



JOSEPH L SZCZEPANSKI

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

Harry Truman

THE WHITE HOUSE

BEGINING IN LATE 1944, JOE STARTED RECEIVING BRIEF HAND WRITTEN POST CARDS FROM HOME , WHILE INTERNED AS A POW/SLAVE LABOR AT FUKUOKA 17, OMUTA , ISLE OF KYUSHU, JAPAN. HE RECEIVED & SAVED 28, HOWEVER 21 REMAIN.

FOR THE READER: MOM (ANASTASIA LUCHOW SZCZEPANSKI), POP (MICHAEL SZCZEPANSKI), OLDER SISTER STEPHIE (STEPANIE) & BILL (STEPHIE'S FUTURE HUSBAND) , YOUNGER SISTER JOSIE (JOSEPHINE) & GEORGE (JOSIE'S FUTURE HUSBAND) & YOUNGEST SISTER STELLA . PETRASHES WERE AUNT & UNCLE A ACTUAL COPY IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS REPORT.

12/19/44

DEAR BROTHER,

THINKING OF YOU AS ALWAYS;LOTS OF LOVE AND LUCK, AND VERY BEST REGARDS FROM ALL OF US. GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS.

YOUR LOVING FOLKS,
JO

1/17/45

DEAR JOE

AM WORKING VERY HARD NOW. YOU SHOULD SEE ME USE MECHANICAL TOOLS, EVEN THOUGH I AM LEFT-HANDED! THINKING OF YOU ALWAYS.

YOUR LOVING SISTER
JOSIE

1/18/45

DEAR JOE

COUSIN EMIL TOLD ME HE HAS WRITTEN TO YOU. I HOPE YOU'VE RECEIVED THE LETTERS. WE THINK ABOUT YOU ALWAYS. GOD BLESS YOU!

YOUR LOVING FAMILY
(JOSIE)

1/20/45

DEAR JOE,

I STILL HEAR FROM GEORGE REGULARLY. I HOPE I ALWAYS WILL. NOW HE'S WANTING TO BE TRANSFERED FROM THE AIR CORPS TO THE INFANTRY.

LOVE ALWAYS,
YOUR FAMILY (JOSIE)

1/22/45

H'YA BROTHER,

STELLA AND I ARE OKAY, WORKING STEADILY. AS YET OUR "CHILDHOOD COWGIRL" IS UNATTACHED; AND SHE'S QUITE A SEDATE YOUNG LADY OF TWENTY NOW.

LOVINGLY
YOUR FOLKS (JOSIE)

1/24/45

DEAR BROTHER,

WE THINK OF YOU ALWAYS AND WOULD LIKE TO DO OUR UTMOST FOR YOU. BUT THERE'S SO LITTLE THAT WE ARE PERMITTED TO DO.

LOVINGLY
YOUR HOME FOLKS
(JOSIE)

1/25/45

DEAR JOE

IT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR FROM YOU, AND IT MADE ME CRY FROM JOY. YOUR NOTE SURE DID MOM & POP WORLDS OF GOOD.

LOVINGLY
YOUR FAMILY (JOSIE)

1/26/45

DEAR JOE,

HEARING FROM YOU AGAIN TRILLED MOM & POP, AS MUCH AS SEEING YOU WOULD HAVE. THEIR HOPES WERE FADING TOO FAST, TILL NOW.

ALWAYS,
YOUR LOVING FOLKS
(JOSIE)

1/29/1945 (NOTE- THIS POST CARD WAS TYPE WRITTEN)

DEAR BROTHER,

THE LETTERS I WRITE YOU, PLEASE CONSIDER FROM MOM AND POP, TOO -- SINCE THEY ARE UNABLE TO WRITE. OUR THOUGHTS ARE ALWAYS WITH YOU.

LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
MOM,POP,& JO

1/31/45

HELLO, DEAR BROTHER

DID YOU EVER THINK THE COAL "POP" MINES, COULD BE SCARCE? WELL, IT IS! MOVIES, SCHOOLS, ETC., MUST CLOSE ONE DAY A WEEK.

