nice weather I going then with the faded for Margraten Mrs Burton writ emy please went you firthday is and your son Dick we wanted know it Don't forgat it I can'nt understand what that have mine of the package stay a mame from a girl Cristine Loyson that is a girl she have writing for my many weeks I can just good English she tell my never that she writing to you Mrs Burton We hope you are in good health and you chidren to we are feeling fine Elly and Johnie are to you a big kiss for the delicate candy's my husband and myself thank you very much for all Many Greetings from our friends out Holland

My lLove to you all.

Mrs Anna Hassink

P.S. My sisters address is: J. Ritchi-Hayan
Phoeniseweg 63 Bosserveld Maastricht
Holland

Please exuse my the faults that I write this is mine first letter that I self write I to one little souvenir in this letter I hope our find it fine.

Author
Hassink

Location
Holland

Date
23 Aort 1947

Addressee
Family Burton

Heer. 23 Aort. 1947

Dear Family

We recived your letter with great pleasure en in the best health. I hope there is stil every thing OK with yor family. What is the weather stll cold. Here was also a strong winter. It was the coldest winter like 100 years Its better now Last Sunday we went to Merrils grave for the other few last weeks it was very bad weather and then it is impossible to go to the cemetry. Mrs Burton the names of the boys you wrote us are lying beside Merrill the graves of these boys are adopted too I was really surprised when I found this graves near Merrill I have the flower which I bought for Merrill divided for all of them Dear Mrs Burton I thin it is very pleasant to recived so mch affection and we will not neglected our duty. I hope you will not forget the pfoto of your son your husband and your self for you understand we are longing to see it?? ?? ?? sent us some money for flowers and I will assure you I will buy most beautifull flowers I hope our aequantou well lent us the camera then we can make at Easter a photo of the grave of your son Wel my dear Mrs Burton I have to end my letter now for the children can come but of school every moment

We life I a small village so the children can go alone to school

I send you a photo of the cemetry and a book then you can see where your son is lying

The kindest greetings from all of us

Yours truly Mrs A Hassink
& family

Vroolyk Paasehfeest

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Christien Loyson	Holland	9-16-47	Mrs Burton

Heer 16-9-47

Dear mrs Burton.

It's a long time ago that I wrote a letter but I did not yet receive an answer. I send it the day after mrs Hassink last letter with a picture of my baby and one of me and my family. Also the name of my boy-friend and where he comes from. My girl-friend posted it for me and if by on did not get received it than she kept it back.

Dear mrs Burton I would be very glad if you could help me with informations about my boy-friend There is no office in Maastricht where I can go. It's about 2 ½ year ago that I hear something about him and I love him and can't without him You can believe what it means for me to have a baby and no husband I don't like to go out anymore and some times I want to be die No body want to know something about me because I have a baby but I am not bad mrs Burton I love him and that's the reasen why I got a baby

Dear mrs Burton I translate a letter of mrs Hassink and heard that you were in a hospital

I hope you are quit well again.

It's still hot and dry weather at present.

Last week was a ??mary congress in town. Every night was an illumination it ended with a big procession It was beautiful and the town was full of foreigners

Dear mrs Burton I close this letter for this time with many kind wishes for you and yours
Your friend in Holland

Mis Christien Loyson

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
MrsBurton/Mary Burton	Harlem, Montana	12-1-47	Graves Reg, Utah

Note: This was written by Mary Burton Calvert for her Mother, Ella

Harlem, Montana
Dec. 1, 1947

Chief, American graves registration division
Utah general distribution depot
Ogden, Utah

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate any help you are able to give me as to what procedure is necessary to have the body of my son returned from Holland.

No doubt a questionnaire was sent to his wife who has since remarried.

However, she did not forward it to me.

My son's name and serial number are:

Burton, Merrill O.

