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Atkinson Nebr.
 May 8, 1940
 2:00 P.M.

Dear Elaine,

Nine more days of school for me. We get out the twenty first. Mon the 20, we check our books in and Tues 21 we get our Report Cards. Hooray.

Mamma & Papa said you could plan on 3 strong for the 18th or your graduation (But not to strong because something might happen between now and then.) Do you think you can come back with us or maybe Richard or the best yet both of you. Hope a Hope you can. Will we ever have fun.

I heard you had some bunnies, you will have to go some to beat me I have 27. My brown one the same age as yours is making her nest (sad news beware). My yellow rabbit died, so I don't have any more from your folks. We had him down the basement and I think it was to damp and cold and a bit of old age killed him. He sure suffered toward last, I felt so sorry for him.

I have four full banty chickens. Are they ever cute. I sure love pets.

There are quite a few mumps or bumps what ever you want to call them.

Mr. Long said to tell him that my heart goes pit a pat (I don't know who do you)

Mamma and papa are going to Kansas the 3rd of June than I can come up and stay with you if you folks don't care. This summer we want to go to the Black Hills and in the fall to Mo. and Iowa. A man in Mo. that I have never seen (but papa has) wrote and told me he would send me some Gladeola & canna bulbs flowers. One Christmas he sent a box of apples and another time he sent me some Pecans and Hickery nuts he a jolly good fellow. Papa met him while he was getting his cancer treated in Mo.

I wish you good luck with your Exams today. Harold is comming in to take his this afternoon. Glad I don't live in the country.

Mamma & Effie are going to O'Neil this afternoon. Our cow in town went dry on us so Papa is taking her out to Effies today. The poor Rabbits have to go with out milk

I don't know much more to say write now so will close. The letter leaves us fine how about you folks. Write back soon. I like to hear from Tell Richard to write.

yours with love
 Luella Jones

P.S. We have a small girl staying with us this is her fourth week her name is Isabella Walnofer. She is cross eyed and long straight hair o boy.

Mamma got you a real nice present in O'Neil. Guess what it is.

Write Sunday so I will get your letter Monday

Atkinson, Nebraska
 May 13, 1940

Dear Miss Elaine,

If we come we will be there for dinner but we are bringing our own so don't fix anything special for us. I am going to get my hair fixed Friday and also bake an angel food cake.

Mother tried baking one last sat. You should have seen it. If you would have tasted it you would have

died. She wouldn't follow the recipe or anything else so it was a tough looker and she blambed it to the stove.

What happened to your little rabbits did they croke off? Why?

The mumps are dying out thank be and I never got them and I never had them. Clarence thinks the children from the music festival brought them. We never had any mumps before that.

I am going to stay after school tonight and work on my jacket so I can wear it Saturday. Miss Kiker (our Home Ec teacher) got me some wooden buttons about an inch wide to put on it. She got them in Norfolk. Is she ever a nice teacher.

It is to hot to study today so I am writting a letter. I wish I was out side already.

I would love to have you kids come but I don't want you to get the mumps. One grade teacher had and the senior normal traniers had to take her place. And I would have to go to school Mon. & Tues of that week anyway. Maybe when I come home with mamma when they get back from Kansas you can stay with me and Richard must come up also. Tell him to write of course semester exams are quite soon.

Papa said I couldn't come up to your place in June if I didn't find some one to take care of them but I think Clarence will. Papa was joking anyhow, I know him.

It is cloudy here today. I hope it dosen't rain to hard (if it rains).

One of the girls that stay at Jo Kramer did have the mumps one of the boys that stay at Aunt Effies has the Pink eye. They are both going to school now again.

I wish you could come to school here next year. Would we ever have fun.

You know that little girl I was telling you about in my last letter. Her folks (they have 6 children) work them awful hard. They just raise there children to work isn't that terrible. She dosen't have many manners. Her folks don't have many knives and forks. They say they run eating all threw the house eat with there fingers. I feel sorry for children like that. She actes like it to.

Sad news (I just got home from school) and we can't come up Saturday. Wille Tasler was here and wanted Papa to go to Savanna Mo. with him. He has a sore on his lip and papa going so that cansels that.

Did we ever have a hail storm just now. Broke 2 big windows and 3 pieces of windows. It tore my screen loose on my bedroom window.

We can bring your pkg. up Sat. We will bring it when we come. Maybe not until June 3 but you will get it. Better late than ever. Hail just covered the ground and Papa just started for Effies. I wonder where he is at and if it broke any car windows.

The hail killed all my bantys chickens and 8 other chickens. Killed all but 1 out of 12 chickens. Did you folks have hail.

I am so sorry I can't come up to your place. I could bawl a stream of tears.

Isabella the little girl started teasing me about R Daniel C. She didn't know what his name was. In order to have her stop teasing me, I told her it was Robert Joseph Corncob Rammer. Did you ever hear of such a name. It is a false name, but she dosen't know the write name of your brother R.D.C.

yours with love
Luella Jones

Bonesteel, S. Dak
January 12, 1941

My dear Elaine,

First I want to thank you for the gift you sent me. I surely will be able to use it, and it is so handy. Each time I use it I'll be thinking of you.

I was so sorry that I couldn't get over for Evelyn's shower, but it was impossible as Eugene isn't at home and the folks don't like to let Robert take the car so for (over those roads) at night. However I am sending a little gift as I don't know when I'll have a chance to go to Butte.

We had a Christmas program at school. We had a large crowd and sold lunches. We had to raise some money as the Young Citizens Leagues in South Dakota have dues to pay and too, we bought a water cooler for our school. We also bought a "True-Vice" set. My school gave a number for the Community program given in Bonesteel just before Christmas. I felt pretty proud as our school was the only one clapped back for an encore. We have started a Harmonica Band but our progress is slow as most of my pupils are such little folks.

I suppose that you will be taking your semester exams this week. We have exams every six weeks so I give tests too this week. I still give a little prize for anyone getting 100%, and do they ever try hard. It is the first time that they have been awarded in that way and they really think it is fun.

Mama met Mrs. Emra Counts at Club one day. She surely thought the twins were sweet. I think they were wearing the dresses your mother made for them - at least they were blue silk ones.

How is your mother? The next time you write tell her to send a little note along. I always enjoyed the little notes she sent to school.

Well Elaine, I must close as it is almost supper time. We are eating early tonight as we usually go to church Sunday evening at 7:30 for Holy Hour.

Give my best wishes to Evelyn.

With love,
Regina Engelhaupt

Butte, Nebraska
March 30, 1942

My Dearest Elaine, (or Mrs. Kramer)

Well, here I is at choir practice, and I am supposed to be singing but writing to you is more important or it gives me the greatest thrill to write to you and hear from you. Do you get what I mean or should I just tell you I'd enjoy hearing from you. Ha. ha.

Now, who is your greatest heartthrob or is it the same one in Butte, maybe. You could of run on to some nice looking lad in Lynch. You can't never tell.

Elaine you should of been here last Thur. & Fri. We got out of school on account of the great blizzard. I suppose there weren't lights down at the hospital either. Did you get scared?

We just finished the frog in the lab. I didn't do a thing to it. We had to draw the skeleton & all the meat had to be taken off first. Hope you don't read this before dinner it may spoil it for you.

Guess what to-nite we have the Musical doings in the gym. You even miss out on that. Elaine I believe

you got sick at a poor time. Ha.

How lonesome do you get down at Lynch. Very, very lonesome. Well then I'll send Joe down to see you. I tell him right now. Gee he's been lonesome lately. I wonder why????? Don't you????????? How about three guesses?

We're studying infinitives in Latin and we sent you a letter in Latin that you'll have to translate. She didn't think it was bad enough that you had to work in school. She even wants you to work in the hospital.

Well, Elaine (Mrs. Kramer) I must close for this time. Azz ever

Your friend (I hope)

Marie or (Shifty)

1516 "E" St.
San Bernardino, California
July 28, 1942

Dearest Pal Elaine,

Received your most welcome letter sometime ago. How is life treating my old pay anyway?

Boy I wish you could be with me. We would celebrate. Last week the neighbor's son was home on Furlough. Gee Whiz. he sure is swell. This is what we did. He got home on Fri nite. Saturday nite, we went to a drive cafe and had a couple of cokes. Then Sunday morning I went to Sunday School with him and his mother. After Sunday School we went out to the swimming pool. We came home about two or three o'clock and he asks me to come over for dinner that nite.

I went. After dinner went again went up in the mountains a ways. We went to San Diego to see his girl friend. Got home Wednesday, so Wednesday nite we went to Redlands. Thursday we went roller skating and Fri. he went back to duty. He was real nice tho.

How about telling Richard to write to me? He can drop a few lines when you do.

Oh Thank you very much for the goods you sent me. I am going to make me a new blue house coat. I will send you some of the scraps when I get it made.

I am going to send you a picture of me standing in front of a palm tree. We have a nice one in our yard.

I go to a lot of shows only I wish you were here to go along.

There are an awful lot of jeeps, Army trucks and airplanes itc. here. Even soldiers???

We live on a hi way. Car go past here constantly. They sure bothered at first but I am use to it now. Well it is my bed time. I will write more tomorrow.

Well nothing much happened to day only I went to the Y.W.C.A. We planned on going to the mountains next week. I can hardly wait. I am going to our dance some time a week after next. We are suppose to bring our boy friends or brothers. So as I have nether one, my girl friend is going to bring one of her boy friends for me to dance with.

You can make very good poems, please send me some more.

I stay home 4th of July as usual.

How is your mother? I hope she is better.
Well I can hardly concentrate with three kids around so don't mind the mistakes. They are as ornery as those goats of yours.
I haven't had time to write to Raymond yet, but I plan on it soon.
Is Eva working for you now?
Well must close hoping to hear from you soon. As you know I wait patiently for one every day.
Your Pal,
Maxine

Howard Temple A.S.U.S.N.R.
Co. 249 Barracks 218
U.S. Naval Training Station
Bainbridge, Maryland
2/21/43

Dear Elaine,

I guess you thought that I wasn't going to write to you, didn't you? Well, here goes. I am in the Navy now. I have been here for 2 weeks and 2 days. There is about 35,000 sailors down here. We are doing a lot of drilling now, but we start boxing tomorrow for 4 days.

We go to the movies & everything for nothing down here. (alright isn't it) Do you still remember the day we were riding in the model T. boy what a ride. How about sending me a good picture of you. I am sending one of mine, if you don't want it you can send it right back.

Whats knew around there. I bet it is pretty well cleared out now, by most of the boys being in the army isn't it.

I went out for the armed guards yesterday. I will be stationed on a merchant marine boat. I have about 4 more wks here then I will get my 9 day furlough. I don't know where I'll go then.

Boy I never saw as much mud in all my life as we have down here about 5 - 6 inches. I go on guard duty in the stoker room tomorrow night from 4 - 8 P.M.

Well, I can't think of anything else to say now, but will write soon.

Love,
Howard Temple

P.S. write as soon as possible

Howard Temple A.S.U.S.N.R.
Co. 250, Barracks 219
U.S.N.T.S.
Bainbridge, Maryland
3/7/43

Dearest Elaine,

Please excuse me for not writing sooner as I have been in the hospital for the last week. I am okey now. I am inclosing the picture I forgot to send to you in the last letter. It isn't any good but it will have to do till I get one in my uniform. Thanks a million for the picture of you. It is sweet as sugar. Onother boy and I are to appear for an auddition on Major Bowes program Fri. night. I hope we make it. Boy the navy is swell. you sure meet a nice bunch of boys down here. I get my dress & undress blues tomorrow, also my sea bag & hammock. I'll be leaving here in about 2 1/2 or 3 more weeks. I go home on a 9 day furlough then. I passed my swimming test Thurs. Fri. it was snowing real hard down hear. Sat. it was raining and the wind was blowing. Not much to say this time. I haven't been doing much. I'm not very good at writing letters anyhow. The gang here are playing ping-pong in the barricks, so it is hard for me to keep my mind on my writing. I guess I'll have to say good bye now for this time now, so good bye dear.

Lots of Love,
H. Temple

P.S. Write Soon

Howard Temple A.S.U.S.N.R.
Co. 250, Barracks 219
U.S.N.T.S.
Bainbridge, Maryland
3/13/43

Dearest Elaine,

How are you? I am doing pretty good down here now. We went on a 15 mile hike Wed. It took us 2 1/2 hours. boy we were really tired when we got back.

It is snowing harder than the (?) down here now, if it keeps up all day, it will get fairly deep. We were supposed to have regimental review today, but we won't now, on account that we were put under quarantine yesterday for Scarlet Fever. Some of us were supposed to go home for 9 days next week, now we can't go for four more weeks.

I was on the rifle range Tue. I made 13 out of 15 shots.

Have you seen Florence Tasseler lately. she wanted me to write to her, I don't even have her address.

We had a Major Bowes amature hour down here Wed. night, it was pretty good.

Well I can't think of anything else to say now, so I'll just quite. Write soon.

Always my love,
Howard
Howard Temple S 2/3 U.S.N.R.
Armed Guard School
Gun Crew No. 1474B
Little Creek, Virginia
4/30/43

Dearest Elaine,

I received your 2 letters yesterday. I was sure glad to get them. I'm sorry if I didn't write sooner but I have been out. I just hit port here yesterday.

I was on the Battleship "Wyoming", the other day. I get on a merchant ship and leave again in about 3 more weeks. I just came back from Rio de Janero in S. America, boy I never been in a hotter place in all my life as it is down there.

I have been thinking of you and you are a very attractive sweet little girl, and I would love to have another picture of you (How about it)

What do you mean I don't care if your ever alive, you know better than that. If I come out of this war okey, I'm coming back out there, I will bring a car the next time. How does that sound. Let me know.

Hun, how about sending me a picture of you in your evening dress. I bet you look swell in it.

We have a large British Aircraft carrier in port now, we are loading planes on it.

Well I have to go to work now who I'll be saying, all my love & kisses.

Howard

From Somewhere in the South
July, 4, 1943
(9:30 AM Jul 7, 1943
Goldsboro, N.C.)

Miss Felicia Bamby
% Mrs. Walt Counts
Butte, Nebraska

Dear Miss Felicia,

Now I suppose you are wondering who could be writing to you from this far off land of the South. And also how I knew your address and name. Well, that is a long story, dating almost seven years back. It is a story that wouldn't be of any interest to you and besides that is not what I am writing to you about.

I am a lonesome young man and am wondering if you would know of a nice young lady that would cheer my life. A young lady about like you with dark hair and blue eyes, about five foot five and a nice dancer. Say, come to think of it, you are just what I am looking for.

There is one thing though, I surely hope you don't like cats. A dog, horse, cow anything but a cat. But I guess I need not worry. Anyone as nice as you wouldn't care for cats. And above all not long haired ones. And of course you wouldn't have a cat in the house or let it sleep on your bed. There is nothing so disgusting as to wake in the morning and find a cat sleeping on the foot of the bed. I stayed at a place one time and when I woke in the morning, a ***** long haired cat was asleep on the foot of my bed. It didn't take me long to make mincemeat of that cat.

Well, enough about cats and my dislike for them. I am sure you feel the same as I do about the creatures.

I suppose you are a busy girl these days with your work and might I add, your dates. Now please don't think I am jealous because I'm not. I would want you to have a good time though I would rather you would have your good times with me.

Now if you would care to correspond with me, just answer by return mail and I will send you my address. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Respectfully Yours,
???

Howard E. Temple S 1/C U.S.N.R.
Armed Guard Center

1st Ave. & 52nd St.
Brooklyn, N. Y.
8/20/43

Dearest Elaine,

Please excuse me for not writing sooner, as I have just got back from a trip and didn't have time to write before.

Darling, don't ever get the idea that I will stop writing to you. I like you too much for that. Well what's new out there. Do you still love me as much as you used to. I sure hope so. Honey, I lost that last picture that you sent me. Would you please send me another if you have one.

Darling, I hope you won't get mad at me but I am in the Brig. I went A.O.L. for 10 days because they wouldn't give me a leave after I got back from my trip. There supposed to give you one. Do you still remember the Model T., I do. I'll never forget that.

Where is Clarence at now. If you ever see his sister, tell her I said hello.

Sweetheart, I sure missed your letters when I was on the water. Don't forget to write to me everyday now.

Well sweetheart, I can't think of anything else to say now, but I guess I'll have to quite.

So long now Sweetheart,
All my love & kisses
Howard

Seymour Johnson Field, N.C.
August 22, 1943.

Dear Darling "Punkie",

As I haven't received an answer to the letter I wrote you, I will try again. I surely hope your mistress has not told you anything bad about me. Please don't believe what she has said about me. Just write and I am positive we will enjoy each other very much. And now that your mistress is away on her vacation and school beginning right away, I am sure you will have more time to write.

I suppose you're very busy with the million and one things that cats have to do. Hope you find time "to clean up" on those mice in the granary that raise such havoc with Dad's grain sacks. Also on those sparrows that decorate the top of the car so beautifully. They sure had their nerve, don't you think so?

And some day when you have the time, jump up on Mother's lap and take a little "snooze." Mother would really enjoy that. Your mistress has a very nice Mother even though she does write funny things about the "hill - billies."

Please excuse this short note but duty calls me elsewhere. Hoping your mistress does not fall for some Atkinson lad and have those poor Butte boys in the "lurch."

I remain with all of my love,
Cpl. Mac Nair

Howard E. Temple S 1/C U.S.N.R.
Armed Guard Center
1st Ave. & 52nd St.
Brooklyn, N. Y.
10/13/43

Dearest Elaine,

How are you? Fine I hope. Please excuse me for not writing sooner as I have been quite busy.

Well, my birthday is the 17 of Nov. I'll be 18. getting old huh.

I sure was glad to get your letter, it was the first mail I had in about 4 wks.

Honey, I wish I could see you, I have wanted to ever since I left out there. I just lay in my bunk at night wondering when I am going to see you again. After I read your letter, I sure was longing to be back there with you. After this was is all over with I am coming back out. Shall I?

I'm glad your brother got home. I bet you were sure glad to see him weren't you?

I haven't been home now for 4 wks. I don't know when I'll see them again. I am supposed to be shipped right out again.

Well darling, I can't think of anything else to say now, but I hope you still love me as much as I love you.

So Long now Darling
All my Love
Howard

Pfc. Gerald R. Kiphager
 Co. N, 60th Inf. APO #9
 C/O PM New York, N.Y.
 January 31, 1944
 Somewhere In Europe

Dear Pest,

Glad to hear from you and thanks for Raymond's address. I don't think now that I will get to see him. I had a furlough in London, thought perhaps I could locate his outfit, but had no luck. I had his address that Dad had sent to me.

Well there is not much to write about, saw lots of interesting things in London. I like the English people very much but don't have any desire to stay here, give me the good old U.S.A. Will close with my regards to your folks and congratulate Evelyn & Floyd for me will you?
 AND DONT CALL ME GERRY.

Your pal,
 G Kip
 Jerry Fiala
 4329 So. 20th St.
 Omaha, Nebraska
 Feb. 7, 1944

Dear Clayton,

Well hi twerp -- How's everything with you by now? I'm fine and rid of my black eye too. So the other guy had a black eye too. HA. Well I guess that settled a few things that nite, including the girls too.

Say I hear you had a good time at the dance the other nite. Of course I mean getting home at 5 in the morning again. So you took the girls home. Good for you. Wish I could have been there. Well guess it won't be long until we will be home.

Tony wrote a letter to Dorthy and I wrote a letter also to Annie & Dorthy. Sure kidded them along. Sure have to kid Annie about Raymond S. HA. I knew I should have hid that picture. HA.

Went to the dance in downtown Omaha Sun nite. Was sitting in the music box & here Alvin Tupa walked up. Sure was surprised to see him. I guess him & 2 other boys came down here just roaming around.

Well were still working at Swift & like it fairly well. Sure learning a lot too. It's a good experience.

Well Clayton the other two guys here, I mean Tony & Lloyd, want to go to sleep, so I guess I better sign off. I can tell you more about our experiences when I get home.

Tony sends his best regards along to you and he said if you come down here, be sure to bring a lot of money along. Well be home, our address is 4329 So. 20th St.

Saw Merrill Gallentine down town today.

We've dated Delores & Mary Ann Prokop already, and there's some more gals from Omaha I plan on dating yet. Not darkies either. HA.

Sure kidded Annie & Dorthy about the negro gals I dated. Ask them about it & see what they say.?
 Well answer real soon and I will do the same.

A pal -- Jerry

Sun. Eve. Omaha 7, Nebraska

Dear Willie??

Say if your coming down next Sunday I may go back with you, you see I'm needed home and my extension runs out any way so write and may we can work out a Pat and Willie Home Comming Party. If you come would you come with Galentine or your truck, or by train. Were having a Very good time down here and I wish you were here also.

We throw stage parties and Girl Parties. Mostly Stage.

Well pall I'd better go to bed so I can go to work at 7:00 oclock in the morning.

We get up at 5:45 around here and in case you don't know it, its dark then.

Well your Steady.

Lovingly yours till you get another??

Toney E. Connot
Spencer, Nebraska
March 5, 1944

Dear Clayton,

Please excuse the delay. I worked at Carl Pearsons last week. And I never got your letter until Wednesday. I didn't have any paper and I hated to ask them for some and thought you would wait, because I don't have much news anyway. I sort of learned how to work up there. They brought me home Saturday morning before it thawed (I hope that's right). I still had to walk from the mail-box because he didn't think he could make it.

I suppose you have seen Jerry already by now. He was here tonight (Sun) for supper. In case you haven't seen him, they both - Toney and Jerry got a permanent, I think there pretty nice. You still got them beat with your natural waves. Toney also bought a new suit, it really is a cutey.

Ray came up tonight for Helen. They went to Butte to the show and Toney went along, he said he was going after Margaret Ann Prchal. I'm just wondering if he will get a date with her.

Jerry wrote Ann a letter before he got back and he asked her for a date a week from Sunday. Which we think would be tonight, because he wrote that letter last Sunday. He didn't come yet, but he went home tonight before dark because his lights didn't work, so she don't expect him to come.

So you had a good time last Sunday on your Grandparents Golden Wedding. I had a nice time at home. Ray was here last Sunday because he drove in the ditch going home Saturday night so he stayed over night and then Sun. afternoon Henry & Doris & Helen Louise took him home because he also broke something. I couldn't spell it if I wanted to.

We already played a game of rummy. Papa beat by about one - hundred points or so. I never could and never will be able to play that game.

I was in town a while Wednesday (Mar. 1) evening a-while but I never seen you there. Did you go to Omaha? Toney has been trying to tell me you were down there. I don't believe him. Seems like I distrust everyone but myself.

I really was surprised to hear from you, and I was glad to get that letter to. Personally I think you have a better hand writing than I have.

I will sign off for now.

With Love
Dorothy Connot

P.S. Annie is also writing Jerry.

Spencer, Nebraska
March 22, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

Please excuse the writing because I got my paper on a box and writing instead of on the table. Nobody is here except the three little, so maybe I can get a line or so written. A person just has to watch these kids every move they make. My work isn't too easy neither too hard, I'm just on the go all the time.

I sure have been missing you. Thought sure you was coming last Sun. nite, but I know everyone has to stay home off an on to sleep. Surely you have seen Jerry since Sun. -- he was after Ann Sun. nite and they went to Butte to the show with Toney, Ray and Helen Louise went along too. I thought I better stay home.

Helen Louise called me up today on the phone from the Clover Farm. You just don't know how glad I was to here from her. A person don't see anyone here they know.

The folks said they were coming to town Wed. evening, but I don't know whether I'll go or not, maybe I'll go down to the show. Did you go to Sioux City Mon.? I washed cloths and cleaned the basement, and I sure didn't miss milking the cows, suppose I would just as soon be milking cows after a couple of weeks. But I hope I don't get tired of working in town.

There sure isn't much news. Reading this letter a person would think there's no other word to use instead of all the "I's, I'm using.

Well Clayton this will be all for now and I sure hope to see or hear from you soon.

Don't know when this letter will get mailed, but I'll try to get it mailed tonight it's 5:00 o'clock already.

Goodbye now,
With Lots of Love
Dorothy Connot

P.S. Please excuse the scribbling.

Spencer, Nebraska
Tuesday Evening
March 29, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

Well, this time I'm not writing on a box like the last time. It is only 8:30 and finished with my work so thought I would do something to amuse myself and thought writing to you would be killing two ducks at one shot. Now you won't have to go duck hunting I shot one for you.

I got my washing done Monday and it was not as bad as expected. Sure watched for you to go through town horseback Monday, but I didn't see you (Only joking).

What time did you get home Sunday Nite?

Plan on writing Annie tonight also. I was going up to see Grandma & Grandpa before but decided I better write letters.

Mrs. Fisher is putting the little kids to bed. Clyde is down town. Stanly is sitting beside my trying to read off and on. But that doesn't bother me.

I don't think I'm going up town Wednesday night unless something happens.

Thursday nite Mr. & Mrs. have to go to some kind of a supper at seven o'clock and she asked me to stay with the kids.

It is 5 minutes to 9 already and I started writing to you at 8:30 so see how slow a writer I am.

Haven't heard from Jerry yet. Did you write Annie? I sure would like to read it. (What a laugh?) (on all four of us)

I sure like the snow. How about you?

Well Clayton I will be looking for a letter from you, and I hope soon. Sure would like to get this sent off Wednesday morning (tomorrow) - But I'll have to get it down to the post office before nine and if you know me I won't.

Better stop and write Annie a letter

Goodnight Clayton
With all my love
Dorthy

P. S. Sure hope to see you soon. Please excuse the scribbling as usual.

Wednesday evening,

Hello; I didn't get it sent off but Stanly is going up town so he can take it along. Hoping to see you tonight.

Spencer, Nebraska
April 4, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

Well darling, it is 5:30 and I just got back from town. I have an appointment for a permanent at 7:00 tonight (Tuesday). If Mrs. Sandberg doesn't call and say she doesn't have time. She said she maybe couldn't take me tonight, but I'm still hoping. I wanted it for Easter. You know it gets a person pretty tired when they come home at 3:00 in the night and then have to fix their hair yet.

I just got back from town and Mrs. Fisher went down to vote. I don't know what for, president probably. She sent Loel down to get a hair cut and Phillip to do what he pleased. Margaret is here with me so I gave her a cookie so she'd be quiet for awhile.

When I was down town Leonard Fiala went by in his car, he waved the first time and then drove by again and tooted his horn. Better watch out Clayton, but I don't think you should worry.

Last nite (Mon) about 7:30 or 8:00 I got a phone call. Who do you suppose from, the funniest thing, by a guy named Clayton but he sounded like Gerry. He said he called from the farm. Just asked me what I was doing. We never talked very long. If Mr. & Mrs. Fisher wouldn't have been in the house I would have thrown him a kiss.

Haven't been working to hard this week so far, just resting up for the dance next week.

I went to bed last nite at 9:00 so to be sure I was slept out this morning. But suppose I'll be out till about 11:00 or 12:00 o'clock getting my permanent tonight, but I don't think I'll regret it.

Hope to see you tomorrow nite. I don't figure on going up town, so won't. You just take off a few minutes

to come down and see me. I imagine Annie and Toney would be in town.
There really isn't any news that I know, as usual, so will close for now.

Good bye and Goodnight
With all my Love
and lots of kisses
Your Sweethearts
Dorthy

P.S.O.S. (Please excuse the pencil and scribbling. I had to hurry so I could start supper.)

Spencer, Nebraska
April 8, 1944

Happy Easter Sweetheart,

Honey, I just don't know how
I'm going to tell you here
How much I wish you happiness
Today and all the year;
But you know how much I love you
So that ought to help you guess --
Because you see, that's just how much
I wish you happiness!

Love,
Dorthy

Lynch, Nebr.
April 12, 1944

Dear Elaine,

I don't suppose you ever expected to receive a letter from me, so I hope this mess surprises you in some way.

I wrote this with a typewriter, but it doesn't work very good because it belongs to a union of strikers (I always use the touch system, especially when I'm writing in the dark, that way I can feel if the letters in each word are too big or too small, therefore in a blackout I consider the touch system very valuable.) I'm not a very good typist as any fool can plainly see if they have good hearing, so if you can't read this scribbling don't let it bother you because I can't read either.

I worked in the field all day today. I was disking without a disk & I sure got regusted because the motor in the tractor was missing and I looked & watched very closely as I drove around the field, but I didn't find it till about noon. Well because it was dinner time I didn't bother to put it back in the tractor because I didn't want to be late for dinner so I drove it home to dinner (and I do mean drove). It developed a stubborn spell, sat down and refused to go, so I whipped it with a piece of barbed wire and finally got home with it. I was just in time for dinner and mom had an extra big meal prepared, because she knew I would be hungry. My little brothers ate so much that some of them got sick. I felt o.k. - because I was awful hungry and could hold a lot which I did. All of us enjoyed the larger meal though -- I had 2 cups of coffee and the rest had a glass of milk.

I went in the living room after I was done with dinner and laid my carcass on the davenport so I could rest for about an hour, and in no time at all I fell asleep. The fall nearly woke me, but not quite. After I had slept for about 3/4 of an hour mom woke me up, and I asked her why she did that and she said that I had told her to wake me if I snoted cause I can't sleep when I snore. It always did keep me awake so I thanked her for waking me.

Did you know that I was up to Butte to try and find you one night? It was a quite chilly day, even though

the sun was shining. I didn't know where you lived for sure, but I saw a sign the "said" (in a deep voice), "This way to the Counts farm", so I sat on it for half an hour and -- nothing happened so I came back to Lynch. I'll try again in the future, if I don't die in the past.

I just glanced at the clock & noticed that it is now 11:20. That old clock keeps good time even though it hasn't run for years. It's getting about the time when all good night owls should be crawling into their respective dream sacks, close one eye, then slip off to dream valley & if you like it, then don't come back.

You know many people dream every night, but I don't because I don't go to bed every night, but anyway I never dream anyhow. I never had a dream & probably never will -- say -- that reminds me of one I had the other night. It sure was silly but was like others I've had. Now if you should happen to go nuts from reading this -- don't worry because there is still room at the Norfolk hospital for both of us.

If you haven't got a very popular unknown disease that causes stiffening of the muscles in the bones of your fingers and arms then I hope not to hear from you so Write soon and bear in mind that I want to take you out some time and prove to you that I'm different than you think -- if you know what I mean.

So long now,
Lovingly yours
An x inmate of some insane asylum
Josh Stewart
Lynch Nebr
P.O. Box 16

P.S. Don't forget to write soon & if you can't write call me up on the phone. "Ha, Ha!" & "Tush Tush!"
P.P.S. This was writ by hand & through tips in my own mechanical robot brain.

Before I go to bed I want to remind you not to use this ink again. It isn't lawful they tell me.

Spencer, Nebraska
April 24, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

Here it is fifteen minutes to eight and I'm finished with the work, and just have to write and tell you the bad news, at least it is for me.

Darling Mrs. Fisher has to work in the hamburger stand Wed. nite and she asked me to stay with the kids. She said I didn't have to, that she could work some other time but I'm not going to go to the dance anyway so guess that's that.

Helen Louise was in town today with Toney, they came to get Mom's little chicks, so she called me up and said her and Ray hadn't planned on going. I haven't called Jerry yet but I will before very long. If you decide to go to Bonesteel to the dance tomorrow just come I'll be awful glad to see you. Mrs. Fisher said she didn't have to go Wed. nite until 9:30 so come up and see me awhile until then if I don't see you Tuesday nite. This gives you a chance to take your other girl friend Wed.

Margarate still doesn't feel very well yet.

It really ended up nice today after all. Sure was a nice wash day, everything dried so nice. I just called Jerry and he said he would be in in about fifteen minutes so I'll continue writing to you. What time did you get home Sun. nite? It was I think 15 to 1 when I got in. I sure am sorry about Wed. nite but I think it best not to go if she turned away from the church as they say she did.

I bet it won't take me long to get to sleep once I get in bed. I want to fix my hair first I think they need it.

Stanley isn't home tonight so I'll get this letter sent to you finally.

I'm waiting for my phone call before I close this letter because he may have something to tell you "My future boy friend." I guess I should have left that out, what do you say about it.

I suppose I better write a little to the folks. The other day I told Mom not to worry us kids would get home Sat. nite and Helen told me that today. I'll bet they were a little worried.

Jerry just called and said he would go tomorrow night (Tues) to Bonesteel and go to your place first to see if you can go. He said he'd be there about 8:30 and then come after us kids. I sure hope you can go but if you can't I don't care if you kids go Wed. nite or not. It's best for me at home don't you think.

Will close for now. And I'll be looking for you tomorrow night but I won't get way ready until I know we're going for sure.

I wonder why I write such short letters.

Goodnight Sweetheart
With all my love
Thinking of you often
Love
Dorthy

Lynch, Nebr
April 25, 1944

Dear Elaine

Will throw a few lines your way just to let you know that I am still alive, even though it makes no difference to you.

I was down town awhile this evening "wow", is this burg dead. It is so dead that there going to rename it as the morgue. Just today there was a fellow digging a grave in main street & he can't see very good so I walked up to him & asked him what he was doing, & he said he was digging a grave, and I "said" well what are you digging it in the main street of town for?, & he said, "Oh" I'm sorry, I thought this was the lot for the new cemetery, as it really is dead. Yes, it has such an enomous population that I still get lost once in a while. Today I started down town & after I had gone 3 blks; I happened to think that I had forgot the grocery list and then I discovered I was lost so I had to ask a policeman how to get back. Well I made it o.k.

Then I took a taxi downtown. I got out on gossip st., & walked over to the store which was on 4th & scrap drive. After I got my groceries and walked out of the store a young and very ince intelligent looking girl of about 19 asked me how to get to the other side of the st. & I showed her where the other side was, then she walked over to the other side. I noticed her talking with another man on the st. she had just gone to & suddenly she walked back across to where I was. She was a little angry, as she "said" -- you told me th other side of the street was over there & that man over there said it was over here, so which of you is telling the truth? That made me so disgusted so I "said", lady before I give you any more advice it will be a long time from now and it won't do you any good then because when the time comes that I'm talking of -- is here "I'll be dead"!

I went to bed at 9.00 last night or 2100 Navy time - the earliest I've gone to bed since mom & dad got married.

I just looked at the clock & it looked back at me & I couldn't help noticing what it said, it said -- 10.25 so I told it to be quiet, but it won't. I sent my suit to the cleaner today -- I'll bet that suit will really get took for a cleaning but, I think it will do it good. A couple of female juvenile delinquents asked me to take them to Bonesteel tonight to the rat race but they are the kind that goes someplace nearly every night and have that (anything goes attitude) so I told them where to go, but theyve already got a good start.

I was planning on coming to Butte Friday to get my drivers license renewed but I haven't found out for sure if that is the right day. I would like to get it though before I go to Omaha to work for awhile before I go to Portland, Ore. where I have a job as electric welder.

Are you going to the dance in Spencer tomorrow night? or perhaps you won't get this by that time. You don't know of any pretty gal around my age who whould care to keep me company to the west coast, do you? Well

anyway I didn't earn the name of the Vagabond Lover that way so I'll continue to be a love wolf.
Write Soon

Must close for now
Tvas A micur
Josh (over)

Please address your letter me as follows:

Josh Stewart
The Vagabond Lover &
Love Wolf Incorporated

St. Address

Corner of Gossip St. & Scrap Drive
C/O = PA - 4 brothers & sisters

This is my new address effective as of now.

Spencer, Nebraska
April 27, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

I imagine this letter will really surprise you, I hope you don't mind because I'm only getting caught up on letters. I have counted only seven letters you sent me. Wish that would only be a third of how many you sent. Really enjoy receiving letters from you.

Got a card from Helen Louise today saying Gertrude Kayl was maybe coming home for Margaret's dance and that they may go to Fairfax Sat. nite (the big bums.)

Think I better go to bed.

How did your folks like the dance. Mrs. Fisher said there was quite a large crowd.

Jerry was in town Wed. nite and about quarter after ten he called me up. I told him I was home alone with the kids so we decided he should come down and see me. Got here about 10:30 and went at 11:00. We just talked and gossiped but I'm not stepping out on you Clayton, so please don't take me wrong. I sat on the day bed and he sat in the big blue chair and thats all the closer we got. Ha!

He called Annie, but she was in bed so he told them not to call her.

Darling, I'm realling getting lonesome for you. You said you think of me often, and I was really glad to hear that because I'm always thinking of you.

To bad you were thirsty Wed. and then couldn't drink water.

Mrs. Fisher sure liked the candy I bought for her. Clyde and the kids bought her two pair of rayon stockings. Her dad gave her a box of candy, and she got about six cards.

Better close for now and hope to see you real soon.

It is only ten minutes to nine so I'll take this to the post office, then fix my hair.

Goodnight Sweetheart.

Sweet dreams.
All my love -- Dorthy

Howard Temple
Creek Rd. R.D. #4
West Chester, PA
5/1/44

Dearest Elaine,

You will probably fall over when you see this letter from me but here goes. Honey, I don't know how you found out that I was engaged, but would you please tell me. I was engaged about 4 wks altogether. She was a swell gairl and good looking, but she new it. Her family had plenty of money & everything, and she was to darn sufisticated. Her mother was going to give \$1,500 to get married in Feb., but we broke up in Jan.

I could't pal around with none of my buddies or even say "hello" to some of the girls that I knew long before I met her. Well it was probably all for the best.

(Darling), please excuse me for not writing sooner as I was living at the girlfriends house, and was working in Phila. My address was at the girls house so if I got any mail that she didn't want me to have she would read it and keep it herself.

Darling, I have been thinking of taking another trip out there, but you probably wouldn't want to see me now, would you?

As for the graduation picture, please send me one, I want one.

Well, Darling, it is time for me to start to work, so answer this write. Remember I am not engaged, and I still love. I sure was surprized to see a letter from you the morning. I got your letter about 10 min. ago.

So long now & write right away.

All my love,
Howard "Temp"

MY GRADUATION

MAY 11, 1944

Elaine I. Counts

Just A Great Big
Thank - You
In A Friendly Way
For Kind Rememberance
On My Graduation
Day.

Spencer, Nebraska
May 14, 1944

Dearest Darling Clayton,

Clayton I hope you wasn't disappointed that I went down town Wednesday nite, but I was ready at 8:30 and I thought you probably wouldn't get here before 9:00 or 9:30. I didn't and wasn't going to ditch you. I could have kissed you right in the middle of the street, but you seemed in such a hurry so I didn't bother. You don't know how lonesome I get for you and then when I see you it is only for a few minutes. Sure wish you could have taken me home Wed. nite but I know you came with your folks so I guess it's all right. Clayton do you like our new romance? It's riding along nicely so - far. I wonder how long it will last. Mrs. Fisher thought the locket you gave me was so pretty, and so do I.

This morning the women's club is giving the senior girls a breakfast and Mrs. Fisher is helping serve it. So I'm home alone with the kids again. She is going to Commencement tonight (Thur) so I'll be here again, but I don't mind. I'm getting rested for Sat & Sun. Are you really going to Fairfax Sat. nite (in overalls).

If you come to town Friday nite, and it isn't to late come up and see me if you want to. I suppose I'll go to bed about 9:00 or 9:30. After this rain the road in front of the house is awful muddy. Mr. Rosengreen is fixing the road and he put new dirt on there. Clyde leaves his car North of the house on the first corner by the walk. Hope you don't get stuck.

I didn't get my letter finished this morning so am going to finish it now. I'm upstairs and when I finish this scribbling I'll try to clean my room a bit.

Stanley and Clyde just left for Duning, a town over a hundred miles from here. They went to get some samll turkeys and they won't get home until late tomorrow.

Sure looks like it is going to rain again. I hope not.

Better sign off and I'll write again when I find time or I'll just take time.

Goodbye Sweetheart

With all my love

Dorthy

Clayton & Dorthy

Dorthy & Clayton

P.S. I thought I would get my money worth

P.S.S. Watching Jensans moving in over where Arends moved out.

P.S.S.S. Thinking of you often darling. Write soon. Who said I couldn't scribble.

Signing off again.

Dorthy Connot Spencer, Nebr.

I still Love You !!!??

Rembering Your Birthday

I'm remembering

your Birthday,

As I love to, every year,

With a wish that's

truly heartfelt

For a world of Birthday cheer!

Ann

A Birthday Message

Whoever wrote this little card
Must know you awfully well,
 'Cause look, it says:
 "You're absolutely swell!"
It says that folks as fine as you
 Are mighty hard to find!
Yes, sir, whoever wrote these words
 Sure did have you in mind!

Love,

Dorothy

Spencer, Nebraska
June 7, 1944

My Dearest Clayton,

This really means business seeing you last nite and writing to you tonight. Seeing you every nite wouldn't be to much for me only we need the sleep especially me. I am not very tired tonight and I also worked today. Cleaned my room and washed the woodworks and cleaned the hallway. I'm ready to go again tonight so I hope you are coming (Wed nite) tonight.

It is fifteen after eight and I'm upstairs writing to you -- just finished with my work so thought I would keep my promise & scribble awhile. Cant' even write & I never could so just call it scribble. I want to finish this letter & then the letter I started to my cousin last nite so please excuse the mistakes for I want to hurry & if you are not here by about 9:00 or 9:15 (Wed nite) I'll take these letters to the post office.

Were you very tired today? I know us kids could get about a half an hour more sleep but we'd rather spend it necking. I believe I'm getting use to the late hours if it isn't to many nites in a row. Saturday it will have to be early to make up for Sunday.

I don't believe it will rain Friday so we can go to Lake Andes but I don't think I better go anyway so if you

decide to go just go because Jerry said he didn't think he could & so Annie won't either so you & Toney will have to fill the car with girls, which is easy for you.

Darling I see my second page is nearly filled with scribbles so I better close.

Here I go, So - Long	Goodnight Sweetheart, will all my Love & every breath a kiss As Ever Dorthy
P.S. I just can't sign off just like I hate to leave you when you are with me.	P.S. You know I'm always thinking of you.
P.S. Darling I must go now & leave you my love.	P.S. Thanks for the hug it was a real thrill.
P.S.S. It is never good-bye just so-long until the next time. Love Dort.	
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX These are just X's - talk about mushy	

Spencer, Nebraska
June 15, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

How do you like this for a change, seeing you five nights, and writing the next night.

Don't mind the scribbling everyone's outside but me and I'm listening to Frank Sinatra and sitting very comfortably and writing to you. It is only 8:15 & I'm finished with my work. I'm not tired tonight but I was this noon. Tomorrow night I'd like to go to Grandpa's if I have enough time. I probably will mail these letters tonight, or else get up a little earlier in the morning.

Helen Louise, Doris & Henry were in town all day and tonight Helen Louise called up about 7:30 & asked me to send my canning sugar stamp home in the morning, so that means another short letter to write. She said Kelly delivered mail today.

Annie called me today from home and asked me to tell Joann & Marie to go home tonight. The kids go to Catechism School or Sunday School in Spencer this week & next. She said Pop told the kids they could stay with Grandma tonight and then he changed his mind & told me to tell them to go home.

I got another call from Jerry tonight & he wanted to know about the dance. I told him Ron sort of asked Annie to go with him & she said she couldn't. Jerry said, "That's the spirit." (He didn't say this but I just did -- so he can feel proud of his girl-friend now). I told Jerry to tell Paul "hello", for me & he did so Paul yelled it back & then Vivian came to the phone and told me I didn't have to say hello to him, and never to let her hear that again and as soon as Jerry came back to the phone I told him to say hello again & he did. Vivian tried to get the phone but Jerry stuck his foot out and wouldn't let her. So after this I'll alwyas send a hello for Pully.

Clayton, two pages is usually all I write, but I guess I'll make a third page of P.S.'s.

I better sign off for tonight.

With all my Love

Your Sweetheart Dorothy

Darling no P.S's after all
It's just Love

I'm goofy anyway so I hope you
understand my moving the paper

Phillip is asking why I'm writing this way. so what shall I tell him?

I say just So - Long until I see you again Darling.

My Love for you spells LOVE = LOVE

Dorothy
Spencer, Nebraska
July 8, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

Here I am, and I haven't seen you for a few days. Tuesday nite or Wed. morning to be exact. I said I would write you a letter so this is the last day and here it is.

Wednesday nite I took Phillip down town to hear the band concert and they didn't have it. Thursday nite I went to the show with Clarice, it was really funny and that is the kind of shows I like. Tonight I am writing to you which you can see and I hope can read. Must fix my hair for I have a date tomorrow nite and I'm not going to tell a soul who with - not even you.

Clayton I haven't any news and should close but I'll scribble a bit more just to take a little more of your time. How did you feel Wed. after the day before?

It happens to be twenty minutes to eight and I believe it is raining but I hope I get this letter sent to you.

Stanley is going down to Couch's & then swimming in the rain, so I'll finish my letter and send it with him.

Mrs. Fisher has been feeling better but I still get my share of work.

I'll sign off and waiting to see you as soon as you can see me.

Goodbye Sweetheart
With all my love and -----

P.S. I Love You Truly. I always did love that song.

P.S.S. Goodnight my darling.

As Ever

Dorothy

Spencer, Nebraska
Aug. 4, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

I suppose you are in bed already snoring as loud as possible, it is ten o'clock and us kids just got finished with the dishes. Pop, Ann, Leona & I pulled cackleberries all day until about 8:30 tonight. Mom, Helen L. & the other kids are canning apples and beans. Toney does whatever we want done and between times he drug the roads today.

Henry went home with Ludemann's Wed. nite so Toney & Helen L. went down after him tonight they just left. It rained a bit here tonight already. Pop said we had the worst storm last night that we had in ten years, but I slept right through it. Did your yard get filled with water again?

I suppose you & Jerry talked about 2 hrs. again Wed. nite after we went home. I forgot my overshoes at Fisher's so suppose I'll have to get them Sat. nite. I'm sure going to talk to Stanley.

There is three pictures on the piano and they look sort of familiar to me. Who do you suppose they are?

What have you been doing to keep yourself out of mischief. I hope something so you won't be so ornery. I don't know how to spell very well but I sure take a stab at it. Are you through combining? They say now we don't have to haul bundles but Ann & I might have to haul grain but that won't be bad.

I started a letter to Doris & I better stop & finish hers. I'm sending Doris a box of stationary, autograph book & package of gum.

Well, now I'll wait for a letter from you.

Will close for tonight
With Lots of Love,
Bye now,
Dorothy

No tooth-pick men

Spencer, Nebraska
Aug. 6, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

Here comes a letter to the good. Haven't received the one you said you started Sun. afternoon, how long does it take you to write a letter.

We started threshing Monday afternoon. Our hired men are Clay Mashino & Junior McKright. Pop went down after Junior about 6:30 Mon. morning & he wasn't home yet from Sat. nite. & about 11:00 Lucille Weber

brought him. None of us kids had much to say at first but more & more every time.

Today Leona & I went out to the field with Helen Louise to take lunch so we could up set the shocks so they would dry out & not plug the machine, then we decided we wanted to haul bundles so took Clarence Luedke's rack & brought in a little jag.

I finally got the saddle horse from the other place this noon & had a little ride -- always afraid he would buck me off for he hadn't been ridden for about 1 1/2 months. But I'm still here -- bet that made you feel bad. I suppose you wish I would be laying in the creek but I hope not.

Are you over your hang-over by now but I know you are still drunk. Really didn't mind once but another & I wonder. Nothing happened before but I just don't know what to do. Why don't you give me an idea. I think I'll get drunk since it must not be bad if you boys get that way every once in awhile. I still think a quite a little of you even after Sat. nite but what did you think of me when you heard I smoked Sun. afternoon. I'll try and make that the last time. But we were only acting silly.

Jerry will be a man soon then imagine you two guys will have to go look for your women? Huh? twasn't funny Mg gee --

Nothing to write,
I'll seal this soon tight
This just takes up space,
I'll put on my straw-hat
Why hello, there Clayton,
How is dady's son & how are you?

Just gossing & scribble
And stand on a fiddle.
So my paper will get filled,
So I won't get chilled.
What do you do -- ?

It's 11:00 o'clock now & time to sleep
And you won't hear a peep
I don't know what for
Because I don't know no more.

I'll doze into dreamland
I'll dream of you
I won't go on explaining

Author Shakespeare Connot

Here I am in my right senses. I sure hope I get a letter from you soon so I know you didn't croak yet. We plan on going to town tomorrow (Wed) So I suppose you'll stay home. Maybe I'll stroll out a while of course just to talk to your Mom. I'll bet you thought I'd come to see you. Annie is still up to Henry's so you'll miss her letter "I know". Everyone is O.K. here and still kicking at every little thing. Better close now hoping you can read this letter.

Love, Love, Love, Love, Love, Love Dorthy

P.S. I forget how to sign thse letters because I never get enough from you. - Darling -- wrong or right?

P.S. If you don't write you will be wrong.

P.S. Goodnight Sweetheart

P.S.S. Didn't work how I wanted it to.

P.S. If you want me to I will come to town Sat. nite with the folks. Write if you can & tell me.

Pfc. Gerald R. Kiphager 89107196
Det. of Patients - 4125 U.S.
Army Hosp. Plant Area #519
C/O PM New York, New York
Somewhere In England
July 29, 1944
August 9, 1944

Dear Elaine,

Hello Pest. Received your graduation announcement in France. Thanks for it. Good picture of you, how did you get so good looking since I left?

Well here I am in the hospital. Was wounded in France and sent back to England. I am feeling fine again.

I finally gave up trying to find Raymond. Could not find out where he was located. Would sure liked to have seen him.

Well there is not much to write about. So will close for now. Give my regards to your mother and Dad.

And thanks again for the remembrance as you read this letter?

Love,

Kip

D.A.S.T.M.A.L.K.S.

Spencer, Nebr.
Aug. 16, 1944

Dearest Clayton,

Are still alive? Better be cause here is a little letter for you to read. Did you enjoy your trip? How many times did you go to sleep?

You know we took Mandis Peterson along to Butte Sat. nite and I hear we might be in a little trouble. Pop didn't think they would do anything to us kids. If you haven't heard he is in the pen at Butte. Gerry said he was going to take you along & have a talk with Mandis. Annie was to Butte Mon & she heard it so called Jerry & Mon. nite he came up to Henry's just to find out more about Mandis. If I knew you hadn't seen Jerry I could write more but I suppose he has talked to you about it by now.

Well, Annie & Jerry made the grade or should I say they broke up, wonder how long? The way Annie talks it will be always except she would go with him a few times.

Today (Tues) is a holiday for us, we went to church this morning at 9:30 & then I went home with Henry & Annie then us kids finished his shocking in about 2 hrs. About time don't you think? Doris brought us home about four & she went back so Annie will ride the pony up their tonight so they don't have to come & get her.

Toney & Junior went to O'neill today because Toney wanted a new pair of everyday shoes.

Jerry came over about 4:00 Sun. afternoon & stayed for supper then he & Annie went to the show & I

planned on staying home until Toney said I should get ready & he & Junior would go to town so I did then Helen & Ray went with us. Really liked the show, you should have seen it but I suppose you had a better time with your other girl-friend but I really don't care.

Did your folks get the hay put up?

I have to write something so to take space.

There isn't any news but must file this big sheet.

"The Family Work"

Pop sleeping

Mom's reading & rocking

Toney bumming as usual

Helen sitting in the rocking chair admiring up upswoop hair-do.

Annie reading this letter & she asked me to write about Junior next just so they could be together closest she'll ever get to him "?" Wait till she reads this. Getting back to the family.

Junior is bumming too.

Leona reading funny papers.

Joann natcherly doing the same thing.

Leona is

Marie acting off.

Dorothy trying to write to you

With all my love,

Dorothy Connot

P.S.S.S.

I can come to town with the folks Sat. If you get a card from Ann burn it.

Spencer, Nebraska

Aug. 22, 1944

My Dearest Clayton,

Everyone in bed but mom, Helen & I, she wrote a letter to Ray & Annie of course couldn't resist writing to Jerry & of course it would be out of the ordinary if Dorothy sit there looking on. Well be expecting a letter soon because it rained nearly half the day so you surely could have found time to write a bit.

What have you been doing this week? Monday of course we washed & today ironed. Helen Louise had a cold today and Dorothy is getting one. There is a bottle of whiskey on the table so her & I tip it every once in a while so we can sweat it out tonight.

Pop, Junior & Toney went to town this noon and when they come home Pop just wobbled a bit & did Annie & I ever have fun. He sat on the sidewalk & her & I carried him to bed it was about 8:15 & now it's 11:30 so he should be pretty well over it. How long does it take you to get over a little drunken spell? Toney & Junior were O.K. but they didn't help us two kids milk the cows so that started another rampage.

Last night Henry & Doris came down to bring cousin Paulty back because he was up there Mon. afternoon & Norm is working for them kids now. I suppose being she heard Junior is working for us, I hope she doesn't try to chisle in on me. (You suppose I even have a chance). Anyway while they were here last nite us kids faught every minute because they, Toney & Junior, were in the house while we did chores.

Of course Norm nor Helen Louise helped because Annie was here & we really made headways, she had a black eye - just a little. Toney's nose is still swollen he said one of us girls stepped on it.

That whiskey is making me sweat already imagine I should be in bed but there is so much noise going on up stairs already I couldn't sleep if I tried.

How many fish did your Mom & dad catch Sun? Your mom told me your dad just chased them away so I was just wondering if his luck changes! (Getting my punctuation mixed up, you better teach me how to write)

If this letter isn't written with sense you can understand why because I'm just a bit dizzy -- probably a few more snorts & I will be drunk.

Does Jerry still plan on a date with Naiomi? I know he still likes her at least that is what I thought all along. Not saying a thing about you & Norm for I've already given you my idea. Toney said he would leave Norm go with Melvin about a week & then try to get a date with her. I really don't think he can but he believes different.

Probably better not tell him I told you that or he will scold me & that goes in one ear & out the other.

Better close now Darling

Goodnight Sweetheart and sleep a little for me.

Lovingly

As Ever

Sincerely

Yours Truly

Dorothy

P.S. Did I get all the endings in?

Pfc Guy H. Carstens U.S.M.C.R.
Transport Co 4th Base Depot
Marine Sniper Svc F.M.F. PAC
C/O Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif
Dec. 16, 1944

Miss Elaine Counts

Butte,

Nebraska

R1

FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May The Friendliness Of Christmas

Making Everyone Feel Grand,

Keep On Spreading, Till It Reaches

Every Corner Of The Land --

May It Find You In Good Spirits --

Feeling Happy Through and Through --

And Remain Throughout The New Year,

Bringing Added Joy To You!

Love,

Guy

Pvt. Jerome L. Fiala 37757877
Co. D. 150th Bn. 91st Regt.
Camp Hood, Texas
December 31, 1944

Dear Clayton,

Well here we are in the state of Texas. Jr. & I arrived Thurs. morning and Tony came Fri. nite. Were only about 5 barracks apart, so we can see each other often.

How is everything with you. Did you attend the Xmas dance? Didn't miss me did you? Sure wish I could of been there though.

We start training tomorrow. How did you come out in Omaha? Write soon, since this is my permanent address. Excuse just a card.

Love,
Jerry

Harold Duane Klasna H.S.
Co. 2263
U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Illinois
Dec. 31, 1944

Dear Cousin,

How are you, fine I hope. Well how are things around Spencer now, just like they used to be I suppose. Mom wrote me a letter saying you could not get in the Navy. That seems funny to me because in my co. there are about six men over twenty that were drafted.

About 35 men are from Nebr. in our company. There is one boy from O'Neill.

We got a radio in our barracks so it makes the time pass a lot faster. We get up any time before or after five o'clock. To night I've got guard watch from midnight until four in the morning. We call it the dog watch because its the worst time of day. The food is pretty good. The canteen is always full. One thing in the navy is you have to hurry to go some place & when you get there you wait in line.

Friday we got our first shots, three of them so my arm was a little stiff. Today we are starting our third week here but it sure don't seem that long. I expect to be back home about the first of March. Well that's all I can think of so will close.

As ever,

Harold
Pvt. Anton E. Connot 37757934
Co. B. 150 Ba. 91 Regt.
I.R.T.C. Camp Hood, Texas
Jan. 3, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Well I'm started training now and it isn't so very easy. Please don't let this out but it's the toughest thing any man could hit. Your up in the morning, about 5:30 and once a week or so on K.P. thats 4:30. They have got

that in rotation. Noon about 30 minutes and off at around 6:30, then eat, scrub barracks, dust, make beds neat, etc. Boy you just got to go even to write a letter. I seen a guy fall down today from too much running. He just went down, jump over him an go. Let the darn fool lay as the sergeant would probably say. We've got a pack on our back, first aid kit on our cartage belt and a quart of water on there also. Got a helmet, and some heavy shoes also so you see we got plenty of weight.

Jerry is 3 barracks from me. I'll be able to see him soon, you see were each confined to our barracks for two weeks on account of our vaccination. Don't tell any one so as it may get back home. I don't want them to worry. Theres guns going off all the time bang, bang, from daylight till dark. Boy I really got a honey of a gun a 30 M-1.

Well to tell you the truth I don't even get enough to eat around here, and can't even get out to buy anything to eat.

Well sweetie pie please have a bur for me. I haven't had a desent one yet and boy I could drink a barrel of the stuff.

Well I want to write a letter home yet so better close.

It's 8 oclock and 9 the lights go off.

Love, Pvt. Anton E. Connot

P.S. Say Willie how are you and the draft board come out.

Say Rudy Frasch from Fairfax is down here some place, we intend to look him up soon.

Pvt. Anton E. Connot 37757934
Co. B., 150 Ba., 91 Regt.
I.R.T.C. Camp Hood, Texas
Jan. 7, 1945

Dear Willie,

Got your letter today and it was sure nice to hear from you.

I'm laying on the bed just taking it easy. I've had 7 hrs. for myself the most time I've had since I lit here.

This comming week we have to eat outside three days, 9, 10, 11. Boy that may not be any fun especially if it is raining, and it does that most of the time.

Well saw Jerry this afternoon. I see him nearly every day now he's in Company C and Junior and I are in Company B. We eat together and drill together.

Say if they'd give me a discharge I'd walk every step home and it must be 1200 miles.

Don't mind my writing, I'm lieing on the bed.

Today I had to wash some cloths, first I've ever washed but to my surprise they look pretty good.

Boy money sure goes. I've spent 28 dollars since I've left home. There's so many little things a guy needs and that all takes \$\$\$.

How is every one up around Good old Home? And how is But making out with Vera. I suppose all right.

Well he's pretty smart if he can stay home.

I'd rather work every day and be home than be here. As we soldiers say (I'd rather be a live civilian than a dead soldier).

Pvt. Anton Connot 37757934
 Co. B., 150 Bn., 91 Regt.
 I.R.T.C. Camp Hood, Texas
 Jan. 10, 1945

Dear Willie,

Well here goes, got a few minutes, time to write. We went out on our 6 mi. hike today. I'm going to tell you everything we carried, Rife, Rifle belt, water canteen, first aid kit, Bayonet, Tent, Tent steaks, mess kit consisting of plate, spoon, knife, and fork. Blank, Razor, Soap, towel, pair of underwear, exter Handkerchief, Raincoat, and gas mask. So you see this really counts up and boy it is heavy. There was a quit a few guys fell out today on account of the march. I was tired but I could have walked another block or so.

Well Clayton I'm pretty tired so I'm going to make this short, theres really no news just work.

Well so long pal,
 Love Toney,

P.S. Say they tell me I missed out on a big dance Tuesday evening up there. Sure wish I could have been there.

Pvt. Anton Connot
 Co. B., 150 Bn., 91 Regt.
 I.R.T.C. Camp Hood, Texas
 Jan. 17, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Well we came back from our hike yesterday. We went 18 miles, got up at 4 oclock, left camp at 6:30 and eat breakfast, dinner and supper in the field, which was C; rations, you know dog biscuits and candy and such darn stuff. We got back last night at 1:20, washed up and went to bed at 2:20, got up at 7 o'clock. It's about 8:30 now. Were suppose to be cleaning our barracks but I sneaked out on them. We leave here today at 11 oclock and come in tonight at 11:30. And darnit it's raining out today so that means marching in the mud. We advanced through machine gun fire last night. Boy was that ever a racket. But they were only firing blanks so it wasn't so bad. But it was a real racket. There were two squads that made it through the fire out of 14 squads and our squad was one. There are 12 men to a squad and this is the way were lined up.

 x This is me right out in front
 x x
 x x x
 x x x
 x x
 x

Well time out. -- A lieutenant just stepped in. We had foot inspection. He said he thought I may be getting a broken arch. That pack is just to darn much for me. We left yesterday morning with 48 men and came in last night with 31. I'm afraid it's going to get me today. I'm so darn tired I can go to sleep standing up.

Jerry goes on the hike I believe Thursday and Friday. I hope they aren't as hard on him as they were on us. We carried our pack every minute of the day and my shoulders are just plain soar. I've never been so tired in all my life. I'll close for now.

Love, just Toney

Harold Klasna
Co. 2263 U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Ill
1-25-1945

Dear Cousin,

Well how is every thing back in Nebr. fine I hope. Things around here are okey. Theres a little snow on the ground but its not very cold

About all we did this week was drill & do the manual of arms. We are getting ready for Regimental Review for tomorrow. We are going to be the youngest co. there so we want to be good.

Sunday we made out our railroad tickets out for our leave. The way it looks I will be home about six or seven days. We have four weeks left starting Sat. so if you don't go before then I probaly will see you.

Ted Loukota is here in G.L. to. He is in a camp about one mile from me.

Well thats about all I can think of so will close.

Your cousin,

Harold

Pvt. Anton E. Connot 37757934
Co. B., 150 Bn., 91 Regt.
I.R.T.C. Camp Hood, Texas
Jan. 29, 1945

Dear Willie,

Well kid I here your under the gun for induction. Well it ain't so bad. It's hard to get accustomed to because it's altogether different from what your use to. Time out. Junior is here with me and in came a telegram from Donald. His child died so I walked Junior around a while, boy he sure took it hard. Well back to the news. There's really not much to tell you but I'm getting to like it a little more every day. I'd hate to leave my bunch because there all swell guys each and every one of them. We go on Rifle range this comming week so I hope it doesn't rain because rain doesn't stop our training I found that out.

If you have to go, I hope you get to come down here but they put you where they want to so there's not much choice as to where you will get sent.

Say, brother will you find out Daryl Velders address and send it to me. He may be down here with us. Next Sunday Junior, Jerry, and I are going to get a pass and go into town. I haven't been out of camp as yet.

Well pal, I've got 7 more letters to write so will close for now.

Love sweatheart

XX Toney

Harold Duane Klasna A.S.
Co. 2263 U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Illinois
Tuesday eve. 1-30-45

Dear Cousin,

Well how are things back in Nebr. fine I hope. I suppose you are getting ready for the big dance in Spencer

tonight. Today we took Co. 2264 place on Reg. Week. It was just for today. I work at the canteen not too hard of work. We have to go back at 7:45 this evening until about ten. At midnight I have to go on guard until three in the morning so I will be up quite late too.

Ted is in a camp about a mile from me. We call each other up quite often. He called up last night. He thinks its pretty tough & it sounded as if he didn't like it too much but I sure can't kick.

I have received two letters from you so none probably got lost.

I don't suppose we will get to see each other if you leave the 17. I think I will be home the 27 of Feb. Its pretty sure.

Last Fri. we marched for the Rooster Flag but only got second. That was pretty good though. A 11 week Co. got 1st & us a 6 week Co. got second. A 8 & 9 week co. got 3th & 4th. The worst of it we lost the Rooster Sat. But it probably is just as good because we won't have to drill so much now.

How was the Basketball game at Butte. Amelia in her letter said you were there.

Well that's just about all I know now so will close. I will be thinking about the dance tonight when I'm on guard. Hope you have a good time.

Your Cousin,

Harold

Pvt. Jerome L. Fiala 37757877
Co. D. 150th Bn. 91st Reft. I.R.T.C.
Camp Hood, Texas
Feb. 6, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Well hi ya Mike. Rec'd your letter the other day & believe me, I thot you died. Ha. Sounds like your doing O.K. Well everything is still fine in the way of Army life. Sure are keeping us busy. Haven't even time to write letters anymore. Have about 15 to answer. Will write you just a card but will write you more Sun. when I have more time. I will have to walk guard duty Sun. nite. Had rifle inspection today & mine was gigged. Also Tony's. Had to really polish it tonight. Rec'd a letter from Patsy P. Vivian, Olga, Lumir, Annie, my Mom & you as you see I'll have a few letters to answer Sun. & no time to write. Ha. Also heard from Leonard, Tony Jr. & I have really had some bad colds lately. We're feeling better now. Well Clayton until next time then. Bye now.

Jerry

Harold Duane Klasna H.S.
Co. 2263 U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Illinois
2-11-45

Dear Cousin,

Well how is everything back home. I am just fine and hope I stay that way for two more weeks. There's a lot of scarlet fever around here. About eight from my co. have gotten it. Yesterday two more went to sick bay. I don't know if they have it.

We started out with 135 men & now there are about 100 left. Ten of those they took to the Seebees & the rest left because of sickness, not very good is it.

This next week we have fire fighting & the week after we have anti-aircraft. That will finish boot training. I hope its nice when I get home. I plan on being home the night of the 27th. There has been some talk of being set up five days, but I won't believe that untill I see it.

I got the Spencer paper today so I get caught up on the news somewhat.

I tried to get a pass so I could see Ted but was out of luck. They said it would have to be some close relation and also because of all the sickness around.

Say do you know if there will be any dances between the 28th & 6th of March. I hope so but with Lent being on there probably won't be any.

Well that's about all for now, so will close. I will be seeing you the 28th.

Your cousin
Harold

P.S. This morning I was looking in the telephone Dictionary in the K & found Klasna in it. There were two. James & Jennie. I was really suprised.

Pvt. Anton E. Connot 37757934
Co. B., 150 Bn., 91 Regt.
I.R.T.C. Camp Hood, Texas
2-12-45

Dear Clayton,

Well I didn't have time to answer before this so will drop you a line.

Week before last we were on Rifle range and if I must say so, shoot pretty good. I shot 177 out of 210 possible. And this week we shot the basooka. You know the Rocket gun that is used on Tanks. We also shot the Antitank gun called a Rocket gun which is shot on angle up in the air. It's quite a gun.

Junior & Jerry & I are in the day Room just writing then having a game of table Tennis again. We're slinging the bull. Well it ain't so bad here. Of course were putting in pretty long days, but I'm not the only boy here. There's 60,000 others here and I figure I'm no better than they so I just grit my teeth and keep marching. This is a lovely way to spend a week end Saturday evening, but there's not to much to do here on a weekend. Unless you get a pass but as far as that goes Junior & I are out. You see we got giggered on our Rifles today, so are not allowed a pass.