LOVE ALWAYS
MOM,POP & JO

2/1/45

DEAR JOE,

FEBRUARY! TIME MARCHES ON! HOPE IT BRINGS YOU MUCH NEARER TO US. WE DO THINK OF YOU SO! MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS.

LOVE
MOM, POP, & JO

2/8/45

DEAR BROTHER

AS ALWAYS, WE'RE THINKING OF YOU --- HOW YOU ARE, AND WHAT YOU MAY BE DOING. AND OUR HEARTS ACHE SO, FOR YOU.

LOVE FOREVER
MOM, POP & JO

2/9/45

HELLO, DEAREST BROTHER,

IT'S HARD TO SAY MUCH IN JUST 24 WORDS. I'M DOING MY BEST; HOPING YOU ENJOY THESE MESSAGES IF AND WHEN YOU GET THEM.

LOVE & BLESSINGS
MOM, POP & JO

2/10/45

DEAR JOE

THERE IS SO MUCH WE'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT CAN'T, REGULATIONS, YOU KNOW!

NEVER A DAY GOES BY, THAT WE DON'T THINK OF YOU.

ALWAYS, YOUR LOVING FAMILY
MOM, POP & JO

2/13/45

DEAR BROTHER,

WINTER STILL HAS US FAST IN ITS GRIP --- AND IT'S BEEN A VERY HARD ONE THIS YEAR. BEST REGARDS FROM ALL. GOD BLESS YOU.

LOVE ALWAYS
MOM, POP & JOSIE

2/14/45

DEAR JOE --

VALENTINE'S DAY! , THE DAY OF HEARTS! WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT ON THIS DAY, AS ALWAYS, OUR HEARTS ARE THERE WITH YOU.

FONDEST LOVE & GOD'S BLESSINGS
MOM, POP & JOSIE

2/16/45

DEAR BROTHER,

NO NEWS THAT'S NEW, RIGHT NOW. WAR MAKES ONE LOSE CONTACT WITH OLD FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. KEEP THAT CHIN UP ---- SEE YOU SOON, MAYBE.

AS EVER
MOM, POP, AND JOSIE

2/17/45

DEAR BROTHER,

AS I WRITE MY DAILY LETTER TO GEORGE -- MY THOUGHTS TURN ALSO TO YOU. YOU'RE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS. GOD BLESS YOU.

LOVING FAMILY
MOM, POP & JOSIE

3/23/45

DEAR JOE

BALMY SPRING IS HERE TO BRING JOY TO OUR HEARTS. BUT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR JOY, TILL ALL YOU BOYS ARE HOME AGAIN.

LOVE ALWAYS
MOM, POP & JOSIE

3/24/45

DEAR BROTHER,

EVERYONE'S WELL. POP IS STILL WORKING HARD, IM -- PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THIS WAR TO END. GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS.

LOVE FROM ALL,
MOM, POP & JOSIE

3/25/45

DEAR BROTHER,

ANOTHER PALM SUNDAY -- AND SOON ANOTHER EASTER. REMEMBER YOUR LAST EASTER IN THE STATES, AT PETRASHES; IN NEW YORK? IT RELIVES IN OUR MEMORIES.