0-690042

Burial place:

U.S. Military Cemetary

Margraten, Holland

Sincerely,
Mrs Ella Burton

Author
Robert Blair

Location
Ogden, Utah

Date
12-29-7

Addressee
Mrs Ella Burton

HEADQUARTERS
UTAH GENERAL DISTRIBUTION DEPOT
U. S. ARMY
OGDEN, UTAH

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

ADDRESS REPLY
TO OFFICE, NOT
TO INDIVIDUAL

QMDUG 293 Burton, Merrill O.
0-690042

29 December 1947

Mrs. Ella Burton
Harlem, Montana

My dear Mrs. Burton,

I have received your letter dated 21 December 1947, in which you furnished us with the name and address of your former daughter-in-law, Mrs James Clark.

I have sent Mrs. Clark a form, this date, to accomplish which, when signed, will relinquish her rights as the next of kin in this case. When the form has been returned to my office, it will be forwarded to The Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D.C., Attention: Chief, Memorial Division, and their records will be properly amended showing the legal next of kin.

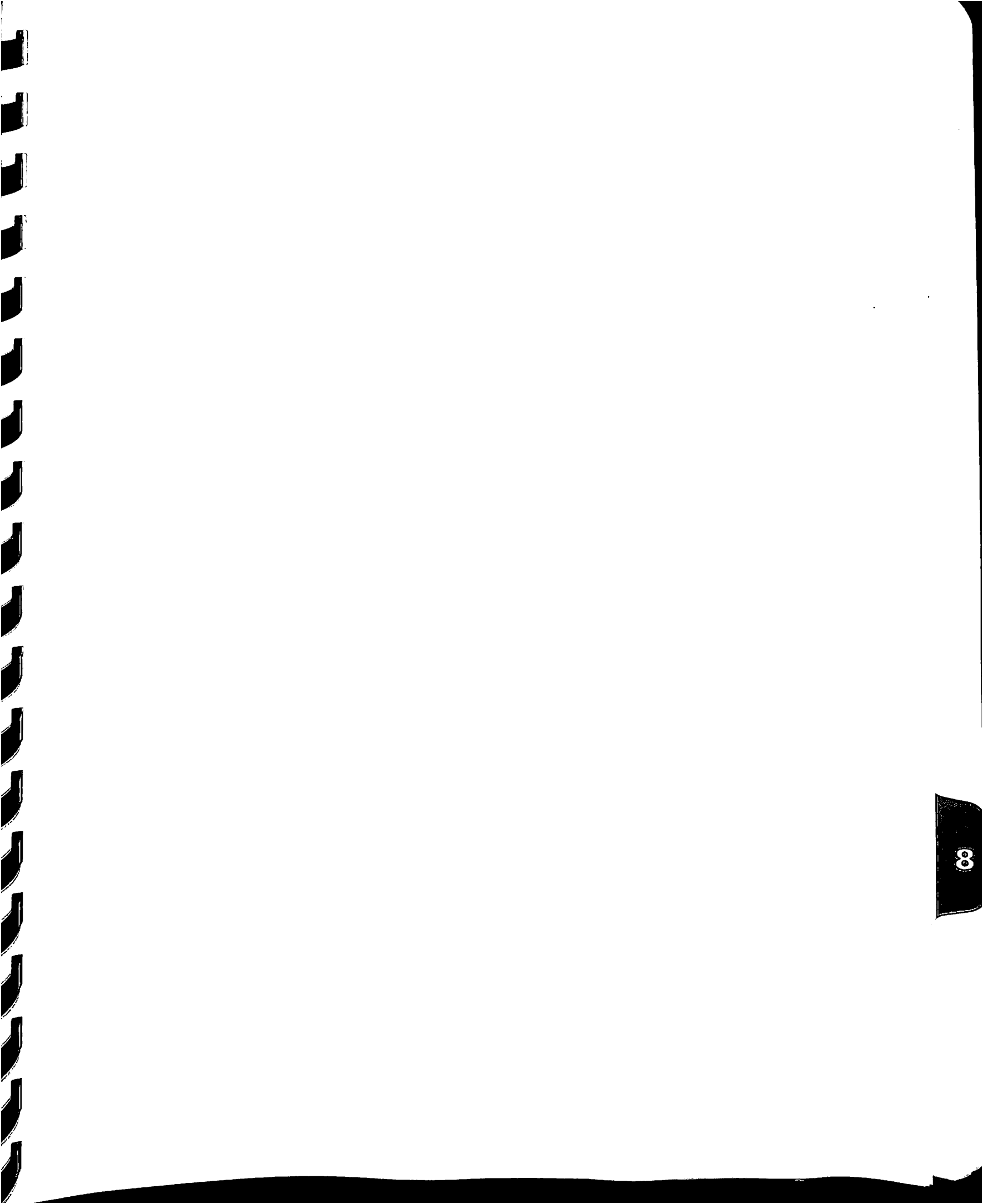
It is requested that you advise this office if the father of your late son, Merrill O. Burton, is living. It is also requested that you furnish us with the rank and organization of your late son.