Jerry didn't have inspection so is O.K. Tomorrow evening Jerry goes on guard duty and Monday evening I go on. The guards are on all night and still fall out for duty in the morning. We're on duty 2 hours and off at least 4 and sometimes more. Boy I've sure got a bad cold just coughing all the time.

Well brother I'll close for now. Hoping when you go you will land here as most of the Nebraskans do. We could have a little bull session every now and then.

Be good,
Love Pvt. Anton E. Connot

Pvt. Jerome L. Fiala 37757877
Co. D., 150th Bn. 91st Regt. I.R.T.C.
Camp Hood, Texas
Feb. 14, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Hi ya kid o. What's cookin? How is everything in good old Nebraska? You'll have to excuse me for not writing you Sun., as I just didn't find time. In fact I'm plenty rushed rite now. Just wanted to let you know I can still write.

We're restricted to our Co. D. area for 10 days now. A kid came down with spinal (menghitis). Can't even go and see Tony, go to the P.X., church, or anything. Guess we'll be good boys now. Ha.

Today's Valentines Day. Huh. Didn't hardly know it. Imagine that.

How did you make out at the dance in Spencer Tues. nite?

Heart Marvin H. & Henry didn't pass their physicals. Does Marvin mind it or not?

I'm on table waiters tomorrow. This isn't bad at all. Neither is K.P.

I was on guard Sun nite. It rained, & rained, & rained. Was really soaked. I was on from 4 to six Sun nite. (What hours.) Wow. I walked our Service Club.

Well Clayton I wanted to write you a lot more, but just haven't got time now. Write me soon & tell me all the news & I am going to try & write some more letters tomorrow nite.

Until next time then,
Goodnite,
Love Jerry

Pvt. Jerry L. Fiala 37757877

Co. D. 150th Bn. 91st Regt. I.R.T.C.
Camp Hood, Texas
Feb. 19, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Hi ya kid. What's cookin? It's raining like h*** here today. Haven't done much today since we are still under quarantine. No one else has taken sick yet. Haven't seen Tony since last Wed. Don't know how he is making out.

How did you make out at the dance Tues nite? We haven't even had the chance to go to the P.X. for a beer lately. Have been kept pretty busy lately. Marching & etc.

When did Albert Johnson leave for the Army. Wonder what Annie is going to do now? Sounds like Dorthy's man doesn't go yet either. Who is your girl friend now Clayton? Sure hope your home yet when us guys come home on our furlough. If 15 weeks is all we get, then this Wed. our basic is half over. Time sure flies. Room is scarce, so must sign off. Write soon.

Love, Jerry
Pvt. Albert E. Johnson, A.S.N. 37762276
Rec. Center Detachment, S.C.U. 1773
W.D.P.C. Barracks 625
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas

Dear Klayton,

Well, I'm finally taking time to write you a letter. I thought about writing to you several times but you know how it is in the Army. When we have time we always want to do something else. I've really been good since I came down here. I haven't drank any beer and I haven't smoked either. There's shows down here every night but I haven't been to any of them yet. We spend quite a little of our time in the P.X.

Say don't tell Annie but I took that other girl out last Saturday night after I got down to Lynch. She's a swell girl too.

We moved to shipping Barracks Friday but six of us aren't to ship out. I don't know why. I'm the only Boyd County guy that will be left that I know of. I don't know about Alexander, maybe he hasn't any shipping number yet either.

There's dances at the Service Club about every other night and sometimes at the Y.M.C.A. I haven't danced down here yet but maybe I'll try it sometime. One of the boys just made a mistake and put Sgt. on his letter in place of private. He said that maybe he'd better change. We have a pretty swell bunch here. Mostly from Missouri and Nebraska. I'm with a couple of boys from Wilbur, Nebraska quite a little. They are a couple of swell boys.

Nearly all of us boys went to church this morning. We were given some Bibles.

We are put on detail most of the time down here but we still don't have much to do. They just do that to stop gambling and tearing around.

Well if I stay down here much longer I'm liable to see some Boyd County boys down here. It's about time for a bunch of pre-inductees coming down.

I haven't done very much saluting so far but if we go up to the Fort we see a lot of officers.

I haven't really been out for K.P. yet. We served a couple of times but it was only for a couple hours at a time and it wasn't no work at all.

Well I'm going to dress up and go down to the P.X. pretty soon. Well I think I'll be here long enough to get some letters. I haven't received any as yet. I really haven't looked for any. I should hear from Annie pretty soon. I don't think I'll write her again until I do. Well guess I'll have to close for now. Well write and tell me how things are stacking up back home.

Your friend,

Albert

Pvt. Albert E. Johnson
A.S.N., 37762276
Co. C, 16th Bn., A.R.T.C
Ft. Knox, Kentucky
March 8, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Well your letter finally caught up with me. I was already down here when you wrote the letter. We have been down here just a week today. This isn't such a bad camp. It's a little hard to get around in because it's so big. They say it covers 40 square miles.

I'm in an Armored Replacement Training Center. We are to train mostly on the medium tanks. I think we got a pretty good break. There was only 17 of us that got to come down here from Leavenworth. I was acting corporal. I guess that's the highest I'll ever get in the Army. It seems pretty good to be boss for awhile. They boys that came in from Indiana had a real Corporal. Quite a few of these boys were drunk. We didn't have anyone drunk when we came down. I guess the boys were afraid they'd get into trouble.

We haven't started our training but I think we start Monday. I hope so anyway. I'd like to get it over with. I haven't really done anything since I came down here. We were on K.P. last Monday and we really worked then. Most of the time we just ride around in trucks.

I heard that a kid got killed down here yesterday. It was on the obstacle course where you have to crawl under the machine gun fire. He got scared and raised up. I don't really know if this is true or not. They say so much that isn't so.

I guess we have to take 17 weeks of training. We first get 8 weeks of basic training. Some say this is really rugged but some say it isn't bad either. The weather has been the worst down here lately. It has rained nearly every day down here since we came and I guess they had quite a little rain before that. Louisville is only about 40 miles from here. I guess it's flooding quite a little of the town. I think that's the reason we aren't getting hardly any mail. I haven't even heard direct from home since I came down here. Maybe after the flood we will get a stack of mail.

I got a letter from Annie today. She's been writing me pretty regular. I hear from here more than from home.

Well in 17 weeks we get a 7 day furlow with traveling time. I guess that's the only thing any of us are looking forward to.

Hank Fish wrote that dances have to quit at 12 o'clock now. I guess a civilian don't have very much freedom either.

They are trying to feed too many boys in our barracks so we usually don't get enough to eat. I guess it will be better after while.

All the boys down here aren't physically fit for the infantry.. There isn't any two of us from the same place but there's 9 or 10 of us from Nebraska.

Well guess I'll have to close for now.

Your friend,

Albert
Pvt. Albert E. Johnson
A.S.N. 37762276
Co. C., 16th Bn, A.R.T.C.
Fort Knox, Kentucky
March 22, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Well I received your letter today so I'm going to take time to answer it. We had quite a hard day today. We got up at 4:15 and went out to the range. We went to a place called Easy Gap. Then we had to practice taking a make believe German town. We had to use practice hand grenades and they used charges to make up for the sound. We had to fall on our bellies in the mud and water. It isn't bad but you sure can't keep our clothes clean very long.

I just finished writing a letter to a cute Lynch girl. I haven't written to Annie yet tonight but I may before I go to bed. That's if I don't get to tired.

We had to throw some real live hand grenades this morning. It wasn't bad at all. Some of the boys were nervous. No one was hurt so I guess we done a good job.

Our Company commander said that our platoon was really on the ball today. He came into our barracks to inspect our feet after the march home. They took us out in trucks but we had to walk back. Our Company Commander is Lt. Foppe. He came into our barracks smiling and he was supposed to inspect our feet but he only asked how we felt. He looked at some of the boys feet. Only three boys out of the whole company fell out and there are quite a few old men in our barracks. Some are 38 years old. There are quite a few bald headed men down here.

Well when we came into the Army we couldn't get into the Navy at all. I really hope you don't have to go at all. I don't think they need men very bad. None of us like the Army. We just have to like it and hope the war ends soon. So far our training hasn't been very rough but I know it will get worse. There's so many things we have to take up so we really have to go to get through in 17 weeks

We took a couple of shots last Saturday. My left arm was a little sore last Sunday. I can't feel it at all now. I'm not really tired tonight after all that exercise. I guess I'm getting toughened in now.

It was pretty cold here yesterday and it rained nearly all day. It really warmed up today and it was really nice this afternoon. The Easter lilies are in bloom down here now.

It must be nice up home if you are figuring on starting to disc soon. Well it's soon the first of April so I guess its' about time.

Well I guess I'd better close for now. Take good care of yourself and the women too.

Your friend,

Albert

Harold Duane Klasna F4C
Sec. E-3-6 Bks 608 U.P.
S.S.C.U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Minnesota
March 22, 1945

Dear Cousin,

Well I don't have much time so this letter will be short.

I'm going to a electrician school here at the lake & it's pretty tough.

The school is a night school. Which is from 3:50 until 12:00 & one hour off for show. I'm section leader of my section & have charge of 27 men so I've got my hands full. It seems like every time I turn around I'm taking muster.

Our barracks is right next to the lake so its a little chilly.

I haven't seen Ted yet. I've looked all over O.G.U. for him but no luck. I guess he got a signalman school & they have one here at the lakes so there's a chance of him staying here.

We get Liberty every week end for only ten hours. That's not very long is it?

Well that's all the time I have & will write more some other time.

Your Cousin,

Harold

Pvt. Anton Connot 37757934
Co. B., 150 Bn., 91 Regt.
S.R.T.C.
Camp Hood, Texas
March 24, 1945

Dear Willie,

Well we've had one week of bivouac and leave Sunday for 2 more weeks. That's living in tents for 2 weeks. It ain't so bad if it doesn't rain. Well I'm O.K. and still going strong. I've gained 25 pds. so far. Well I'll be seeing you pretty soon if your still home. Be good and so long for now.

Love, Toney

Lynch, Nebraska
April 1, 1945

Dear Elaine,

I have just put forth upon my will the idea of finding the energy to write to one namely, "Miss Elaine Counts" who resides in the vicinity of Butte, Nebr. What would a body be without a will? One must have a very excellent will in these uncertain times if he or she is going to find a way to enjoy life of today. The will is the way a person has of being and doing, but I guess it is not the will that wills anymore than it is the perceptive powers that perceive or the faculty of imagination that pictures mental images. They say that if a person does not know what he shall do, he is not a complete organism. Sometimes I think I am not a complete organism. Personally I believe that there is no living person who has not taken leave of his complete senses at one time or other.

Perhaps I am getting into a very deep subject, so best I should get on to other topics or subjects. Please allow me to enter into the next topic of maybe future discussions, which involve two people who are practically strangers to each other. Of course I refer wholeheartedly to the writer, and the written to. Please forgive me if you should find words in these next few lines which you do not understand. If this is the case please consult your dictionary. (Thank you)

I suppose you know there is to be a dance in Spencer Tuesday night. I am very hopeful that you shall be there. I would like it very much if you would perambulate through those dance hall doors and see me there then try to find time to peripatch my way so that I may talk to you. If I do talk to you please don't be periphrasis in your speech.

If I should ask you for a date, would it be necessary for you to perpend before you would give me an answer? If you acquired a good means of perspicuity then I'm sure you can give me an exact idea of your true thoughts or feelings. Maybe you have a certain phantasm that you don't want to go out with me, but I surely hope this is not true, for I certainly would like to have a date with you in the near future.

Maybe if I had some sort of philter to put forth upon you then I think we could enjoy each others company in a philharmonic way.

Well Elaine I have tried to put over to you in a positive way that I hope to see you soon so if I must be denied your company then you might at least, write to me.

Love,
Art
Harold Duane Klasna F 2/C
Sec. E3-6 Brks 608 V.P.
S.S.C. U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Illinois
4-5-45 11:15

Dear Cousin,

Well how are you, fine I hope. How did you get over the dance Tuesday. I thought of it just before I went to bed.

Yesterday it sure was windy. Over the radio they said it was from forty to sixty miles an hour. A person could hardly stand up. Today it not very windy & has warmed up some, but it's still chilly out.

I've been busy writing letters on the week end & try to get caught up. I guess I will in time.

I suppose you are busy with the spring work. I hear it snowed up there the other day so that makes it sort of miserable don't it. The war news sure looks good doesn't it so it might not last so long.

I thought boot camp was tough but that was a snap compared to service school. I guess they want to make a man out of a person. The Physical training was tough but you get sort of used to it after a while. I think I better close & wash my jacket & by that time it will be time to clean the barracks. I received your letter a few days ago.

Your Cousin,
Harold

I.R.T.C. Co. B. 150 Bn 91 Regt
Camp Hood, Texas
Apr. 8, 1945

Dear Willie,

We're in camp now. Got in yesterday morning. Boy it sure felt good to sleep in a bed after 2 weeks in fox holes & tents.

I should be home pretty soon, don't know for sure when. Got a letter out in the field from you but didn't have any envelopes left to write and no lights after dark, so was in a bad way on writing.

Well by good Mike,
Toney

Pvt. Jerry L. Fiala 37757877
Co. D. 150 Bn. 91st. Regt.
I.R.T.C. Camp Hood, Texas
Apr. 8, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Just a line once again to tell you everything is O.K. here in Tex. Haven't heard from you for sometime, but I haven't had any time to write either, so I guess we're even. Well plan on seeing you soon. Until then it's goodbye for now. Don't write to this address anymore as we'll be gone.

Love,
Jerry
Alvin Tupa 4407-11305
U.S.A.T. - LT -378
C/O Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif
April 15, 1945

Hi Kid,

Well, I have just time before we are pulling out. I just got back to the ship from a West Coast League ball game. It was a double header today. Boy that was some game. I think that some of our teams back in good old Nebraska can play better all around ball.

Well kid how are you doing with all the women around there? Boy I am in love but I don't know with which one. I have been going with a gal in Seattle. She wants to go home with me so I thought I had better quit before I got myself in bad. The lucky thing is that we shipped out right away and she thinks that she is still going back with me. I get a letter from her about every other day. She is a hell of a nice kid.

How are you coming with the Army. Boy stay out of it as long as you can because I tell you it is not any good. None of the service is.

The war doesn't look so bad now. I think she will be over before we get back from the south, and that is only a couple of months. Then I guess I get to come home on a leave. I guess around the last of June sometimes. Boy I can't wait to get home again.

Well times is short so better close.

A pal,

Alvin

Pvt. Albert E. Johnson
A.S.N. 37762276
Co. C, 16th Bn, A.R.T.C.
Fort Knox, Kentucky
April 18, 1945

Dear Clayton,

Well it's two months since I left good old Nebraska. It really doesn't seem that long. Things sure have changed though. When I left it was cold and there was snow on the ground. Now everything is green and nice.

I got your letter yesterday and I was sure glad to hear from you. I suppose you have quite a little to do. Spring sure came a lot earlier than it did last year.

Well I guess we will have to fall out soon. It's about fifteen minutes till eight and we usually fall out then. We take up the study of carbines today. We also have the bazooka and rifle grenades.

We had a road march Monday. It rained all afternoon so we got quite wet. We had a ten mile hike. That's the longest hike we have had so far.

We had a two hour hike last night after supper. It wasn't bad but we really went out and stepped.

We are to turn our M-1's in as soon as they pass inspection. Yesterday the Ordinance Company were over and looked at our rifles but they said that only half of them are clean. I'm sure mine is clean. I have several look at it and they all say it's good and clean.

Well I'll just have to quit for now. I'll finish later.

We just finished chow. We had a pretty good dinner. There was even a Colonel eating in our mess hall this noon.

Well we have classes on the rocket launcher this afternoon for two hours and then on the rifle grenades for two hours. I sure like classes only we can't hardly stay awake.

Boy these carbines are really honies. We had instructions on them all forenoon. We get to take them out to the range tomorrow. They say that a person can make a very good score on them.

With the help of the boys in the pits in marking our score I got a score of 178. If I would have had 180, I would have made expert. As it is I'll only get the sharpshooters. Well thats good enough anyway.

I think I'll go to the show tonight. I seen a very good show Sunday. It was Billy Roses Diamond Horseshoe.

Well it's evening now. I changed my mind about going to the show. I have too many letters to write so I'm not going.

I got a letter from Bob Nelson tonight. I got a letter from Margaret Ann Long too. The girls are really good at writing. I got letters from four last week. The Lynch girls really write good letters. Especially one blonde down there. I don't know if Annie knows it or not but I went with her the last night I was home. That's why I wanted to leave Spencer so early. I guess it wasn't too early because I didn't get to Lynch until intermission.

I wonder if Jerry will go with Annie again when he comes home on his furlow. It doesn't make any difference to me because I really played a dirty trick on Jerry. I suppose he thinks I'm a hell of a guy.

Well I haven't been with any girl since I left home. I guess I'm old fashioned. I don't see anything in these southern girls. I guess they are O.K. but with all these soldiers around here a person can't tell. The officers told us when we first came that a lot of the girls down here have a dose. I don't think I'll have to worry much about that at the rate I have been going.

How are the dances. I don't suppose there are very many at the dances anymore. I'd sure like to go to a dance up there again.

We had classes on rocket launchers and rifle grenades this afternoon. The Lt. said that a rifle grenade made a rifle kick like three Missouri mules.

Well I guess I'd better close for now. Don't work too hard.

Your Pal,
Albert

Harold Duane Klasna F 2/C
Sec E3 - 6 Brks 608 U.P.
S.S.C. U.S.N.T.C.
Great Lakes, Illinois
April 21, 1945

Dear Cousin,

Well how are you & every little thing. I just got back from the canteen.

We don't have much to do on the week ends just sort of get caught up on things.

Tomorrow I get liberty. I think I will go to Chicago. I've went to Milwaukee on all my liberties so far so it will be a change.

Mon. we start our six weeks of school. I sort of wish I was out of here. We have a new service school commander & he has really clamped down on things. Truthfully the guys that got sea duty were the best off.

We have test every day & a weekly test on Sat. morning.

There's only about six men on our deck now. About half are on liberty & the rest are at the canteen, etc.

I hear the weather was a little disagreeable lately but the rain helps I suppose. The last week it has been windy & cold here but today it warmed up & not any wind.

I saw Ted this afternoon just before he went on liberty. I hadn't seem him for better than a week. He goes to a day school & I to a night school so we miss each other.

We are starting to do our physical training outside now. There's a course about four blocks long & in that there are things we have to climb over & boards about six feet high & we have to climb over them. There's also a thing like a ladder in the air & we go across it with our hands. Boy when we get at the end we are played out.

Well I can't think of any more so will close.

Your cousin,

Harold

Write when you have time.

Pvt. Albert E. Johnson
A.S.N. 37762276
Co. C, 16th Bn, A.R.T.C.
Fort Knox, Kentucky
May 1, 1945

Dear Clayton,

I guess I'd better answer your letter tonight. I have quite a little time to write and we never know how late we have to work some nights. We have been getting off early so far this week.

We finished up our Infantry training last week. I'm sure glad this is over with. It wasn't very rugged. Our longest hike was only about ten miles.

Yesterday we drove the pub and the truck a little bit. It was only to find out how well we could drive. Today I worked in the motor pool. I worked in the paint shop and really had an easy time of it. Some had classes and another group drove the tanks and half track. These were only the light tanks. We don't get to drive the medium tanks until later. Tomorrow we have classes. The group that drove today are in maintenance and the group that had classes drive. I'll get to drive Thursday.

Well I guess I won't be going with Annie when I come home on my furlow. Connot's don't want her to go with me because I'm not a Catholic. Ann wrote that they wanted her and Jerry to make up again but she said she wouldn't. I guess a guy is better off without a girl anyway. In the Army you don't know what will happen to you. We may not get out for a long, long time. Some of the men down here say it may be five years before we get discharged. I sure hope it won't be that long. All the guys down here are tired of it. The officers and everyone. They want to get home too.

Well, you don't have very much time left now before you are inducted. The tank corp is about the branch of the service as far as I'm concerned. I know I like it better than I would the Navy. We fool around most of the time. Yesterday everyone was so muddled up we didn't know what we were to do half the time. The cadre were all mixed up too. A Sgt. from the medium tanks had to have a class on trucks. Boy thats really efficiency. We didn't learn much, but anyway we put our time in.

Well it's nearly ten o'clock so I guess I'd better close and go to bed.

Your Pal,

Albert

Pfc Edmund Lampman 37747883
Co. C. 328th Inf. A.P.O. 26
C/O P.M. New York, N.Y.
Czechoslovakia
June 25, '45

Dear Elaine,

Received your letter of June 14 and was glad to hear you are still kicking. I am O.K. and still waiting for some dope on what we're going to do. Our captain told us Sunday, we are going to the states and held in reserve for the South Pacific. That sounds pretty good to me. I don't know how long it will be before I get back to the states. It will probably be quite awhile yet, but you can never tell. There are quite a few men leaving for the states for discharge, out of our company. I sure wish I was one of them. Ha. Ha.

Well honey, how's the weather? It sounds like it might have been pretty damp by your last letter. You must have had quite a bit of hail. I hope it didn't do too much damage. I bet you were really soaked. I would have liked to see you. Ha. Ha. The weather has been pretty nice here. It gets awful cold here at night.

I got a letter from Art R. the other day. I guess he is getting along O.K. His outfit has been chosen for occupation, so I suppose Art will maybe stay over here, of course that's hard to say.

I hear my sister Laura and her husband and Margaret were home. I sure wish I could have been there. It's been quite a while since I have last seen them. Well, I guess I will get back there one of these days. Boy, I sure am surprised at Rich. I wonder if he is going to take the fatal step. How about you? Are you going to make a double with Clayton K. Ha. Ha.

Lots of Love,

Eddie L.

Pfc. Edmund Lampman 37747883
Co. c 328 Inf. A.P.I. 26
C/O P.M. New York, N.Y.
Linz, Austria
August 21, '45

Dearest Elaine,

Received your most welcome letters of August 7, 9, 11. Sure did seem good to hear from you again. It had been about a week since I heard from you. Our mail has been coming in way slow since we moved.

We..., how's every little thing? I hope you are feeling fine. I am getting along O.K. So, you weigh a 120 lbs. now. Well, I would say that's just about the right amount. The way I understand it, you have gained weight, but

have developed in measurements. That's the way I did while I was in training back in the states. I gained fifteen pounds while I was in training, but I didn't get much larger, but was more solid. I'll bet you have a lot of strength now, eh? I'll have to be careful about my teasing you when I get back. Ha Ha. You know before, you just had to set back and take it, but now, I don't know, you might get the best of me. Ha. Ha. Don't go away mad now, I was only teasing. Ha. Ha.

You ask me in one of your letters, about the medical care I got, etc. Well, I'll try to explain just how the medical corps work over here. To start off with, I was running to a house with five of my buddies. As you know we were fighting right in the town of Sarlantun. We had captured the house the night before, and were bringing rations up to our new position. Machine guns and burp guns opened up on us, and one of my buddies and I was hit. The other fellow got to the basement door when he was hit and he rolled right in the door. I was hit about eight yards from the house. This all happened about 2 p.m. of Feb. 13. I layed pretty quiet so maybe they would think I was dead. Bullets were spraying the ground all around me. I thought I was done for. After they quit shooting, I crawled to the house, where the boys fixed me up as best as they could. One of the boys ran back to our C.P. to get our medic. He came down about 4:00 p.m. and gave me a shot of morphine. I went to sleep till about 7:00 that night. They waited till it was dark and then took me to the aid station which was a few blocks away. They then loaded me on a jeep and took me away. We stopped at several evacuation stations where they would give me a shot of penicillin and check on the wounds, etc. I don't remember too clearly what happened after I left Sarlantun. They had given me morphine, and I was sorta in a daze. I rode the ambulance all nite and arrived at a evacuation hospital about twenty miles from the front at six a.m. in the morning.

Just as soon as I got there, they took an xray of my leg, and then brought me in the operating room. They put me under there, and when I awoke I was in bed and the nurse had dinner for me. Boy that food was really good. Well I stayed at that hospital for four days. They then took me to a hospital in France where I stayed a few days. I was then taken to an air strip, where we were supposed to be flown to England. The weather was too foggy, so the planes couldn't get in. We then got on trains and went to Chubury, where we got on a ship and went to England. There I was in the 7th General all the time I was there. After I left the hospital I went to a convalescent home, where I stayed for two weeks. Then I started my way back to my division again.

I say, the medical corp did a very good job over here. They saved so many men in this was that wouldn't have had a chance in the last. You most likely heard how penicillin has saved so many lives. It's really a wonderful discovery. After I got back to our aid station, I got a shot of penicillin every four hours for about five days. Boy my arm was really sore. At night when I'd get to sleeping good, the ward boy would come around and wake you up, for a shot. My arms get so sore, I took some of my shots in my legs. If I would have as many needles sticking out of me, that have been stuck in my, I would look like a pine tree. Ha Ha.

Well we are still here near Linz guarding S.S. troopers. There has been a few trying to escape since we have been here. They haven't got enough lights around the cage in some places. The other night somebody shot at one of the guards, but it came from outside of the cage. They ran after him, but he got away. The prisoners are very restless. Some of them are prowling around all night. They are not getting enough to eat, so naturally they get pretty desperate. We haven't had too much trouble yet, and if things run as smooth as they have been, it won't be such a bad deal.

Well honey, I guess I better close for this time. Answer soon. All my Love and Kisses to a sweet little gal, that I wish I could have with me on my twenty four hours off. The pictures are sweet.

Love,
Edmund

Alice & Jac
3515 Jones St.
Omaha, Nebr.
9-10-45

Hi Buzzy Cousin!

Got your letter last week so thought I better write you a short one before you started up this way. Cause I want you to be sure to stop in Omaha on your way up or back. If you come up like I did from Kansas City, you will

probably get in Omaha about seven o'clock in the morning. If you come in before mid-nite don't be afraid you will get us out of bed because we never get to bed early. So give us a ring. And if you get in the after noon call me up at work and we will meet you when we get off. The number at work is At 3900 and ask for extension #33. Now don't forget. If you know far enough ahead when you will get in drop me a card & we will meet you at the depot - and maybe have time to dash over for a short one.

I got a letter from Ben last nite. He is still in Linz Austria, but has a new A.P.O. number so guess he has moved again. Still in the Army of Occupation and doesn't know when he will get home.

Jac & I had a wonderful time up in Oakland this last weekend. You know two sailors back from over seas and we were ready for a good time.

Anyway it was early (in the morning) Friday & Saturday when we got home. And last nite it was mid nite again so I'm going to hit the sack early to nite. No coffee to night - I don't think.

Well Clayton we will talk instead of write so remember to call when you get up here. The number here is (Harney) HA 2531. And I don't mean ha ha.

Bee seaing U

Love

Alice

629 N. 43 St.
Omaha, 3, Nebr.
Sep. 14, 1945

Dear Clayton,

We rec'd you nice newsy letter a couple of days ago. This will be a very short letter but I want you to know we will be looking for you and a bed will be waiting for you, if you get in and you can't get a hold of me, you can call Ben at the office (Atlantic 1654) Who knows I may be out for the day. If you have a chance you might drop us a note telling us when you will be here.

Love,
Ann

Our home phone - Walnut 3687

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
 Co. H. 2nd Bn. 1st Reg't
 A.G.F.R.D. #3
 Fort Riley, Kansas
 October 9, 1945

Dearest Elaine,

I will write you a few lines tonight before I go to bed as I am pretty tired and sleepy.

I went to Butte Saturday night but didn't see anything of you, so I figured you had gone to Fairfax. I had to wait until the folks went home and then took their car as I sold mine Saturday afternoon.

I left Spencer 11:00 Sunday morning and went to Omaha with Gallentine. We got down there at 7:30 and I stayed over night with my Mom's Aunt and Uncle. Jim Kimble and I left Omaha at Midnight last night and got here at 3:00 this afternoon with a two hour lay over in Kansas City.

This camp has gotten Camp Fannin beat so far that it isn't even funny. The barracks are all two story and hold around 100 men. All of the buildings are painted white with nice green grass around them. The roads are all paved and no white sand in sight.

Our sergeant told us that none of us would be shipped out before the 29th of this month so we will get some more training of some sort. He said that according to the latest report we would go East but the orders may be changed.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight and write again soon.

Lots of Love & Kisses,

Clayton
 Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
 Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st Reg't
 A G. F. R. D. #3
 Fort Riley, Kansas
 October 12, 1945

Dear Sweetheart,

I am over here at the day room now and thought I would write a few letters tonight so will start off by writing to you as I have really been doing a lot of thinking about you since I left home. Hope you don't mind.

I went to Junction City with Jim Kimball and two Johnson boys from Wayne last Wednesday afternoon. It is a little larger than O'Neill, in fact about as big as Norfolk and seems to be a pretty nice town. They have three large U.S.O. buildings and we spent most of our time there as they had a couple of typewriters there so I sat down to one and brushed up on my typing a little and typed a letter to Jerome Fiala. I plan on getting an office job after I get over in Europe.

We haven't been doing much but a little practice with some of the weapons but lay around most of the time. I had K.P. yesterday afternoon as one fellow got sick and I was the next one on the list so I had to go but I think it was better than having it all day today.

I was down to the P.X. after supper tonight and saw a lot of fellows who were in my old company down in dear old Camp Fannin and they are scattered all over down here.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight as I have about three more letters to write and then hit the hay.

Your Loving Darling,

Clayton

Goodnight Sweetheart
X X X X X

Butte, Nebraska
October 14, 1945

Dearest Clayton,

Here it is 10:10 P.M. and I sat down to write you a letter at 8:30 - only a short while it seems but an hour and a half - and before long it will be another hour or so before I get it finished.

Raymond came back from Omaha again this evening and you can imagine how quiet it is around here. Everyone is talking at once. One thing I can thank the Dear Lord that I am a Lady of Few Words is that I can enjoy myself just sitting back and listening. Ha! Ha! Can't you imagine me as they type, though???

I'm so ornery tonight that I have them wondering if something really serious isn't wrong with me. Heck! They can't keep me down. I'm not ill. I said in the first place that nothing was wrong with me and I'm going to prove it.

Evelyn went to the show tonight at Spencer "Call Of The Wild." I read the book several years ago - perhaps ten or twelve, back in high school. Ha! Ha! Anyway I would have enjoyed seeing the show merely because I enjoyed reading the book. For some reason or other I was not in the mood. I could have gone too but I didn't want to. Trustfully I don't know much about going any more but, I suppose Raymond doesn't help matters along.

I suppose he will want to go quite a bit - especially for a while so he can do some shopping to find out if Mary is really the one he wants. But for me - I've finished my shopping - at least I'm finished for this season. Ha! Ha! Now, please Honey, don't take me wrong. You know what I mean.

There is a dance in Bonesteel Tuesday night and there should be one in Spencer Wednesday night. I would like to go to one of them but yet, I'm not too interested. I'm sure I'm not going to lose any sleep over it anyway.

We had a lot of company, today. Some from Stuart, Butte, and Hastings. More fun!! Some come to see Mom, some to see Daddy. Some to see Evelyn and noone to see me. Gee! But I'm a poor lonesome neglected thing. Don't you feel sorry for me?

We were going to go hunting tonight but Raymond came home so that changed our minds. Of course, when we go at night we hunt rabbits. More fun! I used to hunt dear, but I'm over that stage now. Ha!

Well, Honey, I hope this letter finds you feeling swell and enjoying the best of everything.

I'm O.K. and feel swell, also very ornery, as usual and hope this letter sounds more like me.

Write soon & God Bless You
All my love & kisses
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
October 15, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I received your most welcome letter of October 12th, today. I was really happy to hear from you again. I thought perhaps you had forgotten me already. Honey, I don't mind how much you think of me, I should say how much you think about me because I do care how much you think of me. I haven't been able to see for the star dust in my eyes. I am always thinking about you. How could anyone forget you, I would like to know. I'm sure I couldn't and I'm sure I won't. The hardest thing that has ever happened to me was last night - or should I say this morning? Darling I just couldn't tear away from you. That was the first time anything like that bothered me and I still can't recover from it. It still gets me when I think about It.

Talk about brushing up on your typewriting reminds me of mine. It wouldn't hurt me if I limbered my fingers a bit on one of those keyboards. I have a Corona portable and I usually use it quite a bit -- especially for schoolwork, such as examinations and the like. One of those things comes in pretty handy for school work. I have very little knowledge about typewriting, only a First year course, but I can type one hundred and eighty words, perfect, in one minute - with the use of two carbon sheets. Ha! Ha!

I just had to quit. I just bit on something so hard, that my teeth will hurt for a week.

The kids were having club (K. of Y.) and for entertainment they had a truth or consequence quiz. My question was: "Why did the rabbit sit on the stump?" For my punishment I had to read a story, so I did.

Say, Honey, if you wrote to Jerome Fiala, I'll jes' bet that he knows my pedigree from a to z, doesn't he? Perhaps it isn't so pretty good either, is it? When you write to Jerry next time, please tell him "hello" for me, and that I still think of him, will you?

You are quite the character - one to go into a day room and write letters at night. Oh! Bravo! That was a good one.

I surely wish I knew some news to tell you. Me letters will be pretty dry without a little news, I'm afraid. (School was out too soon so I have to finish this evening).

Raymond sat down by me to write a letter to Mary. So far he has accomplished the salutations, "Dear Mary". Isn't that a nice salutation for a gentleman to use when he writes to his future bride? If he isn't the darndest chap!! But does he ever have a temper. Woo! Woo! It is a dozen times worse than mine. One sure thing, I never oppose anything he says, that is the best way to get along, that I know of.

It is just about time for little girls like me to be in bed or you will have to worry about me.

Whatever you do -- be careful because I might be that kind, or don't you think I am? Or -- just plainly -- don't you care?

Well, Sweetheart, I got Raymond shut off but Daddy is going at it full swing yet, so I'm quitting for this time and leave Daddy for Raymond to control.

I'm still looking forward to getting a picture so don't forget me.

Good luck, & God Bless You

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't
A.G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 15, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

I received your most welcome letter this noon and was really glad to hear from you. Honest I was. I looked for it yesterday but the mail clerk said that no mail comes in on Sunday, so I got it now and I have read it four times already.

If I had known that you were at home that Saturday night, I sure would have been out there for awhile anyway as I would have liked to see you again before I left.

I'm sure sorry that you have been sick but just take it easy and follow your diet pretty close and I am sure that you will come out to the better. Don't try to do much work and if you get over it now and take it easy for a while it probably will never bother you again. No, Honey, I won't disown you as it would take a lot before I would ever think of doing that.

Jim Kimble and I went to Manhattan Sunday morning to see the town but hitchhiked back to Junction City about 1:00 as I wanted to see about bus connections to Norton, Kansas as I have an Aunt & Uncle who live there and I haven't seen them for about four years. I can't make very good connections, so I don't want to take any chance of not making connections.

They have asked us if we wanted to enlist for another year in the regular Army. If we were in for six months or more we could get a thirty day furlough, \$200 mustering out pay plus five cents a mile traveling expense and a Private First Class rating. It would be a good deal as most of us will have to be in another year anyway. The only trouble is that I have been in only five months today. I could sign up but wouldn't get the furlough and that is what I want most of all. If I can get a furlough I might sign up if I see that there isn't a catch to it.

About all we have been doing the last few days is going out and practicing a little with a few weapons but just sit around out there and kill time. I think the only reason they do it is to keep us away from the barracks so that we won't lay around here and sleep.

Is that slang just for people under 12? Don't worry we use plenty of it down here and some of it isn't very good. It seems that some people can't control their tongues around here and it sounds terrible in town to hear them.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight as I have to shave yet before it is time for lights out. Write when you have time as getting a letter from you is like Heaven to me.

With All Of My Love
Your Loving Sweetheart
Clayton

Hope you are feeling better and
wish you a speedy recovery.

Butte, Nebraska
October 17, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Here I go again for a few lines this afternoon while I am sitting here - doing nothing - but thinking about you. If I would write to you every time I think of you, I would have to hire a dozen secretaries and give the Postmaster - General a special notice to have more stamps made. In other words, my thoughts are always of you.

I believe the three Counts children (one married one) will go to Spencer, tonight. At least those were the plans when I left home this morning. So I'm barring on them.

Evelyn went to Bonesteel last night. I could have gone but I just didn't want to. The Kids coaxed hard enough but not enough to make me give in. I love to go when there is a reason to want to go but otherwise, I like to stay home, or shouldn't I feel that way? Evelyn may be married and may love Floyd but she also loves to have plenty of good times, too. I don't approve of that. I'm sorry, Honey, I didn't mean to go so far as to express my opinion quite so strongly so please forgive me, won't you?

We certainly have cloudy weather here; it really makes me lonesome. I guess I sorta live by the weather because when it is gloomy, I am too. But just think - three more years and I'll be twenty-one; also three more years and it will be Leap Year. Ha! Ha! The folks really tease me about that but I get a big kick out of it.

I presume you have heard about Vere Wilson being shot, haven't you? Just in case you haven't I shall tell you. He was hunting pheasants Monday and got shot in the face. One bullet hit his left eye. Today is the day for his operation. The bullet lodged behind the eyeball. The chances are small for saving the eye (the sight at least).

I'm really extending my sympathy to him. Raymond just can't get over it. He thinks its pretty bad to come back from the war O.K., and get shot as a civilian. He just can't get over it. Vere is in Norfolk.

This morning I had quite a greeting. My pupils, came real early and hid behind the schoolhouse until I came in and then --- they barged in shouting. "Happy Birthday." Was I shocked and surprised also to get such a nice gift from them. They certainly are nice.

Well, Darling, I'll sign off for now and I'll be thinking of you always. And Don't worry, I won't forget you tonight either.

Good Luck & God Bless You.

All My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Elaine
Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st Reg't
A.G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 18, 1945

Dearest Sweatheart,

I received your most welcome letter this evening and was really glad to hear from you. I also got one from my folks and one from my Aunt & Uncle in Norton, Kansas. I planned to go to Norton over the weekend but don't think I can make connections so won't try it.

You probably can't realize how much I think of you. It seems like ages since I saw you last and would give almost anything to see you again. I just looked at the moon and it sure is nice and full and is really bright. That moon sure makes me wish that I was home and had you in my arms again. That is one reason that I would like to sign up for a year, so that I could get that 30 day furlough.

They aren't giving any of us a chance to sign up yet, but will get a chance at our Port of Embarkation. I don't know for sure if I want to sign up or not. It has got me stumped right now.

Are you teaching now again? I was wondering if you are or if you have to take it easy yet. How many pupils do you have this year?

This day room that I wrote about is just the name of this building where we can play ping pong, read magazines, or write letters. About the only time we get to use it is at night.

We moved over to a new area Tuesday afternoon and we have been busy cutting grass and cleaning around the barracks. This area hasn't been used for about six months and was built about a year and a half ago, so the buildings are pretty new and nice.

This poem that you wrote is pretty nice, but I don't think that I won't have to worry about that as I don't think you would do a anything like that.

Mom said that she sent my proofs back to have them developed so will have her send me a couple and then send you one.

Well, Honey, I will close for now and write to my folks and write again soon.

Love and Kisses
Your Sweathart
Clayton

P.S. My fountain pen went dry so I borrowed Kimballs. He is going to mail this for me and is waiting for it now. Goodnight and sweet dreams.

Butte, Nebraska
October 18, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Another letter written by the 'swellest' guy in the whole United States Army, reached its destination today. I am still giving thanks that it came to me instead of to _____. Honey, I won't say it but there is something that sure bothers me. But skip it.

I quite well realize why you read my letter over so many times -- merely because you could hardly make out the writing and secondly you couldn't understand it. You can't fool a school teacher. Ha! Or can you?

Gee! Darling, a year sure sounds like a long time. I realize that you will more than likely be gone for a year no matter what comes but I mean a year without seeing you will seem like a century to me. I don't know anything about the Army and I pretend to know less but one thing darn sure the army makes promises but very seldom keeps them. That enlisting etc., that you wrote about, is what Richard joined but by the letter we received yesterday, he hadn't received his papers yet and they were ready to sail. He was sure hoping they would reach him before he went abroad. I sure hope they did, too because he just doesn't want to go. It will either be Alaska or the Aleutian Islands. He said it is not a secret so it doesn't hurt to tell it. Not that I'd be afraid to tell you anything -- I don't mean that but it is the writing it, that would hurt. I would, thruthfully, give anything to talk with you again. Did I read rightly that you want the furlough most of all? Now, dear, tell me, "just why do you want a furlough so badly?"

No, Darling, slang isn't just for people under 12, but I called you "Kid", didn't I? I called a gentleman a "Kid" one night and the reply was this, "I am over 12." So that is what I meant by that. Since Raymond came

home, I really hear enough slang but he never says anything when anyone is around - just sometimes, to be silly and to give us an idea of the army, he uses it. Otherwise he never says anything out of the 'road.' He is pretty good at watching his tongue. And furthermore, Honey, I never heard you say anything out of this line of English lingo, either. That is a comp. for you and please take it. What you did say was all very easily understood and I remember every word. Darling, I can still hear your voice repeating those words over and over. I will never forget them.

We, Raymond and I went to Spencer last night. Raymond wouldn't dress up, he just went to take me. He slept in the car and waited for me. Isn't that a brother? He says he won't go anyplace without Mary, and if he feels that way about her, I don't want to intrude. I know she thinks an awful lot of him and I don't want anything to come between them if I can help it.

I just heard some news so had to stop to tell that first. I have to walk home tonight. More fun!! It is so _____ cold. Almost freezing but if I hurry fast enough I'll be O.K. Afterall it is only two miles. I have done it before and I can do it again. Sometimes it is a lot of fun, it helps my morale.

Now I'm going back to last night. I have danced with Jack Lampman twice since we bumped into him that night. He has never said anything to me about it, either, and he hadn't better. It sorta bothered me at first - but not anymore. In plain English Ed just doesn't rate with me, anymore, so if you forget him and cast your thoughts of him, aside; I will be much happier. Will you do that, for me?

We received another letter from Richard today. He didn't ship but Tommy Boska, & an Anderson boy from Anoka that were with him since in Camp Fannin, shipped and Richard and a boy from Monowi were sent back to Hdq., not much to their disappointment though. He doesn't know just what they will do with him, but he is hoping for the best and so are we.

Well, Darling, I'll be signing off for this time, but I'll be thinking of you and I hope to meet you in Dreamland.

I'll just put this little photo in. It is old and now I'm older. I'll send a better one, later. If you don't want it, send it back. Good Luck & God Bless You.

Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
October 21, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Here I go again, trying to write to you. I would rather be with you, and tell you in person, what I have to say. It would be much easier, than writing.

I received your welcomed letter of October 18th, just this morning and one good thing, I received it after church instead of before, or I wouldn't have listened to what Father was saying. That is how much your letters affect me.

Talk about the moon! Say, Honey, I wish you were here to see the moon we have. It is just beautiful! And I'm not fooling. There is nothing I like better about natural beauty, than to see the sunset and sun and moon rises. They are always very attractive to me. Tonight it is exceptionally beautiful.

My brother even had to go out to see it's beauty. If only you were here to see it's beauty, too!! If you could only get a furlough. Honey, I long to see you every time I think about it. If you could only get a furlough without all of that "stuff", 'twould be O.K. with me.

Oh! Yes, I'm still teaching. I get along O.K. I only missed that one day and since then, one would never know that I was ever ill. I have eight pupils, the same as last term but the school is so nice and much more interesting than last year. I really like teaching and the children are nice too. Maybe, they wouldn't seem nice to

others, but I like children, so naturally, they are nice to my notion. Two months of school will soon be past, too. That sounds pretty good to my notion.

I'll bet it is fun cleaning around the buildings, cutting grass, etc. Isn't it? Or don't you like that kind of work? I enjoy making something pretty, maybe I shouldn't but I do.

Say, Darling, what do you mean, when you say that you don't think that you will have to worry about me, when it comes to referring to that poem? Do you really trust me that far? Do you really and truly want me to be 'true' to you? It would, truthfully, be the easiest thing to do, but that is up to you. If you have faith in me, I'll prove that I can be trusted, too. I have so far and I can continue.

Raymond and Evelyn went to Naper to the dance last night. From what I heard they had a pretty good time. At least they didn't lack partners. That really burns me up. My dreams were of you so you know I was content.

Well, Sweetheart, we had a pretty big day with a lot of company so maybe I should sign off.

Good Luck & God Bless You.

All my love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 22, 1945

Dearest Sweatheart:

Your most welcome letters arrived here yesterday and one today and I was really glad to get them. You never will know how much your letters mean to me as they mean a lot. It seems that I can't get you off my mind and I hope that I never do.

Kimble and I went to Lincoln Saturday afternoon but there were so many Officers there that we went on to Fremont. We got there about 8:00 and it was really dead there. We ate supper and then started to drink beer. It was really good to drink some good old Nebraska beer again. We went over to a dance hall about 11:30 but it didn't look very good to us but we stood around for a while and then went up to our hotel room. We slept until noon and went down to see Jim's sister for about a half hour. We took a bus to Lincoln at 3:00 and left Lincoln at 6:30 and caught a special bus to here.

We planned on going to Omaha next week end but changed our minds because we were the last two to get on the bus and a lot of soldiers had to wait for the midnight bus and they were an hour late getting back this morning. It is too much of a chance to take as I wouldn't want to miss a bus and be late getting back.

I will admit that a year seems like a long time, but the reason I wanted the furlough is so that I could get home and be with you again. I am really stumped as to what I should do as some think that we will get out sooner if there are enough who sign up for the regular Army.

I read in the Spencer Advocate about Vere Wilson. That happens to a lot of these discharged men. A lot of these pilots completed there missions without getting a scratch and come back here and get killed in a little Piper Cub.

I was really glad to get your picture and put it in my billfold and carry my billfold in my left shirt pocket at all times so that you will be next to my heart. I wrote to Mom to send me a couple and I will send you one as soon as I get them. They probably won't be very good as I can't take very good ones.

It rained here yesterday and it was so cold this morning that there was ice on any little puddle of water. We almost froze this morning when we started on our road march, but soon got warmed up in a hurry. We walked (ran half of the time to keep up with our Lieutenant) six miles and it took us just 65 minutes. We got back at 9:00 and then came back to the company and played volleyball, softball, and football. I didn't feel like running so I played volleyball.

Honey, if you want to go to a dance or something go ahead as I don't want you to say home just because I am not there to take you. I don't want my "girl" to stay at home always as that would get pretty tiresome.

I will close for tonight as I am pretty tired and will have to shave yet before I go to bed and dream about you. I'll see you in my dreams tonight.

Goodnight Sweatheart
Pleasant Dreams
Your Loving Darling
Clayton

You write that Ed doesn't rate anymore.
That is swell and I will forget about him.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 23, 1945

My Dearest Darling Elaine:

Here goes for another letter to the swellest and loveliest girl in the whole world. At least she is to my knowledge. There isn't much to write but I am still thinking of you and thought that I would drop you a few lines.

We didn't do much this morning except kill time by doing a little drill and a Lieutenant showed us how to break up a riot or mob as they think that we will run into some situations like that overseas and will have to stop them. Our Sargent let us have an hour of bunk fatigue just before dinner. That is laying around on our beds and sleeping but was tireder when I got up than before I laid down. We went out and threw a few practice hand grenades and came back about 3:30. We were supposed to have a retreat parade but they called it off because it was raining pretty hard.

Kimball and I took one uniform apiece over to the dry cleaners and then went down to the P.X. for a while and bought a couple of magazines to read.

We are to have tomorrow afternoon off but I think I will stay here and wash some of my clothes but may go

to Junction City as I have to send my garrison cap and hand bag home. We kept our mess equipment and canteen so have to carry them around in our barracks bags so I am going to send them also as they take up too much room.

I had to take time out and light up my pipe again. I don't smoke it very much but like a pipeful once in a while. I bought it two years ago in Plattsmouth when we were down there picking corn and haven't smoked over three packages of tobacco in it ever since I had it.

The fellows in here are really ornery tonight. Some of them have gone to the show and they are folding their sheets so that they can't get in bed. The legs of these bunks fold under and they pull on the bed and the legs fold under. They usually do that after a person is laying down nice and comfortable just thinking about someone back home and you can just imagine who that person is that I think about.

You wrote in your letter dated Oct. 18 that you gave thanks that my letter came to you instead of to _____. Please let me know what it is that bothers you. Do you think that there is someone else that I cared for? I would like to know who it is but please forget the whole thing as you are the one and only one that I care about and I really mean that.

I will close for now as it is five minutes before lights out. We have to write here in the barracks as they don't have any tables in the day room.

Goodnight Sweatheart
All My Love & Kisses
Your Sweatheart Clayton

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't
A. G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 24, 1945

Dearest Sweatheart:

I received your most welcome letter dated Oct. 21, this noon and was really glad to get it. We have this afternoon off so I just laid around and thought that it would be a good time to do a little letter writing and will start off by writing to you.

We didn't do anything this morning but they checked to see that we had overcoats and field jackets. If we didn't have them they took down our size and we are to get them Monday. Then they explained to us about enlisting in the regular Army. It sounds like a pretty good deal and I may sign up as I want that furlough very much so that I can go home and see you again.

They didn't have anything else for us to do from 10:00 until 11:30 so they let us go out and play football, softball or play volleyball. I played volleyball as I have a catch between my shoulder blades. I guess I got it last night as we had all of the windows open and it was too drafty in here.

Yes, Darling, I really and truly meant what I said about me not having to worry about you in reference to

that poem. I know that I can trust you and know that you will be true. If you get too lonesome, I wouldn't object if you went out with someone else as long as it is someone decent whom I would approve. You know about which kind that would be. I imagine that it gets pretty monotonous not having a chance to go out once in a while. As for me it seems that these women around here just don't appeal to me. I guess it is because I have found what I was looking for and believe that she is the one for me. I never had a date all the while I was in Texas and I'm not a bit sorry of it.

Yes, I really enjoy cleaning up around the buildings, especially if there is a lot of grass around. I have always wanted to fix up around our house but couldn't seem to get up enough ambition to do it. I wanted to plant some bluegrass and put in a yard fence. Maybe, after I get out of this Army and get settled down, I can get something accomplished.

The fellow who sleeps in the bed next to me has gotten out his harmonica and is playing so will take a little time out to listen to him. He is really good and I truthfully enjoy a good song played on a harmonica. One fellow who sleeps downstairs is a good trumpet player but left his trumpet at home. He used to play in several leading orchestras, and played in the C.B.S. Symphony Orchestra before he was drafted. He said that he had a notion to send for it but that he may be shipped out before it got here.

I will close for now and will drop a few lines to the folks. I have a lot of relation that I should write to but feel like writing now, as we will be shipping out next week.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart,
Lots of Love & Kisses
Clayton

Butte, Nebraska
October 25, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter of October 22nd, just this morning and was I glad to get it. It was the first one since Sunday. You really kept me guessing. I wouldn't have received one from you this morning, I believe I would have given up hopes of ever getting one. I really looked for one from you yesterday and was really disappointed when I didn't get it. Honey, I'm not scolding you for not writing enough, so please don't think that. I'm lucky to hear as often as I do and it is often but I could never hear too often from you. That is how I mean it, and what your letters mean to me. No, Honey, whatever you do, don't take me wrong because you are really swell about writing me and I really appreciate that. I'm beginning to believe that you do think of me a lot and I hope that you never forget me. I'm not worth remembering but I love you so much that I just can't want you to forget me. I know I shouldn't be that way but I am and please forgive me.

I just put the children to work so they wouldn't bother me. The older ones are pretty busy but the little 'tikes' are always bothering me. One sure thing, I would really miss them if they weren't here. They are so sweet.

So you "kids" were in Lincoln and Fremont. So close to home but yet so far. What I wouldn't have given to have seen you!! I guess I will have to move to Omaha so I'll get to see you more often. It has been at least two years since you were home hasn't it? Gosh, it sure seems like it but I know better. It is too bad that this isn't November because I plan to go to Omaha for my Thanksgiving and stay over until the Sunday night following. Maybe you could have made it to Omaha too but that is a whole month from now. I'm sure planning on that trip but dozens of things could happen to prevent our going. I am sure hoping for the best, nevertheless.

Now Honey, don't be so foolish over that goofy picture. That was taken about a year ago. It is such a "corny" thing. But truthfully, I am glad you feel the way you do about it, me or both.

Well, Honey, I am glad that you feel the way you do about me not always staying home. What I meant was, do you care if I "run-around?" Be truthful with me if you don't care what I do, (please tell me,) or who I go with. I haven't done either yet.

Right after school, I have to go to town. Boy! How I hate that. The Internal Revenue Collector is in town, so I have to see him. More fun!!! There has been a terrible mixup over my income tax and I rather doubt if it will ever get straightened out. If I had as much good looks as all the money I have given for income tax, I would really be beautiful. By the time they take 23% off for taxes each month, it doesn't leave very much for beer after I pay all of my expenses. Ha! That is one thing that really gets me, though, after we earn it, we have to pay almost 1/4 of it for our income tax. Last year my tax wasn't much - just half of what I pay now. I really shouldn't say anything, though, as my twin sister way paying \$13.76, last year.

Now by twin sister, I mean the swellest gal that ever lived. She is really swell. Her name is Elaine Zink. Is she "ever cute"!!! She is from Naper but went to school in Butte for two years. We were worse than sister. Gee! We sure used to have fun together and now when you get us two together you can hardly get us to part. Evelyn never was like a sister to me. I mean that when I was 12 she got married and now when she came home she just doesn't realize that I am gradually growing up. We just can't agree, no matter how hard we try so I don't try anymore.

Gosh!! Clayton!! I didn't mean to say all of these things and I know they aren't of any interest to you, either. So just skip over it lightly and maybe it won't be too gruesome.

There is a dance in Spencer tonight. My cousin just called and wanted to know if I wanted to go along. I might go, I don't know for sure. I told her that I would see her in town, so I'll decide later. But if I do go, I will be thinking of you and I'll sit one dance "out" and just think of you.

I saw that cousin of yours in Spencer last night I mean that "Slug" and he was driving a car like yours. I just happened to get a glimpse of him before we came home. We went down to Spencer right after school and came home right away. Evelyn had to go down and have Dr. Pucelik "love" her up a bit. Ha! Ha! He sure knows how and oh! how carressing!! Ha! I know what his loves are like.

Oh! and Bob P. and Joan had a wreck sometime between dark Tues night and early Wed. morning. We saw the car and is it ever smashed!!! No one was hurt - it was Mallory's car too.

Well, Darling, I'll have to close. It is practically four o'clock. Be a good guy now. Good Luck & God Bless You. All my Love & Kisses. Your Sweetheart.
Elaine
I'll be thinking of u always. What does S.L.M.H. mean? 2 deep 4 me.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D.#3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 26, 1945

My Darling Elaine:

I just got back from the telephone office and have a little time yet before it is time for lights out. I have to shave yet but can do that after the lights go out as there is a light in the shower room all night.

I wrote to the folks last week and told them to meet me in Omaha this weekend and said that I would call them if I could go or not. I got a letter from Daddy yesterday and he said that they could meet me there but that I should call collect tonight to let them know whether or not I was going. I have K.P. tomorrow so I won't be able to make it now.

I put in my call at 5:45 and the operator said that it would take about a half hour but I waited until 7:40 before it went through. It seems like all of the calls that go through Omaha have about a two hour delay. I could hear my Mom just as plain as if she were about a mile away.

Well, Honey, I put my name down to sign u for a year but haven't signed yet. We are to have an interview with a Captain yet and will get a little more dope on it and then we can either sign up or not. We can sign up here and then they will hold us here until our six months are up or we can wait until we get o our P.O.E.

There are three shipments of men going out the last part of next week and 500 will be in each shipment. They are going to Camp Pickett, W. Va. I don't think I will be on that shipment or not unless we don't have a chance to sign up before then.

Today was rally a gloomy day for everyone. It seems that our officers and sargents were rather sour. We went out on a road march again this morning and walked nine miles. It took us a little over two hours. We had a little close order drill and map reading this afternoon but we were so tired that we didn't care what we did and if our sargent caught anyone goofing off they had to do twentyfive pushups and that isn't very much fun.

My right foot seems to bother me now. I guess that I have a fallen arch or a march fracture. I suppose that I ought to go on sick call and have it taped up but I have never been on sick call yet and won't unless I just have to.

Honey, I will close for now as there isn't much to write about and I am pretty tired so I will sign off for tonight.

Your Darling Sweatheart
All My Love & Kisses
Clayton

I'll see you in my dreams again tonight.

Butte, Nebraska
October 26, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Another perfect day has passed by with a letter from you. How I love to hear from you !! Just think, each day that passes means just one more closer to the day when you come home. You will never know how I long for that day. That is the only thing that I am living for.

So they are teaching you how to break up riots, are they? Well, just so they don't teach you how to win disputes. Ha! Ha! Now, honey, don't take me wrong, please. You know that I was just teasing you. I have won three battle stars since Raymond came home but I also have lost about ten, too, so I'm really not ahead very far. He has been home three weeks and the last one has been so gruesome that I can hardly stand it. Neither of us chatter with each other on friendly terms, not too much of a reason either. I don't like it but I won't go only half way.

Gee! I'll bet it is swell to have a few "easy" weeks, isn't it? Perhaps it is different from what you are used to and I'll just guess that you aren't gripping about it, either, or are you?

Darn you, if you smoke a pipe I'll just wring your neck. But if I was close enough to do that, I would probably be loving you so much that I'd wring your neck, alright but with a different attitude. Or don't you believe

me?

They really must pull some good ones, down there. I quite well remember when Richard was home how we used to fight. I don't mean fight, but we were always doing something to "get even" with the other one - all in fun. When he wouldn't take me with him, I would either pour salt in his bed, half-sheet it, or do something like that. I remember one time he wanted to go to Bonesteel and so did I but I wasn't going to get to go, so I merely sewed his clothes shut so he couldn't get into them, every piece he put on from his skin to his jacket. More fun! But anyway I got to go along - because he wouldn't rip it out. One thing sure, I wouldn't just like to have the bed fall out from under me. That would be a little bit too much fun.

Evelyn & I went to the dance in Spencer last night. I enjoyed myself but I really missed you. Really, honey, I missed your presence there. The dances just aren't as interesting as they used to be and I am sure that you can guess why. I saw Warren Collins there, too. He only had a three day pass. Oh! Why can't you get one? I'd really love to see you before you go across. He came via Grand Island and doesn't leave until tonight. The lucky fish.

Oh! Yes! And I saw your cousin, Don Klasna, too. He had to tell me he heard from you and you said that you hear from me but that is all he would tell me. He must be a swell cousin to have, one that doesn't tell everything. If I'm not mistaken, I would say that he is the only one that knows we even write each other. There aren't any other kids that know it I am quite sure, not that I care at all. I don't mean that.

Well, Darling, it is 10:00 o'clock now and you can guess what that means. I was up until quite late last night and today the Co. Supt. came to visit and I'm about a nervous wreck.

I'll be seeing you in my dreams so until next time.

Good Luck & God Bless My Sweetheart,
All My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
October 27, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

The old Counts clock keeps ticking away, minute after minutes and hour after hour. It just won't stop - but who cares; I don't. The faster the time goes, the better I like it and you know the reason why, I am sure. And someday, which I hope is soon, I don't think that I will want it to go. That one I'll let you guess why.

I sure wish that I could be there to play a game of volley - ball with you. When I was in high school we used to play volleyball practically every noon. I really enjoyed the game but that has been about three and a half years ago and I will admit that I don't just remember the rules and regulations, but that wouldn't make so much difference, if I could only be with you.

I made a dress for myself today, and am I tired. Evelyn went to Spencer right after dinner and left Darold with me so that meant take care of him and Mother, both. Then to top the afternoon, My aunts & an uncle from Atkinson came over so you can imagine how much time I had to myself. But I didn't mind so much because I was so happy to have them here. I hadn't seen them for so long that I really enjoyed their visit. But the thing that kept me from sewing was your letter. I would sew a while, then I would have to reread your letter and that is the way it

went all afternoon. Anyway, I finished the dress except for a few trimmings and they won't take much of my time. Raymond really likes it but he doesn't like red and he really lets me know about it, too. I don't suppose that you like red, either, do you, or do you?

I just read your letter over and said to my sis - "I guess I'll have to tell Clayton that I went with that blonde last night, just to see what he will say," and she said, "What diff does it make to him, who you go with, he goes with other girls too and he doesn't necessarily have to tell you about it so I don't see why you would tell him what you do." She doesn't know the half of it, and what she doesn't know doesn't hurt her and what little she does know isn't getting her anyplace so I never say a word. She, right along with the rest, think that Ed is still the 'leading man,' and it tickles me. I like secrets and secrets are not secrets when more than two people know the secret.

No, Darling, it isn't monotonious not going with any one in person, because when I go someplace my thoughts are of you, and I seem to be with you in spirit at least.

Sentimental

Well, Honey, when you come home, I'll keep you in Harmonica Music, if you enjoy listening to it. Although, I don't know any present popular ones (songs), I do know several later favorites. When we had these old house dances over here I used to play part time. It was a lot of fun but after I learned the trade it wasn't so interesting anymore. We don't have a radio and I haven't heard any of the popular ones (songs), the only time I have a chance is at dances and I don't get much time just to listen and catch the tune. But I hope to be able to play "When the Yanks Raised the Flag on Iwo Jima." soon. I really love that song but I have only heard it twice. I really enjoy playing but I would rather listen to someone else play either a harmonica or an accordian.

Well, Darling Dear, I have to rise early in the mornin and go to church so perhaps I had better sign off this time.

Good Luck & God Bless You, Dearest
All my love & Kisses to my Sweetheart,
Your Darling,
Elaine

May I say, "I love You?"

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 28, 1945

Dearest Elaine,

I will drop you a few lines this afternoon before I go back to bed as I am pretty tired. I had K.P. yesterday and got through about 8:00. I went to bed at 10:30 and got up at 11:00 this noon. I guess I had too much sleep that makes me so tired.

It is pretty nice today but is awful windy. I suppose it will fool around and blow up a rain again. I was going to wash out a few clothes but it is too windy to keep them on the line so will wait until Wednesday afternoon.

I am really glad that I had K.P. and didn't try to meet my folks in Omaha, as some boys tried to go but they couldn't get any tickets on the noon bus as a bunch had finished their basic training at the Cavalry Camp and were going home on their furlough. They had reservations for this bus so had too many passengers for any others.

My folks want me to meet them in Omaha next Saturday but I don't think we will be able to go any place as this company will be on shipping orders (at least part of them) and all of us will be restricted. I have my name down for an interview to see about enlisting so probably won't be on shipping orders or they may have me wait until I get out to W. Va. I would rather sign up here and then they would hold me here as I don't care about that old train ride all of the way out there and back.

Please excuse my poor writing as I am sitting in bed and using my pillow as a table. They haven't any tables over here in the day room so we can't write our letters in there.

It is pretty quiet in here today except for a card game and some are discussing the football game at Manhattan. By the sounds of things it was pretty good. Kansas State played against Oklahoma and Oklahoma beat. They had special transportation from here and reduced rates for any soldiers who wanted to go. I would have liked to go but as it was I couldn't go. I really like to see a good football game.

I got a letter from my Mom yesterday noon and she said they hadn't gotten my pictures from O'Neill yet but thought they should get them any day and would send me some as soon as they got them.

Well, Honey, I will close for now and probably write to my folks yet. I will write again when I get time.

With All of my Love & Kisses
Your Sweaheart Clayton

P.S. I haven't gotten any letter from you since last Thursday but am still looking for one at each mail call.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 29, 1945

My Dearest Darling,

I received two swell letters from the "sweetest girl" in the whole world this noon and I really mean that. I was so glad to get them that I didn't even believe that I could wait until I got back to the barracks so I just sat down outside and read them.

They were the first ones since last Friday that I had received and I was wondering if something had happened to your mail but felt very much relieved as soon as I saw who they were from. You can never know how much they mean to me.

I would really and truly have liked to meet you in Omaha some weekend but I am not going to try it unless I have a ride as they didn't put on a special bus at Lincoln and a lot of soldiers didn't get to come on that bus. I

suppose that the folks could bring me back if they would come to Omaha.

No, Honey, I don't care if you run around as I wouldn't want you to be staying at home all of the time. As far as who you go with doesn't make very much difference as long as it isn't someone who gets wild and I know that you wouldn't go with anybody like that.

You wrote about having to go to town and see the Collector of Internal Revenue. I don't know what I will have to pay this year or whether I will have to, but I had to pay \$152.00 last year.

That car that "Slug" was driving was the one that I used to own and I sure wish that I hadn't sold it and I wouldn't have if I had known that I would be down here this long. I would have driven it down here and then I could go home every weekend and then drive out to see you. He is really quite a kid. He is just at that age where he starts acting smart and I get a big kick out of him. We really did have a lot of fun when I was a civilian yet, back in the good old days.

Well, Honey, I have decided to sign up for a year as I want that furlough and I got a letter from Mom tonight and she said that they could use me very nicely during corn picking. I don't know if I will get to sign up here or if I will have to wait until I get to the next camp as some rumors are going around about them not holding us here until our six months are up.

By the way you wrote in your letter you must not like a pipe. I wouldn't blame you for wanting to wring my neck but I am going to take the chance as I am far enough away to be safe. I don't smoke it very much but enjoy a pipeful a couple times a week, especially when I am writing as I don't have to bother with cigarette ashes falling on everything.

So you are going to spend Thanksgiving in Omaha. It is mighty hard to tell where I will spend mine. Maybe I will get that furlough and spend it at home but would rather spend Christmas there.

Yes, this is really a lot better than it was down in Texas. The last three weeks have been pretty easy and I have put on a little more weight down here. I weighed myself down at the P.X. tonight and weighed 166 lbs.

Well, Darling, I will be signing off for tonight and will write again tomorrow night.

All My Love & Kisses
Your Darling Sweetheart
Clayton

Still Love Me Honey? I Love U.

Butte, Nebraska
October 29, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter of October 26th, today. It sure seems good to hear from you, it is a little more like talking with you.

Say, Honey, when I began reading your letter I was practically on edge. I thought that you meant this coming week-end but you didn't and besides I finally came to the conclusion that perhaps your folks would have remained in Omaha and you wouldn't have come home anyway.

Talk about telephone calls. I had about the worst thrill, yesterday and it wasn't even funny. We got a call here yesterday and I answered the telephone. It was a gentleman's voice and when told who was talking he said, "You are just the one I wanted." Gosh was I thrilled! He said he had just gotten into Butte and was coming out to see me in a few minutes. I couldn't figure out who it could possibly be until I heard him laugh and then I knew right away. It was Ed Tiefertaler, a guy that married Agnes Boettcher, while she was working here. He is back in civilian clothes now and is leaving in the morning for Montana to get his wife. Oh! Yes. He is married so please don't worry, but he did start out here and the car stopped so he had to go back to town, instead of completing his journey. Boo! Hoo!