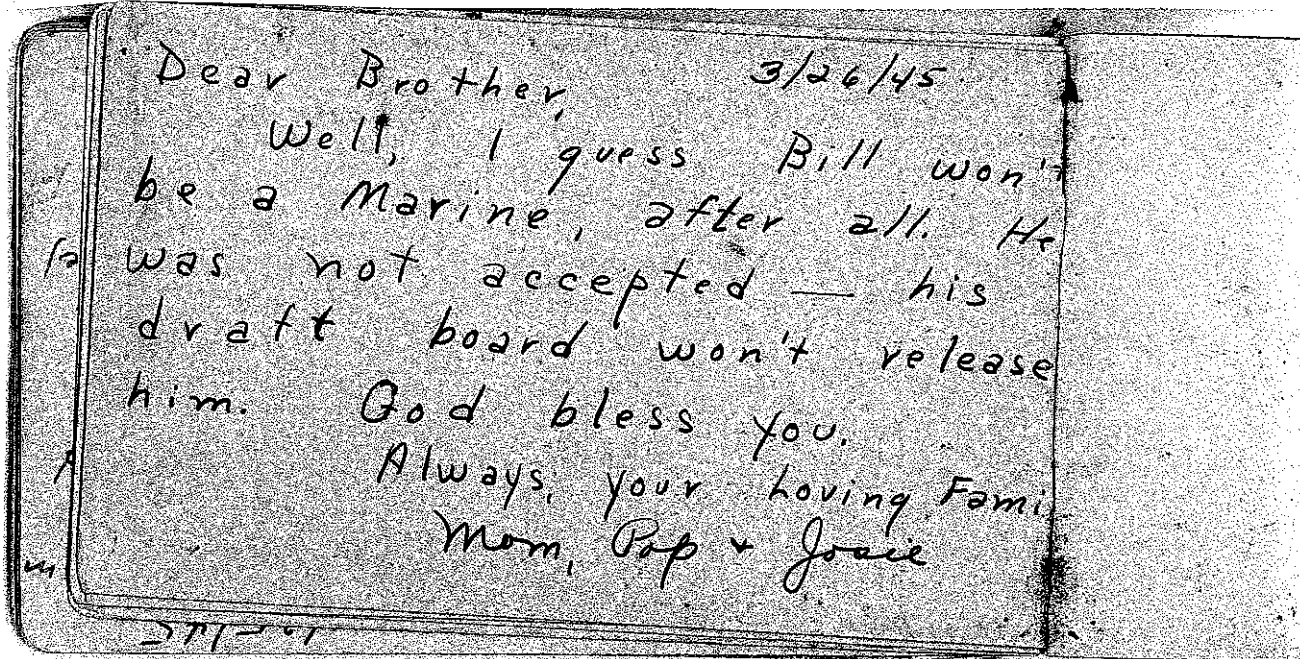
LOVE & BLESSINGS
MOM, POP & JOSIE

3/26/45

DEAR BROTHER,

WELL, I GUESS BILL WON'T BE A MARINE, AFTER ALL. HE WAS NOT
ACCEPTED --- HIS DRAFT BOARD WON'T RELEASE HIM. GOD BLESS YOU.

ALWAYS, YOUR LOVING FAMILY
MOM, POP & JOSIE



Karel Aster
Melnik I
Bohemia
Czechoslovakia

H. Harley
James H. Harley
149 N. 60th St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
(39)

First yank I met of ←
invading forces. He
wins a bottle of the
best state-side liquor
I can buy at first
opportunity. I had
promised myself
this for the last
2 years of wishing,