I hope that I may hear from you soon, so that all records may be properly amended.

I remain,

Very truly,

ROBERT K. BLAIR
Lt. Colonel, TC
Chief, AGR Division



Calendar for year 1948 (United States)

<p>January</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>3:☉</td><td>11:☿</td><td>19:☽</td><td>26:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	3:☉	11:☿	19:☽	26:☾				<p>February</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1:☉</td><td>9:☿</td><td>17:☽</td><td>24:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29							1:☉	9:☿	17:☽	24:☾				<p>March</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2:☉</td><td>10:☿</td><td>18:☽</td><td>24:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				2:☉	10:☿	18:☽	24:☾																
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																												
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																												
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																												
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																												
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																												
3:☉	11:☿	19:☽	26:☾																																																																																																																																																															
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																												
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																												
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																												
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																												
29																																																																																																																																																																		
1:☉	9:☿	17:☽	24:☾																																																																																																																																																															
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																												
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																												
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																												
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																												
28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																															
2:☉	10:☿	18:☽	24:☾																																																																																																																																																															
<p>April</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1:☉</td><td>9:☿</td><td>16:☽</td><td>23:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		1:☉	9:☿	16:☽	23:☾				<p>May</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1:☉</td><td>8:☿</td><td>15:☽</td><td>22:☾</td><td>30:☾</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						1:☉	8:☿	15:☽	22:☾	30:☾			<p>June</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7:☉</td><td>14:☿</td><td>21:☽</td><td>29:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				7:☉	14:☿	21:☽	29:☾									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																												
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																												
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																												
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																												
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																													
1:☉	9:☿	16:☽	23:☾																																																																																																																																																															
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
						1																																																																																																																																																												
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																												
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																												
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																												
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																												
30	31																																																																																																																																																																	
1:☉	8:☿	15:☽	22:☾	30:☾																																																																																																																																																														
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																												
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																												
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																												
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																												
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																															
7:☉	14:☿	21:☽	29:☾																																																																																																																																																															
<p>July</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>6:☉</td><td>13:☿</td><td>20:☽</td><td>29:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	6:☉	13:☿	20:☽	29:☾				<p>August</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5:☉</td><td>11:☿</td><td>19:☽</td><td>27:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					5:☉	11:☿	19:☽	27:☾				<p>September</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3:☉</td><td>10:☿</td><td>18:☽</td><td>26:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27	28	29	30				3:☉	10:☿	18:☽	26:☾											
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																												
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																												
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																												
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																												
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																												
6:☉	13:☿	20:☽	29:☾																																																																																																																																																															
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																												
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																												
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																												
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																												
29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																
5:☉	11:☿	19:☽	27:☾																																																																																																																																																															
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
				1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																												
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																												
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																												
26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																														
3:☉	10:☿	18:☽	26:☾																																																																																																																																																															
<p>October</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2:☉</td><td>9:☿</td><td>17:☽</td><td>25:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							2:☉	9:☿	17:☽	25:☾				<p>November</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1:☉</td><td>8:☿</td><td>16:☽</td><td>23:☾</td><td>30:☾</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					1:☉	8:☿	16:☽	23:☾	30:☾			<p>December</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8:☉</td><td>16:☿</td><td>23:☽</td><td>30:☾</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27	28	29	30	31			8:☉	16:☿	23:☽	30:☾				
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
					1	2																																																																																																																																																												
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																												
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																												
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																												
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																												
31																																																																																																																																																																		
2:☉	9:☿	17:☽	25:☾																																																																																																																																																															
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																												
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																												
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																												
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																												
28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																
1:☉	8:☿	16:☽	23:☾	30:☾																																																																																																																																																														
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																																																																																																																																												
				1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																												
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																												
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																												
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																													
8:☉	16:☿	23:☽	30:☾																																																																																																																																																															