Darling, I am really anxious to know which way things are going to go with you, within the next few weeks. But, please, honey, don't let me have anything to do with your decision because I want to be free to believe I am innocent. Forget me, until you decide because seeing me may not be worth the year, afterward. Isn't that true?

Gee! I sure hope that you won't be in any of those shipments but in another way, the sooner it is over the better. Now don't take me wrong for I meant it for the best.

We had company this evening - for supper too. One was a discharged soldier - now wait - one was his wife. He described quite fully what pushups are so it is no wonder that the guys wanted to stay alert. He was telling about his work in the Army, first he was in 6 mos., then in the Aleutians 3 years and then in the Army another year. That guy is really swell, he isn't one of the type to brag and he really knows his stuff. In his camps they always used a little tiny stick and hit the guys on their helmets when they became droopy. They really must have awakened them.

I am really sorry, honey, that your foot bothers you. I guess the next time I dance with you, I'll have to stand on my own two feet, won't I? A stitch in time saves nine, so if you get over it now, I can walk on those feet again. Ha! Well, honey, I really am serious about being sorry that your foot bothers you, because I never feel sorry for anyone and never want anyone to feel that way toward me. But what hurts you seems to hurt my heart. I really mean that, Darling, it is the truth.

Have you ever heard about Norma Ludemann's husband? When he was here for the Wedding Dance he came AWOL. Now for punishment, they are to send him out of the States and he is neither to hear from or see her for at least six months but it may be extended to two years, depending on his behavior, or he can have six months in the guard house now, and when he is discharged, serve six more months in the Navy with hard labor. I sure am glad that I am neither Norma nor her husband.

There is a Halloween dance in Spencer, Wednesday night. Presumably, we will go, but nothing is definite, yet. Would you care if I went with a handsome ex-soldier, age - 27- too old, whom I love very much, but not as much as someone else? I know you will know who I mean so there isn't any use explaining.

Last Thursday night, Swede Fredrich wanted to date me but the effort he put forth was all in vain. Then he wanted a date for Sunday night but he didn't have much success, there, either. I didn't think you would "approve," exactly, and I didn't want to take chances. Honey, I'm satisfied not to date, is that O.K.?

The old Counts' clock says tick - tock, so I had better be ready to dock before I hear the old red cock. (That is what Raymond used to say) Well Sweetheart, I'll be waiting to hear from you.

God Bless You & All my Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Take good care of that foot Honey and remember "I Love You".

P. S. I forgot to tell you, that this is one of my 'finger nail' weapons. The folks have been trying to force me to cut it off but by using too much force, it just broke off. I still have enough left to keep the tip of my thumb from getting sore so you can imagine how long it was. Mom dared me to send it to you, so I am.

S/Sgt W. Collins 37465996
Co. "B" 1-1 A.G.F. R.D. #3
Ft. Riley, Kansas
Oct. 30, 1945

Dear Elaine,

Go ahead and say it. I didn't come out to school. I would have but we left at 3:00 so I guess school wouldn't have been out. Of course we might have let every body go home. I would have loved that and I suppose the pupils would have too. Would you?

My brother just took me as far as Bartlett and I caught a bus there. Got in Lincoln about eleven. Stayed there until the next morning. Then I came on into Camp. Believe it or not I was on time for a change.

Elaine, there isn't much news around here so I'll just sign off. You be good now!

Love,

Write

Warren

Butte, Nebraska
October 31, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I just received your swell letter of October 28th. I could hardly wait for the mail carrier to go and you can guess why. I hadn't heard from you since Monday. Of course that wasn't so long ago, but I really missed your letter yesterday. The day just didn't seem right. Everything I attempted just didn't work right and I had you on my mind constantly.

Darling, I can't figure out the reason why you hadn't heard from me since last Thursday. I wrote Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday, and one Tuesday so if you haven't gotten them, I'll always think you should have. Those days are the days I mailed the letters, they were written the day before except the letter I wrote Sat. night and didn't get mailed until Monday. That is the truth, dear, and please believe me.

Gee! Honey! I'm just holding my breath until I hear if you are getting that furlough or not. I can hardly wait to see you.

My brother is going to Omaha next Tuesday or Wednesday to see his girl, if they finish picking corn this week. It is about time for my vacation, too, but I'll wait about 2 1/2 weeks, yet for mine. But if you are home by then, I'll forget all about a vacation. And how I hope that I don't have a vacation!!!! In other words I hope that you get home and it can't be too soon to suit me. Two weeks from tomorrow will be the 15th of November and your six months of service will be over if that will be any help to you. Time really flies but of how slowly it passes by when you want it to fly and how swiftly it flies when you want the time to stop and barely go by at all. At least I knew the time when I didn't want the time to fly and I know that you can easily guess that time, can't you.

You know, Darling, I would be a pretty happy girl, if you were home. I believe I would be completely happy and wouldn't ask for anything else.

The last we heard from Richard, he was going that day, to either sign or not sign the papers to join the regular Army. There were twenty-three going together and he was almost sure that he would sign. He was in 6 months the 9th of (April). I mean October. He went into the Army in April.

I sure hope that he signs because I'm really getting lonesome for him. It would be so nice for Mother to get to see him because she is so very low; we think that it may bring her back up to "schedule". She worries continuously about him. Ever since she received word that he was to ship out of the states, she has been getting worse.

Darling, please forgive me but I just had to say it. I try not to burden anyone with my troubles, but when it is your mother, it is different. One of us girls has to be with her all of the time and if we both leave we get our cousins to stay with her. If only there was someone who could relieve her or help her. There just isn't a thing we can do for her and God alone knows how we wish we could.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll be thinking of you always and remember U R tops with me. Good Luck & God Bless You.

All my Love & Kisses to the
Best guy in the World,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st. Reg't
A.G.F.R.D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
October 31, 1945

Dearest Elaine,

Here it is Wednesday afternoon and just another dreary day almost gone. The only good thing about it is that I received a swell letter from the nicest girl in the whole world and it was truthfully appreciated. The next best thing was the fact that it is the last day of the month which is payday. We have this afternoon off but I just didn't feel like going anyplace.

The time sure seems to go fast down here as we have been here three weeks now but it seems like it has been an awful long time since I last saw you. Four weeks ago tonight to be exact but seems more like two months.

I had planned on writing to you last night but the night really slipped by. I was so tired that I laid down and thought that I would rest a while and then write to you. I sent right to sleep and didn't wake up until they came through at 9:30 to turn the lights out. I didn't even shave so had to do that this noon.

We didn't do much this morning but clean up the barracks and then got paid. It is sure surprising how many men sit around and gamble after they get paid. There are about a dozen sitting around one bed playing poker now. Most of those are on guard tonight so couldn't get a pass to go to town.

What do you do, make dresses on your spare time? It is something to do to pass time and is helpful also.

Yes, I do like red. I really mean that honey.

So you went out with a Blonde the other night. Who was it? Not that I object but was just wondering. There is a little saying about truck drivers. They will pass up a Brunette, stop for a Blonde, and back up a half mile for a Redhead. Nothing like that ever happened to me but Gallentine was telling me that when I went to Omaha with him.

I haven't been to a dance since I left home and I guess I just don't care about dances away from home. I probably won't know how to dance by the time I get back from this Army life if I don't dance once in a while.

I don't know if I am going to get a chance to sign up here anymore as they called out those who wanted to sign up and had six months in the Army already and they signed up this morning. Those who signed up are going home on their furlough next week.

I heard a little saying about a Chinese commenting on the American's way of making tea. He said that we cook it go make it hot, put ice in it to make it cold, put sugar in it to make it sweet, add lemon to make it sour, pours it in a glass and says here's to you and drinks it himself.

I have never heard that song "When They Rise The Flag Over Iwo Jima" so I don't know how it sounds. My favorite song now is "Sentimental Journey." I also like "Who Threw The Whiskey In The Well," an old hillbilly song.

Well, Honey, I will close for now and be thinking of you always.

Your Loving Sweetheart
All My Love and Kisses
Clayton

I love you trully. My bedside partner gave me this little verse and dared me to sent it to my girl and I took the dare. Hope you don't mind.

Woman

She's an angel in truth, a demon in fiction,
A womans's the greatest of all contradictions;
She's afraid of a cockroach, she'll scream at a mouse,
But she'll tackle a husband as big as a house.
She'll take him for better, she'll take him for worse,
She'll split his head open and then be his nurse;
And when he is well and out of bed,
She'll pick up a teapot and throw at his head.
She's faithful, deceitful, keen sighted and blind,,
She's crafty, she's simple, she's cruel, she's kind.
She'll lift a man up, she'll cast a man down.
She'll make him her hero, her ruler, her clown.
You fancy she's this, but you find that she's that;
For she'll play like a kitten and fight like a cat.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
November 1, 1945

My Dearest Sweetheart,

Another day gone by and another letter from that sweet girl back home came to me tonight. As far as the day goes it wasn't very good for me. It seems that I just wasn't in the right mood, (on the ball, as they say in the Army) to do anything.

To start the day off, I got up tireder than when I went to bed and then we had a nine mile road march and I was really tired when that was over. We went to a show and saw two combat films right after dinner and then had a parade. Gen. Wainwright stopped over at this camp on his tour of Army camps so we had to parade and pass in review before him. I usually like parades but sure didn't this one. I haven't been eating very much the last two days but may snap out of it soon.

Honey, I sure wish that I knew what to do about signing up as I might have to go to the Pacific after I got back and would rather go to Europe where it is a little more civilized. Some days I have my mind made up to sign up and in a few days I change my mind. There aren't any shipments going out of this company this week but may next week. No, Honey, I couldn't forget you long enough to make up my mind but most likely I will sign up so that I get that furlough.

So old Swede Fredrickson tried to date you? I am sure glad that you didn't as that is one kid that I don't

approve. I have known him for about ten years and know that he isn't exactly the nice kind of a person. The girls that he used to go with were the ones that I wouldn't even think of going with or be seen on the street with.

I got a letter from my cousin Harold this noon. He is in the Navy and was at Seattle but is now in Pearl Harbor. It took them twelve days to make the trip which is around 2500 miles. He is on a L.S.T. boat and he said that it traveled pretty slow. He said that they ran into a lot of rough weather which made a lot of the boys seasick but it never bothered him.

Say, how long are your finger nails anyway? They must be awful if you broke that much off and still have enough to keep the end of your finger covered. I never noticed them as being that long, to tell you the truth. I never paid any attention to them. I guess I was looking into your eyes most of the time. Darling, I wouldn't object at all if you go with this handsome ex soldier as I know who you mean and I know him. He is really a swell guy or at least he was several years when I knew him.

I just took time out to enjoy some cake and ice cream. A boy from Omaha brought a cake back with him last Sunday and he went to the P.X. and brought back some ice cream. He, Kimball, and I ate it and it really was good. I am about froze up now but I just lit up a cigar so maybe that will warm me up a little.

We..., Darling, I will close for tonight as it is 8:30 and I have an hour yet to write to my folks and to my cousin.

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

P.S. That foot of mine is getting a little better and maybe if I stay in bed over the weekend it will get better.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H, 2nd Bn., 1st Reg't
A.G.F.R.D. #3
Fort Riley, Texas
November 2, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

Here I go again writing another letter to you. There isn't much to write about but will let you know that I am still thinking of you.

It looked like it was going to be a nice day the way the sun came up but it changed in an awful hurry. It was so cold that we had on our wool sweat shirts but couldn't keep warm. It sprinkled a little this evening but not enough to do any good. In fact it made it that much colder.

We went over to the warehouse (wirehouse as we call it) this afternoon and got our field jackets and overcoats. They are all used but will do until we get to the next camp. They have only two sizes in the Army, too large and too small. Most of the clothes that they have down here are too large. When they asked if we had all of our clothes they filled out a form and put down our size. I asked for a size 36 R in the jacket and overcoat but I got a 46 jacket and a 38 overcoat. I can assure you that I will never be seen in public with that overcoat on. If I get that thirty day furlough and it gets so cold that I have to wear an overcoat I will wear my civilian clothes. Most likely I will wear them most of the time anyway.

Kimball wants to go to Wichita tomorrow afternoon but I don't think I want to go. It seems like I just don't

care about going anyplace. I don't like to stay in camp but when I go someplace and come back I am pretty tired.

Tomorrow morning is Saturday morning again which means another inspection. I will have to shave, polish my shoes, and get my buttons polished up. I had to get a haircut again tonight as when they think you need a haircut you just as well forget about a weekend pass and plan on being on K.P. on Sunday.

I got a letter from Mom this noon and she said that they had gotten my pictures and had sent me a couple but I haven't got them yet. She said that they weren't very good as my coat was wrinkled but will send you one as soon as I can.

There sure aren't very many guys up stairs tonight but they are really making enough noise. They are arguing about some poker game that they played some days ago. One boy has such a loud voice that we can hear him for about a block.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight as I have an hour yet to get ready for tomorrow.

Your Loving Sweetheart
All My Love & Kisses
Clayton

I Love You Honey

Butte, Nebraska
November 2, 1945

"I'm startin' now, so here I go,"

This is the way Raymond told me to write the salutation.

My Darling Clayton,

That sounds just a little better, doesn't it? Also, a little more like me?

Your most welcomed letter arrived this morning. It took four days for this letter to come, that is, it was mailed Oct. 30 and I received it the 2nd of Nov. Usually if you mail it one day, I received it the second day following. I hope the rest of your letters come with a little more speed. When you send them give them a little more 'push'. Ha! Ha! They can't come too fast to suit me and there can't possibly be too many of them.

We had a little bad luck here, today. Daddy and Raymond were so proud (happy) that they finished picking corn, this noon, that they decided to haul cane this afternoon and tomorrow which would finish the work for right now. Daddy ate a nice dinner but got a little bit hungry this afternoon about 2:00 P.M. so tried to eat a sandburr. It lodged behind his tonsil and they couldn't get it out. They went to Butte, first but Hawkins couldn't do anything. Mr. Roush was here so he said he would take him to Norfolk, so to Norfolk they went at 3:20. Jim just called now from Norfolk and said they couldn't do a thing for Daddy, there, so they would hit Omaha next, as soon as possible. They are quite sure that they can't get it removed by an Omaha Dr. and if this is true they have to go on to Sioux

City. Jim said that more than likely they would end up someplace farther east but here is hoping Daddy doesn't have to suffer that long.

One good thing, though, the darned old sandburr can't go on down into his lungs. That helps matters a lot, because Daddy has asthma so terrible and can only breathe through his mouth.

I really miss my Daddy. He is never away from home and I'm such a 'Daddy's girl' that whenever he goes anyplace of any distance I get to go along. If I had been home this afternoon he would have taken me, but they figured that I couldn't get home from school and get ready in time. I guess when you are around your Daddy so much, you get quite closely attached to one another. Well, while Richard and Raymond were both gone, he needed someone to fill in the gap so I tried my best and he I'm sure was satisfied because he is always talking about it.

Even though I am my Daddy's girl, Honey, that doesn't mean that I can't be someone else's, so don't take me wrong.

Gee! Honey! All I am waiting for is: for you to get that furlough. It is a happy thought and I'm just waiting but far from patiently. Richard has signed and is waiting for his turn to come home for 30 days.

Well, Darling, in all of the confusion maybe I had better sign off for this time.

God Bless My Darling.
All my Love
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

Do I still love you honey?
Or do I!!!! I do definitely.

Butte, Nebraska
November 3, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter of October 31, this morning and I was really happy to get it. Your letters are always received with open arms, so would you, and I would give anything to have you here. I am really longing to see you.

We haven't heard any more from Daddy. I sure wish we would. It gets pretty lonesome without him here, as you can imagine. Mrs. Roush looks for them to come home sometime tonight, but I don't look for them until tomorrow, at least because something like that is going to leave Daddy pretty weak, I think. He isn't too well, anyway.

You asked me who that Blonde was, Honey. Well, that is just a gag, "well, I was out with that Blonde last night," or something of the sort. No, Honey, I wasn't. I was just teasing you so please don't take me wrong. Oh! Yes! And if that is the way drivers feel about red heads, I'm going to be sure that my sis isn't home when you come. Ha! Ha! Or aren't you for redheads?

Gee! Honey! You don't have to worry about forgetting how to dance. You are a swell dancer, and once one knows how to do a thing it is not easily forgotten. I'll admit that I go to too many dances but just when I decide to stay home, someone changes my mind for me. But I don't go anyplace else, only to a dance once a week. I am not too bad or am I?!?!?!?

I am sure looking forward to your coming home and can hardly wait to see you. This is punishment, having you gone so long.

I quite well agree with the Chinaman because I don't care too much for tea. One Chinese said, "Me make 'em good flied lice; Me good 'Melican." In order to solve that, supply an r for an l.

Well, Sweetheart, don't worry about that bit of poetry making me angry. Truthfully, I enjoyed it. It takes an awful lot to even start me to get angry so don't take me for a "demon". Ha! Ha! Ask your buddy what kind of a gal he thinks I am, if I couldn't take a joke.

Darling, I'll see you in my dreams. God Bless You, Sweetheart. "I Love You."

All My Love
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

Richard came home this morning, Sunday.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H, 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't
A. G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
November 4, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

I just finished reading your swell letter of Nov. 1 and was really glad to hear from you. I wasn't here for mail call yesterday so the fellow who sleeps next to me got it & I read it this morning. Your letter dated Oct. 31.

I started to write this letter this morning but I was so sleepy that I had to lay down and slept for three hours. The reason that I was so sleepy was because I don't think I had over a half hour of sleep last night.

Kimball and I decided to try hitch hiking home yesterday afternoon as we thought that we could get there faster that way and would have a few hours at home. We went to Junction City right after dinner but the bus was so full that we couldn't get on, so decided to hitchhike. We left Junction City as 12:30 and started for Lincoln. We got as far as Wymore, Nebr. (53 miles so. of Lincoln) by 6:00 which was half way from here to Fremont and we had eleven different rides getting there. We couldn't get a bus out of there so we decided to come back to camp, but weren't going to hitchhike as it was so cold. We had to wait until 3:15 this morning for the next bus and then I couldn't sleep on it.

That town was really dead so about all we did was sit around in a cafe a while, go down and drink a little beer, and walk the streets. There was a dance there but that didn't sound very interesting to me. We didn't know what to do after midnight so we went down to the hotel and sat around in the lobby. We didn't dare go to sleep for fear that we wouldn't wake up in time for the bus so sat around and read the papers and magazines.

I got the Spencer Advocate this noon and read about Toney Connot. I bet he will think he is a big shot

when he gets back and his folks really must brag about him. I probably shouldn't feel that way about him as we were real pals before this Army life interfered and things just weren't the same after he left and I didn't have to go the same time.

I think that the reason why I hadn't gotten any of your letters was that it gets all balled up down here. I sometimes get two of your letters the same time and one was mailed a day sooner than the other. I have been trying to write to you every day but miss a day once in a while. There isn't much to write about but if you are like I am just a few lines mean a lot.

I got a letter from Mom this noon, asking what I had decided about signing up. I am going to sign up if I get the chance if they will hold me here. I have eleven more days. She said that I should try for a furlough without signing up but a lot of fellows tried it and were turned down. She said that it sounds like most of us will have to stay in for 18 months so that will be just another year.

Darling, you had better keep planning on that vacation of yours, as I might not get that furlough. I think that I am hoping to get home just as much as you are. Time really does fly when one doesn't want it to, especially on those furloughs. I know those ten days went awfully fast.

I got my pictures yesterday and will send you one, but will have to wait until Wednesday afternoon as that is the only time that I will be able to get over to the postoffice to send it. It isn't very good, but it seems like I can't take pictures any more.

Who is this fellow that Annie was with now? Jerry wrote to me while I was in Texas and told me how he felt about her going with this Johnson boy from Gross. I suppose that she can't stand it not going out with someone. I don't know whether Jerry has gotten another girl yet or not as I haven't heard from him since I was home. I should be getting a letter from him pretty soon as I wrote to him the first week that I was here.

They must be having a lot of dances up there now. I suppose if I do get that furlough they won't have many then.

Well, Honey, I will quit for now as I am awful tired and sleepy, and will have to go to bed again. I should write to the folks yet but will wait until tonight.

All my Love and Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

What does H.I.I.L.W.Y mean? It has gotten me bested.

Butte, Nebraska
November 5, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Hi! Honey! or should I say Good Morning? It is rather early - about 8:30 A.M. None of my pupils are here yet, so I thought I would just drop you a line in the meantime.

I tried to read funny papers yesterday but just couldn't so I stopped and started writing to you. Just about that time, here came company, my cousin and her husband. So I went home with them. They live in Spencer, but wanted to see the show in Butte. When we were about to our place we decided to stop in and take Evelyn along but to our surprise there were only four cars sitting in the yard. We didn't stop only long enough to let them know we were going on to the show, and that was almost too long because there were a lot of teen-agers there, too. I should have stayed at home but I had been so sick Saturday that I didn't feel like being bothered yet - last night. I don't mean being bothered but I mean I wasn't feeling too well yet and didn't feel like visiting or entertaining, any large number so I just stayed out of the picture entirely.

Gee! Honey! It was a happy day for us children, yesterday. It was the first time us kids were together for over five years so you can imagine how we felt but Daddy wasn't with us until noon. You can just imagine how happy we were and the folks also.

Richard is home on a 30 day furlough. He signed up for one year in the regular Army. Whoopee!! Am I ever happy that he is home!! But Raymond is sure jealous now. It is going to be hard for them to agree on things but they will learn soon, I hope.

Well, Darling, I'll have to bring this to a close and please excuse the pencil but my pen is at home.

I'll be thinking of you, always.

God Bless You,
All My Love,
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

"I love you."

Butte, Nebraska
November 5, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I received two letters from the swellest guy anywhere in the world, today. They were like something sent directly to me from Heaven, only I am never satisfied. I would have been happier if it would have been you, instead.

This has certainly been quite a day though. I am so nervous yet tonight that I hardly know what to do first. It is first, one thing and then another. This being the first week of November, it means, redecorate the whole school room and get ready for Patron's Day, Friday. That is really a lot of fun. The invitations have to be finished and sent out tomorrow, but the menu has to be finished first. The heck with all of it for tonight. This letter more important than any of it and then sleep comes next.

Oh! Honey! My fingernails aren't so very long. Not any longer than the one I sent to you. One more is in the process of breaking off. That almost breaks my heart. It hurts worse to lose a fingernail than a finger, only I'd hate to lose a finger everytime I broke a fingernail. Perhaps I would be minus fingers, I mean I wouldn't even have enough if I counted my toes as fingers too. Maybe you could lend me some. Ha! Next time you see me you had better look at me, instead of into my eyes. I knew you didn't know what I looked like or you wouldn't be writing to me. That is one time you got caught. Ah! Ha!

When Richard was at Camp Fannin, I sent him a beautiful chocolate cake. It really looked delicious and I really worked so that it would be packed just so and he got it O.K. I made the frosting a little soft to avoid cracking

and he said that when he received it, it was just like it was when it was packed, so fresh and still in one piece. I think he keeps talking about it so I'll send him another when he goes back. These brothers are the trickiest people. Ahem!! Now, Honey, I didn't say they weren't alright. But I usually like brothers pretty well, at least there is someone else's brother that is tops!! A comp to u, Darling.

We have had only one real cold day so far this year. That was only last Saturday but it was warmer already yesterday and today it was simply beautiful. It was really warm. The bees came out and were more than buzzing around that schoolhouse. You know, Sweetheart, when it comes to Honey, I'm always out of luck. There is always a catch to everything too and I'm getting disgusted. Everyday I teach, I am near honey but can't reach it and I have another honey much farther away and can't reach him either. I am always out of luck. Now can you blame me.

But until my Honey comes home, I'll send my thoughts his way and try to reach him that way.

God Bless My Sweetheart, & The Best of Luck.

Remember, Darling, "I love you."

Always my Love,

Your Sweetheart,

Elaine

P.S. Harold Sedivy's wife left for N.C. or S.C. (which is it?) & he said he was free, white, & 21, now until she comes back. He is the flirtiest thing I ever saw. If I was her I wouldn't trust him because he keeps trying to date 2 of us girls. Don't worry, Honey, cause I love you 2 much. I'm not foolish enough to think of dating him. But it just tickles me because everyone was worked up about what a couple that was & how he loved her so much.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st. Regt.
A.G.F.R.D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
November 6, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

Another day gone by and two swell letters from the sweetest girl in this world reached their destination this noon. It was really grand hearing from you again. I don't know why but it seems that this mail is getting delayed someplace and I think it is down here.

I got a letter from Jerry this noon also and was the first that I had heard from him in two months. He is on Luzon Island and seems to like it very much. He said that it is about like good old Nebr. over there so it isn't so bad. Tony is in Tokyo and wants Jerry to try to get transferred up there. I would like to get over there also as I would really like to see those boys again. Jerry said that they may be back in the states by next May.

I'm really sorry to hear about your father but am sure that things will turn out to the best. I know that a sandburr really hurts. I had one stuck on my cheek once while picking corn and it was real painful. (I had to take time out to refill my pen).

Kimball and I went over to see a couple of fellows from Wayne who are across the street in G. Company. We sat around a little while and talked and then decided to go down to the P.X. and drank a few bottles of beer. It sure doesn't taste anything like good old Nebr. beer.

One boy from Wayne went home over the weekend and didn't get back until 8:30 yesterday, just 2 1/2 hours late but all he got was company detail such as raking leaves and cutting grass for two days. Another boy went to St. Louis and was 13 hours late. He is restricted for a week and has K.P. for the rest of the week. I heard that they wouldn't issue passes that far anymore.

I heard that we have next weekend off from Saturday noon until 5:00 Tuesday morning. If that is so and we can get a pass we plan on going home. We would get home on the Bonesteel bus Sunday morning and would have to leave on the midnight train from O'Neill or have the folks take us to Lincoln Monday morning.

We had a pretty easy day as far as the training except for one hour which was unarmed defense. That was learning how to throw a fellow if they tried to take us down. It was rather rough with a few ending up with a few bruised elbows, knees, and sore backs. It was a lot of fun and I think that it is helpful for anyone. In fact I think this Army life isn't doing any harm to anyone and I really like it.

I'll bet that you are all glad that Richard got home. He is lucky that he got to sign up before he shipped. I'll bet he is wishing that he could be home for Christmas.

There was a shipment of 20 men shipped out this morning and 30 more are going out tomorrow morning. They are mostly married men and are over 26 years old. They are going to a camp near Washington, D.C. to be trained as M.P.'s. I haven't heard yet whether any more will ship out this week or not or what they are going to do with me in connection to signing up. I have just nine more days yet but most of them have to wait another week before they sign up and another week before they go home so I probably won't be home for two or three weeks if I get to sign up.

Well, Darling, there isn't any more news to write so I will close for tonight and will write again. I hope that your Dad is home and feeling fine.

"Honey, I Love You"

All My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart, Clayton

Butte, Nebraska
November 7, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I just received your swell letter that was written November 4th. Gee, Honey! Your letters are all I need to keep me existing since it is impossible for me to see you.

I can't blame you kids for going back to camp, after not finding yourself making much headway, as one really can't walk very fast. Usually when one starts walking and has a great distance to travel, he gets "nowhere fast." Isn't that true? It is also very disgusting.

Darling, I have something on my mind. "Strange, isn't it?" But it bothers me very much and until I tell you about it I won't feel right so here I go. I went to intermission with a gentleman from Page, last night. He was very nice but Honey, you just can't be beat, so he definitely wasn't any nicer than you. But he was very nice. He was just a discharged soldier, home now after four years of service and getting acquainted with people around here. I met him about a month ago and danced with him a lot, so he wasn't a stranger to me. At intermission we went down to the cafe but couldn't get in so we went back to the dance hall and ate there. He is a very close friend of my cousins at Burwell, so we weren't too newly acquainted, or do you think we were? For some reason or other, I feel very guilty in my heart for having dated him. Please forgive me; will you, Honey? I love you and I mean it and I

also told you the truth. Donavon K saw us walking down to the cafe and he really gave me a look because he told me before intermission that he trusted me after he heard me refuse a date more than once. Evelyn, Raymond, Richard, Lois Jordan, Kathleen Lewis, and I were together, so I don't think it was as bad as if I would have dated him privately.

We really had a lot of fun last night but I really longed for you. When Raymond goes with us, we always have to much fun; but we really cut up. People really wonder if we are just silly or "had one drink too many." When we were coming out of the dance hall, that is, we were on the floor with the mob, and Raymond just picked me up by holding me around the waist, exceptionally tight, and carried me off the floor. Just jokingly, I said, "When I'm carried, I like to be carried comfortably, at least." No sooner had I said that, when to my surprise just as I went to step off the floor, he swept me off the floor and carried me out of the dance hall and across the street to the car. Did I ever feel embarrassed!!! Everyone just stood and shouted with laughter. But not all sisters have a brother that will be so kind as to carry them! Ha! Ha!

Richard used to go with a girl from O'Neill, Anita Murphy. Perhaps you have heard all about her from him, haven't you? Anyway, he wrote and told her that things were all off and that was that. He never left her know that he was coming home or anything but some way she got wind of it so she called, long distance, three times last night but Dad kept telling her he wasn't home but wouldn't tell where he was. (Pretty good Daddy isn't he?) The first place she thought he would be was Spencer so she hired two kids to bring her to Spencer. They reached Spencer just as we came out of the dance hall. Richard managed to dodge her until it came time to get into the car and she was there so he couldn't. Finally she went back to her car to drive it over by ours but in the mean time Richard came and got in. We tried to reason with him and tell him to talk to her and tell her what was what, right then, so she would leave him alone but he wouldn't and it wasn't our business so we weren't going to make him. We went on home, then, and at 5:00 A.M. this morning someone practically tore the door down trying to get in. Right then we knew who it was so Evelyn went to the door. She wanted Richard and Evelyn said she didn't know for sure if he was home but she was almost sure she heard him come home. Well, she said if he wasn't home she would be over in the morning to see him. Evelyn did some fast talking and said she would see for sure. When Evelyn went in to Richard to wake him and tell him, in went Anita right behind her. Richard just turned over & wouldn't talk. Finally he said he didn't want to talk about anything because there wasn't any purpose for it. She knew how things stood and didn't need any more of an explanation. About five thirty, she went into the kitchen and gave Evelyn a big line about what Richard said and never said only a couple sentences and he said both of those right together. Just as she went to leave she told Evelyn that she would call Richard this morning and if she didn't get any satisfaction, then, she would come over on the bus. We sure don't see why she can't see. It gets disgusting after a fashion. If she was just blind, maybe she could see but as it is there isn't any reason for it. As far as she is concerned, personally, we like her, but as a girl for Richard, Huh-uh. No. He likes her too but not her ways. I'm really eager to know if she called this morning or what happened.

Donavon told me last night that your father and his father were twins, and also that they looked very much like each other. I saw Donavon's father, so if your Father's look alike, I know where you get your good looks. I really mean that, Honey. I was behind the kitchen door when they passed out the good looks in the parlor, but it really wasn't all my fault - or was it?

School is just dismissed so you can imagine how the pupils are acting.

Friday is Patron's Day and I am really glad, glad to get it over. I really enjoyed it last year, but I am more nervous this year. It isn't as much fun when I'm nervous because I enjoyed it so much last year, especially the Christmas Program. Oh! Yes, if you are home around the thirteenth of December, I might even invite you, who knows? Ha! Ha!

Well, Sweetheart it is almost time for my folks to come after me, so maybe I had better sign off. I don't have my sweeping done, yet. Bad me!!! But I'll bet that it will just wait for me. Ha! Ha!

Say Honey, if you don't know how I feel about you, then you will never ever know what H.I.I.L.W.Y.

means If I recall correctly you put that on one of my letters a long time ago. Here is a clue. Honey, I'm In ____
____ _____. Do you mind or don't you care?

God Bless My Sweetheart & Good Luck.

All my love to the swellest
and sweetest guy anyplace,
Your Darling,
Elaine

Just as a reminder: I loveYou.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't
A.G.F.R.D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
November 7, 1945

Dearest Sweetheart,

I received your swell letter about a half hour ago and was really glad to hear from you. I am going to Junction City this afternoon to send some things home so will write to you before I go.

Darling, get set for the worse as I have some very unpleasant news. I won't be coming home on a furlough. They called a bunch of us this morning and we thought that they were going to let us enlist but they said they couldn't hold us here any longer than the 12th of this month and we won't have our six months in by then. They said that we could still enlist but I wouldn't do that as we wouldn't get that furlough and that is all I want.

I suppose that I will be shipping out yet this week. They said that they couldn't hold anyone later than the 12th so I suppose this camp will mostly be shipped by then and that is next Monday.

The Captain who talked to us, said that he didn't know if we would be able to sign up at our next camp or not. I am hoping so and then I would get to be home for Christmas if I wait long enough.

Kimball and I were going to sign up at the same time so that we could stay together but it looks as though all of those plans are knocked in the head as he will be able to sign up here. He said that he would wait until we get to the next camp if he knew that we could but if we can't he couldn't get his furlough.

We had the rest of the forenoon off after we had that interview and after we got back here the rest of the company was playing organized athletics so I got into a volley ball game. I really do like that game.

I got a letter from my cousin in Omaha this noon and she said that her brother, Ben Blair, came home last week and he has really changed. He has been in four years and never had a furlough in all of that time. There sure have been a lot o men coming back but I guess they are entitled to it. It is our job to go over and take their places now.

Well, Honey, I will close for now as I am going to the P. X. to get a box to send that stuff home and then go to town and send it home and get back to camp and write some more letters.

All my love and Kisses,
Your Sweetheart,
Clayton

S/Sgt. W. D. Collins 37465996
Co. "B" 1-1, A.G.F.R.D. #3
Ft. Riley, Kansas
Nov. 7, 1945

Dear Elaine,

So I surprised you by writing. I'd much rather surprise you by coming in person. Who knows? I may get the chance before too long, I hope.

Gee I'm going to feel terribly lost. My buddy that I have been with for almost two years is shipping out tomorrow and will I ever miss him.

Gee, I just as well as stayed home for I haven't been doing anything so I guess nobody would have missed me.

I guess its a good thing that I didn't come out to your school that Friday. Miss Barnes may have run me

off.

Elaine if I asked you for something you wouldn't disappoint me would you? _____! Good. I would like to have a picture. Please.

Last Saturday my buddy and I went out to the College at Manhattan and saw the play "Kiss and Tell." It was very good too. We also went over to the Rec. Hall to a dance but we didn't stay long. We were good boys for the evening.

Maybe I had better shove off for this time. So until then, Sweet Dreams to U.

Love,

Warren

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Regt.
A. G. F. R. D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
November 8, 1945

My Dearest Darling,

Another day gone by and another letter from my Sweetheart reached me this noon. It is "Heaven" to receive your letters but would be a lot better if I could be there with you.

It was really a cold day here today and the way it looked this morning I thought that it would snow. It was misting and almost cold enough to snow. We were out on the compass course this morning and saw a movie and ran the obstacle course this afternoon. This Army is really funny. They give us a pair of gloves but won't let us wear them. It was so cold this morning that we had to keep our hands in our pockets and Our Captain said that we could wear our gloves this afternoon instead of walking around here with our hands in our pockets.

I went to Junction City yesterday afternoon and sent my garrison cap home and sent you my picture. We

went to a show and then came back to camp and went to a show here. We saw "Hold That Blonde" and it was really good. Eddy Bracken and Veronica Lake played in it.

There are about 50 men shipping out of this company tomorrow morning. I am not on that order as they took all of those whose names start with A through H. I suppose that I will be on the next shipment but I don't know if it will be any more this week or not.

There is so much noise in here now that a person can't even hear himself think. A bunch of fellows are arguing with our Sergeant about how he monkeys around drilling us. He has to give us a few about-faces' before he dismisses us from any formation. He is one of those buck sergeants and is bucking for another stripe.

I went up to the P.X. a little while ago to get some cigarettes and saw a fellow down there from Bristow. He was in Camp Fannin the same time that I was but he was in a different company. He went as far as Omaha with us when we went home and we never saw any more of him until we ran across him in Junction City about two weeks ago.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight as I have to shave yet and write to my cousin.

Your Loving Sweetheart
All My Love & Kisses
Clayton

I Love You Darling

P.S. You are really correct about writing letters first and then sleep. I bet that you really do have a job at school but hope you enjoy that kind of work. Honey, don't get angry now but I have just filled my pipe and am puffing away right now.

What kind of guy is this Harold Sedivy? He was in the same grade as I was in high school but was rather quiet then. It seems like a lot of these fellows are that way when they get back but not all of them.

Butte, Nebraska
November 8, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

No letter today and do I feel it!! Everything seems to go wrong when I don't hear from you. Honey, that is the truth. That is just how much your letters mean to me.

This is really the first actually cold day that we have had. It froze things pretty hard last night. We couldn't get the car started, anyway this morning so to school I went on the tractor. That wasn't too bad but it cooled me off almost through. The school house was so cold that we didn't start school at nine o'clock, that is for sure. Then to top the morning off, here came Miss Barnes and a lady from the State Dept. at Lincoln. She was visiting some of the best schools of the county and some of the schools with the 'better' teachers which Miss Barnes recommended to her. I sure listened to that line - like fun. But anyway, it really fixed me for a while. At least I hope she doesn't come again for a while.

I just finished eating some ice cream. It was very delicious and I sure wish that you were here to enjoy it with us. We had a large birthday supper for my cousin. More fun! I didn't enjoy any of it until it was over so I could wash the dishes. I like to wash dishes. It is a lot of fun to my estimation.

Tomorrow is Patron's Day and I am so tired that if I don't go to bed pretty soon the Patron's will think I look sleepy all of the time. Or do I, generally, anyway?

Well, Sweetheart, there just isn't any news to write but I just had to drop you a line, to let you know that I was thinking of you.

Good Night Sweetheart. I'll be seeing you in my dreams.

Good Luck & God Bless You,
All my Love,
Your Darling,
Elaine

"I Love You, Honey."

Butte, Nebraska
November 9, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter of November 6th this morning. If it wouldn't have been for that letter, I am sure today would have been a 'flop'. I even had to read it the last thing before the visitors were to arrive. It really gave me courage, Honey, and lots of it.

Is Jerry still working in an office or has he been transferred? I sure think of him often, with connection of Annie. She sure used to think a lot of Jerry. At least she did when she worked here. We used to really have the good times when Jerry would come just to see Annie, and us kids would just sit in the car and talk. When you write to him tell him "Hello" for me and that I still need advice so he had better come home and help me out. "Now, Honey, I'll let you in on that "advice" deal because I don't want to keep it secret from you. It isn't anything very

much, anyway, only Jerry used to advise me what to write, etc. to a guy from Pennsylvania that I liked quite well, but that is all off now. Jerry is quite the fellow. I always got a big kick out of him, he is so comical.

Gee! Darling! I sure would love to see you but K know I won't get to. But if I don't see you pretty soon, I'm going to do something desperate. Only six more days and you will be in the Army six months. It doesn't hardly seem possible. No! foolin! But I wish I could make another six go by a lot quicker. I sure hope that you get home on pass, Honey, but your folks are so proud of you (which I can't blame them for), that I wouldn't get to see you anyway.

Gee! Honey! I'm so tired tonight that I can hardly see. Today was Patron's Day and you can imagine how one feels. It really feels good to relax after being so oh, not really nervous but you have more of a tense feeling.

Well, dearest I have to go wake my brother so he can go to bed. He is sleeping on the floor with the Baby's wooden toy box for a pillow. Isn't that the joke? We do have better things than that but he occasionally forgets we do live civilized in some ways at least. Ha!

Take good care of my Sweetheart and you may tell him "I love him," for me, if you will please. Just in case you don't know him, I'll give you a clue. His initials are C.L.K.

Good Night Honey & God Bless You,

All My Love,
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

"I Love you"

Butte, Nebraska
November 10, 1945
or 11 (just between)

My Darling Clayton,

Just a few lines before I retire for the night to let you know I received your swell letter today and Darling! that wasn't all. I received your swell picture, also. Gee! Honey! It's a Honey! But you are a Darling. Thanks a million for the photo honey, now, I really will dream about you and how!!

We just came home from the show at Bonesteel. It was a pretty good show -- double feature. One was about a Blonde, not very interesting, but the other was a swell western -- Sheriff of Sundown. It was really a good western and how I love western shows -- in fact, anything western. Daddy, Raymond, and I went for a change.

The day has been more or less a gloomy one, very cold and disagreeable. Your photo brightened the day for me but the contents of your letter sure fixed it. Oh! Darling! I want to see you so very much before you go overseas. I don't know what I shall do if it is impossible, which I know it will be. Even if I don't see you again, take these words with you, "I love you." I mean them Darling, so believe me.

Well, Sweetheart it is after midnight so I had better sign off for tonight. Everyone else is in bed already.

Good night, Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart. I'll see you in my dreams, especially now since I have your picture sitting on my dresser right by the head of my bed. All I have to do is open my eyes and see you smiling.

All my Love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
November 12, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Just yesterday at this time, I was sitting by the window, looking out, when in drove a "Chevy", with the most handsome fellow I know or will know, or hope to know, for the driver. Gee!! Yesterday was wonderful. I just didn't know how to act. It rather surprised me even after I found out that you were home.

I just can't think straight today. I keep thinking about you, can you blame me? Honey, I have your ring all taped to fit me. I practiced first aid in school so I used a little of that knowledge and bandaged your ring (my) with tape. It really looks swell, though, even if I do have to say so myself. It is a beautiful ring, but it seems still more beautiful when I think of the one that was wearing it last night, I mean at first, not at the last.

Darling, It was simply wonderful seeing you yesterday, and I mean it. Today, everything seems like a dream to me. Yesterday went so fast, if only the future days would go just that fast!! Wouldn't life be worth living? Or don't you think so?

I didn't get this finished this morning or rather this afternoon either because after I put the kids to working tests, here came my brother Raymond, so I didn't do too much writing. In fact I just stopped, I couldn't have written what I wanted to with him sitting there.

Gee! Honey! I'm honestly enjoying myself at that dance tonight, by sitting here at home thinking of you. I'll truthfully admit that it is more pleasant here than at a dance, as much as I like dances. Evelyn went tonight

though. She couldn't stay home. That just isn't in her line. She asked me the first thing this morning if I wouldn't go and I said, not unless I feel different tonight. Well, I didn't so I stayed at home and I'm not sorry of it. I can't keep my mind away from you. Honey, do you mind?

I really had a wonderful time yesterday and I enjoyed everything very much. The show was a very interesting one. "Wasn't it"? Ha! (As if you know what it was about? I know I am boring but I didn't know I (my presence) could put any one under. Now, Honey, I was just teasing so don't get angry at me.

Well, Sweetheart, I'm praying now, that we will meet soon and I know we will.

Good Luck and God Bless You.

"I Love You"

All my Love,

Elaine

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd. Bn., 1st. Reg't
A.G.F.R.D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
November 13, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

I received three letters from my Sweetheart this noon and will answer them now. I got one from the folks and one from Irene also this noon and one from my Mom's Aunt and Uncle in Omaha so I should write a lot of letters tonight. I am too tired to write many so will write to you and then one to the folks.

I guess that Lady Luck was really with us over the weekend. We left home at 9:30 yesterday morning and got to Lincoln at 4:00 with no car trouble to speak of. We were about to Norfolk and all at once the motor stopped. We looked at the battery and found out that it tipped over to one side and was touching a piece of iron which shorted it so bad that it stopped the motor. We set it up again and then had it fixed in Norfolk while we ate dinner.

We ate a little lunch in Lincoln and then went back to the bus depot and waited in line but were about at the front of it. That was at 4:30 and by 5:30 it was really packed around there. When the bus pulled up to the door they announced that there would be a special bus for the soldiers to Fort Riley which would load at a different door and then everyone made a mad rush over there. We were at the end of the line then so we were beginning to think that the folks would have to take us on down here. We saw a fellow from this company who lives in Lincoln and he said that if we couldn't get on he would drive down and we could ride with him.

We decided to get behind the line of civilians getting on the regular bus so tried it and we were the last three to get on the bus but had to stand up until we got to Beatrice and then some got off and we got their seats. We

got down here at 11:00 so it wasn't so bad.

I got to bed about 11:30 but just couldn't go to sleep for about an hour. I was thinking about you and how I wished that I could have had another day at home and taken you to the dance. Honey, I wouldn't be able to get you off of my mind if I wanted to and won't even try as it would be impossible.

Kimble and I just came back from the P.X. and had a bottle of beer and then packed up all of our clothes as we are moving back to the old company where we were before moving over here. We have to turn in our barracks bags before 7:15 in the morning so have to pack them tonight.

I was really happy this morning as our First Sargent told us that we could come in this evening and put in our application for reenlisting but I was rather peeved and discouraged tonight as he read off a shipping order and I am on that and will leave here Thursday morning. I was in the hopes that I would get to sign up here but will have to wait until I get to the next camp.

The folks and I decided that I could sign up but don't know whether I can or not at the next camp. I am hoping that I can and get to go home and see you again. I am glad that we got home over the weekend as that may have been the last chance to see you and wish that I could have been with you longer.

We had a rather easy day today and I think it was a good thing as I was so tired that I didn't feel like doing anything. We went to a class on riot duty and then cleaned a rifle apiece this morning and then went out and fired the automatic rifle this afternoon. They hauled us out there and back which was five miles out there.

Well, Honey, there isn't any more news to write so will close for tonight and will continue to keep thinking of you.

Honey, I Love You

With All of My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart,
Clayton

P.S. I will probably be half way out to the East Coast by the time you get this and will write to you as soon as I have an address.

Butte, Nebraska
November 13, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Here I am again after another whole day, and perhaps you are back in camp. At least I hope you aren't out with over two other girls. Or aren't you out with any?

Boy! This has really been an off day for me, Honey! I need your letters! This is the way the day started for me. I went on the tractor Monday, yesterday, and everything went fine, so today I repeated my means of transportation. Well, when I got about a half mile from the school house - chug, chug, chug. Sure, it did, it started to run out of gas in the fuel tank and before I could stop those rubber wheels and get it turned on the other tank of gas, it was all in vain for it was stopped. That really made me disgruntled for the rest of the day and I've been feeling so blue and not good physically, either. I'll sleep it all off tonight, though, if I get to bed, I mean.

Richard and Daddy just came home. It is almost 10 so it is about time. They brought home six swell ducks, all dressed. They look good even if I can't eat any of them. I sure wish you were here to help us get on the outside of duck, dressing, cranberries, and everything that goes with it. Ummm, I can just smell it cooking but I hope I'm not home because I can't resist a temptation.

Richard will try to drop you a line either tomorrow or tomorrow night so that you will get it before you have to ship out and here is hoping that you don't have to ship out for a while. Just think, Thursday is the day that

marks the "half-year" of service for you. Now I hope that they don't keep you for another year and a half. That would be too long.

It was such a beautiful night last night, which is quite different from tonight, and I really wished you could have been here. The moon was really bright. It was really beautiful, no foolin', and just think, I stayed home. But I'll never regret it.

Say, Honey, I said I had a recipe to send you. Well, here it is but I don't believe that I should really send it, but as long as you don't take too much advantage of it, I won't care.

Recipe for a Kiss Cake is the name. I'll put it on a different sheet of paper because I haven't room on this one anyway.

Well, Darling, I'll write again soon but it is getting pretty late tonight.

Goodnight & God Bless You.

All My Love,
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

"I love you, Darling"

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. H., 2nd Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D. #3
Fort Riley, Kansas
November 14, 1945

Dearest Sweetheart,

Another day half gone and no letter from my one and only Darling so it seems rather dull but I know the reason. You probably didn't write Sunday and I am sure that I can't blame you as you told me all of the news when I saw you.

We moved over here to this old Company at 7:30 this morning and had an inspection of our clothes and then packed our barracks bags and had them marked. We turn our barracks bags in in the morning and they are shipped to our next camp. We have a little cargo pack (handbag) which we have to carry with us and have our raincoat, shaving articles, and one blanket in it.

Kimball was called out this morning to enlist but I talked to him at noon he said that all he did was lay around as there were so many there that he had to go back this afternoon. They told him that he wouldn't get his furlough until a week or so later. I hope that we can get home sometime together and then stay together again.

I washed a few clothes a little while ago and laid them out on the ground to dry so have to keep an eye on them so that someone doesn't take them.

I just heard that we may be going to Fort Knox, Ky. as the shipment that left this morning was the last one going to Camp Pickett. That may be just another rumor but a person never knows. I would just as soon go to Fort Knox as it wouldn't take as long to get there and may be able to get home sooner if I sign up.

I'm really tired again this afternoon so may take a nap pretty soon. It seems that I haven't been able to sleep very good at nights since I got back. It must be that I have someone on my mind and you know who that is. In case you don't, I will give you a little hint. She lives five miles West of my home and not mentioning any names but her last initial starts with Counts.

Honey, I love you more than ever and sure wish that I was home to stay and I would prove that to you. I am going to sign up if I can and get that furlough so that I can be with you again but being away for a year is really going to be hard for me to take.

I got a letter from Daddy (my old man) yesterday and he sent me an article out of the Omaha World Herald about how some officer was telling a young soldier that if they didn't sign up for a year they may make them stay in for three years. That must be about what Richard heard. Warren Collins was telling my folks that he thought it was a pretty good deal and they finally said that I could if I wanted to. As you probably know, I really want to and you know why but I don't think my folks do.

Well, Darling, I will close for now and probably won't get to write for a couple of days so it probably won't get to you until the middle of next week. I know that it will be pretty hard waiting that long but maybe if you just forget about me for a few days it won't be so bad.

With All of My Love & Kisses
Your Loving Sweetheart
Clayton

P. S. Please send me your telephone number and I will try to call you from Omaha on my way home.
I love you, Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
November 14, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

The evening is growing short and the lights are going out so I'll have to hurry, but I had to write.

Mother is very, very bad tonight. We don't have too many hopes but we still have some, naturally. This is the worst she has ever been. We are afraid that we will have to take her to Lynch tomorrow. It is terrible to think about it but what has to be, has to be and so the world goes round. She was feeling pretty bad today and stayed in bed but didn't get worse until about an hour and a half ago. Evelyn and I are here alone with her, the rest have gone to the show. They left at 7:00 P.M. so they should be home pretty soon. We are scared to death that she will get another heart attack and we don't know what to do. She keeps calling for Daddy, but if we would get him home, as usual she wouldn't talk to him. She just wants to know that he is there.

Gee! Honey! I sat down here to write to you and forget about everything else and if I keep telling you my troubles, it won't be any better for either of us.

We started our Christmas Program today. I don't think it will be as good as last years. Boy! That was a swell one we gave. (Of course it was "Super" because Eddie was there.) Now, Honey, don't get angry, I was only

teasing.

Darling, I'll have to apologize for not going into the cafe with you Sunday evening but you see I can only drink water and milk and I won't drink milk and I can have water at home; and I can't have hamburgers and I just had ice cream a while before in Butte. I stay a way from cafes as much as I can. So please forgive me, honey. I'll be all right by the time you get home, I have only two more weeks to go.

Gee! Honey! The days sure are long without your letters but maybe, maybe, you'll be able to deliver your messages again, or didn't your folks decide in your favor. Tomorrow is the half year mark.

Richard's furlough is sure going fast. It won't be long before December 1st will be here. He has to leave about the 28th and that isn't so very far off.

Raymond is going to Omaha in the morning to see Mary. He can't stand it any longer. I can't blame him.

Well, Darling, I'll be signing off now, but only for this time. I'll be looking for a letter Friday for sure if I don't get one in the morning.

Good night, Sweetheart.
I love you, Darling,
All my love
Your Sweetheart (Or am I not your
Elaine Sweetheart anymore
or was I never?)

Somewhere in Indiana
10:30 Friday Morning
November 16, 1945

My Darling Elaine:

I will try to write you a few lines this morning but doubt if you will be able to read them as it is so rough that I can hardly write as you can see by now.

We have been traveling for twenty four hours and are almost across Indiana now. We are making pretty good time but killed a lot of time in Kansas City and St. Louis.

I am getting to see a lot of country but wouldn't trade any of good old Nebr. for any part of it. I sure wish that I was back there now. I am sure it would be a lot more enjoyable that riding on a troop train.

They ran out of water on here so we can't shave or wash now and we are pretty dirty from the smoke and cinders coming from the engine. They let us change into our fatigues (work clothes) so that our uniforms wouldn't get so dirty.

We are going to Camp Pickett and are supposed to get there sometime tomorrow morning. The sooner we

get there the better I will like it as I just hate rides of this kind.

We just stopped at a town and I found out that it is Seymour. It is about a hundred miles South of Indianapolis and are headed for Cincinnati now.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

I thought that I would finish this now as we have stopped and are changing engines and crews. Cincinnati is just a small town about three times as big as Omaha and from here it looks almost as dead as Butte. Ha. (Just kidding) It is built on the hills, sidehills, and down in the valleys. We just passed the Seagram's distilleries and I sure wish that I could have stopped for a bottle of whiskey or maybe even a case. Seagrams five crown or seven crown is my favorite brand. Some fellows got off in St. Louis last night and got some and had to run to catch the train.

I have a U.S. Map with me and am marking the towns that we go through. If I get home I will show you where I have traveled. If I get to go home I will take a Streamliner to Chicago and then to Omaha and then that slow old train home I suppose. By that time I will need about thirty days to rest.

I talked to Kimble yesterday morning and he got signed up and thought that he would get his furlough around the 21st of November. Don't tell anyone when he expects to get home as he doesn't want them to know it and wants to surprise Lorraine.

Well, Honey, I will close for now as I have to shave and will try to get a little shut-eye as I couldn't sleep last night and probably won't tonight either. It is hard telling where this will be post marked as I am going to try to mail it pretty soon. I will write soon.

All My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

S/Sgt. W.D. Collins (37465996)
Co. B., 1-1, A.G.F.R.D. #3
Ft. Riley, Kans.
November 16, 1945

Dear Elaine,

So I'm a villain am I? Gee calling me names already, Why Elaine I'm surprised at you. You could think of something sweeter couldn't you. But really it sounds as if it was a good thing I didn't come out, for the situation would have been rather awkward (How to you spell it) if we would have both arrived at the same time.

Now just what would you have done?? I'm serious.

How did you like the show. I guess that must have been where you saw me. Did you? If you did why didn't you speak to me. Huh. I like that. Ha.

Believe me, of course you said you wouldn't, I'll be around to collect that terrific beating your going to give me. I'll love ever bit of it.

I just got a phone call and it was my brother. He said, "He would be out to see me tonight. That's a good deal don't you think?"

The picture deal is practically closed, for I'll have one on its way very shortly. Hoping the same from your way. I'll get one when I write home. O.K.

I believe I'm going to be here for awhile. Who knows, maybe until I get my discharge. Which will be soon, I hope.

I guess you probably all know this but just in case, Clayton left a day or two ago, for I believe Camp Pickett, VA.

Darling, if you can't read this just save it and I'll tell you all about it when I get home. I'm writing it on my lap.

Good nite & Sweet dreams

Love to U

Warren

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. B., 1st. Bn., 1st. Regt.
A. G. F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, VA
November 17, 1945

My Darling Elaine,

Well, Honey, here I am, way out East in Virginia and I must say a quite a ways from home. Too far to be exact.

We got here at 7:30 this morning and were really glad to get off the train after riding for 45 hours. They assigned us to our company and then had a physical examination before we came over here. We had breakfast on the train and again after we got here and had dinner about 2:00. Our First Sergeant gave us a little talk and then our mail clerk told us about our mail service here. They said that we would have to send our civilian shoes home but I don't think I will. I talked to a Sergeant on the train when I went home and he said that when a person gets on the boat you can carry anything you want as long as it doesn't weigh over seven pounds.

We are to have a shake down inspection Monday and get our new clothes and it is hard telling if they will give us all new ones. Only the ones that we need pretty bad. We are to get combat jackets instead of blouses and a pair of combat boots.

They said that we will be here from three to eight days so I may not be able to sign up as they won't be open today or tomorrow and will be changing clothes Monday and if the deadline is the 21st. I may be able to sign for an interview but don't know if they will take me off of shipping orders.

This camp is really a disappointment to me as I thought it would be somewhat like Fort Riley but isn't. It is built on a hill but there are a lot of tall pine trees around and can't see over a quarter of a mile. The buildings are built like those in Fort Riley but look to be a lot older. They are painted several different colors so as to camouflage

them. They aren't very close together either. I suppose that is because it is so near the coast that if the enemy should shell or bomb it that there wouldn't be so much damage.

The soil is mostly clay and it really blows around when it is windy like today. Most of it is rusty color and reminds me somewhat of Texas.

The only good thing about this camp is that the WAC Detachment is just across the street but that is off limits to us which means that we can't go over there. We are not allowed to talk to them or even whistle at them. Our Sergeant said that a Captain in this regiment got restricted for two weeks just because he was caught talking to one. Don't worry, Honey, they will never catch me talking to one as I don't approve of them very much and why would I want to talk to one anyway. They are just another women except in uniform and I am going to stay true to my Honey back home.

They told us today that they were shipping men both ways from here so I may go to the West Coast yet. A person never knows what they will do now days. I suppose that it will be about my luck to be shipped out before I can sign up. If I do, it may be long time before I get any of your mail. About the time this gets to you and yours comes back I suppose I will be gone but it will catch up with me sooner or later.

I will close for tonight for I have to shave and write to the folks yet and will write again soon.

Goodnight and Sweet Dreams Darling
With All of My Love and Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

P.S. I will try to send you a telegram before I leave if I can get to a place where I can sent it.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. B., 1st. Bn., 1st. Regt.
A.G.F.R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, VA
November 18, 1945

My Dearest Darling Elaine,

I will drop you a short letter this afternoon as this is the last sheet of paper that I have and there is none at the P.X., so I don't know if I can get anymore to write to you. We can't get a pass to go to town so are out of luck.

I just came back from the Day Room and mailed a card to Kimball and one to my cousin Slug and saw my old buddy who was in Camp Fannin with me. He is from St. Louis and was in Fort Riley but I never saw him there. He said that he signed up for a year last week and won't be going home for another week so maybe I will get a chance to.

I went to the P.X. last night but didn't stay very long. They don't have very much there and it was sure crowded. I am going to go back up there pretty soon and see if I can get some writing paper. I will have to get a haircut also as they are really strict about that. We can't even wear our civilian shoes down here.

Kimball and I went to Junction City last Wed. afternoon and saw the show "Enchanted Cottage." I didn't think I slept through very much of it that Sunday night but after I saw it again I really missed a lot of it. It was a swell show. I might go to the show tonight as there isn't much to do and we can't go to town. I would like to go to Richmond once just to see what the town looks like.

Gee, Honey, just think, a week ago I was there close to you. I sure wish that I was there with you now. It doesn't seem like a week but more like two weeks since then but I guess about all I can do is think back and hope that I can get that furlough soon. It will be pretty hard to take if I won't be able to see you again for awhile. It

would probably be harder to take if I did get home for thirty days and then have to leave but I think I might be able to take it or at least I am going to try it.

I had thought that if I got the furlough and if Kimball had to leave a week before I did, that I would go back the same time that he did so that we could stay together but I have changed my mind as I would stay home and be with you as long as I could as I could find someone else to buddy up with. We probably wouldn't get to go across together anyway.

There are a quite a few fellows down here who are from Nebraska. The fellow who sleeps on my right is from Madison and the one on the other side of me is from Columbus.

Well, Darling, I will close for now so that I can mail this before the mail clerk takes the mail down to the post office and it will leave here sooner and that way you will get it sooner.

With All of My Love & Kisses
Your Darling Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. B., 1st. Bn., 1st. Regt.
A.G.F.R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, VA
November 19, 1945

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, please excuse this kind of stationery but it is the only kind that I could get and I had to buy it from our Platoon Sergeant.

It is really a dreary and gloomy day here as it has been cloudy all day and started raining about 9:30 this morning and is still sprinkling. They just announced mail call so I went out but never received any. I suppose I will get some in about three or four more days if I am still around here. We may be shipped out soon by the way they talk. The last bunch that left here went on a train right to New York and then right onto the boat.

We were supposed to go down to the warehouse this morning to get our new clothes but didn't go on account of the rain. All we did was just sit around and then our Captain gave us a talk. We went to a picture show this afternoon for about an hour and then just sat around.

They called me over to the Company Orderly Room about 10:30 this morning and they said that I was to report to the Staff Judge Advisory Office. I didn't know why and thought that I had done something wrong, but was greatly pleased after I got there because a Major said that he had gone over my service record and saw that I had three years of typing and shorthand and if I would like a job of being his stenographer. I told him that I hadn't done any of it for over three years but could do fairly good after a little practice and he said that he would interview some others and if he could use me he would call for me so I told him where to get in touch with me.

I guess that I am getting to like this camp a little better now. They don't have anything for us to do but sit around. They won't let us lay on our beds and sleep and it is pretty hard to stay off of them. The eats are really good and is like Fort Riley but I wish that I was back there. Better yet I wish that I was out of this Army and home with you for good. Honey, I really miss you and that is the truth. I am still going to try to enlist if possible but they said that they would call for us one of these days but I suppose it will be after we are on orders.

8:30 P.M.

I will finish this now as I was interrupted a while ago but didn't mind that as they called for those who intended to enlist and we went up and had an interview with a Second Lieutenant and he took our names. He said that he couldn't promise us if we would be taken off shipping orders or not but thought that we would be. I hope so and then I could get home.

Well, Honey, I will close for now as there isn't much to write about.

All of My Love and Kisses
Your Loving Sweetheart,
Clayton

I love you Honey
X X X X

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. B., 1st. Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, VA
November 20, 1945

My Dearest Elaine:

I am going to start this letter this morning but may not get it finished until night. We don't have anything to do but sit around and wait until 10:00 and then we are going down to the depot for our new clothes.

This sitting around and doing nothing is starting to get on my nerves so thought that if I would write to you it might help. It seems as though I never could sit around and do nothing. This way I can really think of home but I don't know whether I am homesick or not but how I would like to be there. I suppose I would be over visiting school most of the time instead of staying at home and it wouldn't be my school but the one about six miles west and a mile south of home. You can guess which one that is, or can you?

I sure wish that I could have signed up at Fort Riley as they allowed us two days traveling time and we would have reported back to Fort Leavenworth and they didn't have to take a physical examination there. If we sign up here we won't get any traveling time, have to take a physical examination, and may have to report back here. I would only have about 25 days at home but it would satisfy me.

It is really a nice day out here as the sun is shining but is a little cool. It will probably warm up before afternoon. It is still pretty muddy from the rain yesterday and last night.

Tuesday night.

I just got back from the show so will finish this before I go up to the P.X. after some cigarettes. It was so crowded that we couldn't get waited on after the show. This fellow from Missouri who was with me in Fannin went with me.

We went over to the depot and got our new clothes this morning and I am really glad to get some new ones again. We had to try on all of them for correct size and then mark them after dinner. About 4:00 we turned in our

old clothes or rather we just took them outside and dumped them in piles and then put them in our old barracks bags and put them in the supply room. A person could really get away with a lot of clothes if we had a way of sending them home but they inspect all of the packages at the post office and we can't get a pass to go to town so can't mail them there. They talked today like we may get a pass from tomorrow until Friday morning.

I had to take time out to refill my pen. It only holds enough to write a page and a half or two. I guess that the rubber tube in it is schrinking and I will have to get me a new one pretty soon. I will wait until I get to some other camp or until I get home as I may be able to get a good one someplace. The one that I have now is about five years old. I got it just before I went to college. That was back in those years long ago, in 1940 to be exact. Ah! Those good old college days. Just something to look back to.

I can remember about a year ago when Tony Connot and I were sitting in his car one Saturday evening out on the ball diamond drinking beer (as usual) and how we planned on going to college after we got out of the Army and were going to study Sicology. There were just the two of us and we sat there for three hours and I was supposed to take Dorothy to the show. Wasn't that a nice thing for me to do? You can never tell what some of these boys will do. They do some awful funny things or don't you know.

Well, Honey, tomorrow is the 21st and means the last day for us to enlist and if I don't get to in the morning it will be too late as they won't be open tomorrow afternoon or Thursday. Here is hoping that I get a chance to. If I don't I am going to try for that office job again and maybe I can get transferred to some other camp a little closer to home but time will tell.

Darling, I will close for tonight as I told Jr. (Knight) that I would be over to get him and go to the P.X. at 8:30 and it is now 8:20.

With All of My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart, Clayton

I Love You Honey

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. B., 1st. Bn., 1st. Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Va.
November 22, 1945

My Darling Elaine,

Another day gone by and the good Lord answered my prayer of last night as I asked that I would get some mail today as it was getting pretty monotonious just waiting. I received two letters from the sweetest girl in the world and one from my Mother. They were postmarked Nov. 13 & 14 and were forwarded from Fort Riley. They should start coming pretty regular now unless they are held up someplace but I guess that I should be thankful for getting those.

If I have to stay around this place very much longer I am going to be a nervous wreck and it won't take very much longer. They don't have very much for us to do so we have to sit around on our foot lockers and try to keep busy. They won't let us write letters or sit or lay on our beds so about all we do is sit around and talk. I have been smoking so many cigarettes that I wasn't satisfied with them and dug out my pipe. I am content with it now but may have to go to smoking cigars to satisfy myself. I may be able to stand it if they have something for me to do.

They called out nine fellows this morning and they went over to the hospital for their physical and then got to sign up. I was one of the unlucky ones that didn't get to sign up so don't know what they are going to do with us or whether we are going to get to sign up now.

Well, Honey, tomorrow is Thanksgiving and by the looks of the menu we are going to have a very good dinner. We are having turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, hot rolls and some other things so that sounds pretty appetizing to me. I sure wish that I could be at home for that day but as it is I guess there isn't much for me to do but take it but they can't make me like it.

There is a lot of confusion in here tonight as everyone from downstairs is moving either upstairs or over to another barracks. We have to be moved by 9:00 in the morning as some more new men are coming in tomorrow. I would move tonight but it is raining and I have to move across the alley so will wait until morning.

This fellow from St. Louis that I wrote to you about went up for his discharge and mustering out pay this afternoon and went home tonight. I went over to see him before I went to the show and he hadn't gotten back and all of his clothes were still hanging up but when I got back from the show his clothes were all gone and they said that he had shipped out. I can't blame him for going home as soon as he could as they way he may get home for Thanksgiving Supper anyway. I know that if I get my furlough I am going to go home as soon and the fastest possible way that I can. I hope that I get that furlough and try that recipe for A Kiss Cake.