Mrs. & Mrs. James H. Harley
345 Washington St.
Constantine,
Michigan

hoping and waiting
for those yanks
and freedom
Sept. 13, 1945

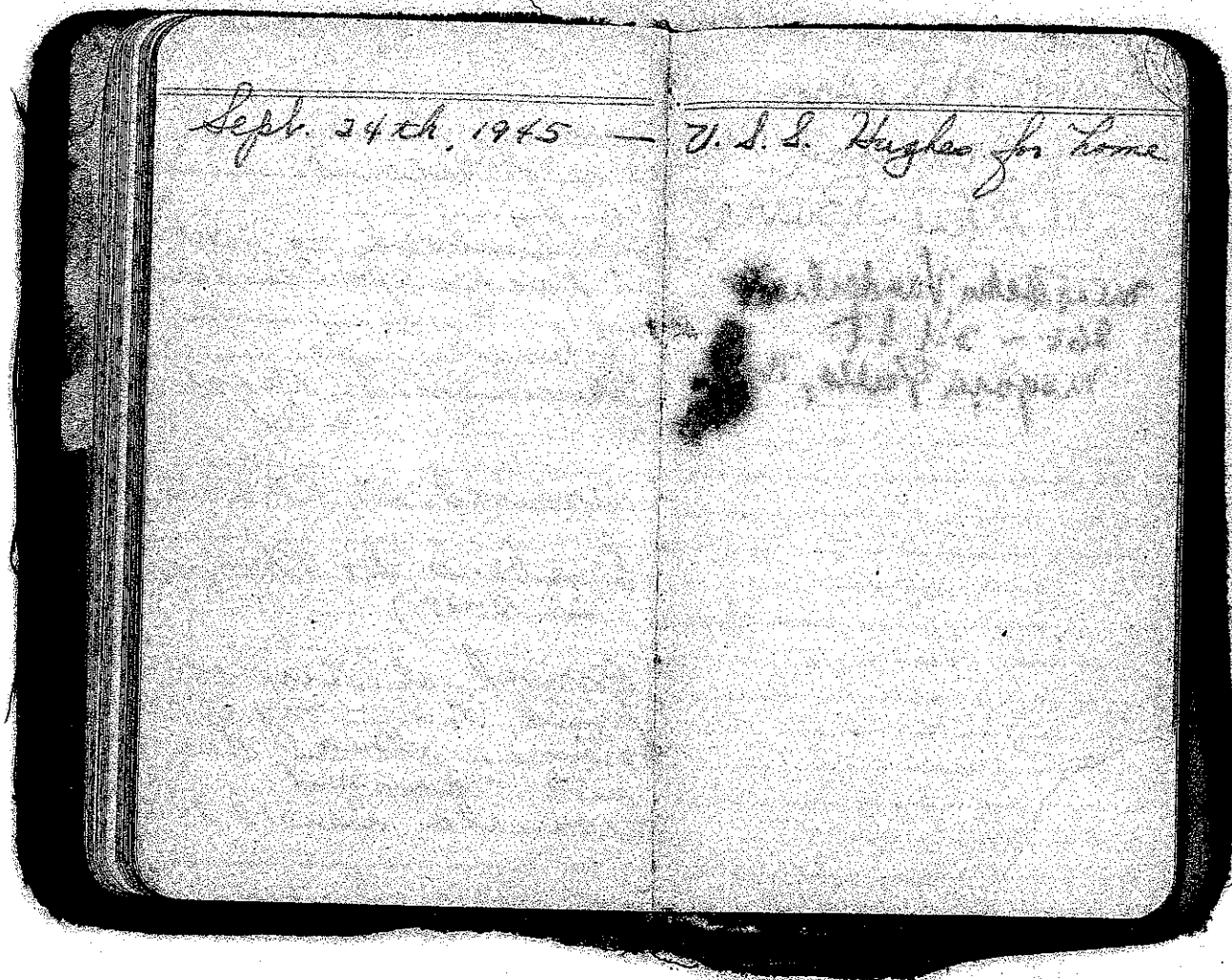
Sept. 13, 1945 - Met James D. Surlay,
Yank of Invading forces.

Sept. 14, 1945 - 7:00 A.M. - Embark on C-47
at Kanoya - for Okinawa
J. Dinsley, Jr.
Huntington Beach,
Calif.

Sept. 14 - 1945 - Noon - Arrived at Okinawa

Sept. 15 - 1945 - 5 A.M. Embark for Philippines
in B-24

11 A.M. Arrived at Nichols
Field, P.I. - my old
home. Look how
it's changed.
Manila until 27th.



Sept. 24th, 1945 - U. S. S. Hughes for home

JOSEPH WAS ADMITTED TO MADIGAN MILITARY
HOSPITAL, TACOMA WASHINGTON, ON OCT 11, 1945.