Holidays and Observances:

Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jun 20 Father's Day	Nov 11 Armistice Day
Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday	Jul 4 Independence Day	Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Jul 5 'Independence Day' observed	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Mar 28 Easter Sunday	Sep 6 Labor Day	Dec 24 'Christmas Day' observed
May 9 Mother's Day	Oct 31 Halloween	Dec 25 Christmas Day
May 30 Memorial Day	Nov 2 Election Day	Dec 31 'New Year's Day' observed

Calendar generated on www.timeanddate.com/calendar

Author
Christien Loyson

Location
Holland

Date
1-48

Addressee
Friends

Happy New Year

Heer, 1 Januari 1948

Dear Friends.

Yesterday I received your letter with Christmas and New Year wishes. I am sorry I did not write before but I were so busy so I forgot to post my Christmas card.

But here I am with my New Year wishes I wish you and Dick a very happy New Year.

We got our first snow a few weeks ago It was raining on Christmas To day its colder but dry I heard from the radio that America had a white Christmas I hope? Very nice.

Christmas makes me always very sad That was the time that I saw m boy-friend for the last time three years ago now.

You wrote that you send a box with some things for me and my little girl I can't tell you how thankfull I am as soon as I get it I will write again I am sending you also some thing of Holland It isn't much but if there is something you like please write it and I will send is I close my letter again with

Much love to you

And Dick

From our friend in Holland

Christien.

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Mrs Hassink & family	Holland	1-8-48	Mrs Burton

Dear Mrs Burton

We recived your nice Christmas letter ?? heard from the geat sorrow in your home I know what it means for you to lost your husband after such a short sickness We return than also our earnest sympathy we will remember him always in our prayers I hope you all are are in a good health with us is also everything O.K. Second Chrismas day w went to Merrills grave the last time its always raining overhere so the children can't go out they are on furlow so I can make a clean sweep all day Elly is doing here first communion in may I hope everything will be better than After four years of deliverance isn't still everything like it miss be You wrote that you send again a box with somethings We are thank your in advance and as soon as I get it I will write again you cant believe how curious we are I hope we can compensate it soon Dear Mrs Burton I end my letter again for this time and I wish you again a lucky 1948

Many kind wishes
And best love to you and yours

Mrs Hassink and family

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Army	Washington	2-9-48	Mr Burton

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTEMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO BURIAL OF

1st Lt Merrill O. Burton, 0 690 042
Plot RR, Row 12, Grave 229,
United States Military Cemetery
Margraten, Holland

9 February 1948

Mr. Morris W. Burton
P. O. Box 357
Harlem, Montana

Dear Mr. Burton:

The people of the United States, through the Congress have authorized the disinterment and final burial of the heroic dead of World War II. The Quartermaster General of the Army has been entrusted with this sacred responsibility to the honored dead. The records of the War Department indicate that you may be the nearest relative of the above-named deceased, who gave his life in the service of his country.

The enclosed pamphlets, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," and "American Cemeteries," explain the disposition, options and services made available to you by your Government. If you are the next of kin according to the line of kinship as set forth in the enclosed pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," you are invited to express your wishes as to the disposition of the remains of the deceased by completing Part I of the enclosed form "Request for Disposition of Remains." Should you desire to relinquish your rights to the next in line of kinship, please complete Part II of the enclosed form. If you are not the next of kin, please complete Part III of the enclosed form.

If you should elect Option 2, it is advised that no funeral arrangements or other personal arrangements be made until you are further notified by this office.

Will you please complete the enclose form, "Request for Disposition of Remains" and mail in the enclosed self-addressed envelope, which requires no postage, within 30 days after its receipt by you? Its prompt return will avoid unnecessary delays.

Sincerely

Incls.