I wrote a short letter to Jerome Fiala today. It was only six pages written on both sides and it took all day as I would write a little at a time. I owe Tony and my cousin Harold each a letter but can do that tomorrow if I haven't anything else to do.

Well, Honey, I guess it is about time for me to go to bed now so will close for tonight and write you again tomorrow.

I Love You
Sweetheart

Your Loving Sweetheart
All of My Love & Kisses,
Clayton

P.S. Don't worry, Darling, they won't ever catch me going out with any other girl but you as I am satisfied with what I have at home and am going to be true to her and that won't be hard as she is really a sweet girl.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Hdqs. Det. 3rd. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Va.
November 22, 1945

My Darling Elaine:

Another day gone by which started out what looked like would be a perfect day but it sure didn't end up that way. To start with we had to move before 9:00 this morning which wasn't too bad and then we finally got everything straightened up by 11:00. We had a wonderful dinner at 12:30 and I went back to the barracks and laid down to let it settle and thought I would take it easy the rest of the afternoon.

I fell asleep and in about an hour they called me over to the orderly room and told me that I was to pack all of my clothes and move up to the third Regiment and go over to the Headquarters building. I packed everything and came up here on a bus and they told me that I was assigned here as a cadre. I am to start to work at 8:00 in the morning operating a typewriter. I probably should be glad to get a job like that but ain't. It won't be hard work but what gets me is to think that I have to stay around this camp. I can't even figure out why I don't like this camp. I guess it is the atmosphere or surroundings. I am going to see if I can't get transferred if I don't like the job.

I heard today that I may have a chance to sign up yet as I signed a statement that I wanted to enlist before the 21st. I hope that I have the chance and they won't hold me to this job. If I get to enlist I will be able to get home for Christmas and that is what I am hoping and praying for now.

Well, Darling, I can't seem to think of any more to write as it is pretty noisy up here and I am in a poor mood tonight. Most of the men in here are overseas veterans just waiting for their discharge and they are all talking and arguing so I can't even think straight.

With all of my Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart - Clayton
I love you Honey.

P.S. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I bet you did as I imagine it was the first one for a few years where the whole family was together.

My new address is:
Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna. 37770018
Hdqs. Det. 3rd. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D.#1
Camp Pickett, Virginia

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Hdqs. Det. 3rd. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D.#1
Camp Pickett, Va.
November 23, 1945

My Dearest Elaine:

Another day gone by and still no news from my loved one but I am still hoping that one of these days I will. I suppose the reason is because I was transferred over to this other Regiment and my mail will have to go back to the Post Office and then be forwarded. The last that I heard from you were the two letters I got on Wednesday which were postmarked Nov. 13 & 14.

I started on my new job this morning and am ready to quit right now if they would let me go back to my old company as I went down there this evening and saw two fellows from Indiana who were on the same car as I was on the train. We all signed for an interview to enlist and they got their physical this morning and go up tomorrow to get fingerprinted and processed and then Sunday they are to get their discharge and mustering out pay and will get to go home. If I would have stayed there another day I could be doing the same thing but I guess Lady Luck isn't with me anymore.

I have to go to work at 8:00, have an hour and fifteen minutes off for dinner, and quit at 4:45. That is good hours and the work is easy. All I did today was to sort out the reports and shipping orders for four different companies in each Battalion and there were four Battalions so it wasn't hard. The Lieutenant told me that they would let me try it for thirty days and then if I wasn't doing satisfactory work I would be transferred some other place.

If I don't like the work any better in a week or so I am going to just mess around and maybe I will get

transferred.

This camp is closing in a couple of weeks and are moving up to Camp Shank, N.Y. This is a P.O.R. now and will be a P.O.R. and P.O.E. after they move. They are supposed to move sometime between Dec. 2 and 10 so I suppose I will move again.

I plan on being home for Christmas as I am going to put my application in for a 15 day furlough to start about De. 20 if I don't get to enlist. I am still figuring on it if I possibly can. Maybe I can now that I am assigned here.

It was really cold here today and will be a lot colder in the morning as it is getting colder outside now. I had a wool blanket and a comforter on last night and just about froze as no one fixed the fire in the furnace before they went to bed. We didn't even have warm water to shave with this morning.

It seems like time sure did go fast while I was in Fort Riley but it is about standing still now. I have been here a week now and it seems like two or three.

There is a free dance down here at the Regimental Recreation Hall tonight and they have a bunch of U.S.O. girls from Richmond out here for us to dance with but I am not the least bit interested in a dance. When I go to a dance I like to go someplace where I can be with you and where I know some people. I never did like a U.S.O. Dance as there are usually around ten G.I.'s to every girl there.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight as I am pretty tired and I want to get some shuteye. I didn't sleep very good last night as I wasn't feeling very good. I guess I ate too much turkey yesterday.

With All of My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

I know that this letter and the one I wrote last night don't sound like me but I am in a rut and can't seem to get out of it. I plan on getting out of it some day if I possibly can.

Butte, Nebraska
November 23, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Here I am again after a short interval.

Honey, I'm just so lonesome for you that I don't know what to do. I'm really and truly blue tonight. In fact, I'm so blue I can hardly write. Darling, I mean it. You'll never know how much I love you.

Darling, I have all of the letters you have written me, here beside me. They number to 23. I just love to read them and reread them. When I finish this, I am going to start all over from No. 1 and read them all.

Well, Honey, I'll have to tell you about last night. It was a swell dance they had at Spencer. Everyone was feeling pretty "pecky" and before the night was over, I was feeling the same. There were two, you might say, almost fights. One concerned Oscar Rumsey, & Charley Havranek, the other brought a dispute fight between Bill Tiefenthaler and Howard Anderson. It was about Irene. I won't say anymore as I'm not certain as to why it happened. Even though I was right there talking with Irene when it happened, I was too scared to get the why of it. They were both ready to fight it out physically. Raymond about scared the liver out of us kids when he tried to

Hi ! Clayton

Love, Baby Darold

part R & H. We were both dancing when someone told me that Raymond was into it. I flew off to Evelyn and together we glided to the scene but to our happiness he was only trying to part them. He didn't do a thing but talk to them and then he only said that he had seen plenty of that kind of "stuff" and didn't just like it. They were pretty hard to make listen but both of them shook hands and even thanked him.

I had a little interruption a short time ago, as you can see by the above. Paddy came and wanted to "ite"

“ite” so I had to let him “ite”. He is the sweetest thing and if he has to leave, I don’t know what I’ll do. We will miss him so much. He is so dear to all of us and he is such a darling. His Daddy received official word that he is to start home the 1st of Dec. and by Jan. 1, he will have his discharge and be home. It is good news but I will sure hate to part with him.

Gee! Darling, I can hardly wait until I hear from you to see what they have done with you. I am so anxious to know whether or not you get to come home. One thing, if my prayers are any good, you’ll get home. Do you know what that means?

Honey, I almost forgot (but definitely not on purpose), to tell you what I did last night. I went to the cafe with Dean Hamilton and ate some ice cream. Now, Now, Honey, he, I know, you don’t approve of; but he is very nice, and always has been to me. He won’t even touch a drink the whole evening if he can go with me because he knows I don’t like it. So please, Honey, don’t get angry. You’re tops with Me.

Well, Dearest, I’m almost asleep, but I’m so sock (heartsick) that it won’t do me too much good to go to bed. But I believe I’ll try to lie down and just rest and think.

So for this time (I know I should have stopped sooner) I will sign off saying, Good Luck & God Bless You. Here is hoping that you get all of my letters in this confusion. (I mean your transferring, etc.)

All my Love to U
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you

Butte, Nebraska
November 24, 1945

My Dearest Sweetheart,

I received another swell letter from you today. It’s really swell hearing from you and especially so often. Your letters really mean a lot to me and I’m not fooling a wee bit. But, truthfully, Honey, I am scared stiff to get a letter from you dated November 21st. I have all of my hopes built up so strong, even though I know I shouldn’t. I just can’t bear to think that you might not get home and if you have to go across. I really will be broken hearted and I mean it.

Honey, the more I think about it today, the more I think that I wrote something in that letter last night that you may have taken wrong. I didn’t mean any of it wrong so please don’t let any of it bother you. I’m really worried that you will take me wrong, but I didn’t mean it. O.K. and if I know you at all, you’ll let it go at that. Or -- don’t I know you?

Richard and Raymond went to Butte this evening. They are planning on the show so here is hoping that it is a good one. The name of it is “Where Do We Go From Here” with Joan Leslie, my favorite actress, but I’m not interested in anyone tonight, but you, so I stayed home to write to you -- do you have any objections?

Before I forget it I want to tell you, just in case you didn’t get one of those other letters, that our telephone number is 101F13 but the call comes through alright if you just give Walt Counts farm, Butte, if you should happen

to forget the number, as you already know, perhaps.

I really have had a wonderful Thanksgiving Vacation. And how!! The only thing, I'm glad that it doesn't last too long. About all I don is clean pheasants and how I love it!! I can do anything if I have to but there are some things that I sure don't like to do and that is one of them. But I would much rather clean them than eat them so I keep still. Wild duck and pheasants, to me, always taste like they are still flying so wild.

Well, Dearest one, I guess I'll have to sign off for tonight, but I'll write again later. I have to hurry and finish so I can write to Warren yet tonight. No, Honey, I was just foolin'. I like to tease you, that's all.

Good night, Sweet Dreams,
Sweetheart.
Good Luck & God Bless You,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Hdqs. Det. 3rd. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D.#1
Camp Pickett, Va.
November 24, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

I just came back from seeing a wonderful show and thought that I would write you another letter to let you know that I am still thinking of you and wish that I were at home so that I could take you to the show with me but it would most likely be the second show instead of the first. I probably wouldn't get out to your place in time to go to the first as you probably know how slow I am. Or don't you? I was referring to how late I was that Sunday afternoon when I came over to see you.

I went back to Headquarters this afternoon to work and the Sergeant Major told me that I wouldn't have to but to wait until 1:30 and if there wasn't much to do I could have the rest of the day off so I came back and washed out some clothes.

I went down to the old Company to see if I had any mail but they said it had been forwarded up here and the mail wasn't distributed this afternoon so I didn't get any. I don't know whether they will distribute it tomorrow or not. They bring it over to the Headquarters for us.

I planned on going to Washington, D.C. this weekend but I have to work from 9:00 until 12:00 in the morning so couldn't go but will try it next week. I would like to go up there while I am here. A fellow that works the same place I do lives there and goes home over the weekend and said that I could go with him.

While I was down to the company, I asked what they had done with my enlistment papers and they said that they transferred them up to the 3rd Regiment Processing Officer and that I would have to see him but they didn't know whether I would get to go ahead and enlist or not. I am going to wait a week or so and then if I can enlist I will be able to be home for Christmas and New Years.

A Sergeant up here has a radio and is listening to a station in W. Va. and has a lot of Western Music. They are now playing "Home On The Range." That is the first radio that I have heard since I was home that Sunday.

That wonderful show that I saw was "San Antonio." It was a western and took place in San Antonio, Texas. Ah, Yes, wonderful Texas!!

I thought that I would gain weight now that I am just sitting around and not working very hard but I will have to eat more than I have been. I never get up in time for breakfast so I eat a good dinner and as we have to go six blocks to the mess hall that we are supposed to eat in, I didn't eat supper last night but did tonight.

It is really a swell night away out here and the moon and stars are really bright. It is almost warm enough to go without a coat. It was really cold in the office yesterday and this morning as they were about out of coal and didn't want to use any more than they had to. They got some more today so maybe it won't be so bad.

Well, Honey I will close for tonight and shave and shower and then hit the sack (as we call it) and dream about you again.

With All of My Love and Kisses
Your Loving Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.
I'll meet you in my dreams

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Hdqs. Det. 3rd. Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D.#1
Camp Pickett, Va.
November 25, 1945

My Dearest Elaine:

I just finished washing out some more clothes and will write you a few lines as I got some news that were music to my ears this morning. Honey, I am going back to Fort Riley again.

The Colonel called me into his office this morning and asked me how I would like to be transferred as they needed clerks pretty badly at several other Replacement Depots. He said that I could be transferred to Fort Riley or Fort Ord so naturally as asked for Fort Riley. I am to leave either Wednesday or Thursday. They won't be able to get transportation any sooner so won't leave until then.

I went down to B-1-1, where I was before I came up here, this noon for dinner and waited for mail call and got one letter from Mom which she wrote Nov. 15. It was forwarded from Fort Riley and took it seven days to get to me. The mail is getting delayed someplace so please don't write until I send you my new address as it probably would be a couple of weeks before your letter caught up with me.

I am going to enlist after I get back to Fort Riley as I found out that I can still do it so will be able to get home for Christmas. Honey, I'm starting to believe that song "I'll Be Home For Christmas."

Darling, I don't know what I would do if I didn't get some mail once in a while. I have all of your letters yet and sometimes I go through them all and reread them. I know that it sounds foolish but I get a lot of enjoyment out of it and helps build up my morale.

I will close for now and write to you again before I leave and maybe I will be able to see you in a week or so.

With All of my Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Butte, Nebraska
November 25, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

What a beautiful day this has been! The weather has really been grand but that didn't help any. This day was really and truly a "bad" one, as Raymond says.

The first thing to start the day being perfect we arrived late at church. About two minutes, but anyway we were late; secondly, I had to get that letter from you. That is one time I really regretted hearing from you and I mean it, Darling. To think that you won't get home just breaks my heart. I just had a good cry after I read your letter but all the crying didn't bring you home. If you would have come home, you would have had to come in a canoe because all of the train tracks were washed out with my tears. I still feel the effects of it tonight and I'm afraid I won't get over it so pretty soon. But I'm glad even if you didn't get home, because it will bring much happiness, later.

My cousin, Kathleen Lewis, "Kitty" to me, came over today. We really had a swell visit and this evening we took her to the show. It was pretty good. "Where Do We Go From Here," in technicolor and I didn't sleep through any of it, either. Ha! Ha!

I really would like to drop in on you right about now. It would really be fun. Perhaps you are at the P.X. - drinking beer, grrr-rr. I believe I would really get angry but I would be so happy to be there that I'd forget about that.

Well, Dearest, I had better sign off for this time but I'll write again soon so don't worry.

Good Luck & God Bless My Sweetheart.

I love you, Darling, more than words can tell.

I'll see you in my Dreams so,
Good Night,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Butte, Nebraska
November 26, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Another swell letter from my Sweetheart reached me today. It is really super when I hear from you so often but Darling, it still isn't too often.

Uhuh! I've been doing some more running around. Gone again tonight. We went to Butte to my aunt's for supper. It was really super. We had practically everything that one would have on Thanksgiving - one thing missing - we didn't have dressing. Mother even went with us tonight. It really seems good to take her with us. She doesn't get out very much anymore. In fact she is getting so much worse that we can hardly move her. We can sure tell it on her and it is really hard to take.

Gee! Honey! You don't know how happy I am that you don't have to go across yet. It really brings happiness to me, but I don't see why you aren't happy in that camp. Especially since you have such a nice assignment. A nice little, quiet room with nice heat, umm, sounds interesting to me. Honey, it makes me very unhappy when I think of how unhappy you are. Won't you try to be happy just for me. And see if it works?

My mother's aunt passed away this morning. She has been very low for several weeks and she has been telling everyone that she was going to die. She even had her daughter make her dress (which she is to be buried in) so she could see it. That was really hard to take then she kept talking about it but she was planning on living about 20 days yet. I suppose I'll take Wednesday off so I can go to the funeral, but oh! how I hate funerals.

Well, Darling, it is only 11:00 P.M. so maybe I had better close.

I'll be thinking of you always and I will pray that you may find happiness there.

Good Luck & God Bless You,
All my love to you
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Hdqs. Det. 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Va.
November 26, 1945

My Dearest Elaine:

I just received a letter from my sweetheart and I was really glad to get it but am sorry about your Mother. I also got two letters from my folks so maybe my mail will get to me sooner or later.

I wouldn't have had to work this afternoon but I stayed until 3:30 when they brought my mail to me. They have another fellow working in my place now so that he can get started before I leave. I showed him a few things about the work this morning. I won't go to work tomorrow morning unless I get all of my clothes packed as I am to leave Wednesday.

I suppose that I should be in bed now as I have a terrific headache but a lette to you is much more important. If I go to bed early and it isn't too noisey tonight I will be able to sleep it off.

Mom said in her letter that she talked to Jerry Fiala's mother and she said Jerry enlisted for a year and would be home on his furlough sometime around Christmas so I think I will do the same thing and get home about the same time that he is. Wouldn't that be something if we could do that? We would really be a couple of bums and probably wouldn't be home very much. As if we weren't some bums already.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight as I have such a headache that I can't even think of anything to write but that can't stop me from thinking of you.

With All of My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart.
Clayton

Darling, you are & always will be my sweetheart

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Hdqs. Det. 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Va.
November 27, 1945

My Dearest Sweetheart,

I just came back from a U.S.O. Stage Show and will drop you a few lines tonight.

Honey this will be my last letter to you from this camp but I will write on the train and as soon as I get settled down again. Honey, I am always thinking of you and can't wait till we meet again which will be soon, I hope.

I went down to my old company tonight for supper as I wanted to see a couple of fellows before I left and they were going over to the Field House (Auditorium) to the Stage Show so I went with them. It was really a swell show but didn't last very long. I guess I can't complain as we can't expect very much for nothing.

One fellow is a Fusselman boy from Bristow. I never knew him until about a week ago when I heard his name called at mail call. He was in Camp Fannin also but in a different Battalion and was four weeks behind me in training. He is a cadre here now. I talked to a fellow by the name of Yokum and is from Petersburg about twenty miles South of Elgin, Nebr. I asked him if he had any relation up around Naper and he said that he had some Uncles who lived Southwest of Naper.

I have all of my clothes packed except my Field Jacket and one set of O.D.s which I will have to pack early in the morning and be ready to leave by 10:00. I will be lucky if I get out of here by then as a person usually hurrys and then waits in this Army.

While I was working this afternoon a Sergeant brought over a list of names of those who are up for promotion and after tomorrow I will be a private first class. I wish that they would promote me to poor foolish civilian again.

I got a letter from Mom this morning and it was mailed before those that I got yesterday so I know that the mail is getting screwed up someplace.

Well, Darling there isn't much to write about so I guess I will close for now.

With all of My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
November 27, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

I received another swell letter from my Sweetheart, today. Umm! Those Letters! But honey, I could tell that you weren't feeling right. I guess I don't know you very well yet as I never ever thought you would let anything bother you. To me, you could never be any different, I still think you are that 'happy-go-lucky' guy that I loved for so long. I know you will stay the same. We all have our 'bad' days. Each and everyone of us have them and we couldn't live without them, at least I couldn't.

Sometimes things are so compressed within me that if I don't let off steam I explode. Uhuh! I'm Irish. -- Ahem! But I'm not proud of my temper so I say I'm Bohemian and get it (my temper) from my Mother's side of the family Ha! I sure don't like the Bohemians, though. They just aren't my type. Ha! Ha! Now, Honey, I was only fooling, just teasing you.

Sis and I just cam back from the neighbors (our cousins). My aunt that passed away is at her daughter's place so all of the relatives that could possibly make it tonight went there to pray the rosary. I just can't stant to see a dead person. It just simply makes me sick and everything. Tonight they were afraid I was going to pass out for them but I showed them I could take it. No one will ever know what a terrible feeling that is and I can't overcome it no matter how hard I try. It sure is a terrible feeling, that is all I can say.

Honey, I do hope that you weren't in a bad mood when I wrote about Dean or I'll bet you really did throw things, or weren't you out of sorts then?

Well, Darling, I'll be signing off now as it is 11:00 P.M. and we have to get up pretty early as the funeral is at 9:30 A.M.

Here is wishing the Best of Luck to you and I am praying that you will get to liking your work better and also the Camp because, Darling, I love you.

All my Love 2 u.
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Honey

Butte, Nebraska
November 28, 1945

My Darling Clayton,

Ah! Yes! Evening is here again and as usual it finds me dropping a line to you, which I don't mind at all. Although I'm not in a happy mood tonight.

My Mother's aunt passed away, as I told you before and I dismissed school this morning and went to the funeral. I thought so much of this aunt and I really feel blue about it. Her husband took it so hard and I really feel sorry for him too. Something like that just gets me.

Richard just left this evening, too. Thirty days is a long time but when the last one comes it almost makes one wish that there weren't twenty nine others. It is just too hard to part. Our family is so closely attached that the

minute one of us step out of the house to go even to Butte, we practically cry over it. It isn't quite that bad but I hope I put it across ok, anyway. When you left it was just as bad, Honey, and I'm not fooling.

My aunt and uncle from Bonesteel were here today. They really are swell. I think so much of both of them and they have the sweetest children, twin girls, 8, and a little boy about seventeen months old. The girls were in school but they brought "Wally" along; he is such a sweet little 'tike.' His features are so fine and he is really cute.

I just finished making out an order or two, I just don't remember how many; they only totaled \$25.70. Then they wonder where a school teacher's salary goes. Ah! Me! I'd like to know too.

Sweetheart, I sure hope that you get to go to Washington, D.C. and I hope you enjoy yourself. But honey! Be careful about taking the dames. I just wanted to tease you. I didn't mean it. You know it isn't fair - you write to several, perhaps, in Spencer and have them check up on me, for you. I can't do that with you in the Army - unless you would give me the addresses of some nice handsome soldiers from your camp. Maybe I could correspond with them and - er - check up on you. Is that a deal? Well, Honey, it might be O.K. but I don't want it that way and doubt if you do, either. I never doubt you in the least, I believe you and if you are feeding me a line, remember I'm eating it anyway but I have faith that you aren't doing that. I don't care if you should have anyone check up on me because I tell you everything I do and if anyone else tells you anymore it doesn't hurt because it isn't true anyway. I truthfully believe that you believe me, though, or don't you?

Raymond just came home from Uncle Dan Reisers with two pints of pickled pig "hoofs." Evelyn told him to peel his coat and get busy and I told him he was crazy to start eating them at this hour of night. I received the reply: "You don't know me." Well I don't care to know him any better that is for sure.

Well, Sweetheart, Mother wants me so maybe I had better sign off for tonight.

Honey, I'm hoping you like your camp & work better. God Bless You.

All my Love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you

S/Sgt. W.D. Collins 37465996
Co. B. 1st Real Bn - A.G.F.R.D. #3
Ft Riley, Kans
December 2, 1945

Dear Elaine,

Say, you must not trust me very far. Not even for a picture making me send mine first. Oh well mine aren't very highly prizes anyway. They are practically expendable.

Gee, I'm so sorry that my standing is so questionable with you. My credit not even good for a beating. I guess I'll have to start all over when I get home maybe I can improve it.

I got to see my brother Elmer last week - end in Topeka and we had an ample good time. I guess you can imagine. Can't you? You should have been along. I guess we could have painted the town red or at least tinted it.

Well (I was going to say Sugar but I better hadn't) Ha. Say now what did you mean do I agree you are a good and sweet little girl or that you should be in bed??

Goodnite and Sweet Dreams.

To
U
Warren

P.S. I don't have the picture yet but its' coming. Believe it or not!

Spencer, Nebr.
Dec. 6, 1945

My Dearest Darling:

I am just sitting here tonight taking it easy so thought I would drop you a few lines.

We were invited to August Petersons tonight in honor of Mrs. Petersons birthday but I am not going as I am too tired and besides I am not very anxious to go up there anyway. I may go to the class play in Spencer if I have enough ambition pretty soon.

Leo Lewis came over this morning and helped us haul hay from the West place today. We hauled six loads from there with two racks and then one load from across the highway. I really found out today how soft I have gotten in the last couple of months as I wore a few blisters on my hands and my muscles are rather tired.

I went to Spencer last night to the basketball game and it was really good, of course Spencer won as usual. There weren't many people in town but I saw a few of my relation.

Ben Blair from Chambers, Nebr. came up a little while this afternoon. He is my cousin and was recently discharged from the Air Corp. He wanted me to go home with him and then bring me back Monday night but I have enough to do here and I don't want to be away from you that long.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight and will call you sometime Saturday.

All of My Love and Kisses
Your Sweetheart, Clayton

I love you Darling

Dec. 7, 1945
Thursday Evening
9:30 P.M.

My Darling Clayton,

I've been thinking about you so much since Tuesday night so thought I would drop you a line. I hope you don't mind, Honey. It seems like two weeks since I saw you last and it was only two days and here is hoping that Saturday comes pretty soon. It can't come too soon for me, that is for sure.

I was going to send the card alone but didn't know how your folks would take it if they got the mail first, so thought I should play safe.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll sign off hoping to see you soon.

Remember "I Love You."

All my Love

Your Sweetheart,

Elaine

P.S.

Johnny F. came tonight to see me because he thought you wouldn't be here tonight. He said he saw you today -- working -- I can't believe it. Ha!
Ha! Ha!

Belle Plains, Iowa

December 8, 1945

Dearest Elaine,

Here I am again to bother you its 4:20 A.M. I'm working all night & really complaining. I'm quitting here Monday & I'm really glad. I'm going to work in a Hardware & appliance store here in town & keep the books etc. With more money & my evenings & Sundays off really a better deal I'd say. My brother - in - law is going to work there to. He just got discharged so when they get a house here in town I'll be able to stay with them & it will really be a good deal. So this is my last night - hurrray!!

That's really swell you kids being all together again for a while. I'll bet your folks enjoyed it.

Johnny, my honey, is in Tokyo. I got a letter from him today. The first I've heard since Nov 14th so you can imagine how thrilled I was, really wonderful. He's a swell guy, wish you could know him. I'll bet you'd think he was nice, at least I hope you would.

I'm really in a mess now Elaine, Bob & Johnny are in the same Bay & expecting both to come home at the same time. Gee Honey what can I do? Johnny is the nicest of the two but I'm nuts about Bob too. I'm in a real mess. I'll probably loose both of them in the end. It's really Heck isn't it??

That was really awful about those kids. I'll bet you hate to even think about it. Gee Elaine!

I believe I've written to you last but I like to write to you & even more hear from you so thought I'd drop you a line. Hope you don't mind.

I got all my Christmas cards done tonight to, so I'm glad of that.

Wonder what we're going to get from our guys for Xmas Elaine - ha. No kidding what are you getting your boy friend?

It's about time to finish my cleaning so as Johnny would say it I better "knock it off."

Write soon Honey.

Love
Violet

Spencer, Nebraska
December 12, 1945

My Dearest Elaine:

I just got up about a half hour ago (8:30) and thought that I would drop you a few lines to let you know that I still love you and am always thinking of you. I had a swell dream about us last night but will tell you about it when I see you again.

Believe it or not, but my mail has finally caught up with me and I got eleven letters yesterday. Six were from my Sweetheart; three from the folks; one from Irene; and one from my cousin in Omaha. It took me quite a while to read them all but am glad that they finally got here.

Daddy and I went to the sale yesterday afternoon but didn't buy anything. The milk cows sold too high and that was the only thing that we were interested in. It was really cold standing around so I caught a ride back to town and Daddy waited until the cattle sold. I really got froze out and my feet are still cold.

I went into the store and talked to Raymond a while yesterday evening and he said that he felt rather rough after the night before and he said that he was going to go to bed just as soon as he got off work. I was so tired and sleepy yesterday morning that Mom could hardly get me up. She called me at 9:15 and I said that I would get up but instead I just rolled over and went back to sleep. She came up and called me again at 10:45 and I got up for good then.

We planned on going to Bonesteel today but I guess we won't as Daddy wants to fix fence again while it is fairly nice weather. Daddy said that if we got any letters about some trucks that we would go and look at them. I suppose he will want to go someplace tomorrow and won't get back early enough for me to keep my date for Thursday night. If something like this should happen I will call and let you know as soon as I can.

Well, Honey, I will close for now as it is about time for the mail carrier to go and I want to get this in the box before he does go.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you, Darling.

Hotel Castle
16th at Jones St.
Omaha 2, Nebraska
1:30 A.M.
Dec. 17, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

I am just ready to go to bed but know that I wouldn't be able to go to sleep without writing to you so here goes. Hope you don't object, or do you.

We left Spencer at 11:00 this morning and got here at 6:30 but I can't say that I enjoyed the trip as Buddy Koenig came with us and it was rather crowded.

I went up to see my cousin but she was down to my other cousins so I went down there and then after I got there I found out that all of my relation were there so got to see them all.

Alice and I came back up town and went over to the Rome Bar & Grill and had a couple of beers and then she went home on a street car and I came up here to go to bed.

I am going to do a little shopping and look for a truck tomorrow and am to go to my cousins for supper tomorrow night and may start home Tuesday but rather doubt it as I might as well spend a few days or maybe even a week now that I am down here.

No, Honey, I'm afraid that I couldn't stand it down here very long being away from you.

I'll close for tonight, Honey, and plan on being home Wed. night or Thursday for sure or don't you want me to?

All of My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Please excuse the poor writing as I am not used to a straight pen.

I love you Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re-enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas
Dec. 29, 1945

My Darling Elaine,

I finally got settled down and will drop you a few lines tonight.

I got into Omaha at 7:00 this morning and left at 8:00. I got here at 11:30 but didn't get anything done until 1:30 and then had to wait until 5:00 before we got transportation over here. We got assigned to our beds and then I went up to the P.X. to get something to eat as I didn't have any dinner or supper.

I saw this Hiatt from Spencer up at the P.X. and he said that he had seen Richard and he is on shipping orders for Monday. I am going to look him up tomorrow if I can find him. Hyatt said that Sheridan Wells went home again for New Years. He is now AWOL and I don't want to wish him any bad luck but it would sure pull him down a notch or two if he would get caught.

Honey, I really had to fight to keep the tears from rolling out of my eyes last night and I know just how you felt. It was really hard to leave, I almost wish that I hadn't have enlisted as it is going to rough being away from you for a year but here is hoping that it won't be that long till we meet again.

This is really some place down here. They call it Skunk Hollow. The barracks are older than the hills and we have to walk about a mile for all of our meals.

I am here in the Dayroom and they are playing the radio. It is sad hillbilly music and it really makes me sad, even a little homesick. Maybe I will be able to snap out of it if I get to see some of the fellows I know and if I don't have to stay here over a week or so. I think this is the worst place I have ever been stationed. Camp Pickett is wonderful compared to this hellhole.

Well, Darling, I will close for tonight and write to the folks yet and go to bed as I am really tired as I didn't sleep over two hours last night. I guess I was thinking about leaving you too much.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
 Re - enlistment Section
 W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
 Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas

Honey, I am going to wish you a very Happy New Year but don't think it will be for me.
 Darling, I forgot to write that there are so many fellows going AWOL from here that starting at 10:00 tomorrow night we will all be restricted to the camp area. Hyatt said that Wells might be on shipping orders for Monday and he won't be here.

It is guys like that who do those things and we all have to suffer for it.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
 Re - enlistment Section
 W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
 Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas
 December 30, 1945

My Darling Elaine,

Honey, I am sorry to let you know that I haven't found any trace of Richard yet and Jim Kimball said that he hasn't seen him nor heard his name called since he has been here.

I tried to call about 6:00 this evening and they said that it would be between 4 and 5 hours before it could go through so will try it again tomorrow if I can. We have to be in bed by 10:00 starting tonight so won't be able to wait too long. If I can't get a call through tomorrow I won't try any more as you have probably heard from him by now and you will get this soon and know that I haven't found any trace of him.

Things are so messed up around here that they can't even keep track of all of us and that is why we are going to be restricted and are to be in bed by 10:00.

I went over and saw this Hiatt this morning for a few minutes and as I was going back over to my barracks I met Junior Knight so we had a nice visit. He is the one I chummed with in Texas and I showed you his picture.

I went to dinner with Hiatt and another fellow and saw Kimball up there so Jim and I went to town this afternoon. We went to a show and looked the town over and it was really dead. Deader than Butte. We ate supper up town and then went to a show at the main theater at the Main Fort.

There sure isn't much to do around here but keep out of mischief so that we won't be put on detail. I heart this evening that they are going to send a bunch of rookies down here for us to train. Imagine me trying to train anybody like that. I have to go over and have a clothing inspection at 8:00 in the morning.

The snow really melted yesterday and was all slush and it froze last night so it is really ice and slick around here. It was so cold early this morning that we almost froze as the fire had gone out in the stoves. After we did get a good fire going it was almost warmer outside than inside.

In a way I wish that they would ship me out of here pretty soon as I know that I won't like it here and if I have to go overseas I would just as soon go now. I hope that I get shipped out with someone I know.

Darling, I will close for tonight as it is 9:40 now and will try to call tomorrow.

All my love and kisses
 Your Sweetheart
 Clayton

Goodnight Sweetheart, Sweet Dreams
 I love you Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018

Re - enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas
December 31, 1945

My Dearest Elaine,

I will drop you a few lines this afternoon to let you know that I won't be able to call tonight as I have to report over to the orderly room at 5:00 this evening. I don't know what I will have to do or how long I will have to stay there. A Sergeant came in the barracks and asked for two volunteers and noone would, so he walked up the aisle and picked two of us.

I had to go back over to the Personnel Center this morning and got new summer clothes as I didn't have them.

We were supposed to have bed check at 10:00 last night and a Sergeant took all of our names to see that we were all here and at 2:45 this morning a Captain, Lieutenant, and a Sergeant came in and woke us up. We had to give them our name, rank and serial number. These men said that there were 78 men gone in this row of barracks and they said around 150 men were AWOL over the weekend. There was just one gone out of this barracks. I bet that Sheridan Wells and this Olson from Bristow will really get into trouble when they get back as they will be able to check up on them.

It snowed here this morning and was pretty cold. It is really slick now with this snow on the ice and it is really mean walking back and forth for meals. I probably won't get to go over for supper if I have to go on detail tonight.

I haven't seen Kimball or Knight yet today but I suppose they are on detail as I talked to Hiatt this noon and he is on detail. I don't mind some of the detail at all if it is in the daytime, but I sure hate it at night. That is about all we have to do around here.

I have been sitting here listening to a bunch of overseas men who are reenlisting and they are telling about some of their experiences. Some of them are really worth hearing. Some of them have really been through a lot.

Well, Darling, I will close for now and write again tomorrow and will try to call tonight if I can do it.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

P.S. Please excuse the poor writing as I am sitting on the bed and using a stationery box for a table.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re-Enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
January 1, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Happy New Year Honey. I am over here in the day room listening to the Rose Bowl Football game so will write you a few lines.

Kimball, Knight, and I went to town again this afternoon for a while. Knight and I went to a show but Kimball didn't want to so haven't seen him since. I suppose he was more interested in finding women but I am sure

that I am not as I found the one that I want. That was in October.

I had to report over to the orderly room last night at 5:00 and six of us had to go down to the transportation office. We had to go down to the depot at 12:15 and unload 150 barracks bags from a troop train and then put them in the baggage room. We got back over here and went to bed about 2:00 A.M. I woke up at 8:30 this morning and was so cold that I had to get up and stand by the stove in order to get warmed up.

I came over for mail call this afternoon but didn't get any but am still waiting for some. Honey my pen is going dry so will have to finish with a pencil. I haven't filled since I did the day I got it. I just never thought to fill it before I came over here. Honey, I hope you don't mind but I just filled my pipe and had to enjoy a good old pipeful of Virginia tobacco.

How was the New Year's Dance, or didn't you go. Darling, if you ever want to go to a dance don't stay at home just because I am not there to take you or would you stay home even if I were there.

It was so cold in the barracks this morning that we all nearly froze and noone had ambition to get up and start a fire but a First Sergeant finally did. I had two wool blankets on and put my overcoat over that but still couldn't keep my feet warm so put on a pair of socks. I don't think it will be so bad tonight as one fellow is going to keep the fires fixed tonight.

I don't think I will get to go overseas but sure hope I am going to see if I can't get stationed in Omaha as a M.P. If I could I may be able to get home once in a while or have you come down and see me or don't you want to. Almost everyone is anxious to get shipped out of here and I can't blame them as I am just as anxious as they are.

Well, Darling, I will close for tonight and will be thinking of you. I'll meet you in my dreams.

All my love and kisses
Your Darling
Clayton

I love you, Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
January 1, 1946
(No honey, it isn't quite the first, yet)

My Darling Clayton,

Just a few lines before I retire, Honey, because I just have to tell you how much I miss you and love you and miss your love.

I am here in Omaha as you perhaps already know, Sweetheart and I could just kill myself for it. When I want to go someplace, I want to go and when I want to stay home I want to stay home.

Well, anyway, honey, I wanted to stay home last Sunday, honest I did, but between Evelyn & Mom it was more or less a forced affair and something like that just doesn't work out.

When Raymond went to come down here I knew I shouldn't come. The thought of missing your telephone call is what got me. Honest, honey, I love you and I just can't keep myself from telling you. It seems as though you mean all the world to me and I am sure that I'll not forget you.

Raymond took us around Omaha today and I really enjoyed it. Omaha is simply wonderful, honey, but I will admit, that this life of being strangers to everyone just isn't the life for me. If I don't know anyone, it is just natural for me to up and get acquainted but if I have to drink, smoke & cuss to get acquainted - the he- (woop honey, I almost slipped) I mean the heck with everyone. We went to Wally's Bar this evening and the Kids had to have a drink and then we went to the Music Box. It was about 10:30 when we went to the Music Box and when we got home it was 11:30 so you can imagine how much we saw and besides they had intermission from 11:00 to 11:30. Gee. Honey, seeing all of those soldiers and their girlfriends made me so lonesome for you honey, that I really feel down in the dumps. Can you blame me? Not long ago I was the lucky one or rather one of the lucky ones. "It's been a long, long, time."

We stayed at my Cousin's last night and tonight we are here at Mary's. This place is really swell. So is she, but Raymond is so hard to get along with and that just doesn't fit with Mary because she is quite quick tempered. "Worse than I, hun."

I wanted to go dress shopping today but as it was the day before New Years the stores were all closed, so naturally I didn't get to do much shopping as you can very easily imagine. It really makes me peeved.

We did go to O'Neill last Saturday, though, and I was fortunate to get everything I wanted and prices are so much lower now that it is really fun to go shopping. We didn't know the stores here were going to be closed or we wouldn't have come, at least I wouldn't have.

Raymond & Mary are sorta on the outs tonight. Raymond didn't just approve of taking us along but Mary insisted that we go but I knew Raymond would be mad if we went so when he even looked toward the door that led to the exterior of the building I knew we should get our coats so I made them bring us kids home so they could enjoy themselves. Now they can go and have their fun - if that is what you call it, without me.

Maybe I didn't mention it before, Honey, but Kathleen Lewis came down, too and believe me, she is really griping. "Well, I should do this," and "I should do that" and "Well, I don't know." I haven't said boo since we left home so if he gets mad, O.K. I'm not to blame. Or, Sweetheart, Can you blame him for getting angry at me?

Oh, Darling, I have the funniest thing to tell you. I wasn't o.k. with my directions until last evening when we went by the Castle Hotel. I looked up at the sign and of course I was thinking of you and click the camera changed lens and I was right. It really happened in a hurry and I've been right ever since. To top it all off last night, my cousins took us to the Paramount theatre to the show and on the way home instead of catching the street car like Donnie wanted to, I insisted that we walk. Which we did. It was only 22 blocks, across "viaducks" and practically allies. My gosh! If I wasn't dumb but luck was with us nothing happened.

The name of the show was "San Antonio." You were right when you said it was good, hone, because it really was. "There goes an empty horse." I thought I would split. It was also serious, which I like very much.

Well, Sweetheart, please forgive me for not being home when you called. I will see that, it is made up for soon. Please excuse this scribbling, too.

Closing, I will send you all my love to keep.

I love you Sweetheart.
All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re-Enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
January 2, 1946

My Darling Elaine,

Another day gone by and still no mail from my loved one but I am still waiting and hoping for some soon. Honey, you can't imagine how I long for your letters. They are all that I look forward to and mean very much to

me.

We had a short road march this afternoon and then they read a shipping order but there weren't many on it and they have been here for a month or more. This Olson boys name was called and he was here. I didn't get to talk to him to ask whether Sheridan Wells came back but didn't see or hear anything of him. I am going to try to talk to Olson and see whether they have to take any punishment or not.

Knight, Kimball and I went to supper early tonight and then went up to the Service Club until 6:00 and then we went to a show. It seems as though there isn't much to do around here but go to a show and it costs too much to go to town down here.

When we were in town Sunday afternoon we saw a fellow come out of a beer joint and was feeling pretty good. He saw a good looking girl walking down the street and whistled at her. A Major was walking the opposite way and turned around looking at this man and this fellow said to the Major: "Yes I love you too you old devil" and the Major turned around walking away. This fellow was a discharged soldier and we sure had a laugh out of it when we heard him tell that.

Honey, will you write a letter to Jean or don't you want to. I think I can dig up her address someplace in my little black book. If you don't want to write I may be able to but would rather not let her know my address. Maybe it would be better if we didn't write to her as it would be pretty mean if I sent her a rough letter.

Well, Sweetheart, I will close for tonight as it is 10:45 and about time for me to get into bed but don't think I will be able to go to sleep as it is really noisy in here tonight.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

Butte, Nebraska
January 2, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Gee! Was I lucky today! I received two letters from my one and only Sweetheart and one from a girlfriend and one business letter. If I wouldn't have heard from you today, I really don't know what I would have done. I think I would have written and told you that a good looking neighbor boy is home and one of my pupils brothers. (Umm are they cute.) (Oooh-la-la.) Now, honey, don't take me wrong for you know that they don't interest me - or

don't you believe me? Perhaps you don't trust me anymore (or did you ever)? I don't know, but for some unknown reason I don't even worry about you going with other girls. If you go with them you'll just go with them that is all and there isn't anything I can do about it but truthfully honey, I don't think you will. As for me, do you worry?

Umm! This licorice is really good! How I like it! Do you want some or don't you like it? Boy Daddy and I could eat it by the boxes (lb. boxes) which we do most of the time.

Oh! Honey! It is a good thing that I went to Omaha with Raymond in his car when I did. Why? Well, the silly thing sold it today. He got plenty for it though but only made about \$25.00. He sold it for \$1,000 but maybe you better not let on like you know as it is a little and quite a little beyond c.p. That is why he told you paid only \$750 or \$7 something for it but he really paid \$935 before he purchased 1945 & 1946 license and got the papers changed, etc.

We finally heard from Richard. He is at Fort Ord, California assigned to a pool and drives trucks. One night they called him at 2:30 A.M. and by 3:00 A.M. he was on the train headed for California. There were just three of them went so they rode on a civilian train. He is right close to my aunts place and he really likes it.

You mentioned in your letter that rookies might be stationed there for you boys to train and said "Imagine me trying to train anybody like that." Honey, I can't imagine you trying to train anybody period. Ha! Ha! I was jokin' Hun.

Well, Sweetheart, it is almost time to go to bed. I really need some sleep, as I haven't been in bed early since - well - last November some time - but honey, I loved it and I love you.

So Goodnight, Sweetheart I'll see you in my dreams as usual. All my love 2 u.

Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you

Mother said to Thank you special for her for your trouble ever finding Richard or Rather trying to. Goodnight Sweetheart, Remember I love you, dearly.

Butte, Nebraska
January 3, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

It is getting late but it is never too late to write to you Darling, and tell you how much I love you - or is it?

Honey, I am having a very difficult time trying to make some new year "revolutions." Can you help me out? I have almost racked my brain out trying to think of some but I'm so good that I don't have to make any

pertaining to my behavior. (Or do you disagree????).

I have had a pretty rugged day today and it looks like the night will be the same as Mother is quite restless already. That is a bad sign.

Well, Honey, I am really anxious to hear from you, now to see what kind of work you are doing.

Honey, how is your foot? You had better be doing something about it before it is too late. Remember what you once said? "I was the one giving orders" so you better take them. I intend to go dancing before too long and your foot had better be O.K. so I can get on and ride a while when I get tired. Ha!

Richard wrote Yew Years and said that he was on a six day pass and was staying at my Aunt & Uncles in Calif. (Los Angeles). My uncle works in Hollywood and gets to meet the great stars but Richard hadn't gone there yet but plans to.

Say, Sweetheart, I believe you have found another girl already. Why? Because you forgot something in your letter. Can you figure out what it is?

Anyway, I'll sign off assuming that you still love me.

So Goodnight, Sweetheart,
Remember Darling,
I love you
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
January 4, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Hi! Honey! Whatcha' doin' tonight? I sure would like to be a little mouse and sneak up on you right about now (or wouldn't I be safe, even if I were a mouse?).

I wanted to be different just now so I filled my pen with this color of ink instead of blue.

I have really felt ornery all day. I was so mean at school and I'll be you couldn't guess what I did. This morning, I received two letters, one from you which meant the world and all to me and one from my (I mean one of the other) boyfriends in Kansas, too. Uhuh - from my Warren. He scolded me good for not writing a long enough letter so I'm going to fix that. I cut very many strips of paper and put my little kids to work pasting them together. Then when we finished I copied the letter, I had written to him, on that long strip of paper. Maybe you don't believe it was long, Honey, but it was. It was exactly 97 1/2 feet not inches long. Sweetheart, I was so cruel that when I rolled it up, I rolled it so that he will have to unroll it all before he can start reading it. Now wasn't that really mean? I feel bad about it now but it is too late now so there isn't much I can do about it. Do you suppose he'll hate me for that now? I sure hope he doesn't but really I won't care because you are the only one that means anything to me. Would you hate me if I did something like that to you? I reckon you would -- so I guess I'll do it. One sure thing, if Warren comes back for more, I'll write a two or three page letter and cut it up for him. Wouldn't he have fun then? I can just about imagine.

Well, Sweetheart, there is a dance in Spencer tonight. Betty & Ray Linehart's Wedding dance. I wish you were here then I would love to go. As it is, I just don't want to go. I could if I wanted to but it is fun staying home and just thinking about you. No fooling, Honey, I love you and I wish I could keep it to myself instead of telling you - you'll get tired listening pretty soon, won't you.

Well, Darling, Mother wants me again so I'll sign off for this time looking for another letter tomorrow.

Don't "exurt" yourself working Honey.

I love you, Sweetheart

Goodnight Sweetheart,
All my love to you,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re-enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
January 4, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I didn't have time to write to you last night so will do it tonight. I got a letter from Daddy (my old man) this afternoon and know why I haven't heard from you. He said that the mail-carrier didn't go New Years Day but he went to town and got my letter so I don't suppose you got mine a day later. I'm hoping for a letter from you tomorrow or haven't you written any to me.

Junior Knight was called on shipping orders yesterday and is leaving at 7:45 tonight so we went to town last night to a show and didn't get back until 10:30. We went up to see a fellow who lives up town as he was in Texas with us and is married. He is stationed out here as a guard at the Federal Prison and lives in town. Knight is going back to Camp Pickett, Va. and then probably overseas. He hopes that he doesn't have to stay in Pickett very long and I can't blame him. I suppose I may be going that way pretty soon also.

I was on detail all day today help setting up beds. I didn't mind it at all as it was easy and we were in out of the rain. There are a lot of fellows coming in and not many leaving and they are putting the draftees over here also so we are pretty crowded.

I saw Sheridan Wells yesterday afternoon and he was pretty worried as his blankets and barracks bag were gone. They turned that in when they had bedcheck the other night and he didn't know where they were. He has to go over and get a slip from the Colonel before he can get them back. I told him that a lot of fellows were getting court-martialed. I haven't seen him today but heard that 47 men were up for court-martial this morning.

It has been foggy here all day and rains off and on every once in a while. It rained all morning so is pretty muddy around here except on the side walks which are made of crushed stone.

Daddy wrote that Jerry Fiala got home last Saturday. He would have to get home the day after I leave. I think I will write him a letter one of these days as I haven't heard from him for quite some time.

Well, Honey, I will close for tonight as I am pretty tired and I have to shave tonight as I haven't shaved for three days now. If I don't shave soon I will have to get a lawn mower to cut them first.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Now, please, Darling, don't
go dating that Red-headed
blond with black hair
that lives down in the
basement, up stairs

Butte, Nebraska
January 5, 1946

on the vacant lot. Will you promise me you won't?

My Darling Clayton,

I received another swell letter from my Sweetheart today. Darling, your letters really give me inspirations. My letters could never mean as much to you but nevertheless, you should have heard from me by this time, at least I have written so they should reach you pretty soon.

Say, Honey, which Olson boy is that from Bristow? Is it one I know? Listen, Honey, you aren't going to try to go "awol", are you? I don't think you would do a thing like that but you said that you wanted to talk to Olson to see whether they had to take any punishment or not. That didn't sound so pretty good.

Is it really expensive to go to town or is it expensive after you get there? I presume that the expense comes after you get there am I not right? But, Honey, how much do you drink? Have you started all over again? or - have you made it a New Year's "Revolution" to leave liquor alone? Gee! Sweetheart you can still have your coffee. I didn't mean coffee before I meant beer and such stuff.

Listen, Honey, I don't want to write to Jean, I said that before. It would really be cruel. Just imagine how I would feel, if you found another girl and then she wrote me a letter. That would just about kill me. It would be, definitely, too much for me to bear. I can't even stand to think about such a thing happening but I suppose it will but not if I can help it.

I just read my letter over and gee! honey! It really sounds "cranky." Really, I'm in the best of humor tonight and definitely didn't mean anything in the wrong way. Already, I'm so lonesome for you that I'm just about frantic. I don't have time to go any place at night anymore since you left - first I write to you and then - well - I just sit and think about you or what we would be doing if you were home, etc. etc. Wonderful dreaming, isn't it?

My throat is so sore tonight that I can hardly talk. Punishment for me, isn't it? Ha! Ha! I found out that the hard lumps in my arms were muscles but I haven't found out what the hard lumps in my neck are. I am definitely certain that they aren't tonsils because I don't have any.

Well, Dearest, this house tonight is really going in circles and my head is really in a whirl. Everyone is in a good peckie mood tonight and it is really fun listening to them. It is really hard to keep out of them sometimes but what's the use to argue. It never was worth while (especially when I love every time when I argue with you.) Some of these days I'll win though you jus' wait and see. Ha! Ha!

Well, Darling, I guess I'll stack up my wool and retire for the night.

I love you,
Darling

Goodnight Dearest,
All my love 2 u
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re-enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
January 5, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received two letters from my Sweetheart today and was really glad to get them. Honey, I was beginning to think that you had forgotten me and wasn't going to write to me but I sure changed my mind in a hurry today.

I didn't know that you were planning on going to Omaha or you could have went down on the train with me and went back with Raymond. Or wouldn't you have wanted to do that? I usually have a pretty good time there but after I am there a few days I am ready to go home again. That is just the way I feel now. I am ready to go home and wish that I could. I really like to go to the Music Box when I am down here. I have been to the Barrel House several times but that is a little too rough for me.

They read a shipping list this afternoon but as usual I wasn't on it. I thought maybe I would be lucky enough to be on it as it was a mixed order which was one where a few are going to different places.

Kimball wants me to go to the show with him and then to town tonight but I am going to go to the show. I wouldn't go to town tonight if I were paid as I haven't anything to go there for.

I talked to Sheridan Wells this afternoon and he said that the only punishment he got was as a Company Runner all day yesterday and today and last night.

So Richard is in Fort Ord now? He was lucky to get a job like that. I wouldn't mind having a job driving a truck either as I am just crazy about that job or am I just plain crazy. Will you please send me Richard's address so that I can look him up if I should happen to be sent out there.

It rained here all morning and was really miserable outside. I walked to breakfast and dinner today and my pant legs got soaked as my raincoat wasn't long enough to keep them dry. It is still cloudy but not raining. It looks like it could rain again any minute. I don't like this kind of weather but would rather have it rain than snow. All of the snow has melted already.

I just got back from the show so will finish this as Kimball came over and wanted to go to supper before I got to finish it.

I feel a lot better now than I did this afternoon. It must have been the show. I don't even remember the name of the show but it was pretty good. I am really getting fed up with just waiting around. My nerves are shot already so that I can't even stay in bed any later than 6:00 and if I stay here much longer I will go nuts, in fact I believe I am already going there.

They have things so messed up around here that they have finally worked out a schedule for us starting Monday morning. We are going to have some kind of training and suppose it will be some kind of a road march.

You wrote that you didn't think you had to worry about me going with any other girl. Truthfully, Honey, you are right as no one else could interest me. I don't even have time to think about that as my thoughts are always of you. Do you mind? Who is this good looking neighbor boy of yours? I always said that I didn't think that I had to worry about you and sure am not going to start now. If you would start going with someone else I would have to go hunting for someone else.

Well, Darling, I will close for tonight and get to bed pretty soon.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams Sweetheart

All my love and kisses

Your Honey Child!?

Clayton

P.S. It is really a swell night out tonight and how I wish that I were home and maybe I could enjoy sitting in the car on a night like this instead of freezing like we did while I was home.

Pvt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
 Re-enlistment Section
 W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
 Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
 January 6, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I hadn't planned on writing tonight as it is about time for lights out as I just got back from the show but I just couldn't bear thinking of how you would feel and it is pretty hard for me to not write to you as I am always thinking of you. I will write as much as I can before the lights do go out.

Kimball and I planned on going to the show this afternoon but it was such a wonderful day that we took a walk around the main camp of Fort Leavenworth. We got to the theatre at 2:10 and the show started at 2:00 so we were too late. We decided to go to Leavenworth as that would probably be our last chance to go as we aren't going anymore at night and we are hoping to get shipped out soon.

We went to a show up town and saw Shirley Temple in "Kiss and Tell." It was the second time I saw it but was really good. As soon as we got out of the show we came back for supper and went to a show over here at camp and saw "The Harvey Girls." I don't suppose that I should go to so many shows but that is about all there is to do around here at night and it really helps a fellow forget about being in this God forsaken hole here.

We went over to the P.X. after the show and we saw this Simmons boy from Anoka. He reenlisted and got down here yesterday. I also saw John Ogren from Spencer. He is here and got his discharge. He graduated from High School with me and was drafted about four years ago. He said that we were really foolish for reenlisting as he said that we would be lucky if we got out when our year was up but after we told him how long we have been in he said it was probably the best thing to do.

Well, Honey, it is about time for lights out and I don't know any more to write so will close for tonight and meet you in my dreams again as I do every night.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love U, Honey

P.S. Every time Kimball and I walk back from a show we always start talking about what we are going to do when we get out of the Army

Honey, I read in a magazine this morning how to work out our fortunes so I did.

Yours is:

You are the type who holds the romantic ideal. There have been many people who have tried to discourage your zest in attaining situations which would please a perfectionist. Do not allow this to stop you. There have been times when you achieved the goal you had set, and there will be many more. Keep your ideals, they are what make you interesting.

Mine is:

You have a reunion scheduled with someone you have not seen for a long time. They will appear changed, and you will also seem different to them. However, the meeting will be very happy and you will have a good time.

Good night, Sweet dreams
Sweetheart

Butte, Nebraska
January 6, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

At last I am at ease to enjoy a few minutes with you, Honey.

I am really and truly tired, tonight and I haven't gone anyplace but to church since Christmas night and then to O'Neill the 28th. I wish you were here so I could sleep on your shoulder. You wouldn't let me sleep anyway, would you? You don't think enough of me to let me sleep, you would have to pick on me. Now wouldn't you?

It is so cold in here, that I'm just about froze to death but I'm not going to fix the fire at this hour of night.

Between Evelyn & Floyd and Floyd & Darold and the whole darn bunch, this house is a regular mad house. Floyd is always telling Evelyn what is what and she flares up and they go the rounds and Daddy gets involved and the rest go at it and every time Darold looks like he might do something silly, just for orneriness he gets spanked or scolded or something and about that time I'm into it. I just can't stand to have any kid spanked or even scolded. It just hurts me too much. Us kids never did get spanked and we aren't too bad (or are we?) I never had but one slap from my Daddy and I'll never forget it and one spanking from my Grandma. I'll always say that I didn't deserve that because my Mother said I could go to my Uncle Dan's and Grandma didn't know that so she came after Richard & I and took us back to the house - ahead of her - and she had a stick. It still makes me mad to think about it.

When you were home, Darling, everything went quite smooth. I was really darey but since you left I don't have any nerve at all. I said something to Daddy tonight about wanting to go someplace and oo-la-la did I ever get told off. I'm scared to death to even mention going to school in the morning. No fooling!!! He is so moody since Raymond has definitely decided to keep his job, that he doesn't know what to do with himself. He is continually picking on me and I'm fed up on it. Just now, he bawled me out for not getting to bed instead of writing letters. If the men wouldn't have sat here for a half hour argueing over what I was supposed to tell Richard, I would be through a long time ago. But I'll wirt what I want to, when I want to, as long as I want to, to you, in spite of what anyone says because some day you'll be coming home and I won't have the chance to write. Eh, hun?

Gee! Darling? I'm really the one that should be shot and I guess I really do need a scolding now. I know better than to write my troubles to you. When you were here I always felt better after I emptied my troubles on to you.

Ray Nemic & Donavan Angel are giving a double wedding dance in Spencer Friday night. If I can get a way. It depends upon what Evelyn does. If she stays home I can go, if she doesn't, I have to stay home.

"Time will tell" as Eddie always says. Grrrr.

Well, Darling it is about time I go before I get my head chopped off so until tomorrow. Goodnight Darling & Sweetheart.

"I love you, Darling
with all my heart"

All my love
Your Darling
Elaine

SHIP OF JOY MOTTO
There is a destiny that makes us Brothers,
None goes his way alone;
All that we send into the lives of others,
Comes back into our own.

Butte, Nebraska
January 7, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Brrr! Is it ever cold! I'm just about frozen but I'm getting quite used to being without my Armstrong heater. It has been ten days already - only three hundred and fifty-five left. Time really does fly but I'm also saying that I'm suffering every minute of it. I suppose that it isn't bothering you, though.

Today was the Folks Thirty-Second Wedding Anniversary. Gee! It doesn't seem to me like they have been married that long. Ha! Really, Honey, it doesn't. Raymond came up for supper tonight. Floyd went to Spencer after him when he got off work so he could be here. The folks didn't know it and were they ever happy. We really had a good supper including the ham smothered in thick syrup candy and peach upside down cake with ice cream on top hiding the cake. I'm so stuffed that I'm practically at the stage where I can't breath anymore. Wouldn't you like to see me now? Ha.

Oh! Hun! I fixed my hair tonight with the hopes of getting to go to the dance tomorrow night. I want to go but yet I guess I'll wait until Friday night. Margaret & Denny and Raymond half way talked me into going tomorrow night. They are going to stop and get me anyway. I'll have to see how I feel in the morning but when I have a chance to go someplace I usually go. I may not get to go Friday so I'll go when I get the chance. Say, Sweetheart, you are paying out a lot of money for nothing, aren't you? I haven't seen Donnie nor Donnie hasn't seen me since Christmas so he can't tell you anything about me. I'm going to get on the good side of some buddy of yours and then -- oooh-la-la -- pour Clayton.

Well, Sweet Heart, I hope you don't get shipped out, even if you do because if you have to go overseas I'll be just as good as gone. That is something that would really break my heart, but if it has to be it has to be. I really don't run the Army.

How do u like my nice stationery? It is some Mother received for Christmas from one of the Shut-In Clubs she belongs to. I was too lazy to go get my own.

Now Darling, I'll sign off for now hoping the get another letter tomorrow.

All my love to you, Dear
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re-enlistment Section
N.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

January 7, 1946

My Dearest Elaine,

I just finished emptying the ashes out of the stoves and put some more coal in so thought I would write you a few lines this afternoon to let you know that I received your most welcome letter of Jan. 3 and was really glad to hear from you again.

I am supposed to be barracks guard and fireman in this building with another fellow and all we have to do is keep the fires going and keep the floors cleaned up. We don't have to fall out for any formations and don't have to be on any other details today.

I haven't been doing any work yet but could have had a job of typing for four or five weeks here but I don't want to stay here any longer than I have to so didn't take the job. I would have taken the job right away if they would transfer me up to the Personnel Center.

You wrote that you have been having a hard time trying to make up a new year resolution. I wouldn't know of any suggestions to pass along to you now. Maybe if I could have been with you longer I might be able to help but I'm afraid that I don't know all of your weaknesses, sorry to say. (I had to take time out for a refill.)

You asked in your letter how my foot was. It is almost well again but I never went to the doctor or anyone. It was just a boil and one night I thought it was about ready to open so I soaked it in hot water for a while and then opened it myself. It is still a little sore and bothers when I walk if I keep my shoe laced too tight but it will be well enough to dance pretty soon but I'm afraid it will be quite some time before we will be able to dance together again unless I can get home for a while pretty soon.

Honey, I was really surprised and a little peeved to think that you believe I have found another girl. I thought that I made it clear to you before I left home that you were the only one for me but now I don't know how I will ever prove it. Darling, I love you with all of my heart. I can't figure out what I omitted in that letter but would appreciate it very much if you would let me know.

I heard this noon that there were 600 being shipped out of here by Friday so maybe I will be one of the lucky ones. There are about 20 men shipping out this afternoon. They are all in the Air Corps and are going to several different places.

I haven't even made any New Years resolutions as I never could keep one and sure couldn't now in the Army. I suppose that I could resolve to quit smoking or drinking beer but it would be pretty hard and late to quit smoking. As far as quitting drinking beer it might be alright as I haven't had any since the night I got down here. That was a week ago Saturday night and that didn't even taste good.

Well, Darling, I will close for now as there isn't much to write and I want to shave pretty soon.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey!!

Butte, Nebraska
January 8, 1946

My Sweetheart Clayton,

I received two swell letters from my Honey, today. I was really lucky, don't you think? One was written the fifth and the other the sixth. They were both mailed yesterday, one at 9:30 A.M. and the other 3:00 P.M. It didn't take them long after they once got started, did it?

It is really a beautiful day here and how I wish that you were here! Gee! Honey! You don't know how I miss you. It is like having something you don't have. I know it doesn't make any sense to you but anyway that is the way I feel. Will I be able to make up for lost time when you do get home?

Say, Honey, you take it easy or I'll come down there and scold you. I told you before that if you would have forgotten me two minutes you wouldn't be where you are now. Now didn't I? Well, then Honey, you can't blame me and after all you will learn to learn. Do you get it? So the sooner, now that you forget me the better off you will be, or don't you think so? I do.

Say, Sweetheart, what kind of a girl did you think I was anyway by saying that you were beginning to believe that I wasn't going to write to you? It is certainly a good thing that you changed your mind in a pretty short order or I don't know what I would have done to you. I guess, loved you all the more.

Oh! Yes Richard's address is:

Pfc. Richard D. Counts 37766723
Co. B. 801st Replacement Bn.
Fort Ord, California

Why ask me if I mind if your thoughts are of me? You know better than to ask me that. Why that's just like asking me if I love you and you know the answer to that as well as I do. You silly "child." (Please dear, don't get angry, For I was only teasing you.)

That good looking neighbor boy of mine is Walter Horst? I went to grade school about six years with him so I should know him pretty good. He is a very nice Kid but don't worry your self about him being in my presence or visa-reversa. We think a lot of each other as friends but Honey - that doesn't mean anything. There is only one that means more than "being just a friend." It is far beyond friendship or don't you agree? May be I miscalculated, eh? Honey, I want to go with Dean H. Do you care? Now, I'm warning you, don't stop here, read on.

So you saw the show, "Harvey Girls." Was it good? I read the Story but I believe the show is in Class B which means I won't see it even if it does come to Butte, as bad as I want to see it. But here is hoping it is Class A.

Say, Sweetheart, some of these days, I am really going to get angry at you if you don't either quit talking about what you and Kimball are going to do when you get out of the Army or let me in on the secret. Do you still think that I cannot get angry? Well, I'm beginning to believe it myself. Ha! Ha! I'll jes' bet it was Kimball that you were out walking with, too. I'm mad at you, too. No, Honey, I was just fooling so don't get angry at me, please.

(If I do go tonight I'll sit one or two out and just think about you, only, but don't worry Honey, I think of you all the time, I couldn't forget you.)

I really don't know what to think about my fortune, Honey. It doesn't sound so pretty good to my notion. I really didn't know I was that type or did you? If so - why didn't you tell me about it years ago. And Sweetheart, are my ideals what make me interesting? Really? If they are, I'll soon get rid of them and find some new ones. I don't want to be that kind of interesting - or do you like me the way I am?

Honey, the reason I said that about Dean was just to see what you would say. Now please tell me what you said when you read it. I hadn't the least desire of going with him or anyone else so don't get me wrong.

Honey, I'm scared to death. Floyd told me this A.M. that I would have to drive home tonight & ho how I hate to drive. It is 3:57 now.

All my love to you
Your Sweetheart, Elaine

I love you Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
January 8, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I will write you a few lines this evening before I go to supper to let you know that I am always thinking of you and wish that I could be near you. Honey, I love you so much that I don't know whether or not I will be able to stand it being away from you for another year.

I would like to go overseas but would rather be stationed someplace near home so that I would be able to see you once in a while. I have been very tempted to go home but know that it would just be that much harder to leave and would be wanting to go back again. Sheridan Wells said that every time a persons goes home it is just that much harder to leave again.

I really hope that I get shipped out of here pretty soon as they finally put there new schedule in force today. One company has to furnish all of the men for detail on one day and some other company the next. They had all of us from this company on for detail today but I got out of it as I said that I was going to check and see if I were on shipping orders before I went so as soon as I found out I wasn't on orders I went over to the barracks that Kimball is in and just laid around all day and when they wanted any more detail they would come through the barracks and I always told them that I was on orders.

They said that everyone has to fall out for roll call at 6:20 in the morning and march over to breakfast in a group whether we wanted to eat or not. They are also going to start training. About all we have to do is a little close order drill and a short walk around the camp.

Kimball is on orders now and is to leave for Camp Pickett, Va. at 8:00 tonight. I was in the hopes that we would get shipped out together but guess I will have to go with a bunch of strangers, but it will just be my luck to ship out with Sheridan Wells but I hope not as the less I have to do with him the better I will like it.

Kimball and I just got back from supper and I went over to see if I was on orders yet but they said that an order for 200 was supposed to be here at 4:00 but wasn't here yet. They said it would be here deffinatly by 6:00 and we could go over and check any time between 6:00 and 9:00 to see if we are on it. I won't mail this letter until I find out whether or not I am on it.

It was misty here about all afternoon and started sprinkling about 4:00 and is raining harder all of the time. I suppose I will ship out tomorrow while it is raining as it usually rains every time I get shipped out of some camp. It rained when I left Camp Fannin and when I left Camp Pickett.

A fellow that came in here today brought a radio with him and he just got it connected. It really seems good to listen to a radio and hear some good dance music. It makes me with that I were home dancing with a sweet girl back home. Just in case you don't know here, she is my Sweetheart and her initials are E.I.C.

Well, Darling I will close for tonight and wish you many happy dreams. I love you, Honey.