IT WOULD BE SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE U.S.S. HUGHES
PORTED ON OR ABOUT OCT 10/OCT 11 - 1945

Dear Joe -
I'm so glad to hear from you!
I hope you are well.
I know that you are always
thinking of us. I love you
and your family.

Love & Blessings
Mom, Dad & Janice

1/24/45

Dear Brother,

We think of you always.
and would like to do our
utmost for you. But there's
a little that we are per-
mitted to do.

Lovingly
Your Home Folks
(-Tosie)

NOTE: This is a copy of a letter from the original document.

Dear Brother;

12/19/44

Thinking of you as
always; lots of love and
luck, and very best regard
From us all. God bless
you always.

Your loving folks,
Jo

1/22/45

Hiya Brother,

Stella and I are okay,
working steadily. As yet,
your "childhood cowgirl" is
unattached; and she's quite
a sedate young lady of
twenty now.

Lovingly

Your folks (Josie)

1/22/45

Hiya Brother,

Stella and I are okay,
working steadily. As yet,
our "childhood cowgirl" is
unattached; and she's quite
a sedate young lady of
twenty now.

Lovingly

Your folks (Josie)

1/31/45

Let No. Dear Brother

Did you ever think
the coal "Pop" mines, could
be scarce? Well, it is!

Movies, schools, etc., must
lose one day a week.

Love always
Mom, Pop + Jo

2/1/45

Dear Joe,

February! Time marches
on! Hope it brings you
much nearer to us. We do
think of you so! May
God bless you always.

Love

Mom, Pop & Jo

2/13/45

Dear Brother,

Winter still has us
fast in its grip— and it's
been a very hard one this
year. Best regards from
Dad. God bless you.

Love always
Mom, Pop & Josie

1/17/45

Dear Joe

Am working very hard
now. You should see me use
mechanical tools, even though
I am left-handed! Thinking
of you always.

Your Loving Sister
Josie

2/9/45

Letter, Dearest Brother,

It's hard to say much
in just 24 words. I'm
doing my best; hoping
you enjoy these messages
if and when you get
them.

Love + Blessings
Mom, Pop + Jo

1/18/45

Dear Joe

Cousin Emil told me
he has written to you. I
hope you've received the
letters. We think about
you always. God bless

you!

Your Loving Family
(Josie)

Dear Joe

1/25/45

It's wonderful to hear from
you, and it made me cry
from joy.

Mom + Pop

Your note sure did
worlds of good.

Lovingly
Your family (Josie)

January 29, 1945

Dear Brother,

The letters I write you,
please consider from Mom and
Pop, too ---since they are
unable to write. Our thoughts
are always with you.

Love and blessings,

Mom, Pop + Jo.

54/52/45

Dear Joe

3/23/45

Balmy spring is here
to bring joy to our hearts
But there is no room for
joy, till all you boys are
home again.

Love always

Mom, Pop & Jessie

3/25/45

Dear Brother,

Another Palm Sunday
— and soon another
Easter. Remember your
last Easter in the States,
at Petvashes', in New
York? It relives in our
memories.

Love + Blessings
Mom, Pop + Jessie

57/261

Dear Brother,

3/26/45

Well, I guess Bill won't
be a Marine, after all. He
was not accepted — his
draft board won't release
him. God bless you.

Always, your loving Family
Mom, Pop + Josie

Dear Joe, 1/26/45

Hearing from you again
thrilled Mom + Pop, as
much as seeing you would
have. Their hopes were
fading too fast, till now.

Always,
Your Loving Folks
(Josie)

57/5071

3/24/45

Dear Brother,

Everyone's well. Pop is still working hard, impatiently waiting for this war to end. God bless you always.

Love From All.
Mom, Pop & Jessie

57/567

Dear Joe,

1/20/45

I still hear from Georg
regularly. I hope I always
will. Now he's wanting to
be transferred from the
air corps to the infantry.