THOMAS B. LARKIN
Major General
The Quartermaster General

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Christien Loyson	Holland	5-19-48	My dear friend (Mrs Burton)

Heer 19-5-'48

My Dear Friend

Tell yet I did not hear any thing? From you so I take my pen again and write I hope you all are still well There will be much work on the farm now I think that's the reason why you did not write The weather is very nice now and we can walk again to the cemetery in Margraten and Sunday.

I asked the priest of our parish to celebrate a H Mass the is the 30th of Mai In my last letter I told you that I toke some pictures of me and my little girl They are ready now and I will send you some with this letter and I hope to receive also some of your.

Dear Mother there is still something I want to aske you some time ago you wrote me that you send a box with some food-stuf the 1st of Februari I did not get recive it but last week I were at Mrs Hassinks house and than I hear from the children that they re? a packet from America with my name she did not say anathing to me and keep it

I asked her the next day and than she said that wasn't for you but for me I couldn't say any thing because I didn't know if it was mine Perhaps you can tell me Dear mother its eleven o'clock at night I am very tired and sleepy so I end my letter again for this time and hope to hear very soon something of you

Much love to you
And Dick
From your Friend
Christien

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
Mr and Mrs Hassink	Holland	6-3-48	Mrs Burton

Dear Mrs Burton

We received your nice letter and I hope you will excuse us for our writing so late, but all the time I was very busy because of Ellie's first Holy Communion. We had to tidy up all the rooms and then there was that terrible accident. The child of the sister of my husband – they are living on the ground – floor – was playing at our neighbours' and at a given moment she dilled a kettle with fat in it over her body. From her belly till her feet she was all burned. We took her at once to the hospital, where she was under medical treatment for 6 weeks, but now she is at home again and she has practically recovered now. During that time I had the baby of my sister-in-law with me when she went to the hospital, but that's all over now.

Mrs Burton we also received the package from your Womenclub. Our cordial thanks to you and all the ladies! We really enjoyed the delicious coffee and candy. I have much ??
??? ??? ??? ??? the photo is yours, ?? It was dark and rainy weather. There were not so many people as usually. The radio told last night that there were a bout 4000. I think it was because of the gloomy weather. The cemetery is closed now till February 1949. A wall will be build around and the cemetery gets the form of a star. Many soldiers are exhumed and will be transported to America. Newspapers say about 65%. There are the other militaire cemetery's in Holland, but they will disappear and the dead will be buried here at Margraten. It will be strange to us now we are no longer allowed to go to the grave, but we are sure that the cemetery will look fine when it is ready. Now the cemetery is closed we should like to ask your permission to have some masses read for the repose of your son's soul.

Enclosed I send you a photo we made at Easter and a photo of Elly on the day of her first Holy Communion and a photo of our boy n his car.

Well, Mrs. Burton, that's all the news for the moment. I am going to close my letter, for I have to go to town. The weather is a bit better now. It has been raining all the time these days. Once more I thank you for all you did for us. Please give our kindest regards to your children and all the ladies of your club. I am sorry that I can't thank them myself, but I am sure you will be so kind to do so.

Much love and the best wishes for you and a big kiss from Elly and Johnie

Yours affectionate

Mr. and Mrs. Hassink

Author	Location	Date	Addressee
IN MEMORY OF MOB	Harlem, Montana	12-10-48	ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORY OF
First Lt. Merrill O. Burton

DATE OF BIRTH
AUGUST 2, 1916
At Harlem, Montana
DATE OF DEATH
MAY 30, 1944
Southern Germany
PLACE AND TIME OF SERVIES
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2:P.M. Dec. 10, 1948
LCERGYMAN
REV. FRANK HARCEY
PLACE OF INTERMENT
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY
With Full Military Honors
ARRANGEMENTS BY
R. W. WELLMAN CO.

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for
thou art with me: they rod and thy staff they comfort me Thou preparest a table before
me in the presence of mine enemies thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth
over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord for ever.

Jerry L. Beto
Nephew
of
Merrill O. Burton

Jerry L. Beto
5996 S. Schooner Pl.
Boise, ID 83716

208-336-2750 (H)
208-258-2540 (W)
208-724-8841 (Cell)
208-258-2541 (Fax)

otebeto@cableone.net
jerry.beto@wfafinet.com