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

P. S. It is still raining out and is freezing on everything. The ground is really slick as it has a nice coat of ice on it. If it should snow now it would really be slick. I would sure hate to be driving a car or something tonight as it is freezing on the windshields and the roads would be terrible.

I went over and looked at the shipping orders but to my dismay I wasn't on any but they had one that they had to type up and put on the bulletin board. This one order was for Fort Ord, California and were to leave at noon tomorrow. They told us to be sure and check it early in the morning to be sure if we were on it.

I went over to see Kimball a little while ago and then walked down to building 512 with him where all of those shipping out had to meet and wait for the bus. I sure wish that I was going with him. It is really hard to see someone leave like that after we have been together so long. I may be lucky enough to catch up with him in Pickett if I leave for there soon or maybe even after we get overseas.

Daddy was talking to Kimball in Kibby's one Wednesday while he was on his furlough but before I got home and Daddy said that he couldn't see how anyone could chum around with him as he just stood around and was so quiet. I told Daddy that when Jim gets with a bunch of fellows and has a drink or two of beer he is quite different. He is really a goofy acting fellow when he gets half tight.

I talked to Simmons this evening and he said that he was going back out to Fort Warren, Wyoming. He was stationed out there before he enlisted and had a couple of letters from some officers asking for him to be sent back out there.

I sure hope that they ship me out of here soon or I will go nuts. I would like to know just what is in the future for me as to when and where I go from here.

Well, Darling I am going to sign off now and go to bed early as I had a very bad night last night. I just laid there awake and thought about how foolish I was that I enlisted as I may have been able to get an agricultural discharge this spring if I had not enlisted.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart.

W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
January 9, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received three letters from the sweetest girl in the world this noon and I was really happy when I got them.

Honey, I found out this morning at 9:30 that I was on shipping orders for Camp Pickett at 12:45 this noon. I had to turn in my sheets and blankets and then I shaved and at 11:00 I went over for mail call. I wanted to see whether I had any mail before I wrote and it was 12:15 before I finally got it and had to be down at building 512 by 12:45. I didn't have time to write then but thought that I would when I got on the train and after we waited down there until 1:15 they told us that the order had been cancelled and another one going to a camp near Washington, D.C.

They told us to check the list at 10:00 in the morning so suppose that we will be going tomorrow afternoon. Sheridan Wells is to leave for Fort Ord, Calif. at 4:00 this afternoon but his orders may be cancelled also.

This Olson boy from Bristow is the one that used to run around a lot and his Dad runs a produce store in Bristow or rather goes around the country buying eggs and poultry. This Olson has wrecked several cars and once upset Gallentine's truck when he was driving it. His first name is Dennis or that is what he was called, but his real name is Carl. He was supposed to go to that camp near Washington, D.C. but that one was cancelled also.

No, Darling, I wouldn't go awol on a bet or at least not while I was in the right state of mind. I merely wanted to know what kind of punishment they got. I never did ask Olson how he came out and still think that they will have part of their pay taken away.

I talked to Sheridan Wells a little while just before dinner and he said that he had a package that he wanted to mail home and he said that it was a diamond and was sending it to Helen.

He said that he heard that I gave you a diamond for Christmas and I told him what I gave you. He said that you and Helen took him out to the car that night of the dance and showed it to them. I think he was fibbing a little bit as I had the car locked, or at least I thought so but didn't want to argue with him as I might have been wrong.

It isn't very expensive to go to town as we usually walk or hitchhike in and back if it wasn't too cold.. We go to a show which starts at 7:00 and is out at 9:30 and I am always ready to go back to camp by then. No, Honey, I haven't had a drink of beer since New Years Day when Knight and I had a glass apiece. I am going to try and keep from drinking any liquor for this year but I won't make it a New Year's Resolution as I am afraid that I will break it before the year is over.

Darling, the next time your throat gets so sore take a tip from me and take a few sips of whiskey or drink a couple cups of hot coffee. That is the way I got rid of my sore throat on Dec. 10 at the dance. Do you remember that night? I'll bet you never will forget it. Those hard lumps on your neck are just remembrances of the hickies I gave you and where I kept biting you.

You wrote that Donavon Angel and Raymond Nemecek were giving a double wedding dance. I knew that Ray and Naomi were going to get married but not Donavon. Who did Donavon marry. They always do have a lot of dances up there when I'm not there. I sure would like to go dancing with you again, Honey. You are really a wonderful dancer and how I would love to dance with again.

You wrote about how you think about what we would be doing if I were home. I know what I would be doing in the daytime. That would be trucking in the afternoon, sleeping in the morning and keeping you out late at night. Would you mind? I don't think you would, or at least I hope you wouldn't. It was such a wonderful day here last Sunday and I told Kimball how I wish that I were home. It would have been a wonderful day for a good horseback ride or for a nice ride in a Ford. (?)

Darling, if I were home for good I would let you sleep on my shoulder any time that you wanted to but as it was, time was too short to sleep any of it away. I know just how you feel when things don't go right and everyone keeps picking on a person. That is just the way it was around home a few years ago when Glen was still home and when I used to go to a lot of dances and they always thought I was going too much and Glen always kept nagging me about spending too much money on liquor and should spend that money on farm equipment. As soon as he left home things were running pretty smooth.

Say, Honey, that was a pretty cruel trick to pull on Warren, don't you think. Or is he a good humored fellow. I'm afraid I would be rather peeved if I were to get one like that. If Warren weren't in the Army I would ask you to quit writing to him and devote more of your time to me but letters mean a lot to these servicemen so I'll

let you write to him as long as it doesn't get too personal.

I knew that you wouldn't be able to forget Eddie and as you wrote, he says time will tell. No, Honey, don't take me wrong as I was only fooling.

Yes, Darling, I do plan on coming home sometime and then you won't have to write letters so often and I hope that it is sooner than I expect. It can never be too soon for me.

Well, Sweetheart I think that I have written about all I can think of for today so will close and hoping that tonight will be the last night I have to spend down here. I will write again tomorrow if I have time to let you know whether I am leaving or not.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

P.S. If you don't get any letters for a day or two you will know that I am leaving.

5:00 P.M. Wed. Eve.

I just got back from Supper and walked by building 512 where everyone has to wait for buses when shipping out and Sheridan yelled at me so I went over and talked to him a while. They were supposed to leave at 4:00 but the buses haven't come for them yet. Maybe they will have to cancel that order also if they can't get the transportation. The reason they cancelled the order to Camp Pickett was because they couldn't get enough cars to send us.

I think I will go to the show tonight as there isn't anything else to do and I won't be able to sleep as they are really noisy in here tonight. They have been playing poker and shooting dice in here almost all day and are still shooting dice. I can be thankful that I don't know anything about either one and don't intend to learn.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams, Honey
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Darling and I don't mind telling you as it is no secret. I'll never get tired of you writing that you love me as I believe you do and your letters mean a lot to me. It will seem like a long time before I hear from you after I leave here.

Butte, Nebraska
Thurs. Morning

My Darling Clayton

This will be short this morning because Gus may go any minute. In fact I'm afraid he'll go before I get this mailed.

I was going to write sometime yesterday and tell you all about the dance but about the time I got ready to write I got sick and I mean sick. It was a good thing that school was just about an hour from being out for the day. I went home and went to bed and didn't get up until this morning at 7:30 A.M. So I have recuperated from that in fine style. I feel pretty good this morning and by tomorrow night, I think I'll be ready to go again. "Isn't I awful?"

I saw your Mother, Daddy, Glen, Uncle John & Aunt ? and "our" cousin Donnie at the dance Tuesday night. Donnie acted like he was mad about something. He didn't smile at any one but I did get a little one.

Under the circumstances I had a very good time. Jerry Fiala was there but I didn't get to dance with him. I hardly got to talk to him, in fact, he was really busy talking to everyone. I really have fun with Leo, though and really get a big kick out of him. Honey, you are going to have to start getting jealous over me when you aren't here. Leo Fiala and Lawrence Johnson and a bunch of those guys stand around with their arm around me whenever I'm not dancing, but it is usually a very short time as it isn't very many times that I'm not dancing. It is all on the friendly basis so I don't care. I get a big kick out of them.

Leo has found a new name for me now. When I first saw him Tues. night he called me "Honey." He said he is making up for what my sister missed out on. I really get a big bang out of him. Going back from dancing, I said in Bohemian "Give me a kiss & give me a hug" and about that time he grabbed me around the waist and if I wouldn't have done some fast talking I would have found myself a victim of both right there and I was "pretty much" embarrassed by that time without carrying it any farther so I talked and fast, too. He and Raymond were going to take me and put me up on their shoulders so I could see the bride and groom dancing. I begged and begged and finally they gave in but they did get me picked up and raised off of the floor quite a ways. That brother of mine, really gives me a bad time and when he gets with someone like Leo Fiala, Lawrence Johnson, or someone like that (even Floyd McNair) I have a "worse" time. Ha! Ha! Raymond went around introducing me to several fellows the other night and ask them what they thought of his little sister. He was really "lovey-dovey" the other night. He took me to intermission too and saved my life but almost ruined it at the same time.

There is a Kid from Fairfax that has wanted to go with me since last August but has never struck fortune yet so of course he hasn't gone with me. He is really cute and very nice but why should I go with him? I haven't any reason. As soon as he saw me the other night, he had to stand right where he could watch me every single dance and I could just about feel the holes through me before intermission. When they announced intermission Raymond & I went over to get my coat and I no more that got half way across the floor when someone tapped my arm and asked all about me, etc. etc. - rather boring I'll admit. I tried to ignore him but he is one of these kind that won't take "no" for an answer so when things got pretty bad he said, "Well, I'll go see if the rest are ready to go home yet" - so he did telling me that he would be back in a minute. The second hand hadn't made a move before we were off for Mollies Cafe. Then Lawrence Johnson had to interrupt things by making Raymond stop for a drink. Then he went along with us to the cafe. But when we got to the sidewalk after crossing the street, Raymond picked me up and carried me on in. That is something that really and truly takes me by surprise and just about embarrasses me to death. We no more than got in there and here came that kid again and grabbed a chair and sat down by me. That really got under my skin and Raymond could see it in my eyes so he hurried the rest of them up so we could go back to the dance hall. After we got there they started to play the second song of the first dance, so I stood that one out with him and before he left I promised five of the next dances, which made him mad so with the words "I'll see you in Butte some night and take you to a show where I can have you to myself," he left very much to my happiness. Anyway, he won't see me in Butte and I won't go with him if he does so I'm not worrying about him any more. Then after that I really had a good time because he went home.

I talked to your Mother the other night but just for a minute or so. I'll be she thought I was a chump. Can't blame her much. I was mushing around with "our" cousin from Atkinson that just got back from the Pacific. He has been in the Navy 2 1/2 years. Gee! he is really cute and we really think a lot of each other but we are cousins, so don't worry. We danced together a lot and I'll bet your Mother really did some fast thinking, then. I guess I'll have to explain, the next time I see her. She might get the wrong impression of me and I definitely don't want that or do you?

Well, Darling, there really isn't more to tell you and what I have told you isn't even interesting so I guess it is about time for me to sign off.

Here are our fortunes from the Wishing Wells. You are to make a wish and this is to tell you what is to

come of it. Ours on the same cards are opposites.

Mine

Two Trips
 Love
 A Spirit Help
 Riches Come
 Logical Decision
 A Present To Wear
 Money Comes For You
 Excitement
 Health News
 Your Vim Returns
 Relief Is Near
 Funds Grow
 Many Loves
 Odd Cash Profits
 Joyous Days
 Silver Piles Up
 You Need Air & Sunshine
 Replace Old With New Love
 Continue To Study
 Glory For You
 A Sweet New Joy
 That Old Love, Still Loves You
 Perfect News
 Work Is Needed
 A Home Change
 Brilliant Luck

Yours

Surprise Coin
 A Cash Year
 A New Pal One
 You Will Travel Soon
 Early Report
 A Big Job
 A Happy Outcome
 Romance Thrives
 A Big Victory
 A Power Blessing
 Things Will Come Your Way
 Mailbox Joy
 A Goal Nears
 Cash Forever
 Surprise Evenings
 A Constructive Year
 Forgive Him
 Happy News
 Good Days
 Fun By Mail
 Ambition Furthered
 Love Ambition
 Great Respect
 A Love Period
 A Love Worry Lightens
 A Lucky Term

It is just a bunch of foolishness but I don't care, I enjoy reading it, just the same. I even like the red headed blond with black hair that lives down in the basement up stairs on the vacant lot.

Well, Honey, I guess I'll have to quit before you get seasick because I know you didn't take your glasses along.

Sweetheart, I love you,
 All my love
 Your Sweetheart
 Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Re enlistment Section
W.D.P.C. S.C.U. 1773
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
January 10, 1946

My Darling Elaine,

Honey, I'm not in a very good mood this morning but will write to you anyway to let you know that I am finally leaving here but am not very anxious about going to Camp Pickett. They have a notice on the bulletin board that the shipment that was cancelled yesterday is to leave today at 1:30.

I heard last night that there is a shipment going to Fort Riley today and also one to Camp Crowder, Missouri. I wish that I was going to Fort Riley. Maybe I would be able to see one of your other boyfriends there.

We should get out there some time Saturday but suppose it will be Saturday night before I get to write but if you just send your letters to A.G.F. R.D. #1 Camp Pickett, it will be forwarded to my company as they will have a record of what company I am in. I suppose it will be a long time before I hear from you again or at least it will seem that way to me.

I have been thinking it over and maybe I will ask to be stationed out there and then maybe I would be able to get out on an Agricultural discharge this Spring.

I have been wearing my combat boots the last couple of days and that isn't so very good on that sore foot of mine. I was about healed up but I wore the scab off yesterday and now it is really sore. I might even go to a doctor with it after I get out there and really see what is wrong with it. If it is very bad, maybe I won't have to go overseas and maybe even get a medical discharge. I'm afraid that I am just doing a lot of wishful thinking but I sure know that I made a mistake be enlisting or at least I think so now. "Time will tell." A lot of fellows are sorry that they enlisted.

Well, Honey, I'm running out of something to write so I will close for this time and hope that you can stand it for a few days without any letter from me. Your letters mean very much to me and hope that mine mean at least a little to you.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

P.S. Please excuse the scribbling as I'm sitting on the edge of my bed, using a magazine for a table.

I love you Honey.

Honey, the things that I really miss most of all are your tender kisses, sweet smile, and all of your love. I wish that I were home so that I could enjoy these things again like I did for twenty eight days and nights.

Butte, Nebraska
January 11, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received another swell letter from my "guy," this morning. How wonderful it is to hear from him. Those letters are about all that keep me alive. The guy behind them is what does the most for me. How can you find time enough to write such long letters? I should think that you would have a hard time doing that, especially finding enough to write to me; now if I were Jean, that would be different. Ahem! Ahem! Ahem! (I have a cold.)

No fooling! I really do have a cold. As yet it isn't too bad but by morning I'm afraid it will be worse. I'll start staying home after tonight, though so it should get better soon. If you were here I would get rid of it in a hurry - how? - I would just plainly give it to you, Honey. Would that be O.K? Oh, I forgot. I would be here (empty space) and (empty space) you would be there. Don't you "just-about" believe me, Darling? If my cold isn't better tonight, I won't go and besides, Honey, your letter sorta' but me on the 'down hill' side. I really feel down in the dumps when you tell about being shipped out, etc. Something like that just gets me. But I am hoping that it doesn't take the same effect on you.

I talked to Lorraine a few minutes last night and she was telling me about Jim shipping out. She really hates it but there isn't much that she³ can do about it anymore than I can about you shipping out.

Helen told me already at Christmas time that Sheridan wanted to get engaged but she said that she wanted to wait until he came home the next time and finally she promised him she would if he would give her until the next time she saw him. I'll wager that she didn't know that he was coming home so soon, though or she wouldn't have said what she did. He must be a pretty slick chick from what I hear of him, not bad I mean a good schemer. So they must have come to some decision. Helen and I are really just like sisters. When we get together - look out if your listening - 'twould be too bad for your ears. I can't wait until I see her or hear from her now.

Honey, that isn't the first time I have heard that we were engaged but I left it go at that but this is the first time I heard of anyone saying that they actually saw my ring. I can't figure it out, there still aren't many that know we even go together but there sure are a lot of them that say we are engaged. Least of all, I wouldn't hide a ring, that isn't what it is for; so they can quit pestering me any time now. I have a cousin that declares up and down that you told a certain person in Spencer that I had one and she keeps wanting to see it. The folks are beginning to believe her but I can't persuade them that I'm innocent so I just skip it. Some of these days, they'll find out different.

Say, Darling, are you sure you drank that hot coffee that night because of a sore throat? I'm not so sure of that. It was other reasons than sore throat. You can't say you gave me any "hickup" either as you didn't. I was sure of that.

You asked who Donavon Angel married. She is Mrs. Harper's neice. I can't think of her name right now but I'll find out and put it in, too. You will probably see it in the Spencer Advocate before you get this, anyway, or don't you get the Advocate? It just happened that you came home during Advent and that is the time during which they refrain from dancing, not entirely but they do - practically. Gee, Honey, you really make me feel good when you say I am a wonderful dancer. I only wish that I could dance, I would really be happy but I really enjoy hopping around so maybe as time goes by I'll learn how to dance. "Time will tell." Grrrrr. Woof! Woof!!!

Last Sunday wasn't too bad. I would have enjoyed a horseback ride myself, providing I had a beautiful sorrel that could turn on a dime and as quick as a wink and anice, good looking fellow to accompany me (a guy with dar, wavy, hair & nice looking.) As for a car ride, I don't want to argue but I do like to disagree with you, so I'll say that I would rather have a ride in a (?) than a Ford. You can supply the right word where you find the question mark. I know you won't find it difficult.

No, Honey, I don't think that that trick was too cruel to pull on Warren. He was a school teacher once too. He is perhaps about ready to murder me but I'm ready to be murdered so everything is O.K. No, he won't care. He is very good natured and very humorous, he'll take it as a joke. I know he will. He knows how ornery I am. I guess I'll write one like that to you and see if you get peeved, shall I? Just what would you do to me? I want to know so I guess I'll try it. To be honest with you, I don't think that you can get angry at me, or can you? Don't worry, Sweetheart, Warren and I will never get personal. Oh! And I meant to tell you that I did start rolling from the beginning so that he had to unroll it before he could read it. My sister and brother-in-law put me up to that part. They told me to and as I "always" obey my elders, I did that too when they told me to. Ha.

Well, Darling, I'm about tired out today. I really feel ornery but it is so cold and windy out that I just shudder when I glance out the window. Maybe I won't go tonight if it gets too cold. Brrr - I'm really happy that it is not my wedding dance - I'd stay home, I believe. No, when I get married - if I ever do - I'm going to have the weather ordered and everything done up to snuff about six months before hand. I want the sun shining, and the heat waves going about 95 degrees above zero, the roses in bloom so I can have plenty of rose petals to walk, on, etc., etc., etc. Sounds interesting, doesn't it? Ha! Ha! Things like that just don't happen so I guess I'll have to forget about it for always.

Well Sweetheart, I guess I'll have to sign off so I can sweep and get the school-house cleaned for tomorrow - no I mean Monday but after art there is always more to clean so,

So long, for this time.
All my love,
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D, 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F.R.D.#1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 12, 1946

My Darling Elaine,

Here I am back in old Camp Pickett again and finally got settled down and feel fairly good now that I have taken a shower, shaved and put on some clean clothes. It was a long and really dirty ride. I haven't shaved since Wednesday morning so I really needed one.

We were supposed to leave Fort Leavenworth at 1:30 but they called us all out and after we got lined up they told us to leave our baggage set there and be back and ready to leave again at 4:30 but it was 5:30 before we got on the bus. They took us to Leavenworth by bus and then we went by train. We got into St. Louis at 7:30 and had to change trains there and then were there for four hours.

We came a different route than we did the other time I came out here. We came through Indianapolis, Ind., Dayton, Ohio, and Columbus, Ohio. It was daylight when we came through the Alligator mountains this time so got to see them.

We got here at 12:30 and then had dinner, took a physical examination and listened to a couple of lectures and finally came over to our company. We were assigned to our barracks and then had to get our bedding and fix our beds.

I had planned on going to the show tonight but thought I would write a couple of letters and go to the show tomorrow night. We have only one formation tomorrow and that is roll call at 8:30 and then I plan on looking up Knight as I got a letter from him the day I left but don't know where Kimball is but am going to try and find him as we may go overseas together.

They assured us today that almost all of us would go overseas and that they will definitely have to discharge us when our year is up. A fellow in the supply room saw my shoulder patch and asked if I had been stationed here and I told him that I worked in the Third Regimental Headquarters. He said that if I went up to see the Regimental Commander that I might get my old job back but I told him that I would rather go overseas than take that job unless they assign me here.

They told us that we would probably be shipped out of here the last part of next week but it is hard telling. If we do go overseas it won't seem so bad as everything will be new and time will seem to go pretty fast. We won't be over there for more than 9 or 10 months as a month will be gone before we get over there and then will have to leave there a month before our year is up.

Well, Darling, I will close for tonight as I want to write to the folks yet and then unpack some of my clothes.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018

Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia

Butte, Nebraska
January 13, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I am sitting here with Babe on my lap so if this isn't much of a letter, don't blame me. He is quite a pest, as you can imagine but he is so sweet, I don't mind so much.

Evelyn and Floyd went to the show tonight, and so they left Darold with me, as they did yesterday.

Honey, I could have had a date tonight, too but I didn't take it. Dean H. and Swede F. came after me. They knew better than to come in the first place but they made a try at it. I talked and argued with Dean for exactly 35 minutes out here on the porch while Swede came in the house and talked to Mom. She really got a big bang out of him. It tickles me but I'll admit that he does have some pretty cute ways. He said that his New Years Resolutions are thus: no drinks, no women, and to wear a necktie. So far he has done o.k. but I don't believe that he can fulfill the "no women" part anymore than I could with the resolution "no men." Even though I don't go with any one around here I still have a Sweetheart someplace - at least I believe I do and anyway, I love someone in this wide world, and truthfully believe that he also loves me.

I started to write this about 8:10 and it is just 10:00 now. Maybe if I keep at it I will get it finished eventually. Babe is in bed again but I doubt very much if he is going to stay there. One can never tell what these men are going to do next. Ha! Ha!

I'm sorry I didn't get to write last night but I didn't have a chance. I was all alone with Darold and Mother and the rest didn't get home until seven and then by the time we got to bed it was almost eleven so I didn't write and I hope you will forgive me and I am sure you will.

Nothing would make me as happy as I would be if you got a discharge, or anything, just so you could be here. Gee! How happy I would be.

Sweetheart, please don't say that you made a mistake by enlisting, because it makes me feel like I am the fault of all of it, and I know I am the cause for most of it.

I heart tonight & today that Donnie & Evelyn Peppel are pretty thick. Maybe I don't know Evelyn but I still say that she isn't the type Donnie would like - or do you think differently?

Well, Sweetheart, I'll try to go to bed & get a little sleep but as light as the rest are sleeping, I'm afraid to even try it.

Goodnight, Sweetheart,
All my love to you,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 13, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Here it is, another Sunday afternoon and a perfect day as far as the weather is concerned but I can't classify it as perfect until I write to you and until the day is over.

I came up here to see Knight this morning about 9:30 and we have been together ever since. We had planned on going to a show at the theater this afternoon but they didn't have any so we went over to the recreation hall and saw a free movie. They have a free one there every Sunday afternoon and a different one at night. It was a good show this afternoon but it was on a small screen and the sound wasn't very good but what can a person expect for nothing. We are going to the show and see "Spellbound" tonight if we get in for the first show.

I don't know how to find Jim so I am going to write him a letter and have him come over and find me. I don't know his company or anything but they have a record of that up at the main Post Office so the letter should reach him pretty soon if he doesn't ship out soon.

Knight has been here for a week now and hasn't been on orders yet but his service record hadn't gotten here until yesterday as that group that came the same time he did didn't bring their records and they had to be sent here. We brought our own records so they got here the same day as Knights. Maybe we will get to go across together if we do go over if our records are kept together. I am ready to go away from here now as I have everything necessary except for my tent and webb equipment but I suppose that I will have to have a clothing inspection first.

If I can get some more new clothes, I am going to and then turn in my dirty ones, especially one set of O.D.s, as I wore them all of the time I was in Fort Leavenworth and on the train coming out here so they are really dirty.

Honey, my pen went empty again and I am over here with Knight and this is the only color of ink he had so I had to switch colors.

I was rereading the letters that I got from you while I was in Fort Leavenworth and took special interest in one where you said that if I went overseas I would probably forget all about you. Honey, how could I or anyone ever forget you. I'm sure that I couldn't and won't even if I tried. I love you with all of my heart and will never forget you.

Knight and I were just talking this morning about how this Army is wrecking a person. It is really making me lazy and another year isn't going to help matters any. My nerves are going haywire and in a fast way just laying around doing nothing and waiting to be shipped out. Some think that it is cigarette nerves but I don't think so. I have to smoke once in a while to settle my nerves but I will admit that I do smoke a lot.

Well, Honey, I will close for today and write again tomorrow.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
January 14, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Another day gone by but still no letter from my Sweetheart but I well realize the why of the whole thing . I only wish that I could really and truly know where you are and just exactly what you are doing etc. In plain English, I wish that you were here. Maybe not right here, but I do wish that we were together, someplace, just we two and no more. Would that be just like a dream? And Oh! how I would love it!! (Second Heaven.)

Honey, my fortune for this week is "Glorious Plans" and your is "Health Aid." Maybe something swell is going to happen, do you suppose it could?

I received two letters today, one from a girlfriend and one from Mary Necci. Honey, since January 2nd, I received seventeen letters and I have written twenty. If I receive seventeen out of every twenty I write, I surely can't scold, can I? But now since Warren is off the list that cuts my list down one more.

Did I tell you that? Well, I saw Warren on Friday evening after school and then in Spencer, that night. He wanted a dance with me so I said O.K. Now when it came time for the dance, he danced with another girl and I danced with another guy. Then he came around for the next one and I had it and it made him mad so he just said "Goodbye" and stalked out of the Hall and got in the car and drove off. Was he ever peeved!! but I was innocent so I didn't care so much only I don't want any enemies, that part worries me. He is the first one that ever got mad at me and I truthfully mean it.

I have been having "stove" troubles again. Floyd has to go over tomorrow and clean the chimney out. Santa didn't do such a pretty good job of cleaning it. Ha! We just about froze to death today so the school board hired Floyd to do it. So tomorrow is the day.

Well, Darling it seems like ages since I saw you and like days and weeks since I received a letter so as soon as I "redo" both I'll be more happy.

It is my bed time so I'll sign off hoping that tomorrow brings me a letter from you.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

I love, Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 14, 1946

My Dearest Elaine,

Good morning Sweetheart. This may seem like a funny time to be writing a letter as it is 7:30 but Honey I am always thinking of you and thought I would let you know that I love you more than anything or anyone else in the world.

We got up at 5:45 this morning and had roll call at 6:30 and then went to breakfast. I don't know what we have to do today but think that we will start processing. I suppose we will have a clothing inspection first. I heard that we were going to get paid today also. I hope that we do as I have a month and a half's pay coming and really could use some money. I'm not quite broke but if we don't get some money pretty soon most of us will be broke by the time we leave.

It is really cold here today. I had to stop and put on my sweater as it is rather chilly in here. I don't know what is wrong with the heating system this morning as it is usually fairly warm in the barracks. It isn't so cold by the thermometer but it is a damp cold and a person really does feel it as the wind goes right through a persons clothes.

There is a young fellow up here who enlisted for a year in the paratroops and has been in for some time. They found out that he is only 16 so are going to give him a discharge. He said that as soon as he is 17 he will enlist with his fathers (old man's) consent.

Almost all of those who came from Fort Leavenworth with me were moved over to a different company except four or five of us. I suppose that I would have moved also if I would have been around here but I was over to see Knight all day.

They just came up and told us that we are going to have a clothing inspection now so I will have to quit for a while.

It is now 10:30 and we just finished having our inspection so will try to finish this. I had about all of the things that I needed except some socks. I have to get 5 pair of socks, a pair of gloves, and a wool undershirt. I got three new sets of suntans while I was at Fort Leavenworth but had to turn them in. I should have kept them and tried to send them home. I would like to have some of them in civilian life as they would make good truckers uniforms. Or don't you think I will be a trucker after I get out?

Knight was telling me that they have been doing a little training in riot duty and a little rifle practice last week but other than that they haven't done much of anything but lay around.

Most of the other fellows in this barracks are from the East here and really seem strange to me. They have a different accent and boy they really think that they are some big shots, remind me of Sheridan Wells very much. After the lights are out at night they just lay there and tell dirty stories. I'll admit that I know plenty of them but don't believe in telling them like they do. If they were a little older they might be a little more careful with their language. That is what I hate to see most of all. These young guys (almost kids yet) are really going to be spoiled when they get out.

After a fellow is among a bunch like that about so long the first thing he knows he is talking just as bad as the others. I'll admit that I caught myself several times while I was home but tried to control it as much as possible.

They said that we would start going through the D.P. for our new clothes about 1:00 this afternoon and about 10 would go at a time.

Well, Sweetheart, I can't think of any more to write now so I will close for this time and please remember that I love you.

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Honey with all of my heart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 15, 1946

My Darling Elaine,

What ya doing, Honey? I hope you are keeping busy and staying out of mischief. I didn't have time to get into any trouble today as I was working over in the ration supply office all day. It was rather tiresome and a little bit hard after I haven't done much for some time. Three of us were on a truck hauling supplies to the different mess halls. It just reminded me of what I did whenever I was working for Gallentine.

Knight and I went to the show last night and saw Ann Southern in "Up Goes Magic." It was rather comical and very good. I could go to a different one tonight but I think maybe Kimball will come over and besides I am too tired to go anyplace. I am going to write a couple letters and then shave and go to bed.

We went over and got our tents, mess equipment, and packs this morning so are about ready for shipment anytime the orders come. I didn't get a chance to mark the things I got today so will probably have to do that tomorrow. The rest of the company did it this morning and then went to a show about Germany this afternoon. One good thing about having that job today is that I won't be on K.P. for a while anyway.

It was sprinkling a little bit this morning when we got up and later turned to hail. It warmed up a little at noon and looked like a few flakes of snow falling also but has been raining all day. It is really muddy around here now and it probably won't dry up for some time as this is a pretty wet season now. That is one reason I don't like it out here as it is too damp and a person really feels the cold.

The fellows upstairs here must really feel good tonight as they are running around like crazy and kicking a bunch of paper around like a football. Maybe a day or so on K.P. would cool them off a little. I don't know why, but I never could stand to be around a bunch like that. They seem to think they are just a little better than the rest. That is the way all of these Easterners act.

There is one fellow in here who looks like a Dago to me and he goes around here with his pant legs rolled up a couple of times and thinks he is hot stuff. He wears civilian shoes all of the time and they really look sloppy now as they got wet and are all muddy.

I just remembered something rather funny in the show Sunday night. A lady was waiting for her husband in a Hotel lobby and a detective asked her if she was looking for someone. He asked her if she was a secretary or a school teacher. He said that she looked like a teacher as she looked like she had just lost something.

There is a dance at the Service Club tonight but I know definitely that I am not going as it is about two miles over there and who wants to walk that far to a dance. A bunch of U.S.O. girls from Richmond are to be there and usually there are about twenty men to every girl and besides I never did like a camp dance. I think I will just save my dancing for you so that I can really enjoy it. It may be a long time yet but I know I am willing to wait.

Honey, just eight months ago I was inducted into the Army. In a way it seems like a long time and in a way it doesn't. I only wish that eight months of this year were gone already and had just four left to sweat out.

Well, Darling, there isn't much more to write or at least I can't think of any more so will close for now. All that I can think of is you and how I love you.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

P.S. I just discovered that I am out of cigarettes so will have to go to the P.X. and get some. Of course I could fill my pipe but maybe you wouldn't like that so very good.

Sweet Dreams Sweetheart

Goodnight Darling, see you in
my dreams

Butte, Nebraska
January 16, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Oh! What A Beautiful Day?!?! Gee! Honey! It is simply a beautiful day, real warm and the sun is shining beautifully. If only you were here to enjoy it with me. Maybe it was a good thing that it was cold when you came home or I never would have made it into the house after we came home -- isn't that true enough?

Well, Darling, I thought that I would sure get a letter from you today but I guess I was a little too sure of that and didn't get one. I am positive that I will get one tomorrow, though.

Yesterday, Floyd came over and cleaned my stove pipes and stove and chimney, again. They were just as bad as they were before, at Christmas time. They figure that the coal did it and I got some more coal yesterday so I'm hoping I won't have that trouble again - so soon at least. (Oh! Yes! My Johnnie Fuhrer hauled it, too.)

"My" Kids really enjoy it when the weather is like this. They are as frisky as little lambs and how I love to see them that way!

The sale in Butte must not be very large. There haven't been many cars going by and especially not any honking and there are usually quite a few that go by honking.

Well, Darling, there just isn't much news. I sure wish I knew where you are, though. There aren't any dances in Spencer this week that anyone around seems to know about. Maybe there will be one Friday night but it will be in the paper, if there is.

I have Daddy in a hot spot now and it really tickles me. Since we got this car he wants to get a piece off of Zimmerle's old one. Zimmerle's told him before that they didn't know, & that it was Harves. Daddy has been out there so many times that he doesn't want to go again. So he told me that he would take me out to see Harve so he would (Harve is home now, u c.) have an excuse to go. I told him if he wanted to go buy some hybrid seed corn that I knew where he could get it and I would go along. So everytime he starts talking car part, I start talking hybrid seed corn. Ha! Ha!

Well for this time, Darling, it is so long, Sweetheart,

Good Luck
&
God Bless You,
All my love,
I love you, Darling with
all of my heart,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 16, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I have had a very dull day and I feel that it is going to be the same way tonight. It is cold here and is snowing outside now. It started snowing about one and a half hours ago and there is about an inch on the ground already so if it keeps it up all night I hate to think what it will be like in the morning.

I marked my webb equipment this morning and then we had to get a rifle and bayonet apiece and haven't done anything else all day. I started playing rummy with two other fellows about 10:00 and quit at 3:00 but took time out for dinner which took about thirty minutes.

I just started to go down and looked over and see Knight and Kimball coming up to the door so we stood there and talked for a while and just as he was leaving we stepped outside and saw three fellows who were in the same company that we were down in Texas. They are in the next company and just down the street from us.

I told Jim that I had tried to go over and see him and then went up to see Knight. We had planned on going to a show but had seen the ones now showing in the theaters near by so didn't go but plan on going tomorrow night if we can. It will be a different one tomorrow. We saw most of these shows while we were in Fort Leavenworth.

There is a fellow downstairs who has a clarinet and is really good. He doesn't know very many popular songs but what he does know are good even if they are a couple years old. Maybe he is like me. I don't have time to hear very many new songs. There are a lot of old songs that I haven't even heard yet.

They told us this morning that if anyone wanted a pass for this afternoon and tonight to sign for it. We could only get a pass to Tombstone (Blackstone). I don't know what kind of a town that is only that it has a girls college there.

Our Sargent told us this morning that most of us one year men would be sent overseas pretty soon to replace those who are over there. They aren't in any hurry to send the three year men over and they may stay in the states yet for another three months.

Well, Honey, I have a splitting headache so I will close for this time and will send all of my love your way and just to you.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling

Butte, Nebraska
January 16, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I wrote one letter to my Sweetheart today but I just couldn't resist writing another tonight to tell you how much I love you.

It is such a beautiful night here that it really makes me long to have you back. I really don't enjoy such a beautiful evening, alone. Now if you were here, Darling, what more could I ask for? The moon is beautiful and bright and it is quite warm for a winter night in this neck of the woods. Such a beautiful night to have go by without my absorbing any of it's beauty from any other source than through a window, and alone at that. That is when my mind starts wandering off someplace, to where I do not know but Darling, it is with you wherever you are and so is my love, for I love you, honey, I love you.

We received a letter from Richard today. He is still in Fort Ord, California but is in Co. C. 801st. Bn. now. That is the only change. It used to be Co. B. instead of Co. C.

The rest of the families have retired until tomorrow but I just couldn't without chatting with you for a while. Maybe you can tell by this letter that I am lonesome for you - - - and maybe you don't care - or do you?

Honey, I have made my theme song - "It has been a long, long, time," really come into use. No one has kissed me since you kissed me last November and furthermore, they aren't going to if I can possibly help it. My sailor cousin kissed me when he was home but he still never touched my lips so that doesn't count of course and besides I didn't kiss him.

Well, Darling, I just sat down for a few minutes chat and so I'll wait until I hear from the other conversationalist. O.K?

Good night, Good Luck, & God Bless You,
I love you, Sweetheart,
All my love,
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
January 17, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I knew I would, I just knew it. I received three letters this morning and as I said yesterday I was positive that today would be the day. I received them all from you, Honey, one written the 12th, 13th, & 14th. Two of them were sent the 14th, though, so I don't suppose that I will get any tomorrow. Oh! how much those letters mean to me, Darling!

I guess it is a good thing you weren't here three days without shaving or ah! Me!! What would I look like!!? Ha! Ha! Oh! you probably wouldn't be around me -- much -- or would you? ahem!!!

Honey, I am so happy to hear that you will definitely get out in a year but gee! I sure hate to think that you will be going overseas. Most likely if you got into an office, you would stay there. Generally they keep their office boys in an office and don't take them out. They will discharge you in another year, sure, but if you are overseas - you can just wait until your turn comes to be shipped home. They won't care when you get home. That is the part that worries me, Sweetheart, otherwise your going across wouldn't bother me so much. Oh! Darling, Just 11 more months and eleven more days and you'll be out of the calaboose. Remember that song?

I am sure happy for you that you have found Junior. It must help to occupy your thoughts and time - so you don't think of home so much. It would really be swell if you could stay together now for another year. Honey, did you say that he was in Texas with you? It seems like you said that once and I was just wondering. He must really be a swell guy, honey, if you are together, and think so much of each other because honey, "birds of a feather flock together."

Honey, what do you mean by getting lazy. You know better than to do that. Your Daddy told you that night that I was there that he was just going to take it easy until you get home and then together you would really do things. Am I not encouraging, honey? Ha!

Now you asked me about the suntan uniforms. Maybe they would make good truckers uniforms, I won't say they won't, but I don't believe that you will need them. You merely asked me and I merely gave you my answer so you can make from it what you want to but please don't get me wrong because if you do, I, perhaps, won't hear from you again. This isn't Leap Year so don't get scared. Ha! Ha! I was only fooling, Honey.

Gee! But I am really and truly tired today. I guess I was up quite a bit last night. It takes more effect on me when I am aroused from sleep so much rather than when I stay up and go to bed real late - or early in the morning.

Just one more day this week and that will be the end of another week and then just one more week to this month and only four more months of school which will end another term of school for me, as teacher - and then - only one more to go! Bravo!!!! But I hope Raymond's and my plans work out for next fall. I'm just hoping and praying that they will so - maybe - maybe if I keep praying everything will come out alright for me.

Well, Darling Dear, it is almost time to dismiss school so I will sign off for this time.

Remember Darling, I love you dearly. Good Luck & God Bless You,

All my love to you,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 18, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, please don't be angry at me for not writing last night but when I got ready to write as usual it was rather late and I was very tired. I went to mail-call after supper and then our captain gave us a talk and then the Mail Clerk gave us some cards to fill out to be sent to the camp we came from and some to the folks now and some that they will send when we leave here. It was 8:30 before we were finished and I was so tired that I just decided to go to bed.

We had classes and practical work in riot duty all morning yesterday and then in the afternoon we had several classes on Military Courtesy and Discipline and then a four mile road march. There was about four inches of snow here yesterday morning and then it melted a lot in the afternoon. It was really nasty on that road march. When I took my shoes and socks off I could wring water out of my socks. We had another road march this morning and then had to clean our rifles.

We had a two hour class on interior guard and a talk about discharges this afternoon. We are just waiting for them to call us out to stand Retreat now. I will close for now and resume as soon as I can which will probably be after supper and mailcall. I haven't gotten any mail here yet but think that from Fort Leavenworth should get here soon.

I just got back from Mail Call and got a letter from Mom and read it so will continue this letter now. She said that they got my letter Wednesday so it takes four days for mail to get there. It took her letter just two days to get out here but she sent it by airmail.

You should have seen all of the goldbrickers in this company. There were 52 men who went on sick call this morning in order to keep from taking the road march. They all claimed that they had colds. It seems like everytime we have a hard schedule for that day there are a lot of men who go on sick call to keep out of it. When they go to the Doctor and there isn't anything wrong with them they have to make up the time they missed and make it up after supper. I have never been on sick call yet and don't intend to be unless it is necessary.

I never knew that we would have to take basic training again but it looks like that is what we are doing now. We are supposed to go out and fire our rifles some time next week. The fellows who have been overseas are really griping about it as Gen. McAurter said that overseas veterans would not have to take any training but the Camp Commander says that everybody will take this training.

They told us that if we wanted a pass for this weekend that we should sign up for it before 6:00 tonight. I signed up for one but don't know whether I will take it or not. A lot of men want to go home this weekend but haven't money enough but the First Sargent said that he was trying to get a partial payment for us.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll close for this time and hope you won't be too unhappy about me not writing to you last night or don't you care.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 19, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received two letters from my Sweetheart this noon and only God knows how happy I am that I got them. It has been a long time since I last heard from you or at least it seems that way. I also got one from my Dad. I was really down in the dumps this morning and probably would have been all day if I hadn't heard from you.

To start off this morning they told us to wear O.D.'s and combat boots. After we had roll call they told us to put on shoes, fatigues, and leggings so we did an pretty soon they told us to put on our O.D.'s under our fatigues. About that time everyone was getting pretty peeved and told them to make up their minds. We all put on our O.D.'s and leggings and stayed that way until they told us to take our leggings off and be in a Class A Uniform.

We had a rifle inspection in the barracks then and an inspection of the barracks and then a personal inspection to see if we needed shaves, haircuts, or our uniforms cleaned. Everyone has been griping about it around here as it is worse than in basic training.

We can go on pass this weekend if we want to but I didn't go anyplace yet. I have a pass for Richmond but haven't money enough to go there. I may go to Blackstone tomorrow as there isn't anything to do around here but won't have anything to do in town either. About the only reason that I would go to town would be to get out of camp.

I went down to see Jim and then we went over to see Knight for a little while. We decided to go to the show tonight so we all are writing our letters this afternoon and will sleep tonight (I hope.)

Honey, I always told you that I knew that I could trust you and wouldn't have to worry about you going out with someone else and now your letter proves it. I can't blame those fellows for wanting to go with you.

I must have been blind that I never thought about going with you before I did but I am really happy that I finally came to my senses when I did that night back there in October. If you will remember that night, Sheridan Wells and I were standing against the wall by the fountain and I told him that I was going to ask you for a date for intermission and he bet me a quart of beer that I couldn't do it. He really lost that bet and never has paid me but I don't mind. I'll just wait until I'm a civilian again, so that when we have that big ex G.I. party. We all plan on throwing a big party and get plastered. Do you mind? If you protest hard enough I could very easily miss it and would just to be with you again.

I'll never know whether I made a mistake by enlisting but one thing for sure is that I don't blame you for any part and if I did make a mistake it was worth it just to be with you when I was. I only wish that I were home or even with you.

It is a beautiful day here in Virginia and that is what really makes me want to be home again. It is so nice and warm and the sun is really melting the snow.

You wrote about Donnie and Evelyn getting pretty thick. I was afraid for that and truthfully I don't think she is the type of girl for him but she may have changed a lot. Donnie is just at the age where he likes to do a lot of tearing around and does a little drinking. When I was that age I never thought dancing, drinking, or smoking. I never started dancing until I was 17.

Honey, in a way I should be angry at you and in a way I shouldn't as I hate to hear that you and Warren aren't getting along so pretty good but then I will never have to worry about him anymore. (As is I ever did). What he should have done was appolized to you and tried to straighten it out. That is the way I do it. I feel that I should. Some times I ask a girl for a dance and then dance with someone else just to make them angry. Has Warren gotten a discharge yet?

There are three men from this company who are on orders so maybe some more of us will be pretty soon. A First Sargent in this barracks signed up for three years and is going to Fort Riley. I wish that I would be lucky enough to go there and then I would buy me a car (V8) and get home once in a while. Knight is on alerted orders now which means that he may leave next week sometime.

Darling, I have a confession to make. I had a beer this afternoon. I really didn't want any but Jim bought one for me in the P.X. this afternoon and I didn't want to refuse it then. That is the last one I am going to drink in this camp as it really tasted rotten. Please don't be angry with me as I am not going to drink any more if I can help it but once in a while a person really craves it. I read in the Readers Digest that one drink is too much and a thousand isn't enough.

They just hollered first call for supper so I will close for tonight as I can't think of any more to write.

All my love and kisses,
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

P.S. Eleven more months and ten more days and I should be a civilian again.

Butte, Nebraska
January 19, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter of January 15th, today and Honey, was that a letter, or was that a letter!
Darling, all of your letters mean so much to me that it isn't even funny.

Honey, I knew you wouldn't trust me for very long. Already you are hoping that I stay busy so I stay out of mischief. You are a good one, you are, you are. But oh how I love you !!

Ah ha! So you got tired - and you were trucking, too. Say, hun, did you say you liked to truck? I just wondered. Ha! Ha!

Honey, I'm a chicken and I know it but when you write about going across it really makes me blue. I love you, Sweetheart and I guess I'm just jealous because I can't have you here.

I had a little interruption here. Mother was teasing me about what was in my letter from you. She dared me to read it to her so I did but I read only parts, about the weather, etc. She said it was rather boring. I agreed it was - the parts she heard.

There is a good show in technicolor in Butte, tonight and I would have enjoyed going but Daddy hurt his back again and Floyd won't go so I was out of luck. I never said anything about going because I didn't want to cause any disagreements, and besides, I want to go Thursday night to the dance in Spencer, so perhaps it was the better thing to stay home.

Darling, it would be wonderful if you could be home for the dance Thursday night but if you were here, I would just as soon take you off into the deep dark forest so I could have you all to myself. But of course, I suppose you would object, wouldn't you?

Say, Sweetheart, I don't just like what you slammed at me about the schoolteacher. I'm mad at you. No, I'm not Honey. I was just joking. I wouldn't be much of a school teacher (maybe I'm not anyway) if I couldn't take a joke. We learn to take harder knocks than jokes, I'm tellin' you.

Just today, I heard something I didn't like to hear. I went to see Miss Barnes for awhile about some books and take some reports to her. As soon as I was finished I was making a hurried gettaway when she told me to sit down and visit for awhile. You can call it visit if you want to but I don't call it that. She had to tell me what Mrs. Wagner from the State Department at Lincoln thought about me as a teacher and my teaching; how I went about doing things, etc., and that she was wondering if I cared if she brought the Normal trainers out to see me. Gosh, honey, that just about floored me as each year they choose eight of the best teachers of the County and take the Normal trainers just to those schools. To think that I was chosen as one of the eight pleased me but I would rather get out of having them. I am going to have one Normal trainer and maybe two as practice teachers. I don't care, I'll get out of a lot of work, that way. Ha!

Raymond received a card from Sheridan Wells the other day. He wanted Richard's address, as he was in Fort Ord, too. But Richard is a P.F.C., too so maybe Sheridan won't think himself too much more that Richie. Ha! Just so Richie doesn't take him to my aunt's place. Ha! I know I shouldn't say things like that, they are kinda mean things. If Floyd heard me he would go "meow-meow" (meaning I'm "catty").

So you think you'd be happy if you had eight months of this year gone -- what do you think I'd be? -- Super Happy. But, honey, already a month is practically gone. Ummm. Honey, isn't it a year from the day that you put your John Henry on the papers? They it would be from the day your furlough starts - wouldn't it?

Well, Goodnight for this time, Honey. Tomorrow is a big day - funeral to attend. Grandma Grady's.
 Good Luck & God Bless You,
 I love you Darling,
 All my love.
 Your Sweetheart
 Elaine

These are some jingles one of my sixth grade boys wrote. I think they are really cute.

The teacher said, "Just write 1 line,"
 "So won't u b my Valentine?"

Come and B my Valentine 2 day
 And we'll mount a horse and ride away.

If u were in a Valentine tree
 And started 2 fall - would u fall 4 me?

If u would just be valentine B
 Think of the fun 4 u and me.

If I had u 4 my valentine
 I'd 4 ever and ever call u mine

Old cross eyed Dr. Valentine,
 He "nose" just what 2 do.
 He says, "I'll b ur Valentine,
 If it's all right with you.

If I had charge of all the cash
 Do u know what I'd do?
 I'd buy a box of candy hearts
 And send 'em all 2 u.

There was an old lady who lived in a shoe,
 She has so many children she didn't "no" what 2 do.
 She gave them a valentine a piece,
 And fried them a chicken in plenty of grease.

Peter Peter Punkin Eater,
 Had a wife and couldn't keep her.
 Gave her a Valentine 1 day
 And after that she would always stay.

I want u 2 come 2 a party
 I am having 2 morrow eve,

And bring with u a valentine
And address it 2 me.

Butte, Nebraska
January 20, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Hi! Sweetheart!!! How are you Honey; I hope you are well and enjoying the best of health, well & happiness.

It is about 9:45 now and we just came back from the movies. Evelyn, Floyd & I went to Butte. The name of it was "Thousand and One Nights." If it wasn't good!! It was super but Honey, how I missed you and especially your arm around me.

Floyd went after "our" brother this morning about six, so he was home the greatest part of the day. Margaret and Deny stopped tonight so he went home with them. Gee! I love that guy.

Honey, our fortunates for this week are: Yours Blessings from her Mine: Cash in a flash.

I sure wish that I could get it just that easy. Umm! Wouldn't I be a happy dame or would I?

Floyd said to give you his love, too.

I know that you wouldn't take mine if I did sent it but - anyway - I love you and as long as it isn't a secret anymore so I guess I can tell you.

Well, Darling, I'll sign off tonight hoping that I get a letter or two tomorrow containing great news.

Good night Darling,
I love you Sweetheart more than words
could ever express.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. 3., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg.'t.
A.G.F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 20, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I just finished a very tiresome day so will write a few lines before I get ready for bed. I had planned on spending most of the morning in bed but it didn't turn out that way. About 3:30 a Sargent came up here and asked for a volunteer to go on K.P. to relieve a fellow but naturally no one would volunteer so he picked me as I was the first bed on this side of the room. He told me to go down to the orderly room and the Lieutenant would explain everything to me.

I went over there and he said that one fellow who was put on K.P. had it the last weekend and didn't think it was fair to have it on two weekends. He said that if I took it today I wouldn't have it when my turn came so I went as I hadn't planned on doing much today. I started at 9:30 and got done at 6:15 so it wasn't very bad as part of the men are gone.

They didn't have mail call last night and the mail clerk brought over our mail this noon but didn't know that I was on K.P. so didn't bring any for me. He said he thought I had some but didn't want to go back and look for it so I should get some tomorrow for sure. I hope I do as I am always looking forward to your letters. They really mean a lot to me and when I don't get any I always think that I should have and then wait till the next day. When things look too bad and I am in a very poor mood I just think of the day when I am a civilian again and won't have to do any of this old stuff. (Just thinking ahead)

It snowed a little again last night but not enough to amount to any. A person could just notice it on the streets where it had melted before. It was pretty cold all day and about 2:00 it started sprinkling a little and froze onto everything.

Knight, Kimball, and I went to the show last night and saw Masquerade In Mexico. It was a pretty good show but seemed a little screwed up to me. Dorothy Lamour played in it. We stopped at the P.X. before we went and saw two other fellows who were in the same barracks that Knight and I were in. The enlisted also.

I could go to a free movie tonight if I wanted to but don't feel like going anyplace but to bed now. I am going to finish this letter and then mail it and then shave and go to bed. It is fairly quiet in here tonight so I may be able to go to sleep before lights out.

Santa must have been in too big of a hurry that night to clean the chimney very good. Maybe he was in a hurry to get down and kiss the teacher or was it because his wife was sitting beside a soldier.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write so will close for tonight and see you in my dreams.

All my love to you Darling,
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
January 21, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I'm really in good humor tonight. The whole durn bunch is so silly that I have to stop and laugh awhile every little while.

Evelyn and I want fudge and Flyod says no but we are trying to coax Mom and get her in the notion. But I guess we won't have fudge, at least not tonight as it is only 9:10 P.M. now. Kinda' early to start messing.

My cousin from Bonesteel is discharged now. He got home Saturday so came down to see us today. We didn't even know that he was in the States so definitely we were "surprized" to see him. The army really fixed him up. Is he just plain fat!! Woo!! Woo!! Gee! I'm just hoping that he gets to come down to the dance Thursday night. I really like him and we get along super. He treats me so nice and I do everything nice for him in order to make him like me that much more. He used to be nice looking and he has beautiful curly black hair but his is so fat that his face is just round. I sure do like to tease him about it. His little twin sisters were along too. They are sure sweet little things and are just at that cute age when they have "Grandma" teeth.

I received your swell letter of January 16, just today, rather old but yet perfectly new, to me, Honey.

Oh! Honey! In the show last night this guy asked his girl (genius) to change him into some sort of animal so he could go to see the princess. She said she could easily do that and she didn't have to be a genius either. He ask her what & why. She said, "I could easily make a Monkey of you, any girl could do that to any guy." So Honey, look out. But truthfully, dear, are you worried?

Well, Sweetheart it is almost my bedtime so perhaps I had better trot along.

Good night, Sweetheart.

Rem - Darl - I lo -- y -- ve -- mu --

All my love, Your Honey,
Elaine

I love you.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 21, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I received two letters from you this noon and Honey I really am thankful to get them and that they came to me instead of to someone else. I can't figure out why you haven't gotten any of my letters as I wrote to you the night that I got here. I wrote to my folks the same night and they got my letters.

I went over to see Kimball and Knight tonight, but they had both gone to the show already so I went over to the Recreation Hall and saw a free show. I saw Miracle of Morgan's Creek. It was really comical but I saw it several years ago so knew what was to happen next.

We had roll call this morning and there were 22 from this Company who hadn't gotten back from their weekend pass. I don't suppose we will be able to get any passes for next weekend but I hope that we aren't around here that long. They talk like we may be shipped out by the end of the week. I am anxious to get settled down someplace so that I know what I am going to do from one day to the next. I am tired of being someplace for a few weeks and then moving again.

We had riot duty all morning and nearly froze as it was awful cold. At noon they called off the names of those to get paid. They called out about thirty men and I was one of the lucky ones. It feels pretty good to have a little folding money again. I got paid for the month of December and ration pay while I was on furlough which amounted to \$66.27. We killed about an hour while we got paid and then had to go out and join the rest of the company.

Honey, you wrote about your theme song being It's Been A Long Long Time. It has been and will be a lot longer, I'm afraid. Honey, how I would love to put a kiss on those sweet lips of yours again. I may lose my technique before I get back home but am sure that I intend to make up for lost time when I do. Please remember that your kisses are for me and I am going to save mine all for you.

It is about time for lights out so I'll close for tonight as I'm rather speechless now. Maybe I will be more talkative tomorrow and can carry on a longer conversation.

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
January 22, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Well Honey, I decided today that I was going 2 rite 2 u so I am going 2 live up 2 that. I am printing it instead, as u can c. Ha! Ha!

Gee, Darling! Did I ever get the letters 2 day! I received a sum total of 5 letters. 2 of them were "Dear _____" and 2 of them were "Dear Elaine, and one of them was "My Darling Elaine; but of course the last one I mentioned was the one that really meant the most 2 me.

My pupils are taking examinations 2 day. I will admit that they r plenty tough, though. I am feeling in that mood 2 day.

There R only 4 in school 2 day. The rest R ill, so am I. I have a heart ache in my big toe. It is only 3 o'clock and I am so sleepy now that I can hardly keep my I's open. Wouldn't it B wonderful if you were here to keep me awake? How I wood love it!!!! B-cause I am in love with U. Do you mind?

Yesterday I read the book - 10 years a cowboy." Gee! Honey, That is the kind of a guy 4 me or do you still believe what you wrote 2 me in some of your letters? That you have found what U were looking 4 and believe she is the 1 4 U, or have U changed U-R mind already?

I sure hope that you have received some of my letters by this time. I wrote right away. -- and say, I wish you were here for other reasons 2. I have been having cold sores lately and no 1 2 blame it on 2. It sure seems funny 4 me 2 go someplace - like 2 a dance, - and come home without another name to add to my list. Ha! Ha! Now, Dearest, don't get angry for I was only teasing you.

Well, Darling, I'll write sometime soon - perhaps tomorrow and until then - it is - so long for this time. Remember, Darling, somewhere, someone is waiting for you and she dearly loves you.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you Sweetheart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 22, 1946

My Dearest Elaine,

I received three letters from my Sweetheart tonight and that puts me in a very good mood. I also got four letters from home and the Spencer Advocate so it took a little time to read it all. I read the letters while I was waiting in line to get a haircut and then glanced through the paper afterward.

I went down to see Kimball for a little while tonight and he was in a black jack game so I joined in and won 85 cents in a about a half hour. That is the second time that I have gambled while in the Army. I lost 35 cents the other time so I am 50 cents winner. We went over to the P.X. and had some ice cream and cake and saw Knight there also. He was going to the show and wanted us to go also but I told him that I had some letters to write. He said that he may be shipping out tomorrow night or the next day as they had all of their clothing and equipment laid out for an inspection in the morning. I was in the hopes of going with him but don't look like I will be able to. I may catch up with him yet as we are going to keep sending letters and maybe I will be able to locate him.

You wrote about you having a cold. I think you must have sent it to me as I have a terrible one. I had a notion to go on sick call this morning but didn't as we usually have some kind of detail when we do. I am just going to let it go and if it gets worse I will go then and if I get pneumonia I will have to go to the hospital and get a chance to see the nurses. I probably would be sorry if I did.

We had roll call five times today. They were just checking up and seeing how many were going out with the company for training. Too many fellows have been slipping off and going to the service club and movies just to keep from training. There were a lot of them today and they are the ones who will have to do K.P. and the dirty work.

I read in todays New York Times that everyone would have to serve eighteen months in the service so I guess I didn't make any mistake by enlisting. I will have twenty months in by the time I get out but that will be long enough. No Darling, don't worry about when I get out as we have to be back in the States and discharged when our year is up so even if I do get an office job I will be out when my year is up.

We can get a pass from tomorrow noon until 5:00 Thursday morning but I am not going to sign up for one as I want to wash some clothes. We wouldn't be able to go to Richmond or Washington in that length of time. I suppose we will go to a show tomorrow night as "Tars and Spars" is showing here.

So Walt Horst is home now also. Tony wrote to me that he (Walt) had enlisted and was on his way home. I don't know him very well only that He and Jerry were very good Pals. I went as far as Omaha the time Tony, Jerry, Walt, and Jr. McCright went down to Leavenworth for induction. I went to Omaha for a Navy examination.

Honey, I feel rather tough tonight as my head and nose is all stuffed up so I'll close for tonight and go to bed. I have some Mentholatum here and will use some tonight.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams Sweetheart,
All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

P.S. Please excuse the poor writing as I have a very poor table. I am using a magazine on my knee for a table.

Butte, Nebraska
January 23, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I am feeling rather blue tonight even though my writing doesn't indicate the same. Gee! Darling! I am so lonesome for you and I didn't hear from you today, either, which didn't help matters any. Honey, I don't think you love me as much as you did because you have been slipping. No, honey, I don't doubt your love for me because you made that clear to me before and said you wanted me to Remember that so I am. I know that it isn't always convenient for you to write. Many times thing happen and it isn't possible to write so honey, when you can't write remember that I won't get angry at you but that I really miss your letters.

I went to the sale for about an hour and a half this evening. I really enjoyed it. That was the first one that I have attended since I was a Senior. I used to go every Wednesday when I was in High. Gee! I really like to go to sales. They are really interesting.

The weather really acted up today. It snowed so hard and the wind was so strong that we had real blizzards but each one lasted about an hour and then it would clear up for a while and start in again. It is pretty nice out now but terribly cold.

Well, Darling, I guess I'll close for tonight. I got into a little dispute a while ago trying to prove that I also have partial ownership to the Bill of Rights (I used Freedom of Speech), so I'm not in a very good humor but if you were here I'd soon snap out of it.

Goodnight, Sweetheart, I love you, I do.

Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 23, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I just finished eating supper and am waiting for some of my clothes to finish drying so thought I would sit down and enjoy a little visit with you. Do you mind?

I washed some of my clothes right after dinner and the socks aren't quite dry yet as there isn't much heat today. It is so nice outside that they don't need much of a fire to keep it warm in here. It was so cold in here last night and this morning that we almost froze.

I was really surprised this morning when they called a group of us over to the orderly room. It wasn't a very nice surprise and had me worried for a while. The captain told us that we were listed as awol, it was those who had missed training yesterday. I told him that I didn't miss any but he told me to see my platoon sergeant as he was the one who listed me absent.

I came back and saw the Sargent and he went with me over to see the Captain and straightened everything out for me. I was assigned to bed 71 and they have me listed as being in 69 so that is where they thought I slept. I am going to move over to the other bed so that won't happen again.

There were about 30 who missed roll call yesterday and they are to get company punishment for a week now. They have to do hard labor after supper and then get up and take the K.P.'s place until after breakfast every morning. I'm really glad that I got it all straightened out as I don't want any extra work.

Kimball came over this afternoon and we went up to the Main Post Office and were going to send a money order home as we didn't want to carry so much money around with us. There was such a line of fellows who were making out and cashing money orders that we would have had to wait a couple of hours so went over to the Finance Office and bought some bonds to have sent home. I don't know why but I never like to carry very much money with me as I am always afraid of losing it or someone stealing it.

9:15 Wednesday Eve.

Knight came up here about 5:30 so I stopped writing and will finish now. He has been on orders now for about a week and is leaving sometime tomorrow unless they cancel the shipment. They had a couple of inspections today and have everything packed. He wanted to go to the show so we stopped by to see Kimball and then we all

went. We saw "Leave ___ To Heavens." It was a rather sad show but enjoyed it somewhat.

The trouble with me is that when I go to a show I forget all of my troubles and feel pretty good but after I get back to the barracks I start thinking about being home so that we could be sitting side by side and really enjoy a movie. I feel rather blue tonight to think that Knight is leaving and I won't go with him. If things go like they have been I will catch up with him someplace. I get shipped out about a week after he does and have been following him to almost every camp we go. I am always anxious to get shipped out but when it comes time to go I'm not in too big of a hurry. I'm still hope that Jim and I can ship together if possible or I can leave with someone I know but suppose I could find a new buddy if I had to.

I didn't get any mail this noon and missed mail call this afternoon by going up to the Post Office. I should get some mail tomorrow I'm sure. That is about all I have to look forward to from day to day.

Well, Darling, I am going to sign off for tonight and go to bed.

Off

No Honey, that isn't the proper way for an ending to my Sweetheart.

All my love and kisses,
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart

Butte, Nebraska
January 24, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received two letters from my Sweetheart, this morning. One of them should have come yesterday but didn't get here. It really seemed to lighten my feelings as I seem to be floating on a cloud in the air. Nice going! I wish you were here with me.

I called Kathleen's Mother this morning and asked if they were going to Spencer tonight and she said they were and that I could go along so if the weather stays nice, I'll get to go I hope. I'll put on my cardinal outfit and just flit around the floor. I just hate that thing so I'll wear it and get it wore out while you are gone so I don't have to wear it when you get home. But I'll have to stay home a lot so I don't wear them all out as next year I won't be able to get any new ones, working at home.

Say, honey, when I told the folks I would quit teaching, Floyd blew a fuse and made arrangements right then to stay until school is out. I sure don't like him because of his domineering ways. He issues all of the orders around our house and it really makes me plain m - a - d, mad. But when they take Darold, it will be summertime and maybe I can adopt a little boy. The folks are too old to adopt one but I could. They think it is quite alright but I am to decide that for myself and I'm still just a little undecided. I make up my mind one way (Sorry honey, my pen went dry) and then I change it. So "Time will have to tell."

Sweetheart, how did you mean it that you should be angry at me because of the Warren deal? It wasn't anyone's fault. It just happened. No, he didn't get a discharge, he was shipped to Fort Lewis, Washington.

This is the end of another month of school for me. I wish that your months could be on the 'four week plan.' Wouldn't that be super-duper??

Well, Honey, I guess I'll have to sign off and average grades.

I love you, Darling. All my love,

Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A.G.F. R.D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 24, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I'm really happy this noon and I'll write you a few lines now and will write again this afternoon. I'll make this one short to let you know my good news so that this letter will get on its way this afternoon.

When we got in from training this noon the First Sargent called me and another fellow out and told us that we were on transfer orders to go to another camp. He told us not to go out training with the rest of the company this afternoon as he would be around to inspect all of our clothing.

The Sargent told us that we were on a transfer list order and would go to some other camp and not overseas. They just called chow so will have a little intermission now.

I finished dinner and went over for mail call and got your letter of Jan 19. You wrote about if I could only be home for the dance tonight. That would make me about the happiest fellow on earth and I'm sure you wouldn't regret having me there. Or would you?

Honey, I always knew that you were a good teacher and now that Miss Barnes has picked you as one of the eight best, I'm possitive that you are. You must have some pretty smart and clever pupils if they can write verses like that but with a teacher like you they would naturally be that way.

I had an interupption just a few minutes ago as they came up and inspected my clothes and made out a list of the things I have to get yet, such as suntans, and another pair of fatigues. I asked the Sargent if he knew where we were going. He said that we were to go to Baltimore, Md. He must have meant Fort Meade as that is 16 miles from there. He said that we probably wouldn't leave here until next Saturday.

I still can't figure out why we are going there as that is a Separation Center. I suppose it is an office job of some kind. The Sargent said we were to be cadre there so that is probably what we will do.

They really have stumped here as when my year will be up. When I signed my John Henry, I signed for one year but Jim had to sign for 13 months. The way we have it figured it was one year from the end of our furlough. I wouldn't bet on either one only I hope it is one year from the day we signed as that was November. One thing for sure is that I will be home by the end of the year and start next year off as a civilian.

What are you doing Honey, trying to make fun of me as a trucker? The only reason that I was so tired that

day was because I wasn't used to working anymore. It didn't bother me very much while I was home and I'm sure I will be able to take it again after I get out and get used to it again.

When I was home I would always rather drive a truck than anything else but maybe I'll change my mind after one year of the Army. Maybe you can help me change my mind.