Love always,
Your family (Josie)

211-01

2/10/45

Dear Joe

There is so much we
like to say, but can't.
Regulations, you know!

Never a day goes by,
that we don't think of
you.

Always, your Loving Family
Mom, Pop & Jo.

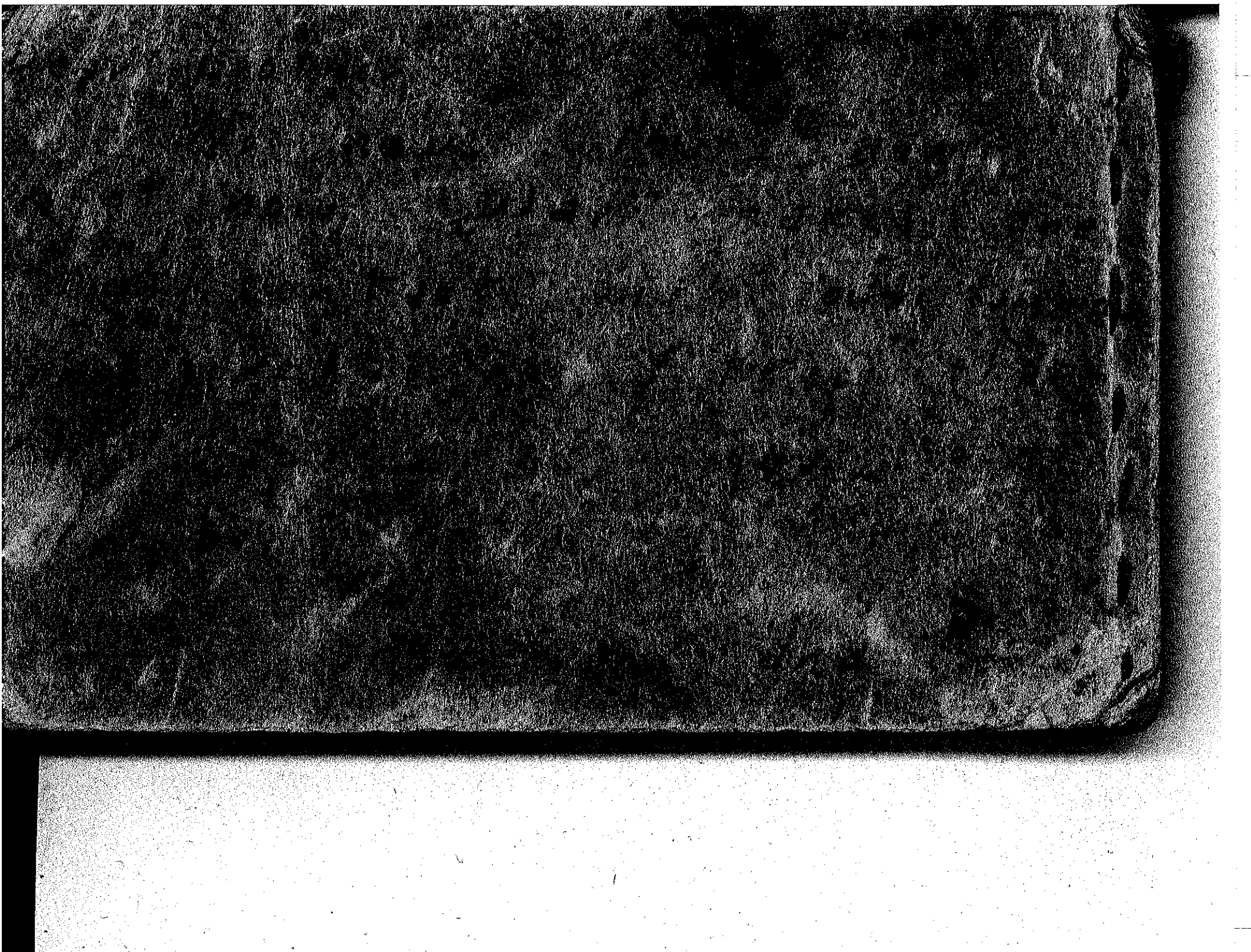
571-207

2/8/45

Dear Brother

As always, we've
thinking of you — how you
are, and what you may
be doing. And our hearts
ache so, for you.