So Sheridan wrote and asked for our brother's (Richard's) address already. Even if Sheridan has the same rank as Richard he will still think he is a big shot as he always did. When we were all in Camp Fannin as Privates, Sheridan thought he was a lot better than the rest of us. Sheridan said that he was going to write to my folks and get my address as soon as he got stationed someplace and had a permanent address. I suppose I should answer his letters but I'm sure I won't be in too much of a hurry if I do.

Well, Sweetheart, I will close for today as I have to clean my rifle and turn it in soon and should pack most of my clothes so that I will be ready for shipment any time they call for us.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Remember, Darling, I love you truly.

"Maybe u had better save this until
u have a lot of time" Ha! Ha!

Butte, Nebraska
January 25, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

My kids are playing marbles and this is noon hour so I'm going to spend my time with you.

I received another swell letter this morning, Darling. Gee! It is wonderful hearing from you, honey. I so look forward to your letters.

I have to tell you about the dance in Spencer last night. The orchestra was swell but they played such inappropriate music for Spencer, such as Beethovens Symphony 4, etc. "Chickery Chic" and Sentimental Journey" were about the only two semi-popular tunes that they played. They couldn't even play "Josephine," instead they played "Genavieve." It was Cal Meyer's orchestra from Omaha. I still like the one from Iowa better. (It is super-duper.) My cousin from Bonesteel was down and we had a pretty good time. He didn't drink last night and he sure is nice when he doesn't because he can control his behavior. Now don't get me wrong, please dear. I really missed you, though, honey. My heart always aches, more than ever, when I go to a dance because you aren't there. I'm afraid that if you were here I wouldn't let you dance with any other girl. (anyone else but me) I would be just that selfish. I'll have to tell you a little of the news around. Did you know that Lorraine Connot and Ronnie Braithwait are engaged? I didn't know it until last night and they have been engaged since Christmas. All I can say is that she has my consent. I don't want him. Ha! Ha!

Veelee Lewis is home to and there is goin' to' be a weddin' at the Fredrickson house soon. Helen Marie can have him too. I don't want him either. I'm particular.

Dick Mills is home too so Evelyn called it quits with him just because of Donnie. Ummm! Are they ever thick. It isn't any of my business but you should see those too. Wooo! Wooo!! It must be love. Ha! Anyway you would think it love if you saw them but yet it is an "awful" over-emphasis to my notion. Maybe it just isn't my version of real love. It could be. "Time will tell." Grrrrr! Grrrrr!! Grrrrr!!

It is rumored that Marcy Langan and a Johnson boy are getting married but I am just a little leery about that. Mary said they were getting married but Floyd doesn't seem to know very much about it. She was with Lloyd last night. Perhaps she will be with Lawrence next time and then start the rounds again. Ha! Am I not terrible? Honey, I wish you were here maybe I wouldn't be so mean. "I'd have you to take my spite out on." Ha! Or

wouldn't you be around. I really enjoyed kidding Floyd about it last night, though. We even made a bet -- 50 cents bet and I had the stakes but he didn't get my part of the bet right so I gave him back his money and told him about it -- then he wanted to give me the money for being so smart. More fun! I just bet him that he was going to get married -- nothing more, and he bet that he wouldn't, but when I told him that I didn't set any time whatsoever; he caught on. I really get a big bang out of those guys. I really envy each one having a twin. How I have all my life wanted a twin - but all in vain.

My cousin, Veronica Reiser and Waunetta Philbin were in a wreck last Sunday night. They were with Harve Zimmerle and Rob Stahlecker happened to be along, he wasn't with anyone though. Anyway these two guys were to leave for Fort Leavenworth Sunday night so Harve wanted Veronica to go to see him off, so that is the reason she was there and Waunetta was with Veronica so that was the reason for her being along. They were in Butte, Sunday afternoon and about 7:30 P.M. they left Butte and went out to Zimmerle's to get Rob's clothes. When they got out there the boys were going in to get Rob's clothes but the girls wouldn't go along so the boys went on in. The girls told them that they were going to take the car and run off while they were gone but the boy's thought these girls were just jokin' so they went on in. The boys went up stairs and got Rob's clothes and came down -- and -- where was the car -- it was gone -- the girl's were gone -- no sign of any lights any place so they took off in another car and went every where that they thought they could have gone just for a joke. It was getting later and later and the boys didn't dare miss the bus (special bus) and they couldn't find the girls so they took off for Butte. When they got by Walter Fuhrer's place, they found the car all smashed to pieces and blood all over but no girls so they drove on toward Butte and found the girls by Merv. Fuhrer's walking. Veronica cut two pretty bad gashes in her leg when she kicked the windshield out so they could get out and Waunetta has a pretty bad ankle. She was at the dance last night of course but believe me she really was suffering. Seems to me that they were pretty brave to uncover so soon after doing something like that. Neither one's folks know about it yet. Isn't that terrible? Both of the girls were just plastered when it happened. Darling, aren't you happy that I don't drink or carry on like that -- or wouldn't you care? What would you do to me, really? -- That is one reason why I don't like drinking and never will.

Jerry Fiala was with Margaret Ann Percal (that isn't the way to spell it, I don't believe but hope you get who I mean). again last night. They seem to be together quite a bit. Umm - "An interesting twosome."

Gee! Honey! I guess I'll join the Army - do you think I would pass? I sure would like to get a little folding pay for once. I have a check for \$67.50 coming tonight but when I get through, I will have the total sum of \$8.40 with which I have to buy all of my beers, and cigarettes, etc. for a whole month. Ha! I can't even see a new dress in my dreams. Ha! Ha! And I have to get new glasses, but I'm not going to. I have been going without these quite a bit. I'm trying to get away from wearing them. I haven't missed wearing them a whole day for over two years now and I still can't get used to them. Whenever I take them off I still have my eyes focused just so and I keep seeing the edge of the glass. They really bother me. Raymond isn't home anymore to straighten them for me although now I don't have any reason for getting them bent with the exception of Darold. He is quite a guy and so sweet.

Raymond was so swell last night. He liked me exceptionally well and didn't carry me a step - oh! no! - just back across the dance floor. But I love him so that I don't care.

My dear, I know that you must mean what you say in your letters. I have faith in you and trust you, as you perhaps already know so you can easily trick me but Honey, I just don't even let myself imagine you as doing such a thing.

Gee! Honey! I got kissed last night though - but no on the lips. Kitty and I were dancing the first dance and right North of the stage we saw Leo Fiala so we danced by him and said "hi." I have told you before that he calls me "Honey" - well he said to stop, he had something to tell me so we did and I put my ear over his way and just that quick he kissed me - and - about that much later I was gone. I sure got a big kick out of it later but not right at the time.

Honey, I'll admit that I am a little flirt but I never carry it only so far and everyone knows it's just me and I don't mean anything by it. I am liable to say anything to anybody at anytime but "that's just Elaine" they always say; so I wouldn't let it bother me if I were you but you know me well enough to draw a conclusion for yourself so I'll drop it there, honey. Is that O.K? It is time to teach again so - so long, Honey. Remember I love you, Darling, and I mean it.

Your Sweetheart,
All my love,

Elaine

Honey, you will have to excuse all of the mistakes because the noise is quite "dense" and about all I hear is "Vance"
- Evert's - Van Dubs - Et. You know . Am I excusable?

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. D., 12th Bn., 3rd Reg't.
A. G. F. R. D. #1
Camp Pickett, Virginia
January 25, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received two of your swell letters this noon and was really happy to get them as they are probably the last ones I will get from you while I am here as we are to leave at 6:45 in the morning.

The Sargent just told me to be ready by that time so I turned in my rifle, bayonet, and tent. The only things I have to turn in yet is my bed clothing (sheets & blankets). I got the rest of my clothes this morning and marked them and have everything packed as they may call for our duffle bags this afternoon and ship them up there for us. We have to put our personel things and shaving equipment in our cargo pack and carry that with us.

I found out that I am going to an Army Intelligence School in or near Baltimore. It will be something like the F.B.I. but I think it will be an office job. A Lieutenant told us yesterday that it was really a good deal but wouldn't tell us much about it. A lot of fellows up here would like to have gone up there as they would be close to home and think it is a pretty good deal. I don't know how I happened to be one of those picked and am rather anxious to find out what kind of a deal it is.

I have been trying to get ahold of a battle jacket to send home but no one wants to give them up. I could buy a couple but don't want to pay very much for one. Some fellows want \$7.50 for them. I should have bought one from a fellow who sleeps next to me. He sold it for \$5.00 but it was too large. I could have had it made smaller but never thought about it at the time.

Tell Floyd that I will accept his love and am going to write him a letter and send him something which he might be able to use in connection with that stocking he has. It is a lady's garter that Kimball picked up in Leavenworth one day and I asked him for it so that I could send it to Floyd. I'm going to tell him that I got it from some women but don't tell him about it. Honey, I won't send it unless you think it is O.K.. so won't send it until you write whether to or not.

I have to go down to the Orderly Room at 1:45 so won't finish this until I get back from there as it may be

something important and will want to let you know about it.

I will continue now and try to finish this letter unless I have an interruption again. We had to go over to the Orderly Room and then they sent us over to the Dispensary for a physical to see that we didn't have any venereal disease and got a booster shot for the flu.

We have to have our duffle bags over to the orderly room at 3:15 and they are going to ship them up there for us. We have to be ready to leave at 6:45 in the morning so we are to eat breakfast as soon as possible and don't have to stand roll call in the morning.

I just bought a jacket from a fellow for \$3.00. It was a blouse and he had it cut down and looks pretty good. I am going to send it home and then have it dyed a different color to use after I get out.

Well, Darling, I'll close for this time and will probably be a couple of days before you hear from me again. I'm going to shave and shower now as I found out that I can go to the show. Kimball said that if I wasn't restricted tonight to come down and go to the show with him. The Sargent said that I could go if I would be back before Midnight as we are restricted at that time.

Remember Darling that I love you with all of my heart.

All your letters really mean a lot to me and I only wish that I were home so that we wouldn't have to send it back and forth in letters.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Butte, Nebraska
January 26, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I just finished a little squabble with that Brother - in - law of mine so maybe if I try it with you, you will let me win - you aren't here to fight back. I was trying to hang orange peelings on Floyd's ears. I just love to pick on him.

I received your swell letter this morning, honey, and I was really happy to hear from you. I sure hope we get the mail tomorrow and I get another one from you. Your letters are wonderful, Honey, and I just look forward to each one.

Honey, I am so hungry that I don't know what to do and I haven't been dieting lately either. I've eaten pop corn, candy, fried chicken, prunilla pie and many more delicious things but I'm still "hungary." I am craving "pigs in the blanket" and if I don't get some pretty soon I'll just really suffer. Now don't take me wrong, honey. Pigs - in - the - blanket are really delicious. They are too hard to make so we don't make them very often but they are really good. I'll feed you some when you get home. How about it?

Well, Honey, it is 10:00 and Mother wants to go to bed so maybe I had better sign off. So Sorry I had to cut this short.

Remember, Darling, I love you, I love you, I love you.

All my love
U - R Sweetheart
Elaine

I love you

Butte, Nebraska
January 27, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

As we didn't get the mail this morning I can't answer your letter if there was one for me.

Grandma Reiser's and Uncle Earl's were up here for dinner. It was Grandma and Grandpa's 54th Wedding Anniversary. Gee! That is a long time and they say they are good for another ten years. Might be true and I sure hope that it is.

Well, Honey, I'm happy for one thing. Gallentine sold his truck. Goodie! Goodie! He sold it to Butch and Doris Koenig. That happened already last week. I'm surprised Doris has anything to do with it. I'm sure I wouldn't.

Oh! Honey! Raymond bought another car. Mervin Fuhrer's 1939 Ford but he won't have it by Saturday night, I'll bet. You should be home. Yes, dear for more reasons than one but maybe he could get the kind of a car that you want. Ha! Or don't you want any? He is the 5th Service man to get a (Phevie) I know but the first to get a Plymouth and I don't know what it is to get a Buick. He really wants the Chevie so thought that he would cancel the others today. I hope he does because I do like "Chevies." They ride so smoothly. Honey, it would be the same as if I were riding in another Chevie because I love Raymond and Darling you know how I love you, or don't you?

Honey, it is a good thing that Jean didn't get one of those "Dear John" letters because she perhaps had plenty of sadness now when her Grandfather passed away. He has always been like a father to her and now I can imagine her sorrow.

We are going to my uncles tonight to a Birthday Party. It is almost too cold but I suppose we will go anyway. I have to get ready now. Will let you know how it turns out.

All my love to you Darling.

Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
C.I.C. Center
Holabird Sig. Depot
Baltimore, 19 - Md.
January 27, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Well, Honey, here I am in another Camp and will be here for a while. We left Pickett yesterday morning at 8:00 and arrived here at 1:00 last night. It should have taken us about six hours but had to sidetrack too many times for other trains. It was a fairly nice trip as we got to see a lot of country and towns. It took us over an hour to get through Washington so got to see a lot of the town.

We are to train here from five to twelve weeks and then go overseas and replace the fellows who are now doing this kind of work. We are to train in fingerprinting, lock picking, safe cracking, and the basic of the Japanese and German languages.

We are to be interviewed sometime tomorrow and if they see that we aren't suited for this type of training we will be put in a casual company and will be sent overseas as an ordinary replacement and while we are in this company we will have to do the details and dirty work here.

We will be in this area for only a couple of days and then move to another bunch of barracks and start our training. We asked how we were chosen to take this training and they said that an order was sent to Pickett for so many men with the highest I.Q. score and we were either the lucky or unlucky ones.

This is a small camp and has around 4,000 men here. They have a motor pool and this Counter Intelligence Corps here. It is just at the edge of town and we can catch a streetcar on this street and be downtown in ten minutes. We can look across the street and see the apartment houses, tall buildings, and neon signs. We can even see the beer and liquor signs but as yet they haven't bothered me.

They have P.W.s working in the mess hall so we don't have to worry about any K.P. The food is really wonderful and the Mess Sargent said that he apologized for having a poor supper last night but it was better than in

any other camp. The coffee tastes more like that in a cafe.

As soon as we get in another company and start training we will get a Class B pass which is good from 5-12 each night and from 5:00 Friday night until 6:00 Monday morning. That way we will be able to go a little farther on a weekend pass but don't get Wednesday afternoon off as before. I plan on seeing more of Washington, New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia if possible. I only hope that I will be qualified for this training as I would enjoy something like that and sure don't want to be in that Casual Company.

It was fairly warm and a nice night last night but were really surprised this morning to see about an inch of snow here. The snow won't last very long as the sun is nice and bright and is warming up very fast. I only wish that we could go up town this afternoon but we are restricted to the barracks but can go to the show or P.X. as long as we sign out to where we are at so that they can find us if they want to. I think I will go to the show this afternoon just to pass the time away. "Cinderella Jones" is playing and is supposed to be pretty good.

Well, Darling, I can't think of any more to write so will close for today as I want to write to the folks yet and Kimball said to write to him also.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

PFC. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Md.

P.S. The C.I.C. stands for Counter Intelligence Corps

Butte, Nebraska
January 28, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

How do you like my pretty stationery, Honey? Well, truthfully, I don't but it is much better than nothing at all isn't it honey?

I received two swell letters from you this morning, Darling, and they were wonderful. The one that you wrote January 24th was the one that made me very happy. Oh! Honey! Just so you don't have to go overseas. -- Gee Darling! It's wonderful; and to think that you are happy about it honey, makes me even happier. I sure would like to see you - , especially now if you are happy. I like to see you that way, you Sweetheart, you. I have started living on the second floor, already. I feel so up - in - the - air and honey it is all on account of you.

Honey, don't make me mad by praising my teaching. Really, I just hate to be praised about it. The minute I am out of this school house I want to forget about it and everything that happened in it. Teaching is alright and I like it but it just isn't my greatest desire. I have been happy teaching but I want to be happier and I will be if only Floyd stays out of the way and lets Raymond and I do as we wish. Honey, we want to move to Spencer as Raymond will have a \$200 a month job within the next month unless things go smash all of a sudden, and then there is another job that I am thinking about (pretty much). I am really and truly undecided though because I promised my Mother that I would teach three years and I don't want to break my promise especially since it was to my Mother.

I have to make up my mind by March, though but I sure don't know which way it would be really the better way but I'm hoping for the best. Do you have any ideas honey?

Gee! Honey! I can sure tell now that you were thinking a lot about the future months when you signed up. Sweetheart, I didn't know I affected you that bad - especially so soon after we started dating - gee - how do I effect you now or has all of that feeling worn away already? I heard another trick to that deal the other day, too. When you get out the next time, you won't get any mustering out pay - you already received that. Isn't that an awful trap? It is worse than the one I have set. I can't catch anyone in mine though. Ha! Ha!

Oh, Honey, do you remember that swell dream you had about "us" standing up for Raymond and Mary? Well, it just never will be now so you can imagine what happened. Gee! But I love here so that I just hate to believe it. It just seems that it is impossible.

"Our" other brother Richard wrote and said that he might get married. I sure wish that he would. He perhaps would settle down a little more firm. There isn't anyone that knows it but just us so you can jes' bet that you are the only one out of the family that knows it.

Oh! Honey! I guess Spencer is alright. I always said they had a good basketball team, didn't I??? They really have, Butte never was any good. I never did like Butte, did I? (You have heard me say those things now haven't you?) If you say "yes", then I will tell you some real good news. "Spencer won the Basketball trophy."

Just like the other night. Mother told me that I could have the cup and saucer out of the oatmeal if I would either drink milk or coffee out of it at two meals each day. They were so cute but I wouldn't give in. It would take more than a cup & saucer to get me to drink either one. We fooled around from the time I got home from school until "Supper time" but I wouldn't give in and worst of all Mother wouldn't either. When we were finished eating supper, I went over to Daddy and put my arms around his neck and asked him if I could have that cup and saucer that he got in the oatmeal that day. He said he didn't care because he didn't want it so now I have them but Mother is trying to get Daddy to make me eat oatmeal if I get them but he doesn't eat oatmeal either, so can't get me to, that is for sure. We sure have a big time about it. You should hear us. (I wish you could). But maybe it is a good thing that you can't sometimes.

The party last night wasn't too bad. We had a very good time. Before we played cards, we played games. Two people were each given a wooden paddle (flat) and five peanuts. We had to put a peanut on the paddle, walk across the room and put the peanut in the pan and return to get each peanut; if they fell off you had to pick it up, go back, touch the table with it and start all over. More fun! Then they tried it with eggs but I was lucky, I didn't have to. The eggs were boiled but no one knew it. Was that ever fun!! Then my uncle said that they should be real sports and use "real" eggs as he called them, so he and Raymond used "real" eggs. Uncle Dan put his on the paddle and walked right over to the pan just so easy and then when he got there he pushed it into the pan, afraid that he might drop it, and it jumped out, hit the wall and went dripping to the floor. Raymond, "our brother" had a hard time getting it there but he did even though it took him quite a while. More fun!! Then we played cards. Raymond won high for the men, my Uncle Dan, second high, and Lois Jordan second high for the women. I had nine out of fourteen. Lois had never played before so my aunt - winner always - went around helping her and she won eleven games. That was pretty good, I think. I enjoy playing cards but I just never play to keep in practice. This is the second time I played since last October. The time I played between was the 28th of December --do you remember that night? Who are the best players, honey? "the young man" and "the old man" or the "young lady" and "the old lady.?" You just don't know how to play cards but I'm telling you, Sweetheart, 'twould be best if you don't get on to it while you are in the Army. Ahem! Ahem! As if I could stop you if you wanted to do it.

Honey, you asked me if I would let you get plastered at that ex-soldiers "conference." well, you know very well that I wouldn't like it but I would let you take your choice -- what would you say if I started smoking? You, know, I'd love you that much more if you wouldn't as you said you could give it up just to be with me again. If you do love me, I know you won't I know you love me, so I know you won't. Am I not right?

Honey, I keep dreaming that my cousin Arthur is coming home. The other night was the third time for it. Wouldn't I be happy if he really did come home!!! He really is swell and I really think a lot of him. Maybe he will be home soon. He has been in a year last July and across since last Jan. 1st, 1945. I'm really getting lonesome for him so I keep praying that he'll be home soon. Don't worry, he isn't the only one that I am praying will be home soon and you can guess who that is, can't you, honey? Definitely not Eddie. Grrrrrrrr!

My pupils are having club meeting now so I am really enjoying myself. I only have to observe. Nice isn't it?

Honey, the little reason that kept me from wanting you to go across was that I thought you would want your ring. I suppose that you still do but I'm hoping.

Lois J. is working at our place for a little while now while Evelyn and Floyd are getting things ready to move. She is going to Bonesteel to a dance tomorrow night. A large orchestra is going to play. She says that she is going with Floyd Johnson but I can't believe it. In fact, I won't until I see it but I don't let on because she said that I could go along. Nice isn't it? There aren't many kids that like Lois, though, so I don't agree to take her along very often. I shouldn't make that sound as though they like me, but I don't know anyone that wouldn't let me go along even if he had his girl unless it would be "our" cousin, Donnie because I wouldn't go if Evelyn's along.

Well, Darling, I'll cut this short, hoping to hear from you tomorrow.
Wishing you the Best of Luck, Sweetheart. I'll sign off sending you all of my love
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

I love You Sweetheart, I do

Honey, you mentioned in your letter about trucking. If you want to truck, you perhaps would be happier doing that very thing, wouldn't you? But even if I would like to change your mind, would that make any difference? Remember it is only eleven more months. Yippee!! Whee! Whee! Oh! I'll be so happy, honey, you can't possible imagine how I love you or do you, too, think it is just "Puppy-love"? I'm positive it is not. Sweet Thoughts, Darling.

Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
January 28, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I just came back from the P.X. so will drop you a few lines before I retire for the night. We went over to supper and stopped at the P.X. to get some stationery, ink, and razor blades. I saw some of my buddies sitting at a table talking and then we started drinking beer. I suppose you will disown me now and can't blame you. It won't do any good to feel sorry now as I have already done it. I started with one bottle and it went down so good that I drank a couple more and then quit.

Part of the fellows were called out this morning to take their interview and the rest of us did this afternoon. The only thing we did was fill out a bunch of papers giving our life history, education, parents names, names of our creditors and a list of five references. There were sixteen sheets to fill out on both sides and it all had to be printed so took almost all afternoon. We had to give them all of these references so that the F.B.I. could investigate us. We have to go back tomorrow morning and go over these papers with a Lieutenant to see that we have them filled correctly and then have to take a written test. The test is just giving the opposite for a list of words.

I heard tonight that out of the group interviewed this morning only one man was rejected and that was because he was too old. They said that there is one chance out of a thousand of getting rejected and that is if they find out that a person has a bad reputation or something. A person can't flunk the schooling but they told us that the harder we studied the better it would be for us when we got across.

They said that if we were rejected that we would get stationed here in Headquarters. I would just about as soon get stationed here as it would be a very good deal here. The Colonel told us today that most of us would be assigned to companies yet this week and would start training next Monday. The sooner we get assigned to a company the sooner we can get passes and will get paid sooner.

Two of the fellows who came up here with me from that Company in Pickett are in this same barracks but one is downstairs and two of us upstairs. The fellow up here is from Wichita, Kansas and the other from near Sioux City. The fellow that sleeps above me is from Westpoint, Nebr. and I have seen him several times when I went to Omaha with Gallentine as he drives a truck also.

This is really a swell bunch of fellows here. I guess they must have picked the best ones as they are all friendly and one doesn't think he is any better than the others. One good thing is that they are quiet after lights out. Most of them are older men and all married except two of us upstairs here.

They told us today that we were the first group like this to take this training. The others were former F.B.I. men or something. They want men between 22 and 28 and prefer men with a child or two as they figure that they have had a little more responsibility than us single ones.

Well, Darling, I'll close for tonight and send all of my love that way and to you only.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart

Butte, Nebraska
January 29, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey, I'm disappointed, "No letter today" but I have a pretty good hunch why. Perhaps you were shipped out, and how I'm hoping that it was to some place that will "keep-you." Oh! Honey, I'm so happy that you won't have to go overseas.

We received a letter from Richard today. He has been moved to a camp at Monterey, California and is assigned to a truck. That is his job until his year is up. He definitely doesn't mind it; wouldn't you like to get his job? You can imagine that he is just plenty pleased about it.

There is a big dance in Bonesteel tonight. Everyone around is going but I don't care about going because they have Scarlet fever up there. I have had the Scarlet tina so shouldn't worry because I can't get Scarlet fever but I am just a little 'beet sceered.'

Evelyn & Floyd are sure having a time getting started again. If one has to go through all of that they can count me out. She thinks it is great fun -- it must be. Floyd wants "this" and she wants "that" so they get "this" and she can just want "that." I'm in such a whirl here that I believe that I had better sign off before I get some of it down in black on white. So under the circumstances, Darling, please forgive me, will you?

Well, goodnight, Sweetheart. I'll write again tomorrow.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
January 29, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Another wonderful day almost gone but it wouldn't be perfect without writing to you so will chat with you a little while this evening.

We had to go over for that interview at 8:00 this morning which took about an hour. A Lieutenant went over our papers with us and said that we were free to ask him any questions that we wanted to. I asked him a little about the training. He said that we would probably be training for at least six weeks and maybe wouldn't leave here for two or three months that it all depended on how bad they needed us overseas.

I asked him if they would call this job essential and whether we would get out when our year is up. He said that this job wasn't declared essential and that we would be out when our year is up unless Congress changes it and if they did it would have a hard time keeping a Regular Army.

We had a formation at 1:00 this afternoon when they had roll call and then had close order drill for half hour and just laid around the rest of the afternoon. We have to stand retreat at 4:45 tonight. I wrote a letter to Tony and one to Our Cousin Harold this afternoon just to be doing something.

If we keep this up very long I'm afraid that I will get fat and lazy. Of course I'm lazy now but am getting worse right along. If anybody loses weight here it will be his own fault as we get plenty of rest and a lot to eat. We had butterscotch pie for supper and I ate four pieces. They had a lot of pie and we got all we wanted.

There is a dance over at the Recreation Hall tonight so think I may breeze over and look the situation over. They have been having a dance every Thursday night but not very many fellows go and are usually about two girls for every man. They are serving free beer and eats tonight to see if a few more fellows won't go. There are to be 100 beautiful Baltimore girls there so suppose there will be too many men but I am going over and see what it is like. I doubt if I will do any dancing as I would rather dance with someone I know but if I don't dance once in a while I might forget how. When I get home I intend to make up for some of the dances I have missed but it will probably be so cold that I will want to stay home unless I can get home before I go overseas and I hope I do.

Honey, I have a little calendar and mark each day off as it goes by and have 334 days yet to go. It seems like ages since I last saw you and it was only 31 days ago. I'm afraid that 334 more will be a long long time or at least it seems that way to me. Maybe it wouldn't seem so long if I didn't love you so but Darling, I love you more than words can tell and miss you very much.

Honey, I'll close for tonight and send all of my love to you and Sweet Dreams Sweetheart.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Honey

Butte, Nebraska
January 30, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I can't waste paper and write beneath the flower so I'll start & write around it.

Oh! What a wonderful day this was!!! I didn't have a single child in school so at 1:15 P.M., they came after me and I bumed in town the rest of the day. It was a real blizzard. The wind blew terribly hard and it snowed just that way. If it wouldn't have been for your two letters honey, I don't believe I could have made it.

I'll answer your questions first honey, well about the garter. It is O.K. with me. He would get a big kick out of it. No, Darlin', I won't tell him so don't worry. He is in bed now or I would tell him that you will accept his love. It would perhaps thrill him so that he couldn't sleep so well, so maybe it is a good thing, do you suppose? I know how I feel when you tell me you love me.

Darling, I am wishing you the best of luck so that you can get into that 'large' company not the 'casual' one. Honey if C.I.C. stands for Counter Intelligence Corps - what does E.I.C. stand for? Excellent Intelligence Corps? (Ha!) Anyway, I'll admit that my middle name is Intelligence. Ahem! Ahem! (Bad cold it is I have). Like that to talk I have learned. Like it you do? The Irish like that talk, and Irish I am; you didn't know?

Oh! Darlin', I received a letter from Miss Barnes this morning saying that Tuesday would be the bad day.

Oh! Honey! I'm scared to death. I'm just afraid that things won't go right but they have to Honey, they have to.

I sure envy you your seeing of Washington. I would sure like to see President Truman but I hope that you don't get the chance because you would probably get acquainted with Margaret and I definitely don't want that. You might go walking with her and that would make me jealous, very jealous, I am anyway.

Talking about being jealous reminded me of Donna Gallentine, you know why, well anyway one night Raymond was dancing with her and she danced without a heel on her shoe. That tickles me but really I did feel sorry for her for I can imagine how I might have felt. (I saw "our" Cousin Donnie tonight. He beeped at me.)

Well, Honey, I got rid of about \$127.00 today in nothing flat. I bought two good milk cows to be fresh real soon. Cattle were really cheap today as there weren't many buyers there because of the storm. That makes four milk cows for me besides the rest of my postal savings. I really feel pretty good about all of it especially since I am quite young yet and income tax has gone down 3% or around there some place, anyway it is down a little thank goodness.

Goodnight, Darling. Remember I love you with all my heart.

All my love, UR Sweet Hart
Elaine

I love you, Sweet Hart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
January 30, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I'm going to start this letter now but probably won't get it finished until after supper as it is almost time for Retreat and then we go over to supper after that.

This has been a very rough day for us and everyone is really tired. We had a formation at 8:00 and then we came in and all laid down and were about asleep again when they blew the whistle for mail call. That was all we did this morning and had two formations this afternoon. The rest of the time we have either been playing cards or laying on our beds. (Rough wasn't it?)

They called us out about 3:30 for a formation but let us go back inside out of the rain and they held mail call there. I got a letter from Jim. The First Sargent read off a group of names of us who are transferring to a training co. tomorrow. I was one of the thirty six going and as I am second on the list I am second in charge of the group. We had to turn in our pillows, pillow cases and sheets right away and will take our blankets with us.

Most of the other fellows have already been transferred and we were beginning to think that we would be

over in E Company but I guess not. E. Co. is the casual company and isn't very nice over there.

Kimball said that he hadn't been on orders yet to ship and didn't know when he would get them and was anxious to leave there. I'm sure that I can't blame him as I was pretty happy to leave there. He said that they were sure to get shipped out in a couple of weeks as that camp is closing then.

Honey, I'll have to tell you about that wonderful party or dance that they had last night. There were around a hundred girls there but I never saw very many that you could really call good-looking. There were about two men for every girl so I just didn't even care to dance. They served free beer, sandwiches, cake, apples and pretzles so everyone got filled up. The building was arranged and decorated beautifully and had nice soft lights and wonderful music. It was like a night club but for some reason or another I just wasn't in the mood to dance. My thoughts were of you and would have wanted to dance if you were here, or I were there with you.

This fellow from Kansas and I went up to the Main P.X. right after supper to see what they had up there but they were just closing so couldn't buy anything but plan on going back tomorrow night and look around.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll close for tonight as I am pretty tired, or should I say lazy, tonight and should write to the folks yet.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

My new address is
Pfc. C.L.K. 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Training Group 64
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, (19) Maryland

Butte, Nebraska
January 31, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

This has been a pretty dull day again, Sweetheart, without a letter from you. I did get a letter from Camp Pickett, though, today. It was from a soldier, too but Honey, it was just a note saying that he was sorry that I wouldn't correspond with him any more and that he has always thought I was a fine girl (I'm sorry, he said very fine,) and always will.

Honey it is that boy from Lynch that I told you about, and he was in Spencer Christmas night. I haven't written to him since a long time before Christmas, even before you came home Honey, and had forgotten about him. I'm not mad at him I just didn't want to write to him. Honey, you are the only one that I want to write to.

Mother is very bad tonight. She was feeling about the same when I got home this evening and we made ice cream for supper and everything. About an hour ago she started getting worse and the pain is increasing so much. I hope that she gets better soon.

Honey, I am teaching the song "Home, Sweet, Home" to my pupils now. Today when I came upon it in my Lesson Plans, I just stood there. I was in Spencer, dancing with you and all I could hear was "Well, Honey, this will

be the last time for a long time.” Then I felt your embrace. The tears burned my eyes and I had a hard time keeping them back. Honey, I can hardly bear the thoughts, they are wonderful but they leave me so blue.

Honey, if I don't stop right now, I will be crying and I'm not a "baby" so I had better stop & not act like one. I'll wait until I get in bed so I can cover up my head and no one can hear me. Darling my love for you is so great that my heart is aching for you. I love you, Darling.

Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
January 31, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I will write you a few lines this evening now that I have finally gotten situated and have a little free time now.

We moved over here about 8:30 and had to get clean sheets and pillow cases and fix our beds, then unpacked our clothes. I have most of my things hanging up and have a foot locker full besides. This is the first time that I have actually had things put away since I was home and every time I wanted something it was at the bottom of my barracks bag.

The Captain came in and gave us a talk right after dinner and told us what he wanted us to do around here. He is really a swell fellow and everyone seems to like him. He said that we wouldn't have a roll call in the mornings or Retreat in the evening if he could help it unless someone messed up the works.

We can get a pass to go to town tonight so I plan on going as this company is restricted over the weekend for detail work and no one is allowed to leave camp. This fellow from Kansas wants me to go with him so I am going to go and look the town over a little.

It was real foggy here last night and we could sure hear the fog horns of the boats out in the Bay. We are about two miles from there and that is why we can hear them so plain.

I was looking at a map of this camp and found out that when we moved over here this morning that we moved into the city of Baltimore as we are about a block inside of the city limits.

Well, Darling, I'll close for now as I am going up for the mail and bring it down for all of the fellows in here so will mail this on the way over.

All my love and kisses,
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

Butte, Nebraska
February 1, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received two swell letters from you this morning dear, and I was really very happy to hear from you. Already it had seemed like a long time since I had heard from you but it was just last Wednesday.

The first thing I am going to do Honey, is tell you what I received in the mail today besides the letters from you. I received a letter from -- yes -- from Warren. I was so shocked that I was flabbergasted -- feature it -- me? Anyway I just have to tell you about it. It was in answer to that "long" letter that I wrote him a long time ago. It just caught up with him, it took until the 27th. I wondered why he acted so dumb when I mentioned that long letter to him when he was home. He said it took him most of the afternoon to read it and he had it tangled from "Hell to Breakfast." That really tickles me. And honey, he isn't mad about that dance, he is mad because when he was talking, this sailor cousin of mine came up and put his arm around me and kissed my cheek. That is what made him mad. He said that this sailor seemed to have his claims staked out already. It sorta makes me peeved. I guess when we stood argueing about the dance, that is when Don (my "our" cousin) (from Atkinson, the sailor) came up and said that I had that dance with him and I was going to dance it with him too. Warren said that he must have annoyed

me quite a bit if I had to call out the navy. Well, all in all honey, it was a pretty sharp letter but I'm not mad or anything. I'm going to write and let him know that he was my cousin and let him take it from there. After he finds that out, everything, perhaps will be O.K. -- anything just so he isn't angry at me. Because I don't want that, ever. I'll admit that we didn't act like cousins but more like you and I act -- in the car. Now Sweetheart, please don't get angry. It wasn't that bad. Really. Sounds like I think we really umm - umm when we are alone -- well -- we do. Oh! Another thing, honey: He said that he was charging me for a box of aspirins because he had a headache, well when I go to town tomorrow I am going to get a box and send them to him just for meanness. Are you going to disown me pretty soon or haven't you ever owned me or I mean claimed ownership? I sure like to pull pranks on someone as long as it isn't anything to hurt them and if they get mad -- well, they can always get over it. I like to make up after a fight. It's fun. But honey, as yet we haven't had a fight and I truthfully don't believe we will have.

I love you so much that I don't want to even think about arguing. We seem to agree quite often, in fact, most of the time, but if we did disagree, you would win anyway. Like heck! Ha! Ha! For some reason, honey, this letter just doesn't sound like me but it is me, really. I am ornery today but it is a different ornery. I feel kinda "pecky." But honey that is the way I feel when I get blue. I love you so much and I sure miss you. Maybe when you get home I won't be pecky, do you suppose? But honey, I keep thinking about that fortune of yours. I know I shouldn't even think about it but I keep the crazy thing busy in my mind all of the time. If I do change, I hope it is for the better, afterall you will change too. That is a deep subject so I'll skip it. Changes are made everyday but I loved you when you left and I'll love you when you come back. I am sure of that.

Honey, I don't care if you drink but I sure don't like it. I just don't like drinking. It never hurts anyone to have a little but if they go beyond that -- well -- Honey, I know you didn't have too much that night though, as your letter sounded O.K. or were you camouflaging things?

I knew that you would start going to dances and especially when they have beautiful girls around. Don't take me wrong, honey, I was just fooling.

Our brother Raymond and our sister-in-law, Maxine Nordquist were here for supper again tonight. That is the second night this week. I'm telling you honey, it is getting pretty serious but Raymond has to wait a few years yet -- perhaps not more than two and not less than five years because we always said that we were going to make it a double header. He has to wait quite a few years for me, though I can tell him that. I like Max very much but Evelyn has taught Darold to call her "Aunt Max." That is carrying things too far to suit me. It is just as bad as if Darold would call you "Uncle Clayton" when you come. If they were engaged that would be different but I don't believe in it when they aren't. Furthermore, what I have seen of married life the last too months has been plenty to cook my goose. Evelyn is so darn crabby that every time I look cross eyed she has to cuss me. I'm just on the verge of blowing a fuse any minute. Oh! Honey! I'll be so happy when they move with one exception. It will just break me when they take Darold. He is such a Darling.

Well, Darling, I guess I have bored you long enough now, haven't I. Perhaps I will be in better humor tomorrow - Like hell. Sometimes I have to let off steam but Honey, if you look close enough the word is "hello." I just noticed that at a glance it doesn't look too good. I'll be signing off for this time.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart, (I hope?)
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn. C.I.C. Center
Training Group 64
Holabird Signal Dept.
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 1, 1946

My Dearest Darling Elaine:

I just came back from getting the mail and was very dissappointed when I didn't get any. I'm still looking forward to getting a letter from you as it has been a week now since I last heard from you. I thought that the mail from Pickett would get here by now but it hasn't gotten here yet. The mail is always slow about getting from one camp to another and when I was at Pickett the Mail Clerk was calling mail for fellows who had shipped out a week or so before I got there so suppose it will be some time before that mail is received.

It has been a rather disagreeable day here as it has been cold and windy all day. When we got up this morning we almost froze as there wasn't a bit of heat coming out of the furnace. It isn't even warm enough in here now to be comfortable so I suppose we really will freeze tonight. It is a good thing that we have two wool blankets

and a comforter to cover up with. They felt very nice last night and will again tonight.

Six of us went up town last night to look it over a little and were rather disappointed at what we saw. It seemed rather dead and dull to us but I suppose we were in the wrong places as we probably could have found some lively places if we would have had more time. We caught a streetcar out here and it took us about a half hour to get downtown as it was pretty crowded and stopped at nearly every street. We went in a cafe and had a sandwich and glass of beer and then went to a double feature show and came back to camp.

This Company is restricted this weekend and are to be on detail cleaning up the classrooms and picking up the papers around the Colonel's home. All of us have to be here at 6:15 and be ready to go on detail. We don't know just what it is but they want fifty men so suppose it will be cleaning the classrooms.

The Sargent told us the other day to always keep our mouth shut and our eyes and ears open and not tell anybody what we are doing here. He said that they had people up town watching us and if they caught us telling anyone what we do here they would make us quit school. A Captain was in that cafe last night and was really watching us and finally asked one fellow where he was stationed and what he was doing. He said that he just got here and didn't know what he was to do. That Captain was just trying to catch someone telling about this place. I guess we really aren't even suppose to write to anyone what we are doing but I don't care.

We went over to the Main P.X. this morning and had breakfast again and then got a haircut. It seems like that when we have an early breakfast and work so hard just laying around on our beds, I get awful hungry before dinner. I have gained eleven pounds since I left home and am up to 172 now. If I keep it up I will really be oversize. I always wanted to put on some more weight but when I do I never hold it. I would be satisfied if I could stay around 175.

Well, Honey, it is almost supper time so will close for tonight and wish you a lot of Sweet Dreams.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton (Willie)

I love you Darling, with all of my heart.

Butte, Nebr.
Feb. 2, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

What a swell day! But Honey, I didn't get a letter from you. I received two from you yesterday so I guess that is reason enough.

Mother, Daddy, Evelyn, Floyd, Darold and I went to O'Neill for a little while this afternoon. Honey, who do you think I saw? Well, I saw our brother Glen. I was really surprised to see him but when he went by it stunned me so that I didn't think to "holler" at him.

I am sitting here listening to the radio. We haven't had a radio in the house since I was about three years old. Floyd just hooked this one up for a while. The most amusing thing I heard tonight was: A fellow had a cow with the hick-ups and she was the easiest thing to milk. Yeah! All he had to do was grab a hold and hang on.

Well, Darling, Daddy said make it short & sweet so he can put out the lights so this will have to do. Anyway, Rem. I love you.

All my love,
Your Sweet heart

Elaine

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
 Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
 Holabird Signal Depot
 Baltimore, 19 Maryland
 February 2, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey. Whatcha doing? I just got up and had supper so will sit here and converse with you for a little while. My buddy is shaving now and then we are going to the show.

All I had to do last night was take ten men over to three classrooms, see that they cleaned them up and then bring the fellows back. I am second in charge of this group so don't do any of the work but just give the orders. I'm getting pretty good at giving orders and most of the fellows take them pretty well and obey me. When I get home I will be so used to giving orders and have them carried out that I will probably be giving you orders.

We didn't have anything to do this afternoon so I shaved and washed my hair and went to bed. I had a very nice sleep and am rather tired now.

We just got back from the show and will finish this now. We went over to the Main P.X. after the show and had a few beers. I am getting to like that beer a little more all of time and am going to try to keep from drinking very much but how I do enjoy a bottle or two once in a while. Do you object too much Honey, if I drink a little? I hope not as when a bunch of us sit around a have a few bottles of beer on the table it reminds me of when Tony, Jerry, and I used to do about a year and a half ago. Those were the good old days and we probably won't ever see them again as we will all be different when we get out.

Well, Darling, I'm going to call this the end tonight as I am pretty tired and is about time for lights out so will draw this conversation to an end.

All my love and kisses
 Your Sweetheart
 Clayton

I Love you Sweetheart.
X X X X X X

Butte, Nebraska
 February 3, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

This sure is a dead day, Honey. I haven't heard from you since Friday. We haven't been lucky getting the mail on Sundays, lately. We don't get there at the right time, the buses are so irregular and also the train and do I miss those letters. What will I do when you find another?

Oh! Honey! Guess who I saw today. He is tall, good looking and a swell guy. Uh-huh - it was Daddy Klasna. We were in the New Deal this morning when I saw a man go by the store door and into the station. He came on through the station into the middle room but not where I could see him. Evelyn came in just then or I would have gone over and called "Daddy" to see what reply I would receive. XXX - no I mean Annie used to call him that so he said I could too. Really, it would take a lot of courage if I did it on my own accord but if someone dared me to I wouldn't even think about it first, I would just do it.

Floyd just came home. He was up town helping Raymond put windows and the radio in his (Raymond's) car.

Now I'll go back to where I was. "Daddy" was driving that _____ truck. Now, Honey! you can supply any word you want to. It wasn't Ford that I was thinking of but I suppose that Ford would sound the best. Ahem! Ahem! Oh! Honey! I really love to tease you. It wasn't "Chevie" either.

There is a technicolor show in Spencer tonight, "Wonder Man." How I am hoping that Raymond will take me. I could go with Dean but I won't, nor will I go with anyone else.

Well, Darling, I'll try to write more later. I have to help get supper, and get the fuel.

So long, Darling.
Good afternoon,
I love you Darling.
All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
February 4, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Just one more fourth of a day left and I will be able to think straight again for awhile. Tomorrow morning at 9:00 A.M. the County Supt., The Normal training teacher and the students will be out to my school. They stay a whole hour and a half. I know I will really be nervous but sure hope that I live through it.

Honey, I really received the mail today. Three letters from you and a card. Pretty good for me, eh? If I wouldn't get those letters from you I would go wild. I always look forward to getting your letters.

Sure, honey, I knew you would enjoy yourself at that dance but I still wish that if you do drink that you wouldn't tell me about it all of the time - - - why? - well, it makes me want some too. Ha! Ha!

Our brother, Raymond, was home again this evening but only for about three minutes. He and Max were out riding this evening so he dropped in to get his shoes. I have an "inkling" that things are going to happen if only she will change churches. She wants to but her mother says no. She is about old enough to know her own mind but she has always listened to her mother and probably will continue to do so.

Sweetheart, I sure wish that you were here. You should here Darold and I go around here every night. After supper he gets AnieAne (Aunt Elaine) and "inere" (in there) he says. We go into my bedroom, then it is "Cayton", "get him" so we do that too. We take your picture and turn the light on and flop on the bed and really has a big time. He says "Cayton, sweet." Just to tease me he will say "Cayton, shour." (sour) so I pick on him. We really have a big time. He goes around here with your picture and says "Cayton, Anie Ane's guy>" It sounds so darn cute. Tonight he had an extra silly streak and he wanted Eddie's picture first so I gave it to him and he said, "Eddie, shour." He knows who is sweet and who is sour. But, honey, it is so darling cute when he takes your picture and loves it up and kisses it. Now don't say that you haven't been kissed. Ahem! Ahem!

Well, Darling, if I don't get to bed I'll get shot. It is after 10:30 P.M. and I have to get to school early in the morning. Am I happy! Only 3 more months and two weeks and I'll be free. Hip! Hooray!

Goodnight, Darling, Remember! I love you, dearly.

All my love
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd Bn., Gp #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 4, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I'm in a very good mood tonight but am about snowed under with work. I have a bunch of papers to fill out tonight and make two lists of all the men in this group. We had to take a bunch of notes while in class today and have to write them in our notebooks. I really hit the jackpot on the mail today as I got fourteen letters this noon and one letter and the paper this evening. Eight of those letters were from my Sweetheart, six from the folks and one from our cousin Slug.

I didn't have time to read all of my mail at noon so had to read it during our breaks. We have a class for fifty minutes and then have a ten minute break to have a smoke but I read your letters instead. We have forty minutes off at noon in which to eat, get our mail, and get ready to go to class again. We get up at 6 and be ready to leave at 7:40 and get back here by 5. Eight hours is quite a long school day and all we did is sit and listen to lectures and take notes today. We have the same thing again tomorrow and I never did like a lecture.

When we get up every morning we have a certain way to make our beds so everyone fixed them that way this morning and about an hour later they told us to tear it all up and fold the bedding a certain way to let it air out and then this noon we got clean sheets and pillow cases and then had to fix our beds again tonight.

Doni said in his letter about he and Evelyn. It sounds not so very good to me but I won't interfere with his business. He said that Art Mills and him got into some kind of an argument over Evelyn as Art's brother was coming home and used to go with her. Doni said not to tell anyone about it as he didn't want his folks to know about it.

My buddy wanted me to go up town with him tonight but I told him that I was going to stay here and write a couple of letters and get some of my work in order. I should write a lot of letters but just can't seem to find time to do it. Mom said that my Aunt & Uncle were down from Bonesteel and asked where I was and she also got a letter from my Grandmother in Holt Co. so I should write to them also. There is a free Bingo game over to the Rec. Hall tonight. They give away a lot of prizes including a free telephone call anyplace in the States. I would go if I knew that I would win the free phone call but doubt it very much. Pleasure comes first and then the heck with the work. I am going to write letters first tonight even if I don't get anything else done.

The Colonel gave the first lecture this morning and told us all about the training and organization of C.I.C. He said that whatever we were taught here is not to be told to anyone else as it is all Secret Information. He said that many people call C.I.C. "Confident Individual Corpels," but later is known as "Christ I'm Confused." It really means Counter Intelligence Corps.

What are you doing Darling? going into the milking business for good? I knew that I should have bought some milk cows at that sale so that you could have some more to milk. I think you can remember that night when I told Sheridan about it.

So Gallentine finally sold his truck? I guess I won't be going to Omaha with him anymore but Daddy wrote that he had our truck fixed up a little better so I will be able to go into business for myself. How about it Honey? Or have you something to say about that. If I were home now I could have plenty of business as Daddy wrote that someone is always wanting him to haul something.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll close and say Goodnight for tonight and send all of my love to you.

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd Bn., Gp #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 5, 1946

My Darling Elaine

I received your most welcome letter this noon and was very glad to get it. I'm in class now and should be paying attention to the teacher but am getting bored by listening to him. I am writing this now and he thinks I am taking notes on his lecture as almost everyone else is but he would really be fooled if he only knew what I am doing.

I'm so darn sleepy this afternoon that I can hardly stay awake any more. We have been sitting here now for

the second day and have to do it again tomorrow. If I ever have to sit through a lecture when I get out I will be crazy or something as I am getting fed up on them already.

What is everyone doing up there? By the sounds of things a lot of them are getting engaged or hitched. It would be different if this were leap year but I guess all of the boys coming back has something to do with it. I didn't know that Raymond and Maxine were getting that serious. I guess there are a lot of things a person doesn't know when gone from home.

I'm really happy to hear that Warren isn't mad at you because if he were he would probably have some hard feelings against me and I wouldn't like that so pretty good as he is a lot taller than I am and would probably knock the daylights out of me but they say the bigger they are the harder they fall. I always try to stay on the good side of the big fellows so as to keep out of trouble. Not that I'm afraid of them or anything though.

Honey, I'll make this one short for today so will close for now as class is about over. I wrote this today as I am planning on going to town tonight so wouldn't write tonight.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Honey, why don't you want me to drink? I would like to know if you really want me to quit. About the only reason I do it is to try to drown my sorrows but as yet I haven't drank enough to do that. Maybe if I keep it up I will be able to do it.

Butte, Nebraska
February 6, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

This is a beautiful day, Honey but the snow is drifting very much. Yesterday it was a real blizzard. I came to school about a quarter to eight and by ten thirty it was snowing and blowing so rapidly that when we went home we had to go real slow because we could only see about eight feet ahead of the car but most of the time we couldn't even see that far. We couldn't see the fence posts, either. Honey it was terrible. I'm sure glad that you didn't come home in this one. Boy! It was a bad one. It is the worst one we had in ten years - a fifty mile wind with it. We heard over the radio last night that the Fairfax schools and on up the line, too the schools were closed but Fairfax is practically in our own yard. The children were kept in the school house, they were there yet about 10:00 P. M. last

night. Doesn't sound so good, does it, Honey?

I was supposed to have Normal Trainers yesterday but didn't, but the worst part of it is that I have to look forward to it and worry about it, etc. If it would have been yesterday, see, it would all be over with. Wouldn't that have been wonderful. This way it isn't so wonderful. I sure made \$4.50 easy yesterday - with no kids here and I went home and sewed a dress besides. Pretty good for a kid, eh?

Right now it is 20 minutes until 1:00 P.M. So far there aren't any children here. I suppose some will drop in about 2 minutes to one. Boo! Hoo! I want to go home! I want to go home! If no one comes by 1:00 P.M. I can go home. I'm telling ya', honey, the life of a school teacher is GREAT! I have come to the conclusion - no more teaching for me. I have decided to get a job clerking or something of the sort next fall & winter. That would be more fun. I sure hate to give up teaching, though, when it comes right down to it. - it is the kids mostly. I don't know how I could get along with out them. Children really take the dullness out of life.

The mailman didn't go this morning so maybe I can mail these three letters in town if by chance I get to go. No mail in two days - that's bad. He stopped yesterday but I suppose that he didn't leave the mail because I didn't have any letters in the box and the place looked sorta' deserted.

I hear a car. I'll bet anything that some of the Kids are coming. No it wasn't the Kids it was the snow plow. Only seven more minutes.

Definitely Raymond didn't come home last night. I sure get lonesome for him. Tonight is Wednesday so he can't come tonight either. There isn't a dance until next Tuesday and I sure plan on going. T'would be just my luck to have normal trainers on Wednesday morning so I would have to stay home. That would tickle you, wouldn't it honey? Darn you, I love you so much.

Honey, last night was the worst one I had for a long time. I have laid awake every night for a couple of weeks now, just thinking about you but last night I couldn't sleep for any length of time. I would wake up and think about you and then go to sleep and dream about you. Honey, I'm in love with you, do you mind?

Well, Sweetheart, I am going outside now to see if anyone is coming and then call home and give them the verdict so I had better trot along.

Well, I am all but ready to lock up.
So - so long, Sweetheart.

I love you, Darling,

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 6, 1946

My Dearest Darling Elaine:

I received your swell letter this noon and will attempt to write to you tonight. I'm so tired and sleepy that I am about ready for bed. I wrote some of my notes down in my notebook but got tired of that and quit.

I went to town with my buddy last night and wish that I would have stayed here and went to bed although I'll admit I had a pretty nice time. We went to four different nightclubs just to see what they were like. We would go in and have a shot of whiskey or a beer and watch the floor show for a while and then go to another one. We drank four bottles of beer and three shots of whiskey but it never fazed me a bit but my buddy got feeling pretty good. He went back up town again tonight and wanted me to go along but I told him that I miss my sleep too much to go again. I am going to the dance tomorrow night and then to town over the weekend so I must get some sleep tonight.

I had a pretty hard time staying awake in class today but when I went outside between classes I would revive a little. I'm really getting sick and tired of lectures and that is all we have had. I think that is what most of the classes will be and they are really trying to pound a lot into us. They should give us longer time to learn this and we could learn it better if we had to read it out of a book instead of someone telling it to us.

Honey, I sure wish that I were a little closer to home as we get three days off two weeks from Friday on Washington's Birthday. We get off at 5:00 on Thurs. night and don't have to be back until 6:00 Monday morning. I may go to New York or Philadelphia that weekend.

Tomorrow is going to be a rather easy day as we have classes all morning and one hour afternoon and then have the rest of the afternoon off to get paid and have a dental inspection. We haven't gotten paid for January yet so they are going to give us a partial payment.

We can sure hear the fog horns today and tonight as it has been so foggy that a person can't see over three or four blocks. It rained a little last night and froze right away so everything was covered with ice and was pretty slick this morning.

Say, that brother of ours sure does get around a lot now days. I would very gladly trade jobs with him. I know I would like it a lot better but don't think he would. If anyone ever mentions joining the regular Army again I'm afraid I would get pretty mad.

A Sargent told us today that if any of us wanted to study criminal investigation we could do it at night on our own time. I would like to study it but eight hours of school each day is enough for me and I think everyone else agrees to that as noone is studying at night.

Well, Honey, I'll close for tonight and mail this so I can shave and shower and hit the hay early.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart.

Butte, Nebraska
February 8, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

At last I am at ease and I am going to write a few lines to my Sweetheart.

I received your swell letter this morning, Honey. It is sure a good thing, too, as I needed some kind of something to quiet my nerves. I was just pretty nervous, very much against my desires.

Honey, this morning, I had an awful time. The first thing to top the whole thing off - the normal trainers came about ten minutes late and just during the time between opening exercise, and first grade numbers, bang! - the stove blew up - the lid flew off the top, the doors blew open and every thing soot flew all over me and everything around. That part wasn't too bad but just as I was above the thing putting the lid back and straightening things the

very same thing happened. That really put my nerves on edge for the rest of the day. My whole self was all soot and if it wouldn't have been for Mrs. Fellers I don't know what I would have done. She came out in the hall and blew all of it off of me that she could so I wouldn't have to try and wash it off yet to boot. My hair still has a lot of "black soot" in it - uh-huh! Elaine has to wash her hair again tonight. More fun !!! Now if you were here maybe you would help me - would you? I can sure feature it, Honey. Anyway - my morning was really a thrilling one, as you can imagine.

So that instructor's lecture was quite boring! What do you think my lectures would be like? Won't you like to listen to them when you get back!!! Honey, what would have happened to you if he would have caught you writing a letter? I would have been scared stiff to do it - I know too well what teachers do when they catch someone writing notes or even letters even though I have never administered any sort of punishment for it - or anything else.

Yes, there really are a lot of people getting Married. Johnny Schoberg (I don't know how to spell it) and Neoma Syfie are getting married Tuesday. I could sure tell you all about that wedding, what is going to take place, eat and everything. In fact practically everything from the time they are going to get up (which is 5:00 A.M.) until they go home after the dance Tuesday night. I heard her sister and sister-in-law talking over the telephone yesterday. They talked for twenty minutes, only. Now listen Honey, as fast as these soldier boys learn to talk there definitely isn't any need of Leap Year coming around. But I have been warning people now that I will be twenty-one in Leap Year so there isn't much danger of my being single for very many more years. I really get a kick out of telling them that.

Yes, Honey, Warren is pretty tall and I will admit that he fell pretty hard -- -- -- for me. Now, don't take me serious, I was only teasing.

Raymond and Max are getting pretty serious, why - Honey - he even put his arms around her last night - right in front of Mom. Wasn't that awful? -----I don't think it was. Really - feature that coming from me. Anyway I wish that he would make up his mind which way he is going. I'm getting anxious to know - but that is just me -- naturally.

Honey, about this drinking business. I don't like to even get involved in that because - well just because. But, Sweetheart, you asked me so I'll tell you but please don't get angry with me. I just don't like drinking. I never did and never will. I don't think it looks nice and I understand and see people do it all of the time. Somehow, Honey, I don't quite see how it can drown any ones sorrows because when they are completely out of it again they have that sorrow which is much worse than any others could be buy maybe I am wrong and Sweetheart I really would like to have you quit, I would love it, Honey. Enough on that.

It is almost time to dismiss school so I suppose I should close. My biggest hurry to dismiss school is so that I can eat. There is a nice La Fama bar in my desk drawer that is really tempting me. Sure do wish you were here to enjoy it with me.

I guess I'll have to close now so so-long until next time.

Remember, Darling, I love you with all of my heart and I mean it. I am waiting for the day to come when you will be back.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 8, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I didn't write last night so will do it today during our breaks. I worked on some of my notes last night and then decided to go to the dance.

I had a fairly good time but really missed you Honey. They furnished free beer and food again and that is what I enjoyed most. The music was swell and I managed to dance three times. It took me a while to get the hang of it again but managed fairly well even if I didn't know any of the girls.

Honey, I got four letters from you yesterday and one from my folks. Three of your letters were forwarded up from Camp Pickett. I suppose I will be getting mail forwarded from Leavenworth and Pickett for some time as I wrote to quite a few and I suppose they will send my letters there.

We just finished a two hour class on Report Writing and now have a two hour class on searching and disarming. This class is to be a show so maybe I will be able to get some sleep if no body bothers me.

Friday noon.

Darling, I didn't get any mail this noon so will occupy what little time I have left in writing to you but I am looking forward to getting some tonight.

Tony (My Buddy) and I are going to Baltimore tonight and stay over the weekend. I don't know just what we will do yet but are going to get a Hotel room the first thing for tonight and tomorrow night.

We just finished a class where a Captain told us about his experiences in Germany and France during this war and it was really good. He had some rather unusual experiences.

Well, Sweetheart, I started this letter at 9 this morning and it is about 4 so you can see how fast I am at writing letters. It seems like I would get a few lines written and then would have to quit. It's about time to quit now so I'll close for now and try to write again over the weekend.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

P.S. I know this letter doesn't sound much like me but really it is. I think it is just the kind of mood I am in.

Goodnight Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 10, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I just got up about an hour ago and shaved and ate dinner. I realize that it was rather late to get up but I

didn't get to bed until 3:45 this morning so I figured it was better to stay in bed and rest some more.

Tony and I left here about 6:00 Friday night and didn't get back until 3:00 last night and I was really tired when I got back. We had a nice supper on Friday night and went to a show then went up to Benjamin's bar where we met two other fellows. We all had our picture taken and then had to wait for about an hour before they got it developed. It isn't a very good picture but I'm sending it to you anyway. If you don't want it just put it away until I get back home again then we will do something with it. I would like to keep it as a souvenir of my first weekend in Baltimore. The fellow on the left is Tony.

Honey, I received two letters from you yesterday morning (at least they were here when I got in last night) and was really glad to get them. I took them and went in the shower room to read them as soon as I found them as they keep a light in there all night. We have only one mail call on Saturday and none on Sunday so I won't get anymore mail until tomorrow noon.

I got a letter from Mom Friday evening and she said how bad the weather was up there. (Time out to refill my pen) She said that Daddy had taken a load of cattle to Sioux City and called from Plainview and said that he was going to stay there until the weather got better as it was very bad driving. Just think if I were at home then I would have been there in Plainview also. It is rather cold and cloudy today and looks like it might rain again today.

Tony and I were rather lucky last night as we met a fellow who was a Doctor in the Army but is discharged and he bought us our supper then took us to a Bar and bought us a few beers. We met another fellow in this Bar and started matching half dollars. This other fellow was rather drunk and had a lot of money so we did a little cheating and took him for about \$15.00. The three of us worked together and then divided the profit when we quit. This other fellow wanted to match for \$25.00 at once but later figured that we were cheating and backed out. It would have been nice to win that but it was awful mean of us to cheat like that. Tony and I matched just the way Kimball and I did that night in the cafe when we were matching with Lois.

Honey, I knew that you couldn't forget Eddie. If you would have forgotten him you would have gotten rid of his picture. That's the way I do when I forget some girl. Please don't get angry as I was only joking. I really and truthfully believe that you have forgotten him and if you haven't, I'll always think you should have.

Well, Darling, I can't think of any more to write today so will close for now and try to get some shuteye again.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
February 11, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

The time is really flying fast. It really isn't fair to you that is for sure. I am very sorry that things had to prevent my writing to you Saturday night and worst of all - my not getting them sent until this morning. You know the reason for yesterday so I will not repeat it.

Honey, I received a swell letter from my Sweetheart this morning and a beautiful valentine, also. Honey, I

am so deeply in love with you that I'll never find it easy to get out.

We went to the movie last night: "The Clock". It was very good but Honey, I miss you so much when I go to the show. When the shows are about soldiers, it just about breaks me. That one last night had me crying half of the time. Honey, things were just like when you were home - only of course the ending was different but when this "Joe" (Robert Walker) left on the train, it was just like living those horrid minutes over. It is really hard on me - worse than if I didn't see the show at all. Maybe some day I will get over it. - Do you suppose? Judy Garland played opposite Robert Walker. I don't care too much for Judy but I sure do like Robert Walker. He looks just like Clarence Thiel.

Evelyn and Floyd are leaving soon. They are supposed to go either this week or next but I rather doubt if they will be gone by March. Edna Bouslaugh came yesterday as my 'employee.' I think we will get along pretty good. We always were pretty good chums and she is more my age. She is practically engaged - she will be as soon as Lennie gets home now - which will be by March. The lucky fish. Her guy is one of my old flames but I could never find a future in him. He only lived today because he didn't know what was going to happen tomorrow. That was the truth, perhaps, but that isn't my choice. I will say that she is getting a beautiful "husband-to-be" because he is just Darling cute - with black wavy hair. She used to go with his brother but that was two years ago and she has gone with Lennie for about two years but she has only been with him about six times, she said. She hadn't gone with him but once when he sent her, a watch for her birthday. It might be alright - it does sound wonderful but I just don't think she knows him well enough, that's all. I, perhaps, am wrong again, though; I usually am. He is a swell kid though, I will admit and if she is happy and loves him I'm for her. He gets out in September then. Isn't that a happy thought. Anyway, I sure envy her, there. Perhaps I should mention that his name is Lenhart Kruegeor from Bonesteel. I assumed that you knew him. All in all I wouldn't even think about trading you for him or anyone else I know or don't know. Honey that is how much I love you.

We received a letter from our brother, Richard, the other day, again and I just have to write to him. I suppose I'll do that tonight. He said that he saw Sheridan Wells and talked to him. Right away he said and say where is Clayton now - just ask Elaine, she will tell you; she should know. Now Sheridan must have been feeding him a few things. That makes me mad. The folks even think things now more than ever. That makes me mad. Sheridan shipped out last week, but Richard didn't say where he intended to stop. Richie is still doing the very same thing and has a contract for nine more months so more than likely he will remain where he is for a while yet. I sure wish that you had only that long in yet and had a permanet job like that. I still can't bear to think of you going across.

Honey, I am so nervous today that I can hardly write. Our brother Raymond gave me such a bad time yesterday afternoon and last night that I can't quite get over it. He really kept me on edge.

Well, Sweetheart, I will close for this time hoping that I get a letter tomorrow.

All my love to the dearest guy in the U.S. Army.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp#64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, (19) Maryland
February 11, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I'm over here in the Orderly Room now and have finally gotten things arranged so I know where to find them so I will write you a letter. I received your letter this evening but didn't get it read until about five minutes ago. I got a letter from Daddy, one from Jerry, and the paper this noon. I haven't had a chance to read the paper yet but can do that any time. I had to eat supper and be over here by 5:30 tonight so didn't have much time to do anything else.

I'm on C.Q. tonight and all I have to do is stay here and answer the phone if it rings and then wake everyone up in the morning. It isn't bad as I have a chance to be in a quiet place and they have a radio in here and a typewriter also. I have a story here that I am going to type up and send one copy to you. No, it isn't a bad one but one that a soldier wrote about the Army.

Jerry wrote from Ft. Leavenworth and said that he thought he would leave on Monday so I suppose he is probably on his way now. He was to go to Washington D.C. and work in the Recruiting Office as a Clerk Typist. He said that he would let me know his address as soon as he could so that I could spend some weekend with him. You can imagine what a weekend will be like when we meet again. Do you remember what my fortune was that I sent you from Fort Leavenworth? It was something about a reunion with someone I hadn't seen for a long time so maybe that fortune will come true. I'm hoping so.

Honey, you wrote and asked if I really did want to be a trucker. To tell you the truth I'm really not sure as to what I want to do after I get out. If I like this kind of work and it appeals to me I may even be a criminal investigator on some Police force. They told us today that we wouldn't have any trouble getting that kind of a job after we get out.

We started studying language for the last two hours this afternoon. I'm not too crazy about studying Japanese but that is what they want us to learn. It is rather interesting but Christ I'm confused. It isn't so bad but I doubt if I will ever master it. About all they want us to learn is how to get along and ask for food and several things we will need. I don't think they will teach us how to write any of it.

You wrote that they (Art and who else) don't figure on getting out until June. The way it is now they are getting out on two years service but have heard rumors about lowering that to eighteen months but don't know how true it is. I feel now as though I have done the right thing by enlisting as they may call this work pretty essential and keep the draftees in longer. There are a lot of fellows here thinking of enlisting now but most of them are married men with children and they think a law may be passed where they will be eligible for discharge before the end of the year.

I can't say for sure just when my folks' Wedding Anniversery is but know that it is the first part of February. It seems to me like either the Fourth or Sixth. I'll write and ask our brother Glen and have him find out and let me know and I will write you as soon as I find out or if you get a chance to ask him you can do so. That just goes to show you how absent-minded some men are.

Well, Darling, I'll close for tonight and believe it or not I finally got this written a little at a time as everytime I would get going good someone would come in for their pass or the phone would ring.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart.

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Honey

Butte, Nebraska

February 12, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

You can just go stepping all you want to Honey, when ever you want to. I am going tonight and get drunk just because you went out last week and went to the dance and drank beer, etc. I'm mad at you, too.

No, Sweetheart I'm not a bit that way. I was only teasing but I wanted to start it out just to see what you would think. There is a dance in Spencer tonight and I sure plan to go but I'm rather in doubt about my transportation. I feel quite certain that our brother will come and get me. I sure hope he does or I'll have to go with my cousin and I don't want to do that -- I can't come home then the way I want to. Ha! Ha! I was only joking, Honey but I was thinking back to October. Remember?

I received a nice letter from Warren this morning and you don't know what nice news I received. He is coming home pretty soon with a discharge. Isn't that wonderful! And just think! You won't be home, so I can go with him. Ah-ha! Do you object, honey? Don't forget to tell me in your next letter.

Our brother Richard is still in Fort Ord. This 3 star general that he 'owns' is going to China and wants to take Richard along but he isn't going. He is working in a fish cannery during his time off and gets around 85 cents an hour. That is pretty good, I think. He wrote last week and we got it yesterday but my brain just won't register and I'll be darned if I can remember what he said. It was short, I can remember that much. Ha! Quite bright - eh?

Oh! Honey! You remember at the Christmas dance, I told you about a Josh Stewart? Well, he wrote after Christmas and gave me heck for not answering his letters. Just to be nice, I answered it and told him how busy I had been, etc. and did I ever get punished. In reply, I received a letter saying that he would be home any day -- as soon as his records could be found - for a thirty day furlough. Am I ever in hot water now. He said that he expected to see a lot of me - well I can't write now because he will be home before he gets it if he isn't home already. I sure hate to disappoint the poor fellow but I am afraid he is quite wrong if he even expects to see me. I'm sorry but I'm not available. I hate to make him feel bad though, and you wouldn't want me to do that would you, Honey? Anyway it is 'no dice.'

Well, Sweetheart, if I don't sign off pretty soon I'll fall off - so here is
Wishing you the Best of Luck, Honey.

I love you, with all my heart
and all my live,
If I had you in my arms
I'd throw u in the river.

Honey, you can tell be that how I feel today - just ornerier than the devil, himself.

But Darling, I love you much, more and most.

All my love
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Butte, Nebraska
February 13, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey, I received the most wonderful letter from you this morning and also the picture. It is really swell

and I like it. Say, Honey, what do you mean? Is that 'my' picture or 'our' picture? Are you sure that I will let you say 'our' picture? Oh! Honey! How I love you and wish that you were here. Just think, only ten more months and two more weeks and Honey, you'll be free to do as 'I' please. Am I not right?

Sweetheart, this letter perhaps won't sound too good to you but I did it and I said that I would tell you and I'll not go back on my word. Honey, I love you too much to do a thing like that. Our brother came after me last night and took me to the dance but at intermission I with seven others, was with Lawrence Johnson. We went to the cafe and ate and then went back to the hall. Your Mother and Father saw me, too; I know I shouldn't have but I did and I'm telling you because I want you to know. I definitely would rather tell you than let you find out later from someone else. Our cousin, Donnie was with Evelyn Peppel again. Oh! I hate that so bad. Honey, will you forgive me or not? You told me that you loved me, do you still? Mother said that she didn't think I had to tell you because she said that after all we aren't engaged. How true! But I do love you and if you would rather I wouldn't date, I want to please you. Honey it is very hard to go without dating as you already know, but I'll try my best because I love you so. No one else means anything to me nor they never will.

Evelyn and Floyd are going to be moved by Saturday. That pleases me but Honey, then there is the same old story - what will it be like without Darold. I can't stand it when he is gone for a night or two let alone for good. It just makes the tears come everytime I think about it. I know that it sounds silly but I just can't stop talking about it. I am going to have to take his leaving us just pretty soon and I am going to have to get over it but I sure don't see anyway out of it. I am going to buy a bunch of toys and every night when I go home from school (I'll have Edna do it while I am at school) string the toys all over the floor so it looks like he was there earlier in the day. That will help some. Don't you think that it will? You didn't get me that big doll I wanted for Christmas so the toy business is the next best deal that I can think of.

Well, Darling Dear, I hope you aren't too angry with me because I love you very much.

I will be looking forward to a letter in answer to this.

All my love to you,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 13, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

No letter today or yesterday but am really looking for some tomorrow and if I don't get any I don't know what I will do as I really miss your letters. That is about all I have to look forward to from day to day.

I sewed some shoulder patches and stripes on my shirts and then went over to the P.X. to get some pipe tobacco. I have been smoking my pipe a little more during the breaks as we never have time to finish a cigarette so it is a waste of cigarettes and I enjoy my pipe once in a while for a change.

It was really a beautiful day here as it was nice and warm and the sun shone very bright. It snowed about six inches Sunday night but most of it has melted. Another day or two like today and it will all be gone.

We have had six hours of language already and I'm telling you it is about to get the best of me. They are trying to teach it too us a little too fast as it isn't soaking in very fast. I realize it is hard for anything to soak into my block head anyway. I don't think we will be able to speak it very well but about all they want us to know is enough to get along when we get over to Tokyo.

Our First Sargent told us tonight that they have a new Camp Commander now and that he is going to inspect every barracks Friday morning so we will have to clean up around here. We have to G.I. (scrub) the floors and wash the windows tomorrow night. We have to have all of our clothes buttoned and arranged in a certain way and have everything in order in our foot locker with it open. I never did like any inspection of this kind and hope it is the last one.

Tony went up town again tonight but I didn't go as I miss my sleep too much. He said that if he sleeps too much he is tireder than if he hadn't gotten any sleep.

We have Washington's Birthday off so that gives us a three day weekend. I have a notion to go to New York but if I hear from Jerry by then I will most likely go to Washington. I just remembered that my (our) Daddy's cousin lives someplace in Washington also but don't know their address. I wrote home for their address and am going to look them up if I can.

Well, Sweetheart, I can't think of any more to write tonight so will close and send all of my love to you.

Goodnight, Sweetheart, Sweet Dreams,
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland

February 14, 1946

A LOVING VALENTINE FOR MY SWEETHEART

I love you for the things you do
And for the things you say - -
I love you for your happy smile
And for your thoughtful way - -
I love you for each little thing
That is a part of you - -
And maybe that's the reason why
I love YOU like I do!

All my love

Clayton

Butte, Nebraska
February 14, 1946

TO MY SWEETHEART ON VALENTINE'S DAY

Wanta know two reasons
Why I'm always dreamin' of ya - -

I LOVE YA in the first place - -

In the second place - - I LOVE YA!

This is the truth, Darling
All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot

Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 14, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I didn't get any mail this noon and am getting rather doubtful. I hope I get some by evening or I might have to go over and soak up some beer tonight. They are having another free dance here and if we get our barracks cleaned up in fairly good time I might drop over for a while.

We just finished an hour of Japanese and have another hour now and I'm telling you Honey it is really getting the best of me. What I do learn one day I forget it by the next. The teacher gave us a little quiz to see how good we were getting it and if he is giving it to us too fast or not. I think he will find that we are all screwed up on it.

We have had two hours studying the different weapons we will use and are to go down to Fort Meade sometime next week to fire them. We studied the revolver, automatic pistol, sub-machine gun, and carbine rifle. This sub-machine gun is about like a grease gun and looks pretty exciting.

It was a pretty nice day this morning but not so nice this afternoon. It was fairly warm this morning and all of the snow has melted but I think it is liable to rain this afternoon yet or tonight as it is cloudy and windy and looks rather dark in the West. It is a dully day and I feel that way also for some reason or another.

I looked at next week's schedule and we are going to go out and do some practical work. (My pen is dry and have no ink here so will continue with pencil.) I don't know what kind of work we will have to do or where but hope it is a little more fun than just sitting here in these classes.

This class should be pretty interesting now as we have two Sargents teaching it and they are very good. It is on Observation and Descriptions. It is how to get a good description of a person just by looking at that person for less than five minutes. We have to be able to give a good enough description that an artist could draw a perfect picture of that person.

Well, Honey, I'll close for today and hope I get some mail this evening.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Boku wa kimi ni myikai tegemi wo kaku.

American way of writing "I wrote a short letter to you" in Japanese.

I think I could remember Latin a lot better.
I know Amo tu means I love you.

Butte, Nebr.
February 15, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Alas! Another day has come and half of it is gone already. The day started out o.k. for me because I received a letter from you, Honey. I sure was happy and pleased that you sent that letter from August Child because I had lost mine. Thank you very much, Honey. My cousins (by adoption) brother sent me a letter about August over a year ago but I sorted all of my letters just before you came home the last time and I simply cannot find it, nor my Moron stories or any of that 'cute' stuff. The only think that I didn't misplace was my recipe for a kiss cake. I always carry that in my bill fold. Ahem! Ahem! Sometimes one needs to sorta give the guy a hint - you know - so - well, I might show it to them. Tuesday night I showed it to the whole group and they thought that it was really cute. I sent it to you when you were in Riley, "way back then."

I have a few poems that I am going to copy and send. The one "Suspense," I'll copy just as it is but I don't like that one word so you had better change it.

Honey, I have wanted to tell you for a long time that Annie C. and Hank F. are engaged. She has a ring. Dorothy is engaged, too but she doesn't have a ring and Helen Louise is getting married in June. Perhaps Annie and Helen Louise will make it a double. Now, Honey, my Sis found all of that out from Mrs. Connot so I know that it must be true.

Johnny Fuhrer came over last night. More fun! I just about embarrass the poor guy to pieces. He was telling us about hearing from Mother's pen pal from England. Mother had sent her a picture of Johnny because she wanted to know what a real cowboy looked like and he gave us one where he was really dressed up in cowboy garb. Anyway he was telling us that he wasn't going to write to her. Right away I told him that I would write for him because I was used to writing letters to his girls, - for him. He wouldn't agree - he said that I could go ahead whenever I wanted to and write to anybody for him but not her. She was to be off his life long list. Daddy right away said, "Well, if you have been writing his letters to his girls, it is no wonder he isn't married." I popped up and said, "well he would be married and long ago - but he just hasn't asked me yet."

Johnnie is quite the guy. I really get a big bang out of him. We have been around each other so much that either one of us say almost anything to the other. What would Raymond say if he ever heard us!!!! --- or what would you say? Oh! You probably don't care anymore what I say to who. Or do you!?

My "kids" made some snow men and snow ladies this noon - some children too. They are really sweet. They are going to make Grandma this recess but I believe Mother has the flu because she is lying on her face. Maybe one of the children pushed her over or maybe Father got angry at her. I feel like going out and kicking him just in case he did. Ha! Ha!

Norma Ludemann wrote to her husband recently and told him she didn't love him and she was happy that he was in for two years. He wrote back and told her that if she would only write and tell him that she loved him, he would get her that \$500.00 wrist watch that she has been wanting. He had her in a spot and we don't know yet what she wrote and told him. I believe I could do it if I knew I would get a watch like that. He is always getting her the most beautiful expensive things. I sure can't figure him out, or her either. Where does he get all of his money? I would like to meet his brother!! Ha! He is from Baltimore, Maryland, so I should get his folks' address for you, so you could look them up for me. Eh? O.K.?

There seems to be something else that I want to tell you but I just can't think of it now. I perhaps will after it is too late.

Well, Honey, I'll get to busy now but I'll write again tomorrow.

I love you. Darling.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine.

I love you, Sweetheart.

I said a sad farewell, my love,
And went along my way,
Missing you and loving you
A little more each day.

The moon is gone, the stars are gone

Nothing is the same;
My heart still chants its endless song
Whispering your name.

I love you.

Suspense

I saw him slipping quietly across the room,
He knew not that I followed him from the rear.
He knew not how I'd plotted for his doom --
The small details, each turn, each move were clear.

How long I'd planned and waited for this hour!
His thoughts, his habits, his peculiar ways -
All these I knew, and knowing them was power.
And now the time was ripe, no more delays.

I swiftly closed the gap into the hall.
Here all was dark; ahead, an open door.
He would go in. How miserable he looked! How small.
He stopped. I backed against the wall and swore.

Too hasty! I must wait a little more.
Ah! There, he entered in. T'was done!
I leaped into the room and closed the door.
And locked it. Now he knew. He turned to run.

I knew he would, I watched him with delight -
His scared eyes, his slight and trembling frame.
Each glance, each motion filled with fright.
Enough of this. I struck. The blow was lame.

He cowered away. I would not miss again.
This time the blow went home. He rose no more.
T'was over, just like that! He felt no pain.
He wilted, then dropped senseless to the floor.

I picked him up and carried him outside.
I felt no tinge of guilt, my heart was light.
I breathed in deeply. My voice shook with pride.
"There'll be no damned mouse wake me up tonight!"

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
 Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
 Holabird Signal Depot
 Baltimore, 19 Maryland
 February 16, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

It is 9:00 A.M. and I just woke up about a half hour ago. I got up and washed but it was too cold to stay out of bed so here I am laying on my stomach trying to write to you.

I finally got some mail yesterday. I got three letters and a swell Valentine from my Sweetheart and one letter from the folks. I should have gotten one letter and the Valentine a day sooner but they were delayed someplace. Most likely here at this camp as that happens very much.

You wrote about seeing the show "The Clock." I saw it while I was down in Texas and can't remember very much about it. I went to see "A Sailor Takes A Wife" last night and it was really good, very comical. June Allison and Robert Walker played in it.

We have organized a Company bowling team and went over to bowl a little after the show last night and my muscles are really sore this morning. I don't know whether I will keep on with the team or not. They want each company to have a team for a tournament.

It snowed again night before last but it was so windy yesterday that it all blew away. It was down to 20 degrees above yesterday and with that wind we almost froze and hasn't warmed up yet. I heard over the radio that it was 24 degrees in Baltimore this morning so imagine it is rather cool here also. It is really nice to lay here in bed and listen to a radio.

We were supposed to have that big inspection before 10 yesterday morning but they didn't come by 9:45 so we went to class and they never did inspect so we did all of that work for nothing. It seems like that is the way they do it every time when we have everything cleaned they won't come around.

I was really on the down hill side yesterday and rather peeved but after I read your letters I felt a little better, but that one about Josh Steward and Warren coming home made me start wondering if I wouldn't have to worry about you going out with one or both of them. I may have taken it wrong but it sounded to me as though you were rather glad to have them come home. I'm sure I can't blame either one of them for wanting to cut in on me and go with a wonderful girl like you.

A fellow came in here last night and asked if anyone wanted to go to New York with him next weekend. If I knew that Jerry wouldn't be in Washington then I would go to New York and then I could go to Washington some other weekend. I guess time will tell as Eddie would say.

It is now 10:30 and I can't think of any more to write now so will call it quits for this morning.

All of my kisses and love
 Your Sweetheart (I hope)
 Clayton.

I love you Honey!!!

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Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 17, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I'm over here at the Service Club tonight so thought I would sit down and converse with you for awhile if you don't object before I go back and go to bed.

My legs are so sore and tired tonight that I need a lot of rest. Five of us went over to the West side of town and walked all around and saw several interesting places. We went down to the piers and watched several ships come in and went aboard a Coast Guard Cutter and a Liberty Ship. It was really different than we had expected them to be. We took some pictures and later went up to Monument Street and went up into Washington's Monument. It was a long way up. It was 238 steps up a spiral stairway and by the time we got down we didn't feel like walking very much but we did anyway and after we got back here we went to a show last night.

This afternoon we went out the other way and went out to the steel mills, shipyards, and airport. We then went back to town and went out to the zoo and saw all of the animals. I think we rode the streetcars nearly 50 miles today and it cost us 35 cents each. We would buy round trip tickets for 15 cents and ask for a transfer each time. That way we could transfer from one car to another.

While we were at the airport we asked if we had a chance of taking a plain home but they only go to Chicago or St. Louis so we wouldn't be making any better time by taking a plane. We thought that if we could make good connections and it didn't cost too much we would try to go home next weekend but I guess we just as well forget about that for now.

One of our instructors told us that we may get a furlough after we finish our schooling here if we weren't needed to bad overseas and if they didn't have any shipping orders for us so here's hoping we get that furlough.

This fellow from West Point and I are planning on taking a plane from Washington to Topeka, Kansas if we can and he would have his folks meet us there and I could go as far as West Point with them and take a bus or train or hitchhike from there. We would take an Army transport which goes from Washington to San Francisco and stops in Topeka. We would have to make a dollar deposit on the parachute and get our money back after we got there if we didn't have to use the chute and that would be the only expense to the trip. It would take us about twelve hours and I would rather do that than ride the trains.

Tony went uptown night before last and met some old hag and had a date with her again last night and hasn't come back yet. I haven't seen him since yesterday noon. He wanted me to go to town with him but I said no. I don't want to have much to do with a fellow who does that. He drinks so much that he just doesn't care what kind of a women he picks up and really spends the money. We got paid two weeks ago and he had to write home for his wife to send him some money. He didn't ask me for any money yet because I once told him that I loaned some money out once and never got it back and was never going to loan anymore. He met this woman here at the dance last Thursday night and thought she was pretty nice but I wouldn't even be seen walking down the street with her or anyone like her.

Honey, I want to appoligize for sending the letter that I wrote to you last Friday. I know it was terrible and feel like a heel for writting that way but I was in a very poor mood and could kick myself for it. After I reread your letters today I really feel sick about it. Please forgive me, won't you? If you don't want to I can't blame you as it was all a mistake.

I don't know if you remember or not but I told you about a girl that I went with several times in Texas, anyway I got a letter from her and she asked why I hadn't written to her. I haven't written or seen her since I left there but she got my address from a girl who married one of my buddies. These two girls were from Henderson and my buddy married this one while we were in Fort Riley. He is stationed in Ft. Leavenworth now and when I was down there I saw them. They wanted me to be sure and write to them so I did. As soon as I read her letter I tore it up and threw it away as I never want to hear or see any more of her for the rest of my life.

Well, Sweetheart, I'm about out of words for tonight so will close and send all of my love to you.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Goodnight Sweet Dreams Sweetheart I love you Honey, with all of my heart.

X X X X X X

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd, Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 18, 1946

My Dearest Sweetheart,

Another day gone by and I received two swell letters from you and I'm telling you it really made a big difference in the way I felt. I sprained my wrist this morning and was rather grouchy but after I read your letters I seemed to forget my wrist but it is still plenty sore. It seems like the time is going pretty fast now and hope it continues to do so. We have started our third week of schooling and have three more days this week. After this week we shouldn't have more than seven weeks left.

We were learning how to take a gun away from a person if he is trying to hold us up and has a gun against our back. I was holding the gun against Tony's back and he caught my hand and sprained my wrist. It was a lot of fun and we learned a lot but Tony plays too rough for me.

We had two hours of fingerprinting this morning and have four more. They showed us how to take them and then we had to practice for a while. That is what I enjoy most, getting our fingers in that thick black ink and that is really hard to wash off.

We have a new instructor in Japanese now and I think we will be able to learn it a lot better. He is a Chinese and learned to speak Japanese when he was in Hawaii. We had a lot of fun in that class and really cut up a lot and he didn't seem to mind. If he asked someone a question and this person didn't know the answer someone would whisper the answer to him. They are having night classes in Japanese now for anyone who wants to attend but I think I can learn enough in the daytime. If I can't I sure not going at night.

Darling, I know just what you mean about dating and I won't mind it if you do as I know how dull it is not to date once in a while. I haven't had a date with anyone since I left home and haven't seen anyone that I would care to around here. We go to a dance here and Tony always want me to get some girl but I tell him that if he wants one he can and if he don't want me around to just tell me and I'll go back to the barracks and go to bed. He always finds a girl and then the next day he refers to her as an Old Buffalo. The only reason I go is just to forget about this Army life for a little while at least. If you do go out with someone else please think of me and remember that I love you and I still claim you for my one and only Sweetheart. I love you with all of my heart and am really looking forward to the day that I can be home for good. That is only ten months and eight days.

I got a letter from Mom this noon and she said that Daddy was really busy trucking so if I were home now I could really be busy. How about it? This fellow from West Point was asking me how soon I would be out that he would probably give me a job driving one of his gasoline transports if I wanted to. I told him that I wouldn't say for sure as that is too long a time to make up my mind as I might not want to when I got out.

Honey, I'll be waiting for an answer to that letter which wasn't so pretty nice and hope you don't feel like murdering me for it.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you very much Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
February 19, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I just received your swell letter so will answer it right now. I have a little "in-between" time so I am going to make use of it. "Good" use of it.

Darling, the first thing I want to say is that I didn't mean a thing by what I wrote about Warren and Josh. You know better than that, Honey. Warren is too much too tall and Josh just isn't my type, that is all. Darling, I said before and I will say it now. It is you that I love and you only. You seem to forget that don't you. Just wait until you get home, I'll really murder you, I will, I will. Now you really don't think I'm wonderful so why do you keep talking like that? What do you want? A quarter? Ha! Ha! Honey, I was just fooling. Really I was.

I feel in a pretty good mood today. Do you know why? Well, 'one of the other ones' came to see me last night. Ha! He really did. Honest! I don't believe I will tell you which 'one' either. Oh! I suppose I might just as well, afterall you won't care and besides if you do care a 'little' it won't make any difference because you are there and couldn't beat up on him anyway. Anyway, Honey, it was Johnny. Yes, "my" Johnny Fuhrer. He came over last night just to come over. He said that he knew I was moody and he didn't like anyone moody so he came to get me over it. He is quite the fellow. Anyway by the time he left, I was feeling a lot better. Then today, you had to go and spoil everything by saying that you were wondering if you wouldn't have to start worrying. What in the heck do you think I want? An 'old' man with gray hair?? Please dear, don't be silly. I guess "I'll have to settle down and never more roam and call the darned old Walter Counts farm, my home." Gee! Whiz! Wouldn't it be simply terrible for you to have gray hair? Umm. Umm. Terrific! I guess I will have to stay home. It might be O.K. at that. Would you love me if I did? And say! Sweetheart, if you want to really get murdered, you just keep mentioning Eddie and grrr-rrr-grrrrr, you'll be a deed goner in nothin' flat and I'm not fooling. Ohh! Ohh! That gets me more upset. Don't you dare do that again. Providing you do by mistake or on purpose I will go with him when he comes home just for spite. So you know that you had better give a few orders to that "skyline" of yours if you don't want me to start you to worry. Truthfully, I thought I had trained that pen better than that before I sent it your way, Honey, but I guess I misjudged my commanding. Anyway, Honey, if you try to make it stop I'll love you that much more. What say, Joe?

This certainly is a beautiful day - but it keeps getting colder. How I hate cold weather.

And, Honey, I am back in the saddle again! Monday morning I started "Chore Girl" again. I will admit that I love it but there aren't near enough cows to milk. I just get started when I have to quit. That sure isn't funny. I so enjoy milking and being around livestock around my father.

Today Evelyn & Floyd are to come after Darold. Honey! I will really miss him. He had better be there yet tonight or I will really cuss. More than likely I would just cry, though. I will anyway no matter when he leaves. He will leave tomorrow for sure.

Tomorrow is Wednesday and the day that I have to go get my eyes examined. Grrr. I'm sure mad about that but I'm still so angry that I didn't get any nylon hose yet that I sure get het up easy. When I went to get a pair "Oh, all of the 9's are gone" but two minutes later some girl from town goes in and gets a pair of 9's.

Well, Darling, I'll sign off hoping that I hear from you tomorrow.

All of my love to you Darling,
Your Sweetheart,

Clayton

I love you more than words can tell, Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd, Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 19, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I'm over here in the Service Club again this afternoon so will write you a letter. We have a four hour problem on security this afternoon and have finished my report so have another hour yet to kill time.

We are supposed to write a report on how we would put security or guard around a building so we chose this one. We are to imagine that the Big Five is to hold a conference here and have to plan everything so that spys couldn't get in and check on all employees to see that they can be trusted to work here. It isn't bad and is a lot better than being outside.

Who said "Let It Snow, Let it Snow." that is just what it is doing now and I don't like it very well as it won't be very nice going to Ft. Meade tomorrow if it keeps this up. It started snowing about 11:30 and the ground is almost white now.

I got two letters from the folks this noon and Mom sent the address of our Daddy's cousin so I am going to write to them as soon as I find out where that town is on the map. I thought they lived in Washington but they live in Silver Springs, Md. wherever that is. I'm going over to the library tonight and look it up on the map. She also said that they were sending my small camera and if I wanted the big one she would send it. I think I will have here send it as it takes a bigger and better picture.

(Time out to refill.)

I had planned on going to Washington anyway if I didn't hear from Jerry as I could go up and see my relation but I won't now unless I hear from him. They told us last night that anyone who didn't plan on going anyplace over the weekend to put our names on a paper and turn them in to the orderly room and if there would be enough men staying in camp they were going to give us a party Saturday evening and night. It would be a free supper at the Hotel Belvidere and a dance afterwards so I signed it. That is the largest hotel in Baltimore so it is really going to cost someone a quite a bit.

This is really a swell camp and they treat us like human beings here. Just think they call us gentlemen and when they call on one of us at class they call us Mr. instead of by rank. I think that is so we will get used to talking to others that way as when we go overseas we call each other by name and not rank. This is the best camp I have ever been in and it doesn't seem like the Army very much.

I really had fun this noon as I got into an argument with a fellow about enlisting in the Regular Army. He said that we wouldn't be out by the time our year was up. I wanted to bet him \$5.00 but he said he didn't have that much money. He said that if we got out when our year was up why a lot more didn't sign up and I told him that most of them figured they would get out sooner by not signing. I always do like to argue with someone even if I think I'm wrong but do it just for the fun of it. We tried to convince him that he would be smart by signing but he said he would wait and see. We told him the sooner he signed up the sooner his year would start and the sooner he would be out. Two fellows from our group went up to see the Recruiting Officer this afternoon about signing up. I think it is a smart thing to do for these single men and I'm not a bit sorry about it.

It is so noisy in here that a person can hardly hear himself think as they have the radio and jute box playing and a fellow is playing the piano besides playing pool on four tables and ping pong on three. It seems as though there are a lot of fellows over here this afternoon.

Sweetheart, I can't think of anymore to write so will close for today.

All my love and kisses
Your Honeybunch
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 20, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Another day gone by and just one more and another week of school finished which means one less day of the year finished. Time seems to go pretty fast now and hope it continues to do so but I suppose after I get overseas time will stop. I hope not as I know someone back home is waiting for me and she is just as anxious to see the day I get out as I am. I at least hope she is. Am I not correct or have you decided not to wait for me?

I haven't gotten any mail from you for two days now but should get some tomorrow unless you have quit writing to me and I doubt that very much. I got two letters from the folks yesterday and none today so just spent my spare time in writing letters. This is the fourth one today. I wrote one to my Grandparents, one to the folks, and one to our Daddy's cousin. I was waiting for a letter from you tonight before I wrote to you.

The First Sargent told me last night that I had a dental appointment for 10:00 this morning and that I wasn't to go to Fort Meade with the rest of the group. I went over and had one tooth filled which took less than a half hour and then came back and went to bed until noon. I have two more to fill and have an appointment for 2:00 tomorrow to fill another one and then sometime next week. I think I will have them clean my teeth while they are at it.

This was the first time I was ever in a dentists chair to have any work done and it wasn't bad at all. I have heard some people say that they would rather do anything else than go to a dentist but I don't feel that way. I hate to miss class but think it is by far more important to have my teeth fixed than sit and listen to some lecture. I made that appointment at 2:00 so that I could be back by 3:00 to study Japanese. I want to get as much of that as I can which won't be any too much, I can assure you.

The group got back at 1:00 this afternoon and had to each clean one revolver and then had the rest of the afternoon off. Part of them are cleaning classrooms but I don't have anything to do with that as the Leader and Assistant Leader don't do such things. "Lucky me."

There is another dance here tonight but I'm not going for sure as I am just not in the mood for any dancing tonight. I laid around so much today that I'm just plain wore out and really tired. About all I do over there is drink a few beers, dance once or twice, and sit around the rest of the time and have decided that that isn't much fun.

I'll close for tonight Honey and hope to hear from you very soon.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Willie

I love you Darling.

(On outside of envelope)

To: The little gal 2 1/4
miles South and
1/4 mile East of

corner.
S.W.A.S.K.

Sat.
I'm sorry, Honey, but I'll write
tomorrow, Sunday & give my
reason for not writing last night or today.

Butte, Nebraska
February 21, 1946

Everything happened

I love you, Sweetheart.

My Darling Clayton,

This is really a beautiful day, no fooling and do I ever feel ornery. I received a wonderful letter from my Sweetheart this morning. It was really swell. I had been waiting for a 'good' one. Honey, your letters are all O.K. and about that letter that you said you wrote on Friday. Well you never wrote any to me on a Friday (not last Friday, anyway). I read them all over on purpose. You sent two the 14th. One of those was rather snippy but otherwise O.K. You were just angry because you hadn't heard from me for several days, which was reason enough for being angry.

Honey, I'm very sorry that you hurt your wrist and sincerely hope that it is alright by this time. Maybe they could give you a medical leave and you could come home and get your whole arm sprained. Honey, I would love to have you here. I would love you up so much that you would have stars in your eyes for the next ten months when you get home. I believe I would even let you give me a hickey or two if you were home and break a couple ribs. Honey, I really wouldn't care a bit. I love you so and your letters make me so lonesome for you. Honest, Honey, they really do.

They should have me there as your instructor. I could really teach you. It would be a different lingo than you are used to since you left (I mean, I hope it would be.) I sure would like to see you try whispering the answer to anyone else in one of my classes. Grrr! Grrr! That is one of my pet peeves.

Oh! Darling! You make me so happy! But since I received this answer I am beginning to wonder. I know very well what you said but now I will still feel guilty if I date. But since I know better how you feel about it I will know better what to do. Honey, I don't want to go with anyone but a girls life just calls for a little dating once in a while. Now don't take me wrong, Sweetheart, you know what kind of a girl I am. I would be a little doubtful about saying that I didn't care if you dated other girls. I'll admit that I would be very jealous but, I perhaps will have to get over that. But if you refer to them as the "Old Buffalo," the next morning I won't mind so much. That isn't very nice but it would be better than saying "Honey Chile" or some real sweet name. But as long as you remember me and refer to me as your Sweetheart when you are both in the Army and trying to forget the Army life, I won't mind. Perhaps, I am your Sweetheart in the Army but when you think of yourself out of the army, well, that is a different story. Eh? Am I not right? But with every unpleasing thought to the side, I will add, that it is only ten more months and four more days and Darling, You'll be home. How I love the thought of it!! Remember Darling! I love you.

Yes, Darling, if you wee home now, you perhaps would be trucking. Why on this earth do you ask me in every letter about trucking when I asked you once do you know what kind of an answer I received? If you wanted to truck I suppose that is what you would do. But I don't think much about anything because you don't have any idea of what you want to do when you get out except one thing -- carry out your plans with Jim K., so if you told me tomorrow what you were going to do, I would laugh at you. I'm always making plans, if nothing more, they can always be broken. Now don't me wrong. I have all of my plans made up to next year. I'm not going to teach and no one is going to persuade me to do it. I refuse. That is one thing that I just don't want to do and I'm going to try my best to get out of it. What you say, Joe?

Honey, I have something to tell you and I know very well that you won't like it. Anyway, Warren Collins is home. Discharged. I guess he got home last Tuesday. I was up town last night after school and I saw him drive

through the street. Of course I found an excuse to go up to Miss Barnes but when I came out of the court house, he didn't see me. He had a reason though, as he was standing in his Dad's office talking - with his back to the door. Anyway, Honey, about six o'clock - I received a telephone call. I really got a big kick out of it. He wanted to come and get me and go to the show but we had company. More fun!! I shouldn't tease him like I do but I guess the devil is with me. (You are on my side aren't you, Darling? Ha!) The only company we had was my brother in law. He (Floyd) moved last Saturday so that means that he is "Company," ahem!! He and Evelyn both came over this noon and brought me a roll, 2 dixie cups of ice cream and a bag of potato chips. How I enjoyed them. Between potato chips and ice cream there is a draw but I had them both!! Mum! Mum! Darling they are taking Darold and all of his belongings, tonight. Honey, what will I do? I sure wish I knew. I have shed enough tears to fill the valley already.

Well, Sweetheart I'll draw the line ----- and say, I love you Sweetheart with all of my heart.

All my love
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 21, 1946

My Dearest Sweetheart:

I received your swell letter of Feb. 18 this evening and am really happy to hear from you. That is the first letter in three days and haven't received any of the others. I have received a total of twelve letters this month from you. I know something is delaying the mail as Tony hasn't been getting his letters very regular either and his wife always writes every day. I can't complain as I get more letters from you than I ever did from any other girl. When I was in Texas I felt lucky if I heard from Jean once a week but why bring her into the subject.

It is really quite still in here tonight as there are only six of us in here. The rest have either gone up town or someplace for the weekend. I am going to be a house flower this weekend and stay around camp most of the time. I haven't heard from Jerry yet so I won't go to Washington.

A fellow from Colorado had his wife and little girl come out here to stay for a few weeks and he hired Tony to stay with the girl while he and his wife went uptown. Tony is out of money so thought that was a good chance to make some money. He says that he is going up town tomorrow and find a job over the weekend. I would rather lie around in bed than go work even if I were out of money.

Honey, I've made up my mind to quit drinking now as I haven't had any beer since Monday night and I doubt if I could drink it if I wanted to as I drank a Coke this evening and it was so cold that it really hurt the teeth that I had fixed. I don't know why but they are rather sore when I drink anything cold. I had another tooth filled this afternoon and have an appointment for Tuesday morning to fill the other one and have an appointment for March 6 to get my teeth cleaned. Maybe I will have some decent teeth by the time they get through with me.

So you think you might get a job at the New Deal this summer? I think you would make a very good clerk but why don't you go to a good town to work. Spencer, I mean. Only joking. I suppose you would stay at home over nights which would make it very nice. I know your folks would miss you terribly if you weren't at home. I miss you very much but I just keep thinking forward to the day when we won't be so far apart and I will be able to see you whenever I want to and that will be very often.

You asked about me getting a furlough or a delay in route when I finish training here and I can't say for sure but by the way they talk we are to get a ten day furlough and I'm really looking forward to it so that I can be with you again for a while before I go overseas if I do. I'm beginning to think now that I may not go overseas as I will have less than seven months left but the Army does funny things as you already know.

Sweetheart, I don't know of any more to write so will close for tonight as I am going to shave and go to bed. It is only 8:15 now and rather early to turn in but early to bed, early to rise as they have breakfast between 6 and 7 in the morning and if I don't eat breakfast I get very hungry before dinner.

Goodnight Sweetheart, Sweet Dreams.
I love you with all my heart
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

---(Japanese Characters)

I want some coffee

Confusing isn't it? That is what I think of it.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 23, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I received your swell letter yesterday morning and was very glad to hear from you. I should have answered it last night but when we got back to camp I was so tired that I just went to bed. We went up town right after dinner and went to two shows in the afternoon and one at night. It was rather foolish to go to so many shows but we didn't have anything to do and that helped forget about the Army for a little while at least.

Honey, I know you didn't mean what you wrote about Warren and Josh but I felt rather ornery that day and wanted to see how you would take it and really didn't mean to make you angry. Please forgive me as I didn't mean it the way it sounded. I have this pen trained to write whatever I want to but I'll assure you that it will never mention _____'s name again as I don't want to get murdered yet. I'm wondering if I should go home if I do get that furlough if you are going to murder me as soon as I get home but think I'll take a chance on it.

One good thing that they taught us here was how to take care of ourselves in case someone tried to knife us or murder us so I don't think it would be very well for you to try anything as you probably wouldn't feel so well by the time I got through with you but personally I don't think you would do anything like that.

The Company Clerk came over this morning and asked me to send some men over to clean up the dayroom so two other fellows and I went over to clean it up. It took us about fifteen minutes and then we sat over there and listened to the radio and drank a coke. We are all waiting for mail call now.

If I were home now I wouldn't give Johnny a chance to come over to see you so often as I be over to see you every night. I wouldn't even think of beating up on him as I think he is too nice of a fellow. I have always liked him and wouldn't even think of doing anything to injure our friendship.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write this morning so will close for this time.

I love you with all of my heart
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart.

Butte, Nebraska
February 24, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey, will a pencil do? I just have to write to you tonight so better with pencil than nothing at all. Isn't it, dear?

The mail didn't go Friday because of Washington's birthday so I didn't get your letter mailed until Saturday. I didn't get to write Friday night because we had company until 12:00 midnight. Then last night - well before the night was over I was in Lynch to the big dance. More fun! More fun! The hall was so crowded one couldn't dance and I'm getting tired of getting shoved around. I have been shoved around too many years to continue it too much longer. Ha! Ha! The music was pretty good but that Bohemian Orchestra from Iowa beats them all. I love that Earl!! - No wonder I like the orchestra - eh? Uh-huh! Now honey! to tell you how I went - well, with the same Lawrence Johnson. There were only eight of us in the car - Floyd & Donna Zobrist, Alvin Havranek & Edna B, Lawrence & I and Lloyd and Lucille. Don't worry, Honey, I never forget you while I am gone. I couldn't. I just go to be going.

Our cousin Donnie was there - and Evelyn Peppel. Donnie's folks were there too. Donnie and Evelyn make me oh! so "grippy." Maybe I'm just jealous, do you suppose? Ha! Well, Darling, don't worry! I am only jealous of one person and you know who that is. Or don't I have any reason to be?

We are invited to Peterson's tomorrow to Muriel's wedding reception. I don't know the fellow that she is marrying. He is from Kansas and they are going to be married in the house. Wouldn't that be wonderful! But if it were me, I would definitely demand a church wedding. Perhaps she prefers this type. If so - I guess I shouldn't squak. Just the same - I'll wish her happiness.

We went over to Evelyn & Floyd's today. I was so mad because I had to go that I'm still mad. The roads were so rough that I'm stiff from trying to stay on the car seat. One of these days I am going to take to cussing and when I do, Honey! you will hear me clear out there. Oh! I'm so mad. If those people want to live in isolation they can but I want them to leave me entirely alone. Absolutely!

Raymond and Max are here about three times a week. That is either getting serious or something. I sure wish that I knew.

Well, Darling, it is only nine o'clock P.M. and I have to fix my hair and write to Richard yet. So, Honey! I will close hoping to hear from you tomorrow.

Goodnight, Darling! I love you, Sweetheart.

All my love,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co., G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 24, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I just finished dinner and thought I would write to you. I don't know just what to do this afternoon as it is raining now and I don't want to go to town and am undecided whether to go to bed or to the show. I got up and went to breakfast this morning and then went back to bed until noon.

It is pretty cold in here today as there isn't any electricity and there is an electric fan on the furnace so it isn't putting out any heat. I'm not sleepy but the only warm place is in bed.

Honey, I'm really disgusted this dreary day as a result of that party yesterday afternoon and last night. They really tried to make sukers out of us but they didn't get the job done as we just up and walked out and came back to camp. They took us out in the country about twenty miles to a lodge where we were to meet some college girls and have supper there and then come back to town and go to the dance. When Tony and I saw the women (old buffalos) they had lined up for us we decided to come back to camp as soon as we could. We went to the dance with them and danced once and slipped out. We told them that we had to get some cigarettes but didn't have to as we just used that as an excuse to get away from them. I'll admit that it was really a raw deal to pull but we didn't want to get stuck with them for all evening.

When we got out to this lodge there was about six inches of snow on the ground and it was really cold out there. If we would have known which way to head back to Baltimore we would have left then. Some of the fellows just came back from there and said that I should be ashamed of myself as that girl even cryed when I never came back as she thought a lot of me. I told them that was just too bad as I never wanted to see her again and I know someone back home thinks enough of me to wait till I get home again.

Last weekend when I was up town I saw a long line of people by a store and couldn't figure out why. I thought they were having some kind of a sale but I read about it in this mornings paper so I cut it out and am sending it to you. If I knew I would be able to get there in time I would try to get you some but I've never had any experience in buying any stockings for women but I guess I could as I'll never learn any younger.

We have been hearing a few rumors lately about when we are to leave here. We heard yesterday that we may be here only two more weeks and some say eight more so it is very hard to say just when we will leave. It all depends on how bad they need us. It doesn't make very much difference to me how long they keep me here or what they do with me as I know that I have ten months and two days yet and then I can say to _ _ _ _ with this Army life, but the longer I stay here the less time I'll have to be overseas.

We went to the show this afternoon and then had supper so will continue now. We saw Gary Cooper and Igmand Burgeman in "Saratoga Trunk" and it was really good. As this fellow from West Point said when we were eating supper, "It is swell to come back from the show and your wife has supper waiting for you."

Darling, I'll close for tonight as I am going to write to the (our) folks yet and I should write a lot more but it

seems like I never get around to it.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey, with all of my heart.

Butte, Nebraska
February 25, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received a swell letter from you this morning which makes me very happy. So you have decided to stop drinking, have you? How wonderful but I know that it was just because it makes your teeth ache - not because of me. Am I not right? I know I am so you may as well admit it. Nevertheless, I sure will be happy if you stop and would really like to thank that which has made you even attempt to stop. Honey! I love you and I always hated your drinking. Mother knew how angry I was when you sent that picture with the beer on it. Everytime I mention you or get a little peeved she says, "I think Clayton has that beer gone by now." Grr! That really tops Kane. How she loves to tease me about that! I guess I'll show it to your Mother and Daddy some of these days. Would you care?

I also received a letter from our brother, Richard this morning. He said that he wrote to you but didn't get an answer. Did you get his letter? I never gave him your address and I don't know who knows it and could give it to him. Finally I figured that maybe Sheridan gave him your address but that would have been your Ft. Leavenworth address and it is hard telling when you would get it. Just in case you do get it, well I don't know what to say - maybe he didn't even mean what he said, the way I took it. His paragraphs are always combined. He might be talking about his cows, etc., and then start about 'her' and 'she' and when you get the whole thing finished you find out that it must have been his girl that he was referring to in certain parts. But anyway, overlooking that, would you please tell me, Honey, if you received a letter from him, or not, and if so - if he asked any favor of you? I sure would love to have a down right good talk with him. It seems as though things aren't going right for him and I sure would like to know what it is. Maybe I could help him straighten things out. Floyd and Evelyn & Raymond are so "he is going to do this" and "he is going to do that." They don't understand. He has never had the breaks that the rest of us kids have had. Richard is made of entirely 'different stuff' than the rest of us kids and he is hard to understand and he is hard to get to understand. The folks wrote or rather Mother wrote and ask him in one of his letters "Just what kind of a girl is Mary Ann?" instead of "what is Mary Ann like," or something similar. He really got mad about that and wrote some pretty hot letters back and now he hardly writes to the folks at all. A person has to know the hang of getting around him before they can be around. He even went as far as to say that if the folks didn't want him around that he could always stay in the Army and Raymond just laughs. He has money and he knows it, he is the Bell of the Ball and he knows it. Those things Richard has always despised so the two boys haven't gotten along for several years. Richard and Evelyn never did get along and now Floyd is trying to take a hand in it. Boy I sure hate that. Trouble is bound to come if things don't stop pretty soon.

My brothers and sister are tops with me and not one of them could do too much for me so they think. But with each one trying to bring me up to be like they want me to be, things just don't work. I'm not sixteen anymore and I am off a little on my own. Even though I am the baby of the family I'm not such a 'little' baby any more. We had a down right talk about it a while back when it seemed that everyone was telling me what to do next. Instead of my asking if I can do this or that, Daddy says, "if you think you should go ahead," so things have changed a little bit around home. Since I have been helping Daddy with the work, we get along so much better. He doesn't care much what I do. This morning I was just about shocked out of my shoes. Raymond said, "Are you coming down to the dance Tuesday night." I told him "no" because the folks might not like it because I was just gone Sat. night. Mother heard me and said, "You come after her and I think she'll go." I told him that he really shouldn't because I was gone twice last week but when he went out the door he called, "Well, I left my suit home so if I want to go to the dance myself Tuesday night, I'll have to come home to get them." So I guess if he goes I will too. He is so swell.

Honey, what ever made me get started is more than I know but I have been holding it for so long that I

guess I just had to let off steam. Please forgive me, won't you dear?

Well, Darling, it is almost time to let my "chillins" run home, so I'll sign off, too and run. I only wish I could run home to our baby Darold. I love him so.

The Best of Luck to you, Honey, I will be thinking of you always and also of another somebody -- Darold.

All my love,

Your Sweetheart,

Elaine

I love you, Dearest.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 25, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I received your swell letter this evening and that really set me back to normal again. Honey I love you so much that when I don't get any letter from you over the weekend I just don't know what to do. I have been waiting for an answer to that terrible letter I wrote and got it last week and your letter today made me really happy. If I were home now I'm sure you would have more than a couple broken ribs as I would hold you so tight that I would crush them all. I don't know about the hickey part but how I would love to be able to hold you in my arms and put a few (dozen) kisses upon your sweat lips again. It has only been two months since I did this but it seems more like a year.

It has been a rather disagreeable day here as it was awful cold and the wind blew fairly hard which made it feel a lot colder. When I got out of bed this morning and stood on the floor with my bare feet I almost hit the ceiling. I got back on the bed and put on my shoes and socks. It was almost like an icebox in here this morning.

I wish that I were home now so that I could be there to help on the farm and more than that so that I could drive up West a few miles to see my Sweetheart. I got a letter from Mom this noon and she said that they had one of the Reel boys working whenever they needed him. Daddy sold the old combine to a fellow in the Southern part of Nebr. and was hauling it down the day she wrote.

I got my camera this noon and am glad I have it so that I can take a few pictures. I wish that I would have had it a couple of weeks ago so that I could have taken some pictures that weekend when we walked all over town. I have to go up to the Orderly Room and register it so that I can get films for it at the P.X. and get a pass to take it out of camp. I don't know why they have to be careful about who has a camera now that the war is over.

I plan on going over to the Service Club and play Bingo tonight as there isn't anything else to do and I'm not a bit sleepy. I guess I really got caught up on my sleeping over the weekend as I spent about half of it in bed. I don't know why, but I'm getting so that I rather like to stay in bed.

Honey, you ought to hear the way we got teased today about those old buffalos. I get a big kick out of it as everyone exaggerates it so much. Tony said the girl I had was about two ax handle lengths across and about an ax handle and a half high. One tall fellow here had a girl six feet tall and weighed 85 pounds. She was almost like a telephone pole without knots as she had no bumps or curves at all.

I'll close for tonight by saying I love you with all of my heart.

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Darling

Butte, Nebraska
February 26, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter this morning, my darling. You really and truly must be in love with me the way your letters read. Are you sure that you are? I'm beginning to believe that you really are. Maybe someday, sooner or later, I will find out for sure - in about ten more months. Honey, it doesn't seem possible that you have been gone two months already, although it seems like ages to me. With letters from you everyday or practically everyday, it helps things very very much. One sure thing it is a good thing that you get to send your mail "free" or I perhaps would have you "moneyless" before long, wouldn't I?

The time goes so much slower since Darold has gone. He is so sweet and it is just like taking the last rose from the bush when they took him. When we were getting ready to come home he came to me and said. "Anieane, coat, go home." I just cried. He wanted to go home with Anie-ane. When he gets older I hope she lets him come and stay with me and mine but I'm afraid she won't and that really hurts me. Of course, I shouldn't worry about that now but I feel about him the way I know I would feel if he were my very own. I know darn well he wouldn't get spanked if he were mine and I'd murder the guy that ever laid a finger on him to do that very thing. Someday, he will come home. I hope at least to visit us for a while when his folks aren't there so we can spoil him just a little. A child doesn't get his way around me but if he wants to do something contrary to what I do, well, I don't do what I want to, that is all. Children are only children once.

What have you been doing lately, Honey? I suppose that you go to the shows, alone, don't you? - Perhaps not dateless, though or are you? If you tell me, it is O.K. and if you don't - well, I'll never find out and what people don't know, don't hurt 'em and what little they do know isn't getting them anyplace so I guess everything would be, O.K. But I would still like to know.

This certainly isn't a very nice day. It is windy and cloudy and tries to snow every once in a while. I wonder if Raymond was planning on going tonight. Perhaps as long as it is cold, he will just go in his uniform (work suit). He has blue slack suits to wear only he tucks the shirt tail in. Ha! In a way, I sure feel like a dance tonight but I am feeling sorta' on the down hill side today, rather 'droopy,' so maybe I shouldn't go. If he don't come then I guess it will be O.K. but I sure hope that he does. If he does he will probably bring Max along. She is always along and we sure like her, but he sure is mean. They just go together to keep each other company but he kisses her and everything right in the house. Unless she knows it and understands things, he should be shot for leading her on. He goes with Max all over but takes Betty Jean Fredrickson at intermission. Isn't he terrible? But how I love that way.

"My" Kids (I wish they were) are printing and writing their reading now. I should peek over their shoulder and see how good they are getting along with it but Honey, I'll finish this first.

How is Tony? Is he still "baby sitter?" Afterall, it might be good practice for these soldiers that aren't married, too - because - oh well - because they might need to do that very thing someday. What do you think, Hun? Ha! Ha! I was only fooling so don't get me wrong.

It is getting late Honey so maybe I had better close. Daddy is coming after me right after school tonight as we may have to go down to Roush's. Mr. Roush's brother passed away from Draper and they went to the funeral today. Uncle Joe & Aunt Sarah Rouse came from California, too. Mr. Roush (Jim) just came back from Draper Wednesday and his brother (Hugh) died Saturday. He is only 40 years old and they have five children. That really is a hard thing to think about.

Well, Darling, I love you, I love you, I love you.

B - thing - king - of - U - al ways

Your Sweet Heart

Elaine

Butte, Nebraska

February 27, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your most welcomed letter this morning, Honey, and I was really happy to hear from you again.

I am just a wee bit tired today after last night. I went to Spencer. More fun! I danced every dance from ten P.M. to 1:45 A.M. and only a part of one was with a girl, that was the one we got in on when we first went in. Raymond (Max, too) came after me (Edna, too) so we went and Raymond said that he wasn't coming to the dance hall, though so I really felt down in the dumps. In about an hour he was there. Was I ever happy! Love that man!! Love that guy! That one so called - an ex - G.I.! My heart was brimming over with joy. I really would hate to have you see me around him on the floor. We both act so crazy and William Lewis & Leo L. & Leo Fiala were all with us two last night. I do get in some of the darndest crowds but everytime I would go to leave last night one or more of the others would call me back and tell me to stay so I did. I was really in a good mood last night but how I missed you, honey. I wouldn't have dated anyone last night for anything because I just wasn't in the mood. I was just on a "loose." Don Dickey wanted a date at intermission but I don't go for him in that way but I really do go for his dancing. Earl Hoffmann wanted a date in the worst way but I just couldn't give in and he wouldn't take "no" for an answer and I told him that I was with my brother, I just couldn't resist being with him so long as he was there. I couldn't have stood any one closer than dancing distance last night since I couldn't have you -- although, Honey, I did get kissed twice by a beautiful blond haired fellow. Umm! Umm! Honey, he kissed me both times while we were dancing. Now I will tell you who the guy is - Leo Fiala. I sure think an awful lot of Leo. I used to think so much of him when he and Evelyn were going together. I sure don't see, yet, why she didn't get Leo as long as she could have had him. But yet, I really don't want him to get an old crank, either, so I guess it is a good thing. I'll always think more of Leo than I will of Floyd. Leo just couldn't be beat. He said last night the same as always before that if I only had an older sister he would marry her so he could have me for his little sister. I sure do wish I could work miracles. Wouldn't life be wonderful?! Honey, don't get me wrong, please - when I say Leo means an awful lot to me - you know how I mean it, so take it that way. Our brother was the sweetest thing last night, though. He and I danced four dances together and then during intermission when we were waiting for the music to start. More fun!! I was really feeling in the groove last night and they couldn't trick me. He tried his best to get me out of step but I could go anyway without any notice last night. Oh! Darling! It would have been wonderful to have had you there last night but I guess maybe if you would have been - you would have shot me for acting the way I did. But I didn't date so everything on that score was O.K. but I sure did a lot of flirting. I'm a pretty big flirt for as small as I am but I don't mean a thing by it. I guess I should settle down but the kids told me not to because I wouldn't 'be Elaine' if I did and they wanted me to stay "Elaine" or "Honey" as most of them call me.

Say, Honey, I may date. I have told you about it, too but I haven't started going with our brother, Glen, yet. Lorraine Anderson goes with Jim's brother. Isn't that a good one. And say, honey, Lois Jordan and Marian Reiser are trying to get your address so they can write and tell you what I do and also what I don't do. They wrote a bunch of stuff to that GI with blond hair (no name mentioned as you know who I mean) and caused trouble last summer. I'll give you anything you want or do anything for you - simply anything if you just drop her a line and tell her that you don't need any information about me and that you already have someone keeping track of me and besides you trust me because I tell you what I do. (or don't you anymore). We happen to have our understandings pretty well understood, already. That would really burn her up because she has broken more kids up already than Carter has liver pills. That must be a lot of fun. Won't you please write to her, Honey, please? You know how I love you so won't you do it. Be sure to give me an answer.

I guess I was right when I said there was a crowd in Lynch last Saturday night. They sold over 800 tickets (\$1.00 each). As small as that floor is you can imagine how much room there was.

Well, Honey, it is getting about the time for Daddy to come after me so I had better sign off.

I sure wouldn't care if he would take me to town tonight as I sure would like to get in on the Nylon hose but I believe that teachers aren't meant to have any.

Here he comes so -

So long, Darling

All my love,

Your Sweetheart,

Elaine

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
February 27, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received your swell letter this noon so will endeavor to write you a one tonight.

It was a beautiful day here until about three when it clouded over and then started raining about 4:15. It is still warm and only sprinkling a little. It was just like Spring and no one wanted to stay in the classrooms. I guess everyone has Spring Fever but I'm afraid they will be in a different mood tomorrow as the weather forecast was for rain turning to sleet and colder tonight.

We really had a laugh on a lot of the fellows last night and today as they heard about the bill before Congress to discharge all married men with children and a lot of these fellows would all be eligible for discharge. They thought they would be out in a month or two and were kidding us for enlisting in the Regular Army but when they heard that this bill was dropped they changed their story and then we began rubbing it into them and told them that if they would enlist they would know when they were getting out. Just think, Honey, ten months yet for me.

We just got back from the show so I will continue now. We saw "Terror By Night" but I wasn't very well satisfied with it as it had too many murders in it and I never did like a show of that kind. I didn't plan on going but Tony said he would pay my way if I would go with him.

We have really been having some good times in a few of our classes as our instructors just don't give a hoot whether we learn anything or not. If we have a test some of them will go over it and answer most of the questions before he gives it to us and our Japanese instructor doesn't care if we copy it out of the book. They give us good grades just to make it look like they are doing a good job of instructing.

We have two hours of organized athletics just before dinner tomorrow and we are to go to the gymnasium to have fifteen minutes of exercises and the rest of the time we can play ping pong, pool, or basketball.

I really have a head cold now and can't seem to get rid of it. I think I caught it last Saturday afternoon when I was traipsing around in the snow and got damp feet and wasn't dressed for the cold weather. I have been using nose drops but that doesn't seem to do much good. I think I need a good shot of whiskey. It would probably kill me so I don't think I will try it but it would get rid of my cold.

Honey, I just couldn't believe my eyes yesterday. We were going to class and we met a car with a 63 Nebr. license on it. I didn't get a chance to see where it went or didn't recognize the driver but think it is someone from Lynch as a fellow from this group was up to the Red Cross office a couple of weeks ago and said that a telegram came from Lynch for someone here. I don't know how to locate the person but am going to try it.

Its' rather late and I'm tired so will sign off for tonight by saying I love you Honey, with all of my heart.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
February 28, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your most welcomed letter this morning, Honey, and how I loved to receive it. I just can't imagine you crushing my ribs but I know very well that I wouldn't stop you. I love you so much I wouldn't care. I would give anything to spend a few minutes alone with you to love you as I wish. No one else can take your place, that is all, in other words, I am in love with you, Honey, and no one else. It is only ten more months now. How wonderful! Mother and I were just talking about it this morning. When you know that you have just so much more time, the time seems to go faster than it would if you didn't have a limited time. Haven't you found this to be true, too?

Honey, I received a letter from a soldier, today. I can only remember seeing the fellow once - last March 17, 1945 but I suppose that he has seen me oftener than that. He is from Holt county and has been in the Army since December - in Texas - a very lonely soldier so he wrote to me and ask me to write to him. I intend to write to him because he practically begged me to and there isn't a single word that could possibly describe his loneliness. Honey, I will not neglect writing to you nor will I shorten my time with you. I will not neglect my Sweetheart in any way, I love him too much to do a thing like that. Honey, you should write to him too. If I send you his address will you write to him? He must not get much mail. Just a lonely G.I. and I don't believe he has a mother if I remember correctly. That makes a lot of difference, too. He was telling me that the negroes got in a riot and left several white boys to go to the hospital and several were killed but he said that the latter wasn't confirmed yet, for sure. They didn't know just yet how many were killed. That didn't sound so good. Maybe you are safer where you are, Honey. At least I sure hope that you are.

I received a letter from Arthur Stewart again today. He has signed up for not only one year but three years. So when he comes back maybe I'll be married so he won't bother me. In three more years I'll be 21 and it is leap year so I have quite a bit of confidence in the fact when I say I'll be married. Ha! Ha! Josh said that he expected a date with me but he will be home during Lent and I stay home during Lent so I'm just afraid that I will disappoint him. Poor guy! Can't you see me feeling sorry for anybody?!!

It seems as though you must have gotten stung at that 'boy-meets-girl' affair. Now just how would you have felt if I would have been there? - kinda' out of place??

My pupils are reviewing flash cards and are just a little bit noisy in here but you know how kids are when flash cards are flashed to them. They love them so The one getting the greatest number is "teacher" and do they ever go at it. More fun! They don't know it though, but I let them play teacher so I get out of it. Ha!

Say, Honey, I sure don't like the way you talk about girls. Why not? Merely because I don't know how bad you talk about me when I have my back turned. You sure are mean.

Well, Darling, I'll be with you again tomorrow about this time.

Good Luck and God Bless My Sweetheart,
I love him so.

All my love,
Your "buffalo"
Elaine

I love you Darling

Belle Plaine, Iowa
March 1, 1946

Dear Elaine,

Hi kid how you coming? And what do you know new? How's your boy friends?? I'm in a kettle of fish two of them are going to be home at the same time & believe me that is Grusome. Maybe you remember me telling you about Bob a long time ago. Well he is coming home. In fact he is on his way right now. It's going to be swell to see him but he thinks I didn't go with anyone while he was gone & I'm afraid he's going to be pretty mad.

My girl friend is getting married tomorrow at 8:00 A.M. So I'm going to take a little time off & go to the wedding. One of my old friends from Omaha (we used to run around all together) is coming tonight to stay with me so it's going to be a good deal.

It's raining here today. Yesterday was a beautiful spring day & it looks as if March came in like a lamb!

How is teaching by now. I suppose your all anxious for summer vacation already. Wish I had a summer vacation to look forward to but no such luck.

I want to buy a car as I can go home more often. Hope I get it done!

Well Elaine its' about time for me to go to eat so I'd better say so long for now & hope you write soon. I'd better get to work before I get fired any way.

Lots of Love

Vi

Butte, Nebraska
March 1, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey! I am disappointed. I looked forward to getting a letter from my Sweetheart but I didn't get one. This must be my off-day as I didn't get a letter from anyone but I know that I have five more to write after I finish this one. More fun - writing letters. I guess one of these days I'll write to _____ and find out just where he is stationed. More have asked me where he is and I'm getting tired of saying I don't know. If I would tell them where he is they perhaps would go on their way and leave me alone, this way they ask me why this and why that and I say, "Because of Clayton, that is why." But we will forget about him.

This certainly started out to be a beautiful day but the sun has gone under the clouds and it is getting colder. I sure hope that it stays nice so that the roads don't get bad right away so soon after they are getting so we can travel them. Daddy and I floated them last night. We really came close to getting stuck and this morning when we came to school we saw a car stopped east of the schoolhouse about 1/4 of a mile - well, Daddy went down there and the fellow must have been stuck because Daddy went home right away and in about fifteen minutes he was back with the tractor. That was the same place we struck last night. So by that you can tell that the roads aren't too good yet.

Our brother and Max didn't come home last night. We were rather looking for them but more than likely they will come tonight. I'm sure I wouldn't care as I am really lonesome for our brother. Just think - I haven't seen him since Wednesday morning about 1:00 o'clock. I really do think a lot of him. He was so sweet the other night and I really love him.

My pupils are coloring pictures and making decorations. This is the first of March and they have quite a few to make. They really enjoy it though. I can still remember how I enjoyed it when I was small. Those good old school days - how I cherish those memories.

Oh! Honey! Do you know if there is anything brewing between Jerry F. and Margaret Ann Prchal? She has been dating this Cizek that used to be in the army - he used to go with Marie Mashek.

The day seems to be just about gone and that means another day less for my Sweetheart in the Army. Isn't that a wonderful thought, Honey, or doesn't it appeal to you?

Well, Darling, I'll be thinking of you always and here is hoping that I hear from you tomorrow.

Good Luck & God Bless You,

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd, Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 3, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I received your swell yesterday noon and was really glad to hear from you. I had planned on writing to you last night but after I got back from the show we started playing Cassino and played until 10:30.

I received a letter day before yesterday from you that was written January 10. It went to Fort Leavenworth and stayed there until February 20 and then went to Camp Pickett and then up here. It was rather old but still new to me. That just goes to show how efficient this Army mail is. I suppose I have some other letters laying around someplace yet. They told us day before yesterday that we are to go up to Aberdeen Proving Grounds this week and are to leave here tomorrow and get back Friday night. We are to learn to drive the different vehicles the Army has. They said that our mail wouldn't be sent up to us so I am going to try and come down here a couple nights to get the mail if they will let me. Better yet I am going to try getting a jeep or pickup and come down every night. I have the job of getting the mail and handing it out so the fellows said they would pay my bus fare if I would come in after it. Aberdeen is about 25 miles Northeast of here. You just as well send my letters here as by the time you get my address and send a letter back we will probably be here again.

I got a letter from our Daddy's cousin yesterday noon and they want me to come down and spend the weekend of the 16th with them. Her father-in-law passed away week before last at New York and they are going up there this and next weekend. It probably was a good thing that I didn't plan on going this weekend as we have to be back tomorrow morning.

I wrote to Richard a couple weeks or so ago but have never gotten an answer yet. I wrote to him as soon as I got your letter with his address. I haven't heard from Jerry since he left Fort Leavenworth and can't figure out why. Mom wrote that she talked to his mother shortly after he left Leavenworth and he was in Camp Pickett then so it is hard telling just where he is now.

I had planned on taking some pictures today but it is too cloudy for that. I am going up to register my camera this morning and take it to Aberdeen with me if I can. I took a few pictures yesterday as we have been studying photography and we were given one camera to every two persons and one roll of film. I sure wish I had a camera like the one we used yesterday as they are really nice but are small.

Everyone was getting the idea that our training was about over as the groups don't usually go to Aberdeen until their last week of training but our Captain said there were so many groups here now that they have to send some up their earlier. I don't think we will get to go up to New York as the other group that is in the same week we are are going up there so we will probably go to Camp Belvoir. I may go up to New York next weekend rather than take a chance of going up for a week as I really want to see that town while I am this close.

When I go down to Silver Springs, I am going on into Washington and see about this Army Transport. I want to see just what chance we would have of going on it if we do get that furlough.

Well, Darling, I'll close for this morning as I have to pack some of my clothes.

All my love and kisses,
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 3, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received your swell letter yesterday noon so will drop you a few lines this morning. I just finished packing my clothes and have to make my bed and sweep the floor yet but won't do that for a while yet as we have quite a bit of time before we leave.

Darling I was really glad that you believe I love you as I honestly and truthfully do. I miss you very much and even though it hasn't been much longer than two months ago that I was with you, it seems like ages. I don't know what I'll do if I don't get a furlough or get to see you for another ten months. That would almost tear my heart out.

Frank (the fellow from West Point) and I took a pair of shoes over to the shoe shop yesterday morning and on the way back we noticed that car with a Boyd County number so we went over to see whose car it was. The name on the registration card was Mary Jetter from Lynch. We asked some fellows if they knew where we could locate this fellow and they didn't know. We talked with these fellows for a while and pretty soon I noticed a fellow get into this car so I went over and talked to him a few minutes. He works in the telephone exchange here and used to do the same thing in Lynch before he was drafted. He said that he was getting his discharge in two months.

Frank and I went out to the Airport again yesterday afternoon but didn't get to take any pictures as it was too foggy. There were only two flights as the rest were cancelled because of the low ceiling. It started raining so we came back and looked for a room as his wife is coming out here Friday. We finally found a room and on the way back we stopped at a store and bought some lemons. We got some sugar out of the mess hall and had some hot lemonade just before we went to bed. I didn't do very much good as we still have our colds. I don't know how a person will ever get rid of a cold here as it is nice for a few days and then gets cold and damp. It rained a little yesterday but is nice again today.

Tony isn't on very friendly terms with me this weekend but I don't care. He wanted me to go up town with him Friday night but I wouldn't go. I told him that I didn't believe in going out and drinking and get a date with the type of women he does. He said okay if that's the way I felt about it, it was alright with him. He came back about 3:30 yesterday morning drunker than a skunk and had to wake everyone up and tell them about the old gal he had. He wanted me to go up town with him again yesterday morning but I told him that I was going to wait for the mail. He got back about 9:30 last night and looked like he had been drug head first through a keyhole. He went right to bed and about 10:30 Frank and I decided to wake him up so we did and it made him mad. We just told him that now he knows how a fellow feels when he wakes them up. He got up about a half hour later than I did and is laying on his bed reading. He hasn't said one single word to me this morning and I can just see it in face that he is pretty sore.

Well, Honey, I'll close for this morning and send all of my love to you.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
Aberdeen Proving Grounds
March 3, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I will write you a few lines tonight to let you know that we arrived here safely and I'm ready to go back to Baltimore right now. We left Holabird at 1:15 and got here at 2:15. They did not have any thing ready for us and didn't even know where to put us.

We are all upstairs in one barracks and they didn't have enough beds up here so we had to carry some more up. They didn't have any sheets or blankets so had to barrow some from the basic training center and we each got two wool blankets. We are going to wear our fatigues and cover up with our overcoats if we have to.