Love forever
Mom, Pop + Jo



B. W. C. [unclear]

[unclear]

Harry T. Simms
853 S. Main St.
Butte, Mont.

James B. Wilson
3210 Bond Ave
East St. Louis, Ill.

W. J. [unclear]
633-7th St
Papillon, Idaho

Jessie C. Stuckland
100 East Baker Road
Aurora, South Carolina

George W. Hill
227 Maple Ave. S.E.
Dacula, Georgia

Edward S. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

Charles H. [unclear]
R. E. [unclear]
Edwardsville, Ill.

W. J. ...
Bridgeton, N.J.
...
...

TED DAVES (DAVE)
55 MARCROSS RD
CARDIFF WALES (U.K.)

...
...
Australia

Donna ...
Kilburn ...
...


38 [unclear] St
Newtown
N.S.W.
Australia

Blain C. Chambers
Pottsville
Pa.
RED I
① M.C.

JOHN KOLECZEK
4102 E 123RD ST
CLEVELAND, OH

②

Charles E. Ohler
320 Hartwell St
Glenview, Illinois

Louis Folk 
Box 164
KREMLIN
MONTANA

Kenneth Carlo Sampy
Helper, Utah, Box 178

KAREL ASTER
MELNIK
BOHEMIA
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

James H. Dudley
147 N. 6th St
Philadelphia, Pa. (39)

Mr & Mrs James H. Dudley
345 Washington St
Constantine
Michigan

FIRST YANK I met
of invading forces. He was
a bottle of the best
state-side liquor I
can buy at first oppor-
tunity. I had promised
myself this for the last
episode of my life. I
was waiting for those
and I had a...

Sept 14 - 7:00 A.M.

Embark in C-47 at
Kawoya - for Okinawa

J. W. Insley Jr.
Hunting for Beach
Combs

Arrived at Okinawa at
noon - 14 Sept.

15th - 5:00 A.M. - embark for
Philippines in P-24

11:00 A.M. - arrived at
Netherlands Field P.I. - my
old home - Gosh, how
it's changed. March until
24th

24th/25th - 8:00 AM for home

James H. Schrank
469 Louis Avenue
Detroit, Mich

Wesley C. Farrell
81 Weaver St.
Phila., Pa

Elmer W. Patton
1138 S. Luyck Rd
Cleveland 44th
Cleveland Ohio

Charles B. Balygo
301-7th St
Jersey City
N.J.

Helman & Chancellors

Bentley

Jawison

Ray H. Barnes
#10
Jamaica, N.Y.

VICTOR H. COTE
RFD # 277
TOBY ROAD,
DRACUT, MASS.

SOL. SCHWARTZ
638 SPRUCE ST
PHILA PA.

Louis Furcino
3723 - 18th Ave.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

William Odde
Bricebyn, Minnesota

Darry Simms
853 S. Main St
Butte, Mont.

James B. Wilson
2218 Bond Ave.
East St. Louis, Ill.

Wm. E. Preston
633 - 7th St.
Payette, Idaho

Jesse C. Strickland
100 E. Parker Road
Greenville, S. C.

George B. Hill
3291 Drexel Ave. S.E.
Dickens, Georgia

Howard S. Ribley
3 No. Main St.
Supulpa, Okla.

Garlin L. Trautman
c/o R. E. Kitchens
Edwardsville, Ala.

U. Kuhe
Cadet Brigadier, K.M.A.
Bandung, Java.

Ted Davies (Dave)
55 Marcees Rd.
Ely Cardiff, South Wales
(U.K.)

N.K. ...
0 - ...
Road

J. Flannery
311/2 Brunswick St.
Hitzroy, Victoria
Australia

Wm. Bannatyne
146 Kilbourn Rd.
Clydebank
Scotland

J. W. Cotter
38 Holmwood St.
Newtown, Sydney
N. S. W., Australia

Edwin C. Chambers
Pottlatch, Idaho
~~P. F. D.~~
P. F. D. - #1

Joan Koleczek
4102 E. 123rd St.
Cleveland, Ohio

Charles E. O'Leary
320 Hartwell Dr.
Gilman, Ill.

* Louis Folk
Box 164
Kremlin, Montana

Kenneth Carlsson
Gelpa, Utah
Box 178

Karel Aster
Melnik I
Bohemia
Czechoslovakia

James H. Farley
149 N. 60th St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
(39)

Frank I met, of ←
ding forces. He
o a bottle of the
state-side liquor
buy at first
turbidity. I had
rised I myself
for the last
ad. of wishing,

Mrs. & Mrs. James H. Farley
345 Washington St.
Constantine,
Michigan

hoping and waiting
for those Frank
and Freedom.
Sept. 13, 1945

Paul Bradley
Elm Ave
Per Darby, Pa.

*
James K. Schrock
469 Lenox Avenue
Detroit, Mich.

Wesley C. Farrell
81 Weaver St.
Phila., Pa.

Elmore W. Patteron
1138 Sylvania Rd.
Cleveland 27th
Cleveland, Ohio

Charles Balasa
301 - 7th St.
Jersey City, N.J.

Adrian Chandler
Bentley, La.

Ray H. Barges
Frisco, Texas

Victor H. Cote
R. F. D. - # 277
Joby Road
Dracut, Mass.

Sol. Schwartz
* 638 Spruce St.
Phila. Pa.

Miss Betty Lera
436 - E. 66th St.
New York, N.Y.

Miss Stella Stepanski
Mrs. Josephine Plejars
536 - 20th St.
Hungary Hall, N.Y.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Krizer
1821 - 2nd Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Mr. Eddie Krask
946 W. 141st St

a
447
7

TP 17061/D

Leaves ~~Leaves~~
224 E Green St
Yonkers
Phone No 1147.

L. Walter E. Pluto
219 General Hospital
A.P.O. - 957.
c/o Postmaster
San Francisco,
Calif.

- Jackson Ave
Middletown, ~~Pa~~

Sheldon H Mendelson ^{1st LT}
450 Ocean Parkway ^{Inf}
Brooklyn, NY

Tony Zbicki CWO, USMC
92 Orchard St.
Glen Lyon, Pa.

Joseph Fredericks
26 Front Street
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

John Petrasch
4326 Broadway
Bronx, N.Y.
238th St. Station
or:

Business Address
321 E. 9th St.
New York 3, N.Y.
P.N. - G Ramercy 3-3336

433 - Harlan
Luzie Flanagan

Miss Mayer
Mayer St.
Lansdale, Pa.
999 Low Müller
344 W. Main St.
Lansdale, Pa.

Ed. Dominick
458 No Ogden St.
Buffalo, N. Y.

George H. Williams, Esq.
901 American Bldg.
Washington 4, D.C.

13, 1945 - Met James H. Farley,
yank of Invading forces

14, 1945 - 7:00 A.M. - Embark on C-47
at Kanoya - for Okinawa

J. Linsley, Jr.
Huntington Beach,
Calif.

14 - 1945 - Noon - Arrived at Okinawa

15 - 1945 - 5 A.M. Embark for Phillipines
in B-24

11 A.M. Arrived at Nichols
field, P.I. - my old
home. Gosh, how
it's changed.
Manila until 24th.

Nov. 24th, 1945 — U. S. S. Hughes for home

Submitted address
to the
[illegible]

Joseph Pickles

339 Woodland Ave.
E. Orange N. J.

#1 Clinton St.
Newark, N. J.
market - 3-3362

Joseph Padke
2810 N. 12th St.