We all went over to the P.X. as soon as we got settled a little. It is rather large but they don't have much in it. The only good thing about it is the swell Strawberry Sundies they have.

Tony and I went into Aberdeen this evening as I wanted to find out what time the bus left for Baltimore so that I can go down and get the mail tomorrow night. It is a town smaller than Spencer or Butte and reminds me of Bristow. We went to the show which cost us 44 cents apeace which was about twice what it should be. We then went down to a cafe and had some lunch. We had to even ask for a glass of water as they wouldn't even bring us any. We are really disgussed and ready to go back to Holabird. I think we really got spoiled while we were there.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write so will close for now.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams, Honey
All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling

(Character Drawing)
SMOE

Butte, Nebraska
March 4, 1946

Dearest Clayton,

At last I am seated to write. I haven't had a breathing spell since Saturday about 6:00 A.M. just before I was awakened by my father.

Our brother Raymond was home yesterday but he was so sick that right after breakfast he went to bed and didn't get up until this morning to go to work. He really was feeling tough and I'm not fooling. Mother was pretty bad yesterday noon, when we started eating she turned colors and started shaking. I talked to her but she couldn't hear me - she just sat there and rolled her eyes. Oh! Honey! I was so scared. You don't know what a feeling like that is. I should be pretty well used to it by this time but somehow or other I just can't seem to take it cool yet. I get so excited. Since last winter I am scared to be alone with her. She gets heart attacks and just about goes away and is unconscious so long. Last year I was holding her hands and rubbing her forehead when she rolled her eyes back and stopped breathing for what seemed to me quite a few minutes but of course it wasn't but a minute or so. She was quite a bit better this morning when I came to school. We have to be so careful not to mention anything about it later because it makes her just that much worse. If many more go on the bum around home I'll go on the bum too only a different kind - I won't come back right away. I would really like to pull off for destination - unknown, length of time - indefinite and not let anyone know where I was only leave my address with some one in case of emergency. Wouldn't that be fun?

Vera Faatz and Bud Johnson were married last Thursday. They left for Omaha for their Honeymoon but are giving their wedding dance after Lent. Alvin Havranek and Alice Faatz stood up for them. I guess it was a very pretty wedding - how I would have loved to have seen for myself. Am I not mean?

Only one more night after this one and then I'll have to stay home for a while. I suppose that it will snow tomorrow although I have faith enough in the good Lord so it won't. I don't know where there is a dance but I'm going if there is one close to home, tomorrow night and there had better be one.

Say, Honey, I can't quite figure out why I didn't get any mail. This is the second day for me without any from you and it isn't like you at all. Are you getting tired of writing so often?

Well, as school is almost out again I close with the best of wishes to you and sending,

All my love
I remain,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
Aberdeen Proving Grounds
March 4, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey, Whatcha doing? I just came back from the P.X. and will write to you. You don't mind if I sit here and converse with you for a while do you?

It is a wonderful night here but I can't enjoy it very well as I have a terrible headache. I guess my cold is getting the best of me or something. It was very cold this morning but started to warm up about noon.

We were able to keep from freezing last night but we had a hard time doing it. I slept with my fatigues, a wool undershirt and socks on and had to put my overcoat over top to keep warm. We finally got a comforter this noon but no sheets, pillows or pillow cases. I wish we had some sheets as the mattresses and sheets are terribly dirty. They won't do any more than they have to for us as they don't seem to care to have us around. We fixed the fire ourselves tonight so that it would be a little warmer up here in the morning.

We didn't have but two light bulbs on one side up here last night but we managed to swipe some bulbs and fuses and finally got some more lights now. It doesn't do any good to go over to the Orderly Room as they don't do anything for us. We have to do things for ourselves if we want anything around here.

We had lectures and a movie and three tests today. They were all about the 2 1/2 ton truck and that is what we are to learn to drive. They said that if we could learn to drive that we could drive the jeep and smaller vehicles. We are to start driving tomorrow noon and then take an examiner with us sometime Thursday and if we didn't do good enough we wouldn't get our G.I. Drivers License. The only thing that will bother me is that the gear shift is different than I am used to and if I know that someone is watching me it makes me rather nervous.

Darling, I know there is something wrong with me but don't know what but I just can't seem to get in the mood of writing and there isn't much to write about so I will close for tonight and won't write tomorrow night as I am going to Holabird after the mail. I'll close for tonight.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Remember Darling, I love you with all of my heart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
Aberdeen, Maryland
March 5, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Its a beautiful night here so thought I would write to you before I go to bed as I just finished shaving and am very tired, so will go to bed early tonight.

A fellow went to Baltimore last night to see his wife so brought the mail back and passed it out this morning. I got two letters from you and one from the folks. I was going to go after the mail tonight but am too tired and I guess there isn't anybody else going but a fellow is going in tomorrow to see his wife so he is going to bring it back. They wouldn't furnish us any transportation so we have to go by bus or train.

Honey, if you will send this boy's address to me I will try to find time to drop him a few lines as I am sure he would appreciate some mail. Is Lois in Butte now or not? I will send her a letter and tell her the truth and I assure you that if she tries to break us up she is going to have a very difficult time doing it. I am going to write that noone is telling me what you are doing and noone needs to as I can trust you very much, and do trust you.

We had class for two hours this morning and then got our trucks and got them ready to go for this afternoon. Then we parked them along a road in a convoy formation. Then we took turns driving a jeep and 3/4 ton truck around the parking lot. We left here at 1:00 and went out about two miles to the driving range and had to park in a certain way. Tony and I are working with one truck. I drove it out there and took turns driving this afternoon.

The truck we had was about worn out and made it very difficult for me. We had a certain road to follow and had a lot of curves and stop signs. We had to use arm signals everytime we stopped or turned a corner. We had to keep one arm out of the window practically all of the time and keep the other on the gear shift and steering wheel. It practically wore me out and I'm tireder than if I had driven all day. We are to practice driving again tomorrow and then Thursday we are to have an examiner ride with us and grade us on our driving.

We get 100 points before we start out and every time we fail to use our arm signals, double-clutch, scrap gears, or drive too fast we loose one point and if we loose over thirteen points we are disqualified to get a license. I don't care whether I get the license or not as I only want to learn the different gears on a big truck so if I ever decide to go into the trucking business or drive for someone I will know how to do it. I rode around with Frank once this afternoon and we really had fun as he wouldn't use the clutch in changing gears.

We really had it warm in here last night and we didn't even use any covers when we went to bed. It was so nice this morning that we weren't quite so peeved. We have it almost too warm up here now but by morning it will be just right and we have to keep a pretty warm fire to keep the water warm enough to shave and shower.

Everyone is anxious to get out of this place and get back to Holabird as noone likes us around here except our instructors and they are really swell to us. The food isn't fit for pigs, as Tony says, and very few even get up for breakfast in the mornings. I guess we just got spoiled down at Holabird.

Darling, I will close for tonight as I should write to the folks yet before I go to bed as I haven't written to them since Sunday.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey, more than words can say

Butte, Nebraska
March 7, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey! Am I ever glad that every day isn't like this. We are having a blizzard, a real blizzard. I am here at school - as usual, and am I scared or am I scared. Every few minutes I have to stop and put my shoes back on. I sure wish that you were somewhere in the country so I could feel a little bit more protected. I really would honey. Maybe it won't be too long from now. I hope, I hope.

Honey, I can hardly wait for the date when you will say - Honey - it's been a long, long, time - the last time I heard you - you said - "Honey, it'll be a long, long, time. It can't be too much longer. It just can't - it already seems like years. And Darling, your two letters today really made me feel good.

Honey, you are only at Aberdeen for a week aren't you? I'm hoping that is all the longer you have to stay there because I wouldn't want my Darling to freeze to death or anything of the sort. About the spoiled part. Well, Sweetheart, I know you are spoiled and I know just where you were when you became spoiled. With the swell folks you have, how could anyone be any way but spoiled if they lived around them all their life. I guess I'll have quite a time trying to 'unspoil' you, or won't I even get a chance? I know, you don't have to tell me but I wish you would anyway.

Honey, if I were there I would let you give me your cold so you wouldn't have to have it. Wouldn't that be O.K.? This is rather a dull day and would have been worse if I wouldn't have received those letters from you!

Say, Honey, I happened to think. I don't believe I told you that a letter I wrote to you January 11th, was returned to me Monday. I forgot to mention it before. It said that there wasn't such a man with such an address. If he isn't in the Army, I sure wish they would send him home.

Edna and Lennie have been having a little trouble. Someone wrote and told him a lot of hash and it sure makes me mad, too. I'll bet that it was Lois & Marian Reiser. We aren't sure of them yet but between ourselves (and now my telling you) we are holding them suspicious. She knows that he will come back to her - so do I - so she doesn't take it too hard. Last night we two kids sat up for two and a half hours after everybody went to bed - looking at the catalogs. We have our houses all planned out. More fun!! They are going to be almost alike but somethings are different.

Well, Darling, Daddy just came after me with the team and wagon.

So must go.

All my love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
Aberdeen, Maryland
March 7, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I just finished supper and will write you a few lines now before I go to the show. I'm rather tired but have finished all of the driving and will lose a little sleep. We have to go over the trucks tomorrow morning and check all of the bolts and everything for two hours and then we are going down to see the foreign material building and look at all of the war material they have of the foreign countries. They have a lot of this and it will be interesting to see.

Some of the fellows took their tests yesterday afternoon and those who failed then got to try it again today. I took mine about 2:00 and got through in fair shape. I got a score of 91 and am qualified for the license and am to get it tomorrow right after noon. One fellow rode with me this morning and said that he thought I was good enough to make over 95 but I was too nervous. My greatest error was in parallel parking as I killed the motor once and didn't get backed in too good. There were six or seven out of the group who did not pass as they hadn't driven very much before. They gave a very poor test for anyone who never drove a truck before.

It has been pretty nice weather here the last couple days but this noon it started sprinkling a little and rained fairly hard several times this afternoon. It is raining hard now and if it keeps this up very long we won't go to the show.

I'm sure glad that this will be the last night here as it is really getting monotonous up here. They just started a fire in the furnace and the smoke is coming out of the heat pipes instead of going up the chimney. We have to keep some of the windows open to keep from getting smoked out.

This is Thursday night and is G.I. night which means scrubbing the floors but we aren't going to as we believe in leaving things just the way we found them when we got here and the floor was filthy so we aren't even going to sweep the floor in the morning. They can't put us on K.P. or any detail as we are just attached to this company. We have really been making it rough for the fellows around here as we all stick together and take nothing from anybody. It is really fun and everyone hates us. They think we are like the M.P.s and we just let them think that.

The fellows in here are really ornery tonight as they are chasing every one around and razzing. Everyone is happy that we are about ready to leave here.

Tony and I went up to Philadelphia last night for a few hours. We left Aberdeen at 7:00 and got back at 2:30, and about all we did was go to the U.S.O. and roller skating. I would like to go there in the daytime as there are a lot of interesting things to see.

Well, Honey, I'll close for tonight as we may go to the show if it isn't raining any more. Goodnight Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Darling with all my heart.

Butte, Nebraska
March 8, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Darling! Isn't life wonderful! I received two swell letters from you today and that really helped my moral. Anything that has anything to do with you, honey, definitely helps my moral. Can you blame it (my moral) - with you at the top of my list, honey, how could life be dull? I have been living in the clouds since last October and I haven't touched ground yet. It seems as though I enjoy it up here. How about you, Honey? Didn't you know that I have you up here, too? You are not gone, Honey, you just aren't here in person, but oh! How I wish you were!!! Won't be long now, and we will be together again.

Honey, here is that boys address but please don't write him about us too much because he said in my letter from him today that he remembered me saying that I wrote to several servicemen so he wrote to me knowing that I would answer. Honey - there is another fellow that trust me. Ha!

Pvt. Floyd H. Post 37823379
3706th A.A.F. B.U. (B.T.C.)
Sqd. M. Plt. 29. Brks. 513
Sheppard Field, Texas.

Yes, Honey, Lois is still in Butte but please honey, don't write it too sassy but just tell her what is what. Someone has really done justice to Edna and Lennie, do you suppose that will happen to us? I just can't feature it, myself.

Honey, they really must be working you pretty hard. I sure wish that I could tell them how to treat you. They just better don't work you too much because I intend to do do that when you get home. I mean make you work.

Edna and I are eating crackerjack or John and giggling so hard that I can hardly write. She is trying to read my hep-cat jive talk book. More fun than a barrel of monkeys!

Honey, she asked me if I was afraid to ask you if you remembered that night in Spencer when you two were together? Be sure to answer this question, please Honey; It doesn't make a speck of difference to me what you say about it. I know how you feel now and who is the important one of your life - Am I right?

Darling, I'll have to stop but will give you the reason later.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 9, 1946

My Dearest Darling Elaine:

I'm back in good old Holabird now and was going to write to you last night when we got back but I was pretty tired and then Tony and I went up here to a nightclub. We were up there about an hour when Frank and his wife came in so we all set at the same booth and had lunch. Tony wasn't feeling very good so he came back to the barracks and went to bed. He has had a terrible cold and thought he was getting pneumonia but feels better this morning.

Almost everyone in this group has a cold and we have two fellows in the hospital with pneumonia for over a week and another one went just after we got back from Aberdeen yesterday. Tony said that if he wouldn't have felt better this morning he would have gone to the hospital. I think it is the change in the weather which causes it and it is so damp here.

The Captain gave us a fairwell talk and gave us our licenses yesterday afternoon at Aberdeen and then at 2:00 we were free to come back as soon as our bus came for us. We got back to the barracks and started carrying our bags outside and the bus came. We left there at 2:15 and got here just an hour later. Everyone was glad to get back as it is almost like home here compared to Aberdeen. We got our clean sheets and they were really nice to sleep in last night. It was raining when we got back and finally quit about midnight.

I am going up town about 9 this morning as I broke the crystal on my watch day before yesterday and I want to get it fixed as I'm lost without it. I was checking the oil in the truck and the engine good fell down and hit my watch. I didn't think anything of it at the time but when I went to see what time it was the crystal was gone.

When I woke up this morning I thought I was either drunk or back in Aberdeen, and I knew I wasn't drunk as I didn't drink any last night, as I thought I heard one of our trainers from Aberdeen and when I looked around there he was. Some of the fellows met him down town last night and he spent the night here with us. He stayed for breakfast and left a little while ago. He is a swell guy and everyone likes him very much. We wanted to show him just how nice we have it here.

I wrote to Daddy's (ours) cousin Thursday and told them that I would spend next weekend with them if something didn't happen so that I couldn't go. I suppose I won't be able to go as F. company is restricted this weekend and most likely we will be next week end. I am still going to try to go if the First Sargent will let me. I don't think they will have to keep the whole company here but the Colonel says that a certain number of men will be held in camp every weekend.

A lot of the people around here think that we will have war with Russia pretty soon but I don't think so as Russia couldn't stand another war now. It wouldn't surprise me a bit if we were sent to Russia as spies to get information about whether they are planning war or not. If we do go over there I doubt very much if I will get out when my year is up but I'm hoping that I never go there. I have 9 months, two weeks, and four days left to sweat out and it is hard telling what they will do with us.

Honey, I received your letter yesterday afternoon and was really glad to get it. I think the reason you didn't get any mail from me for two days was that I just couldn't get in the mood one day and then wrote and mailed it too late to go out that night. It seems as though sometimes I can't think of anything to write about of any interest. So Bud and Vera finally got married? I can remember when I tried to get a date with Vera to take her to Bonesteel. She said that she couldn't go but later was up there with Bud. That really burned me up and I never danced with her for a long time as I didn't know she was going with Bud. That must have been about four years ago when she was working in Blair's store.

How are the dances up there now? I suppose they have some big crowds if all of these Service men are back and going to all of the dances. I haven't been to a dance now for three weeks. I just love to dance and am longing to go to a good one but just can't get in the mood when I'm with a strange crowd. I would give almost anything to be home and go to a dance with you. I realize that it has been about two and a half months since I was home dancing with my Sweetheart but it seems like a year. I love you so much that it is rough being away from you. I really miss you and you sweat kisses. If I get that furlough I'm going to kiss you till your lips are sore. Is that alright with you? Honey, I see you in my dreams every night but would rather see you in real life but I know that is impossible now. Some day I'll be out of this Army and we won't be so far apart and we will be able to see more of each other.

Well, honey, I'll close for this morning and go over to the barber shop.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling, more than words can tell.

X X X X
X X X X
X X X X

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 10, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

It's a beautiful night here and I just returned to Camp after seeing two swell shows so thought I would sit here and chat with you before retiring as I am in a very good mood. It has been a swell day and makes me long to be home and with my Sweetheart again. We would probably be out joy - riding in my Ford convertable coupe, what am I dreaming about anyway? Most likely it would be in my old mans Chevy. I'm sorry I mean our Daddy's.

Tony and I hitchhiked up town and saw A Walk In The Sun which was a swell picture but rather sad as it was about landing on the Anzio Beach and had a lot of fighting in it. We then went to another theatre and saw The Bells Of St. Mary's. That was a perfect picture and I enjoyed it very much.

I'm not a bit tired tonight as I went to bed at 10 last night and got up at seven; ate breakfast and went back to bed. I spend most of the morning in bed sleeping so I won't need much sleep tonight. I hate to think of morning as we have to start getting up at 5:45 for Revellie now. Since that new Troop Commander came here things have really have been changing. I don't think it will last very long but one never knows.

I found out today that we won't be restricted next weekend so I will be able to go to Silver Springs next weekend after all but are to be restricted the week after. I want to go to New York the last weekend of this month if we are still here and I think we will. I would like to stay here as long as I can so that I have less time to spend overseas but if we get that furlough after we finish school I want to get home pretty soon. Darling, it seems like an awful long time since I last saw you and am really hoping for that furlough so that I will be with you again.

Honey, I'm running out of something to say so will close for this evening. I bought a Wedding Card to send to Bud and Vera and will send them a letter also as Bud asked me to write when I was home.

Goodnight Sweetheart
I'll be dreaming of you.
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 11, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I just finished my supper and will write you a few lines now. I plan on going to the Bingo game tonight as I missed it last Monday.

It has been rather windy and cold today but the weather forecast is for warmer weather tomorrow. I hope it warms up a lot as I'm tired of the cold weather. The grass is really nice and green here, just like in the summer. I am going to take some pictures of our barracks one of these days as I think the grass would make a very good background.

We had two hours of organized athletics this morning and it almost killed me as I wasn't used to using my muscles so much. We had a half hour of physical exercise first and then we played basketball the rest of the time. I wish that I were in as good physical shape now as I was when I finished basic training. I always did like physical training and it didn't bother me very much when I was used to it.

We had four hours of Case Report Review this afternoon which was reading over the reports and summarize them and write our summaries on a form. I wrote five of them and then got tired of that so wrote a letter to Slug and one to Leonard Fiala. That seems to be the only way that I can get my extra letters wrote and as long as I can get by with it I'm alright. What the instructor doesn't know doesn't hurt. How would you feel if one of your pupils wrote letters during class and said that what you don't know don't hurt?

I know that is a very poor attitude to have toward an instructor but I never asked for this. As a Sargent says "We were shanghied into this," but I'm not sorry of it as I'd a lot rather be here than overseas someplace.

I got two letters from the folks today and I think you have had a little nasty weather again. It usually does that when I go home but I can't be blamed of this one. Someone must have sang Let It Snow and really meant it. I haven't gotten any letter from you since Saturday morning but am really looking forward to getting some tomorrow. I got the Spencer Headache this morning and just glanced through it. There isn't much of interest in it but yet it is good to look through.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write so will draw this to a line for tonight.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 13, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I received your swell letter of March 7 this noon and was really glad to hear from you as it was the first one I received since last Saturday noon. I was wondering if you had found some other fellow and had forgotten me and maybe my next letter would be a Dear John letter but doubted it very much and now I know different.

I was going to write to you last night but after class we had to go to the theatre and listen to a Red Cross lecture and a show so made us late for supper. After supper I went over to the Hospital to see Tony for a while. He went on sick call on account of his cold Monday morning and they put him in the hospital. He said that he figured on getting out today but didn't so I am going over to the P.X. and get him some cigarettes and take them over to him tonight.

It has really been a swell day here and we didn't even wear any coats this afternoon. It is so warm in here now that I'm not wearing any shirt and am sweating. It is clear as a crystal and the moon is starting to shine very nice. I suppose it will be a lot different tomorrow. It seems as though it can't stay nice over one or two at a time.

Honey, if I were home now I would be able to find out who has been writing this hash to Lennie as I have studied a lot of investigation work and am sure that I could settle this case in a very short time. I wrote to you that I was going to write to Lois but as usual I haven't gotten around to it. If she ever asks you for my address why don't you give it to her and we will see why she wants it. I will send her letters back to you so that you can see what she has to stay.

I really am spoiled (even if I do say so myself) and I think my folks did have something to do about it as they usually let me do the things I wanted to unless they thought it would do me more harm than good. It will probably take a quite a while to unspoil me again but I think if you try hard enough it can be done and I'm sure that I will try to cooperate with you. It would be a pleasure to please you.

Believe it or not, I have finally gotten rid of my cold as I have been using Vicks, cough drops, and nose drops, but if you would have been here I would have given it to you if you wanted it bad enough.

So you two have been planning out your houses. I'll bet that was fun as I used to look through magazines and plan how I was going to have my place fixed. It was a lot of fun planning and dreaming of this while it lasted but I soon forgot about that as I never did now just what I was going to do. I always wanted to put a yard fence or hedge around the house and put lattice around the bottom of the porches but never got that done. Maybe when I get to be a civilian I will settle down and get something done.

I'm getting in the mood to leave this place as I have been used to staying in one camp for a few weeks and then go to another. I have been here for almost seven weeks now and it doesn't seem that long but it really seems like ages since I last saw you and held you in my arms, kissing you Goodbye.

Darling, I will bring this to a close for tonight so that I can get over to the P.X. and back to the hospital before 8:00.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey, with all of my heart.

Butte, Nebraska
March 14, 1946

Hi! Good Lookin!

I know, you think already that something is wrong. Well, there is and as yet I haven't found out if it is my heart or my head, but I do know that my nerves went haywire and I'm not myself. I'll get o.k. occassionally. Forgive me, please.

You are going to have to read between lines of the next few letters. Things are O.K. on your part but just aren't that way for me. But everything is alright so don't worry. Things will be straightened out in a couple of weeks or so and then I'll be back where I started or rather left off. I'm going batty and that is for sure. Home life hasn't been so pleasant, I broke my glasses and a little bit of everything has been happening. Remember everything is O.K. and will be back to normal shortly. Maybe when you get home I can explain everything and I hope that it is soon.

I received two letters from you today. The first since Monday. It's been a long long time. It doesn't sound like you are enjoying the privileges that you once knew with this new guy in charge.

About the letter writing during class - well, I don't think that it would make any difference to me. Perhaps it would have, had it been about a month ago. They could almost get by with murder if they tried it and I was the one chosen.

Max was up last night but Raymond and she may be up together tonight. I sure hope so. I just have to see him. She was driving his car, too. Looks bad but I wish that it looked worse. Now don't get me wrong, I merely meant that I wish something would happen so they would get - together on it - oh! I'm telling you, I can't even think straight.

This morning I told Edna that my head was ready to break open and she said "Oh, don't let it do that or you'll get the biggest disappointment of your life." Well, I believe it but I hadn't thought of it in those terms before.

I have made a lot of changes in my life but I have never before attempted one like this. Ha! The folks think I am too humorous and should be more serious. Maybe I'll get the knack of it eventually but I rather doubt it. With that constantly on my mind beside a few others equally or more important I just can't be myself so if you can overlook things for a little while everything will be alright again soon. This perhaps doesn't sound too good but I know of no better way or you will get me wrong. As soon as the chain gives I'll take ahold and go on from there. Since Monday (Sunday evening supper) I haven't eaten enough to keep a worm wiggling and still don't feel like eating but I feel myself getting a little weak.

Well, I'll have to close and have class. Remember, don't worry or doubt me, everything will be alright soon and I'll be myself again "brim full of fun" as someone once said.

As always before
I have signed them
with my love, I still do,
Elaine

Here is a little news: Genevieve Jiracek married Gerald Carmachiel anyway it is Judd, Effinger's brother. Don Truman got married to a girl down the line.

Mary Anne Fuhrer and Ralph Wright will be married soon if they didn't get married yesterday. He said he was going to already yesterday but we don't know if they did.

I haven't gone any where for 3 days like two weeks, that was to a show, then three weeks Sat. night I went to a dance and I am quite sure that I can't go to the dance Monday night even though it is the St. Patricks dance and Lent lasts until the 21st of April and the folks won't let me go so you definitely don't have to worry about me going out. So please don't.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 14, 1946

My Dearest Darling Elaine:

Honey, this will be short but I just couldn't feel right if I didn't write to you tonight as I received a swell letter from my Sweetheart this noon and it really made me very happy. Your letters mean a lot to me as they have something which makes me forget my troubles but really want to go home.

We had to clean the barracks tonight as they are having a big inspection in the morning. They are really getting strict around here now as they have a lot of men here. We have it almost like in basic as we have Revellie every morning and have formations now. In the morning they are going to start having an officer march us to our classes. I think that is so the officers get here on time.

I sure hope that you are right about us being together again before long and I'm hoping for that furlough. We heard that the group who finished training week before last went home last Monday on a seven day furlough plus traveling time and that most of the groups are going to get it. I sure wish I knew just when we were to get it if we are to get it.

Don't worry about them working me too hard as when I feel as though they are I just ease up and never overwork as I don't think it is fair and useless. I'll admit that I do get pretty tired at times but it is usually do to doing something I'm not used to. The next time we have physical training I am going on sick call to get out of it as that is too hard on me. The only thing wrong with me is that my toes are starting to crack between them and I'll tell them I think I am getting athlete's foot. They will probably give me some dope to paint on them and do nothing more. I have finally made another appointment to get my teeth cleaned a week from today. I had an appointment for last week but was at Aberdeen so couldn't keep it.

I found out that this fellow from Lynch lives just a few blocks from Camp and that his wife works as a nurse over here in the Dental Clinic. When she heard my name she asked me if I had an uncle who married Dr. Kriz's daughter. She thought I was a Classen.

I think I will write a few lines to Lois yet tonight if I feel ambitious after I get this one mailed. I assure you that it won't be too bad and I'm not going to ask here any questions and let her write anything she wants to and I won't be blamed with asking about anything. I suppose she may try to come between us but it won't do her any good.

Tell Edna that I remember very well that night in Spencer when we were together but Jerry and Anne were

with us. That was another night when I was feeling pretty good and was able to drink but now those days are just memories. I know that you are the only one in my life of importance and you will remain there.

Honey, I'll close for tonight so that this will go out on the next pickup.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 15, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey this is a day for celebration as I have been in for ten months now so will start off with a letter to my Sweetheart and end up drunk tonight. No, I was just fooling as I'm not going to drink any. I'm going to wait and get drunk when I get out for good.

I wrote to Lois last night and mailed the letter this afternoon. It wasn't a sassy letter. I just told her what I am doing here and that I had just finished writing to you. Don't let her feed you any line about what I wrote and if she tells you about it, please let me know what she has to say. If she answers it I will send it on to you so that you can see what she is up to if anything at all.

It has really been swell here this week and is almost like Spring. It really makes me want to be home again. A person really never appreciates home until he has been away a long time and can't go back when he wants to. It rained last night and was a little bit cool this morning so we wore jackets but didn't need them by noon. We could have gone without shirts this afternoon if we were allowed as it was really hot.

The group leader left early this evening as he was going home so I had to do his job tonight. He had to catch a 5 o'clock train so left at 4. He lives in North Carolina and may not get back in time for Revellie Monday morning but we have that all fixed up but they have to be here by 7:30 or they will be marked absent. He has been home twice before and was two and a half hours late on account of a snow storm. I hope he gets back as I don't want to do his job. I want to do the least that I can.

Honey, I'll close for tonight as I'm supposed to meet Frank and his wife uptown as we plan on going to Washington together in the morning and we will decide where and when to meet. We plan on leaving around 9 but haven't decided for sure.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 18, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I received your letter this noon and was very happy to get it but it rather made me blue to read that things aren't going just right for you. It seems as though when you feel blue I feel that way also. My feelings are always like yours.

I left here Saturday morning and went to Washington and got back about 11 last night. We got there about 10 and then went through the Capital and it took us till noon. We ate dinner and then went through Smythsonian Institute and up in Washington Monument. I called my relation and told them that I would be out there by 5 so took a streetcar.

They live in a very nice apartment and they were really swell to me. They took me around town Saturday night and then to the zoo yesterday morning and then to the Aquarium, Lincoln's and Jefferson's Monuments, and to a building where they have all of the tropical trees, plants, and flowers. We took a lot of pictures with Frank's camera and they are going to have several prints made and give me one of each so that I will have some souvenirs of Washington.

There are so many places to see that a person can't see them all in one weekend. A person could spend every day of a whole month in this Smythsonian Institute and then probably not see everything. It is so far between places that it is too far to walk. I wanted to go out to Arlington Cemetary, Mt. Vernon, and the Airport but never got there. If I get a chance I am going down there again but want to go to New York first and see part of that.

I received a letter from Jim this noon. He is in Marburg, Germany and said that things are torn up pretty badly. He said that he liked it pretty good and as long as he had to be in the Army he would just as soon be over there.

I just came back from the Bingo game so will continue now. I finally won a carton of cigarettes and lacked three numbers from getting the free phone call. I wouldn't have gone but Andy wanted to go and said that it was a good way to pass time so I went and now I'm not sorry.

I went up town right after supper and got my wristwatch. I was lost without it as I am always looking to see what time it is. They put in a new crystal and balance wheel shaft and cleaned it for \$6.75 which was reasonable enough. I thought it would cost at least \$10.00

It has been a very nasty weekend as it has rained every night since Thursday and has been misty and foggy every day except Saturday. I wish that it would clear up and be nice again. The damp weather is what I hate the most about the East and in the summer it is very hot and sultry here.

I received a letter from Edna this evening and was rather surprised but very glad to get it. I probably won't get a chance to answer it until later in the week. She asked for my picture but I don't have any with me so will wait until I get home or else send for a couple as those folks in Silver Springs want one also.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write now so will close for tonight.

Goodnight, Sweet dreams Sweetheart
Your Honey Chile
Clayton

I love you Darling with all my heart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 19, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I just got back from the show and thought I would write to you before I go to bed. I probably won't be able to sleep after I do go to bed as I'm in a very low mood, in fact I'm just plain mad.

To start the day off the C.Q. came in and woke us up at 5:40 this morning and said that we had to get up for Revellie and at 6:00 he came back in and said that we wouldn't have it. That really made us mad as everyone was out of bed and dressed. This noon our First Sargent told us that we were to go to the theatre at 5:00 as the Colonel wanted to give us a little talk. We are supposed to be off at 5:00 and then after we got over there he gave us a talk and showed a film on Military Courtesy. We have all seen that film about a half dozen times already.

We got out of the theatre and back here for supper a little after six and we didn't have enough to feed a mouse. It seems as though this new Troop Commandor has come he thinks they don't need any more food for 1500 men than they did for 800. The food is still pretty good but not enough of it.

I got a letter from the folks this noon and they sent a letter which Slug sent to me at Ft. Leavenworth. It was postmarked Jan 8 and stayed at Ft. Leavenworth until March 12 and was sent back home. It's no wonder my mail doesn't get to it's destination if that happens in most camps. Daddy sent a clipping out of the Mar. 14 World Herald about what we do here in Baltimore. It is called, "G.I.'s In Baltimore Play at 'Spying' in Preparation for Overseas Jobs." It told about what we were doing yesterday afternoon. I would send it to you but the folks want it back for remembrance of what I'm doing here.

Honey, I know this letter won't sound very much like me but this is just an example of I'm not the happy-go-lucky guy you once knew. I think I've said about enough of my troubles for today so will close for now.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
March 21, 1946

My Dearest Sweetheart,

Honey! I guess that did it. I am myself again even though my new home is "c/o Fido." Ha! Anyway Darling! I have at last reopened my eyes and I feel much better. If you were only home!! I would be sooooo happy.

I suppose by this time, my dear, that you are really ready to shoot me, well, go ahead, I know it should be done but I haven't the nerve to do it. I guess the only thing that brought me back to my senses was the little thing called "no mail" for me from you. Well, from now on, it will be different, I hope, I hope. I haven't heard from you since Monday - something quite unusual for me and Darling, I simply can't stand it much longer. I know, I deserved it but I am also suffering from it and plenty, too.

Last night I went to the show in Spencer. The "Thrill of a Romance" with that one and only Van Johnson. Johnson is simply wonderful! If only he was where I could get at him. Ha! Ha! I had a good talk with our brother last night, too. Oh! Honey I sure do love him. I tried to coax him into coming home for supper tonight but he wouldn't say, yes. That really made me unhappy. He comes home almost every Tuesday and Thursday or Friday and he didn't come Tuesday night so I guess I thought it was about time to see him. You know me. Or - do - you? I guess I shouldn't have gone last night as this is Lent but we always go to a dance on St. Patrick's and I didn't get to go so Mother said that I could go with Edna last night. I really wasn't in the mood but she got mad when I said I wouldn't go so I went - to be nice. Darling, I don't remember telling you about Edna. She has gone with Alvin Havranek since February 12. She really thinks a lot of him, too and that means a lot since someone broke her and Lennie apart. I suppose that it won't be so very long before we will be two instead of one but I trust that that will never happen. I love you, Darling, and I am still waiting. Yes, for you. You know how I love you and I am realizing it more every day. Honey, please don't let four more days roll by without writing. I won't from now on.

Honey, I'm just about at the verge of something and something still has to make or break because I am terribly nervous. If by chance you get a furlough, Darling, please let me know before hand, will you? It isn't a matter of little account or one as Raymond would say "Give her plenty of time to get the 'others' gone." No, Honey, it isn't that but since Darold left, I just can't take it. That part I have kept to myself always and Mother is also getting much worse. At night I get up from eight to ten times just to turn her over. You know that isn't easy on anyone - especially keeping it up every single night. Oh! Well! Forget it! I'm sorry I even wrote it but things couldn't go on as they were - I knew you had to know the reason before something happened between us, yet, to finish me off.

Well, Darling, I'll be waiting for an answer to this so please do. Do you still love me and trust me like you did?

All my love 2 u Sweet heart,
Your Darling,
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart.

Butte, Nebraska
March 22, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey, I received two swell letters from my Sweetheart this morning and I am sure happy that I did, too. It was a long, long time since the last one came - Monday. Gee! I could be so happy if I could only be that way.

The first letter I read, made me feel pretty bad but when I read the second one I was pretty mad. Honey! I know. I shouldn't be this way and I know I am going to have to get over it but things look pretty dark. I'll never mention this to Edna, and I don't want her to find it out but I'm right now afraid of -- well, I don't know. I wrote to Lennie when he and Edna broke up and told him how the situation really was. Honey, I used you as the example, too; well, anyway, he believed me and found his own mistakes and wrote back to Edna and asked for another try. He told her that Elaine made him open his eyes and see things. He never answered my letter as I didn't want him too so as far as my writing to Lennie it stopped as soon as it started. Anyway, they are back together again but Edna loves Alvin more and yet she goes with two other kids in between. I guess that isn't enough either, she writes and asks you for a picture yet. Honey, forgive me but I just don't believe I quite understand her. It seems like - oh, well, what's the use.

Don't lose too much time, I mean weight. When you get home on furlough - we'll make Raymond starve again. Ha! Ha! Remember how he and Floyd used to talk? Ha! Anyway we could feed you something if it was nothing more than boiled potato chips fried in scorched water. We even have milk that we feed to all of the calves. Ahem! Ahem!

Oh! Darling! I want you to come home in the worst way and as soon as possible but I'm praying now that you don't come home before April 20th. Why? Well, if you came home now, you won't see me anyway and then too it is Lent so - well, I'd have to stay home. The reason for you not seeing me is merely because I have a terrible complexion. Honey, it is awful. I always managed to keep it as nice as possible but this is just once and it isn't possible. I have gone to Dr. Hawkins and gotten medicine for it but it doesn't seem to help. Tomorrow I'll go see Dr. Kriz. Whatever it is isn't catching. It is just in my system, a poison of some kind. I hate it so because I know it will scar my face. That is what hurts. Is it any wonder that I am nervous? Oh! I don't know what to do. I feel so down in the dumps. I sure will be happy if I can wake up and find things changed. It couldn't be too soon to suit me. I want everything changed with the exception of one - I want you to be home and things to be like they were when you left. 'Twould be O.K. wouldn't it Honey? Or wouldn't it? Gradually things will get back to normal, I hope, I hope.

I don't remember if I told you that I received my new glasses, Wednesday. I sure am glad that they came, too. I sure feel better in that sense of the word. I was pretty used to being without them so it definitely is hard to get used to wearing them again. These don't bother me like the others did, though, and they aren't as pretty (made).

"Our" brother Raymond and Max were up last night. I didn't get to see much of them, though as I was milking when they came and then I had to go to Lawrence Engelhaupt's on business so I saw him for about fifteen minutes. Love that man!! That I do!!

Tonight I want to go down to see "my other mother" - Maybe I should explain myself but I know that you have heard me say that before - I mean Mrs. Roush. I want my check so I guess I'll have to go down and get it. At least I hope I get it.

Well, Sweetheart, I'm feeling pretty ill so I guess I'll quit for this time. Have a good time with yourself for me, sometime will you dear?

Good - Day for this time and the best of luck to you.

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Butte, Nebraska
March 23, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I sat down this afternoon to write a letter to you and here it is only 10:00 P.M., now.

Mother is in bed, Daddy is in Butte, Edna went home and I am here writing to you, Darling.

I am so lonesome that if I had you here now, Honey, I don't know what I would do - I would be so happy. I really mean that.

Oh! Honey! I am so thrilled about that possible furlough, that I seem to get pretty excited at times. It seems too good to be true. You have been gone almost three months already but it seems so much longer than that. Grandma was here today. She came this morning real early and stayed until about 5:00 P.M. this evening. Anyway after I came in with the mail, I laid all of the papers in one place and took my letters and left. When I returned, I took my letters and put them on my dresser when she says, "You had better not put them there or I'll read them." Just for meanness I said, "here" and I'll be darned if she didn't read it. When she finished she said, "Well, what a nice letter. Are they all like this?" I answered her with 'sure' and she said, "Well if they are, you have something to be proud of, Sweetheart." Then she went on saying how she thought you wanted to get home but that it sounded as though it were mostly just to see me - could that be true? She certainly is a wonderful Grandmother - so understanding. I go to her with my troubles. She always helps me where Mother laughs at me. She wants me to be sure and bring you down when you get home. She didn't get to see you when you were home in December. So you know one thing that is going to happen to you when you get home. Do you think it is a date or don't you? Perhaps you won't be wanting to be with me. Am I not right Honey?

That furlough just can't come too soon. Goody! Goody!

Daddy is coming home now so I'll have to quit and go to bed so I'm in bed when he gets home or else.

Sending you all of my best wishes, and

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you Darling.

SHIP OF JOY MOTTO

There is a destiny that makes us Brothers,
None goes his way alone;
All that we send into the lives of others,
Comes back into our own.

Butte, Nebraska
March 25, 1946

Dearest Sweetheart,

Well, Darling, my eyes are really getting opened up. I received a swell letter from my Sweetheart this morning. It was wonderful. If only you could be here to say those sweet things instead of writing them. Wouldn't it be quite alright?

I am sorry that I didn't get to write yesterday, Darlin', but last night and also yesterday afternoon we had company. My uncle and cousin from the Ranch came over about two in the afternoon so I asked them to stay for supper, as it has been so long since they were at our place. They really seemed to enjoy themselves. They didn't leave until after 7:00 P.M. then last night, then I had to do dishes yet - no sooner had they gone when another car drove in - Fern and her husband (Edna's sis). brought Edna home so stayed to visit also. Before long here came Alvin Havranek. So we had quite a bit of company but we always do so we don't get lonesome. I sure enjoy company but yesterday was pretty hard on me - and I'm ashamed to admit it. I have been feeling so bad for so long and everything seems to happen, too. I sure wish Evelyn & Floyd would box me up and send me back. I'm only partly here. When they took Darold that took me too and I just can't think right. When you get home I perhaps won't be myself either.

I am so worried about my complexion that, that doesn't help me any. If it isn't alright when you get home I don't want you to see me, no matter how I suffer wanting to see you. If once you saw me like this, well, that would be the last for us. I know it would. I just know it. Raymond said that he would take me to Lynch tonight to see Kriz but I see now that I has started raining. If it would only stop!! Long enough so I could go. I have to do something about it. And quick!! You may love me now but I have my doubts if you would continue to do so.

We have our grain in. Billy Jordan and Daddy put it in last Saturday. Billy double disced half of it and the other half doesn't have any discing at all. That is really too bad and the wind is really blowing. It is something terrible. When I open the windows, the wind makes it too cold - if I leave them closed, it is too warm. If you were here, I wouldn't care what happened just so we could be together. Would that be O.K. with you, Honey? When it is muddy it is really worse than the snow - you can always 'have someone scoop you out.' Ahem! Ha! Ha!
(Remember what Raymond did!!)

Oh! Honey! Raymond made me drive to church and all over Butte yesterday morning. That really started

me off for the day. I was really nervous but if I keep at it for a while now, everything will be O.K. I am sure. I have made up my mind to try, at least so if my nerves hold out I will soon have my driver's license. Wouldn't I love to give a nice good looking patrol a little ride! Oh! Boy! That would really be fun!!

There really isn't much news to tell you so I'll sign off for this morning, Honey. I hope I get to mail this yet today.

Take good care of yourself, Sweetheart and don't miss over 5 hours of study if that would put your furlough farther off.

Best Wishes & God Bless You,

All my love,
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Honey, I would love to scold you for getting drunk the other night but I don't feel that I should, maybe if I would have kept writing like I should have, you would have been in a better mood. I don't like it, never the less and another time will fix me but I may be part of the cause for this so forget it Darlin? I still love you.

Butte, Nebraska
March 25, 1946

Dear Clayton,

I was sure surprised to hear from you. For you were the last one I though would write. But was glad to get the letter.

After you leave the camp will you have to go over seas or just to another camp?

Do you know where Jim K is? I thought you kids were at the same camp yet. But you didn't say anything in your letter about it.

It is raining out side to day and do I ever hate it.

Their isn't much going on around here now because it is lint and they don't have dances. and can't go to shows so stay home most of the time.

I haven't seen Elaine for about a month. When she comes in town I am not home. But talked to her over the phone and she said she got a letter form you.

Their isn't many boys comeing home now. So I don't get to see any body. My brother came home about 3 weeks ago and is staying out to Counts now.

The butte dam went out Sat. night. But you know the dam wasn't very big so it didn't hurt very much.

I can't think of any thing to write about so will close and hope to hear from you soon.

Lois

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 25, 1946

My Dearest Elaine

I received your most welcome letter this morning and was really happy to hear from you as it was exactly a week since I heard from you. This will be short as I have been playing pinocle and it is almost 10:30 but we are going to leave the lights on for awhile yet. It seems as though every time I sit down and play that, I get so interested that I don't know when to quit.

Six of us started playing yesterday morning at 10:30 and quit last night at 10:00 and just took out time enough to eat dinner and supper.

By the sound of your letter I would venture to say that you have really had a rough life the last week or so and I hope you are feeling better by now. I'm glad you wrote what the trouble was but I'm sure that that wouldn't come between us. I hope nothing does and I'm going to try and prevent it all I can.

Honey, I love you more than I used to and I trust you very much. I only hope I can go home for long time but I guess a furlough will have to do and I'll let you know as soon as possible when I'm coming.

I'll close for tonight and send all of my love to you.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you very much Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 26, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received a swell letter from you this noon and must say that it sounded a lot more like you than the one I received yesterday. I was really happy to receive it and glad to hear that you feel somewhat better. I only wish that I felt as good as I did when I was home.

I guess I am just plainly homesick or something as I have been down in the dumps for about two weeks. Things have been going good enough but I want to be on the move again. It seems as though I can stand to be in one camp about so long and then want to move. I hope I get over that feeling before I get out as I will want to settle down then. What I want to do more than anything else is to go home and stay there for a while.

It looked like it would be a very nice day this morning but it got cloudy about 10:30 and has been trying to sprinkle a little all afternoon. I suppose it will rain before morning as it can't stay nice very long at one time. It is warm and we have been going without coats today.

The weekend that Frank and his wife and I went to Washington we took a lot of pictures and we got one set of them back Saturday night. I took the negatives back again last night and am having two prints of each made so that I can have some remembrances of Washington. We took some more on a part of a roll and Frank's wife took them home with her. I'm going to try and get a few prints of those when we go home. I don't have my camera registered so don't have a pass to get it out of camp and take pictures.

We plan on going to the show in about ten minutes so will have to continue when I get back. Abbott and Costello are playing in "The Little Giant" and should be pretty good. I enjoy a comedy or Western once in a while but like a romantic or musical better.

I sure wish that I knew when we were going home on that furlough and how long a furlough we would get but no one seems to know for sure. I think we will be going in two or three weeks but wouldn't bet on it. If we were to study all of the things they have scheduled for us, we would be here for two months yet. They have a lot of Investigative Photography for us yet and I would like to learn more about that. I would like to have a Speedgraphic Camera like we are studying as they are good for action shots and a lot of newspapers use them. They cost around \$275.00 complete in camera shops.

We were supposed to take some more shots and vaccinations this afternoon but they couldn't find my shot

record. I was lucky enough to have a duplicate copy with me and didn't have to take any as I have had them before. I would have had to take three shots if I wouldn't have had a copy of the record. We had two shots last Friday morning and my arms are still a little sore from that.

I just got from the show and saw the Young Widow. It was a pretty good show but was very sad in places. I was mixed up on the dates of the shows as I thought the Little Giant was playing. It is raining now and we got wet coming back and that is what hurts me worse as I have something wrong with my knee. It bothers me when it is raining or damp. I don't know what is wrong and I don't care about going to the Dr. as he may put me in the hospital and I don't want to go there and get transferred as I sure would hate to go through eight or nine more weeks here as it isn't as nice now as it was.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write now so I'll close for tonight.

Goodnight Sweet Dreams Honey,
All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey with all my heart.

Butte, Nebraska
March 27, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Yes, Darling, it is me again. I'm sorry that I didn't write last night.

No fooling though, Honey, I have a good reason. I was out with a handsome lad - and I am finding out that I love him more and more, but Sweetheart, there is someone else whom I love very dearly, too, and you know who that is. They guy I was with is "our" brother and as for the other guy - well, you can very easily guess who he is. Our brother took me to Lynch last night to see Dr. Kriz. I found out what I have on my face, too. It isn't something I ate, either. It is nothing more nor nothing less than poison oak. Now don't tell me that I don't work. Ha! He (Dr. Kriz) says that I have carried wood and thus came in contact with it. My face sure feels different already. That other, which I got from Dr. Hawkins was, more or less spreading it instead of killing it. This really seems to be doing the trick, already so soon so Sweetheart, come home, Come home, Come home. I'll be waiting for you. Even though I have a cold, I'll be over it real soon. I just know I will. Darling, I am so much in love with you that I'll live up here on the clouds, forever I do believe, no matter what comes or goes.

Honey! I wonder what this family of mine will be like when you really do get home. I only broke the news to Mother of your possible furlough a few days ago -- Sunday to be exact and last night as we two were coming home I said to Raymond, "Well, it looks like Daddy and Mother are still up. I just wonder if they are waiting for Clayton to come home like I am." He turned and looked at me as though someone shot him and said, "What? Is Clayton coming home? When?" I told him that you might get a furlough sometime before May at least. He said, "Good! I didn't know that, why didn't you tell me before - if you knew it?" I don't tell them everything and they appreciate more what I do tell them. They are always talking about you and saying such nice things, too. It really makes me feel good.

Well, honey, I didn't receive a letter from you today either. What is the matter with you, now honey? I hope it isn't for very long that you keep me in "suspenders" like this. I am afraid that some other girl is attracting your attention. Am I right Sweetheart? I can't make myself believe it if that is the reason. I just can't.

Has Lois ever written to you? She had to call me up Saturday and tell me all about it. She started in - Did

u know this or that or that? I said, yes, yes, yes. She said, "Well, he must have written the same things in both letters, I popped back and said, "how was the salutation and also the complimentary close worded." She said, "Dear Lois, and I forget what she gave me as the closing, anyway I told her - "Oh! No! They weren't alike. Do you catch?

Honey, I or rather, we have a new cousin. Bill Lampman's have a big boy "William Edward." What a handle!! Woo! Woo! Am I not mean?

Well, Darling, must sign off. Write again tomorrow.

All my love,
Elaine

I love you Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 27, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I just finished an argument and finally have settled down to write a few letters now. We really had a hot one tonight as a fellow from Detroit is always arguing and I finally got him shut up for once. He is always trying to tell me that I won't get discharged when my year is up and I told him to put his money where his mouth was and I would bet him all the money he wanted to and he wouldn't. He said that he wasn't a betting man and he didn't have any facts to back up his statements. I told him to put up or shut up and if he wouldn't shut up I would shut him up as I was about ready to loose my temper. He has gone to law school one year and thinks he knows everything about the law.

It is really a swell day and evening here and is just like Spring. It rained last night and the sun was shining nice this morning. The trees are starting to leaf out and the grass is tall enough that they have started to cut it already.

We really got told off this afternoon by a Lieutenant as we had a lecture by a Secret Service Agent from Washington and it was so warm in the Auditorium that a Major started to close the doors and a lot of fellows boo-ed him. This Lieutenant said that if he were the Major we would have classes this Saturday and Sunday. The Lieutenant was our instructor in Investigations and everyone hated him. Today was the last class that we had in that so we won't have to worry about having to listen to him.

I met a fellow this morning who was a Cadre in my Company in Camp Fannin. He enlisted for three years and has been here just a few weeks. We didn't have much time to talk just then but plan on seeing him again as he is just a little way from here. I couldn't remember his name at first but knew that I had seen him someplace before.

There is another rumor going around now about next week being our last week of school. It seems as

though someone heard that four groups were finishing next week and this is one of the four oldest groups. I sure wish that I knew just for sure so that I could make a few plans. Frank and I are still planning on taking a plane from Washington if possible.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write so will close for tonight. There just anything to write about and I don't go up town very often any more so never do anything exciting to write about.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

Butte, Nebraska
March 28, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter of March 25th today, honey. It was the first one since Monday. Believe you, me, Sweetheart, that seemed like not only a long time, but an awful long time. Don't worry, it will never be a week between my letters to you anymore.

Honey, you mentioned playing pinocle but you never said who went away with the empty pocket so I am guessing that you were one. Ha! Ha! More fun! I am really mean.

I am getting to feel a little more like my old self every day but I'll never be like I once was. That is one of the impossibles. Pretty soon, I'll be very happy, I do believe, at least that is what someone told me - so - maybe I will be, one never knows these days.

Honey, I am so happy to just hear that you are getting a furlough, what will I, myself be like or act like when you do get home? Maybe you will be sorry that you are even coming home. Now won't you be? Down deep in your heart, you will be now won't you? You really don't want to see me, now do you? You are jest pretending that you do, now aren't you? Heah??? I can pretty well tell that you aren't just feeding me a line and I don't believe that you would do such a thing. Perhaps I won't get to see much of you if you get such a short furlough because I know how your folks will be about wanting you home. I certainly couldn't blame them either. But one thing, the folks will be more lenient about my going, I am sure. At least they put on as though they will be. Just wait until you get home! Goody! Goody!

Oh! Honey! I received a letter from a very nice soldier. Bravo! Does he ever sound nice. Interesting too! Ha! Ha! This Floyd Post gave him my address so he wrote to me. Of course I answered it just to be doing something. He said that he was just another soldier who liked pretty girls and lots of mail. Well, as for the mail part, I said that perhaps I could help that a little but for the other he would have to go elsewhere because I'm just not one of those. I sure got a big bang out of his letter, too but it was a very nice letter indeed. I just can't wait until I receive more!! Ha! Ha!

Honey, I saw by the paper yesterday that "our" cousin Leo Klasna is coming home. His folks will more than likely be happy but I'll bet that the sorrow will be just as great because of the other being across and this one knows all bout his grave and everything. Mother Roush was telling me all about it when I was there last Friday. She, herself is so soft hearted that she doesn't take anything like that, either. It almost broke me down, too when she told all about it.

Little Ronnie is much better. He is improving quite rapidly now but he had such a bad time of it there for such a long time that it set him back quite a ways. He can hardly sit up alone but as long as he is getting along just fine now he will perhaps pick up pretty soon. At least we hope so, he has had it bad enough, long enough. Talking about Ronnie, I have only seen Big Ronnie, once since he came back. That isn't fair. He has only come to see me once and he used to take me some place every single day and even at night sometimes. Um! Umm! We like each other pretty good. Woo! Ha! Ha!

Yesterday we received a letter from Sis and one from our baby Darold. We could really read that. Ha! Ha! You can imagine what it looked like but I could read what he wrote, he liked me pretty good.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll be closing for this time.

"Remember," I love you, and no one else.

I thought perhaps that you wouldn't have anything to do with such a wreck as I am when you get home. That is why I wrote it to you, before.

Honey, do you ever miss your class ring? I do, I forgot to wear it a couple of times and do I miss it! I never wear any of my jewelry milking and when I am in a hurry I forget everything including, watches, etc.

Well, Darling,

Good Day,
All my love, U'r Sweetheart
Elaine

I love you Sweetheart

Butte, Nebraska
March 29, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Hi! Honey! I received your swell letter of March 26th today. It arrived "pretty" fast. It sure is good to hear from you so often but remember dear that so often doesn't mean too often.

This was a pretty nice day - well it still is only I am quite certain that it is going to start to rain. If the saying "Make hay while the sun shines, make love while it rains" is true, I shore does wish that you were here this Spring - we could certainly make up for lost time and for the future time that you will be gone. Or wouldn't you have been agreeable to this? I don't suppose, it would have interested you in the least, would it? As you know me, I would have been well pleased because that is right in my line. Ha! Ha!

This is Friday already, it just doesn't seem possible for time to travel so rapidly. Although it seems like a whole month since I received my last check. Ha! Anyway only seven more weeks after this and I will really get a large check - \$256.40. That is the one I really look forward to because over \$200 of it is all clear. Seems pretty good to have that just handed over after working every month for just so much and I sure am planning on working this summer. I want to do that so I can have a steady job through the winter and then I sure won't have to teach. Wonderful thought! Happy thoughts! If only everything works out O.K., I'll be ever so happy, especially if you get your furlough too and after Lent. Wonderful!! I was sorta wishing that it would be after school is out but then at second thought, I don't know. I have to put my 8th grade girl through all kinds of tests and review for two more weeks - then she takes her examinations. The week following that, I have to give examinations here, the week following that, I will have a practice teacher, the following week she takes her examinations the second time and the next week I have open to plan for the picnic and then comes the last week of school with examinations to give - monthly, quarterly and yearly - the school picnic and make out just exactly 12 reports to Miss Barnes. Maybe everything will be O.K. Do you suppose? Now if you come home in the meantime I will be kept just pretty busy. No fooling! You can quite well imagine it too, can't you? The only thing I want to give you much more attention I can possibly give you with all of this going on. At Christmas time it was the play, "Oh! Such is life when you aren't a wife." Ha! Now don't get me wrong. But that is the modern way of saying it.--

Now, honey, don't tell me that you are homesick. Why? Now you really aren't lonesome for Daddy and Mother, are you? I truthfully can't blame you if you are. I was getting kinda lonesome for them myself but I didn't think it right to go see them. Now I'll wait until you get home. I kind' have a hunch that I will get to see them then. Do you suppose I will? I really enjoyed being around them. They are really swell. Now just why do you want to come home? Especially to stay for a while? Who is your greatest attraction now? You never ever wanted to come home before, or did you - once? or twice - or so?

So you went to see the Young Widow did you? Well, just who was she? It wouldn't be half bad if you went to see a single or rather an unmarried girl but a young widow, that is entirely different. I believe that irritates me. What would you say if I went to see the young widower? You know there are a couple around - quite attractive too. It is a wonder you didn't go to see her already last week and besides perhaps you have been seeing her quite regularly but if you have you haven't been telling me about it. 'Twouldn't be quite so bad if you told me about it but this is the first you mentioned her. Perhaps you had better take a note of this and not let it happen again. Now honey don't get angry. I know what you meant but this is just what you wrote the way you wrote it. I just got back from the show and saw the Young Widow. You didn't quote or underscore it so what am I to take it for. Ha! Don't get me wrong - I just wanted to tease you, Darling. I love you so much.

Our brother, Raymond came up last night. He just stopped in for a few minutes. Oh! Honey! He means so much to me. Something seems to have happened between Raymond and Max but we aren't sure. He has been up twice this week and hasn't brought her along and we ask him where she is and he has always said, "I don't know, I haven't seen her this week."

We can be so happy can't we Darling? We have never even had a disagreement. I am knocking on wood (the desk & my head at the same time) but we can consider ourselves just pretty lucky. It will be (on April 3) six months since we have been together. To me it seems like six years because it seems like months and months between the times I get to see you. I saw you in October, again in November, and also in December - and now then three months have gone by since I saw you last and Honey, it seems like a year and three months. The sooner I see you the happier I will be and then by next year you will be home. I hope. Wonderful Thoughts.

Well, Darling! Must close so will do so and dismiss school.

Take good care of that knee because you will need it in good condition when you fall for me. Ha! Ha!

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Sweetheart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 29, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received your swell letter this noon and will answer it now before I go to the show. I should have written last night but after we finished cleaning the barrack, the group leader & I went up town to the Penn. Station. He bought a ticket to go home and I asked about train connections to Sioux City as I have almost decided to go by train instead of taking a chance of getting a plane. It would take me about 28 hours to get to Sioux City and then I would hitchhike from there depending on what time I got there.

I really hit the jackpot on mail yesterday as I got a letter from my Honey, one from my cousin in Omaha, one from Lois; Our folks, and one from MY Aunt & Uncle in Montana. I was really surprised at the letter which I received from Lois as it was very much different that I expected. I'm sending it along so that you can read it.

It has been a very dreary day as it is cloudy and sprinkles once in a while. It is so sultry that a person really sweats indoors. We have two hours reserved for the Commanding Officer each Friday morning and he usually has a parade but this morning we had a personal inspection. It usually takes about fifteen minutes but we get ready and then wait for an hour. That is one thing which I really like about the Army, Hurry up and wait.

There is one fellow from this group leaving for Fort Ord tonight. He got special orders from the War Department and no one seems to know what the reason for transferring is. They notified him last night and was to leave Monday night but our Company Commander really got on the ball and got permission for him to leave tonight and stop over at home for a couple of days. He lives near Fairbury, Nebr. He really hates to leave and we all hat to see him leave as he is a very nice fellow.

We found out today that we have a very good chance of staying here for two more weeks as our Japanese instructor said that they are scheduled to have us for two more weeks but that could be lengthened or cut short if necessary but he thought we would have two, one more for sure.

Frank just brought me the pictures which I took over to have some reprints made of those we took in Washington. They turned out very good considering the kind of weather it was. I'll send them home and when I get home I'll bring them over and show them to you or I may have another set made and send them to you.

So your Grandmother thought that I wanted that furlough mostly to come back and see you. She is very correct as that is the reason. I don't know about that deal of going down to see her as you know how bashful I am. Ahem! We'll decide on that when I get home.

Honey, it is about show time so I'll close for tonight by saying that I love you trully.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
March 30, 1946

My Dearest Sweetheart:

It's a beautiful morning here so I thought would write as I didn't write last night. We had a game of pinochle again and after we quit playing a group of us started discussing train schedules from here to Sioux City and Omaha. I have almost changed my mind to go from Chicago to Omaha as I could get there quicker than to Sioux City and will be able to take a good connection from there.

Frank and I would go together and he would have his wife meet us there and go to West Point and I would make connections from there. We are going to the Penn ticket office and find out what trains we could take out of here and Chicago to make the best time. It will take about twenty eight hours to go to Omaha and then about eight more from there. I only wish that I knew just when we would get that furlough so that we can make arrangements.

Another fellow and I got a silly notion that we wanted to go bike riding yesterday afternoon so we walked down to the Gym and barrowed two and rode all over Camp. They let us use them for two hours but weren't allowed to go out of camp. If we could take them out, I would barrow one and go out to the airport this afternoon and take some pictures. I took a few pictures this morning and want to take a few more this afternoon as it is a beautiful day for that.

I don't know what has come over me lately, but I just don't care to go up town or anyplace. I haven't been out of camp yet this weekend except to take my civilian shoes over to a shoe shop. When we are restricted, like we were last weekend, we all complain but when we are free to go we stay in camp. Some of the fellows wanted me to go up to the dance at the U.S.O. last night but I didn't want to wear these old G.I. shoes and I didn't care about

going to a dance if I can't dance with my Sweetheart so I'm going to wait until I get home and really dance your feet off making up for time lost while I'm away from you.

I sure wish that I knew what was wrong with my knee as it has been bothering me very much in damp weather. I'm not going to see a Dr. unless it get worse as I'm afraid I would have to go to the Hospital and don't want to do that now. I'm going to wait until I get back form my furlough and then see the Doctor.

Honey, I'm sending a set the pictures we took in Washington. Frank had two prints made and sold me one of each as he has the negatives and can have more made later. I sent one set home to our folks already. I have written on the back what each picture is. I wish I had the others that we took but we didn't finish that roll and Franks' wife took those home with her.

I'm running out of things to write about so will close for this morning.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
April 1, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

This letter, honey, is going to have to be short because the mail carrier may go just any minute. But here is hoping I get this off before he does.

Honey, I must apologize for not writing Saturday night. I went to Spencer with Edna and Alvin. We didn't even go to a show. I went to try and get some more clothes but wasn't lucky enough, as usual. The kids had a hard time talking me into going but I finally gave in. I never was able to hold my own. Ha! Ha!

I saw our Mother down there, too. We had a very nice visit. Our Daddy was there too. They coaxed me to come down sometime so I guess I'll go. At least I told them I would. Should I?

Yesterday the whole family went to Holt County, more fun! More car trouble, etc. We didn't get home until about eight o'clock and we had all of the work, and chores, etc. to do. Edna went to the show so I was alone with my part of it - that is the housework, etc. (but I didn't carry in any wood). But Darling, we brought Darold back with us. He is going to stay until Wednesday. Isn't that simply wonderful!! He went to sleep last night on the way home, when he was sitting on my lap. He is so darling sweet and so cute. This morning he called me and said, "Mommie, up." He is always calling me that and it is rather embarrassing when anyone comes but I love him so much that I don't care. I sure wish that I could have him here at school for a little while. He could really entertain the children, couldn't he, honey? He talks too much already so it is a good thing, maybe that "Cayton" is here so he could tell on his "AnnieAne." Ha!

Well, Darling, I'll have to close. Gus is coming.

Good Luck & God Bless You,

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 1, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I received two very sweet letters from you this noon and was truly happy to get them. Honey the more letters I get from you the more I love you.

Honey, when I come home I will be with you a lot as I intend to spend the days at home with our folks and the nights with you. Is that okay with you? I think if I use my armstrong heater you will be able to get rid of your cold but you will most likely be over it by the time I do get home. I won't say for sure but things are beginning to look as though next week will be our last one and will start home in about two more weeks. At least I'm hoping so as I would like to be home for Easter.

We really had an easy day today as we had organized athletics and two hours of Japanese this morning and had an undercover investigation problem up town this afternoon. We really had fun and they gave each of us a dollar for expenses and I spent half of it so I got \$40.30 from the Government today.

We got paid this noon and as it is now I'm going to have to hold on to it in order to buy my ticket home. If I stay in Camp like I have been doing lately. I think I will buy a money order and then I'm sure I won't spend too much.

I'm sure glad that I quit drinking now as some of the fellows had the undercover problem in a beer tavern

and they really felt good by the time they got back. I had to go into a tavern with another fellow but drank coke. We were to find out who the manger was and when their license expired, what kind of customers there were, a sketch of the floor, how many doors, and pretend that that was a meeting place for Enemy Agents and try to hear some of the conversation. We were not supposed to let them know what we wanted. I'll tell you all about it when I get home and see you again as it is quite a long story.

I don't know what made you think that I wasn't feeding you a line and that I wouldn't do a thing like that. I met a very nice Wave the weekend I was in Washington and she lives here in Baltimore. I have been thinking that if I get just a few days furlough I would spend it in Washington. No Darling, I was just fooling you so please don't take it serious. You are the only one that means anything to me and I wouldn't think of going with anyone else so let's just forget about this paragraph.

I'm glad that you will be waiting for me to come home and if you will let me know your phone number at the schoolhouse I'll call you as soon as I can if I get home during the morning. Maybe I shouldn't call you at school or wouldn't it effect your teaching if you heard my voice again. Let me know whether I should or not. The way I have it planned now, I'll be home sometime during the morning on the O'Neill Bus.

Darling, I'll close for now as I am going over to play Bingo again and see if I can win another carton of cigarettes.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
April 2, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Well, honey, no letter today but I am sure looking forward to one by tomorrow. If I don't - Grrrr!!

Oh! Honey! Things are so different around home. It makes one want to live again. That Darold is the Sweetest thing that I know of. He is simply Darling. For some reason or other he is kinda good to me - kinda' likes me a little bit. When I ask him if he likes me, he says, "Ike Ane tiny bi" (like Elane tiny bit). When I ask him if he love me, he says "Ove Ane ole ot." (Love Ane Whole Lot). More fun!!

I am afraid that Evelyn and Floyd are going to have to get in the "unspoiling" business and stay there or else keep us away from him (or visa-versa). Grandpa of course never has a hand in it. Ahem! He only spoiled five of us and now is trying the sixth one. Ha!

This certainly is a long day - if Darold could only be here - the day perhaps wouldn't be so - or if you were here, either one.

Tomorrow is sale day - Horse Sale Day - so I suppose that we will get company from Atkinson at least I hope we do and I sure am looking for Uncle Emra's down from Bonesteel. I want to see my Cousin Eugene, again.

Say, Honey, why don't you answer Edna's letter? She is really mad about it. I mean it too. If you were here, she perhaps would wring your neck - but in a different way than I myself would. You know how I would do it if you were here, she, though, would take a rope and you would be a dead goner.

Have you heard from Richard yet? He was working in a mimeograph office last week when he wrote. It seems to me that they put him into almost everything or anything. "A miscellaneous man" to my way of thinking.

Our brother, Raymond was up last night. He brought Max along, too. More fun. We got all ready to go to a dance but there wasn't any. Daddy was even going to go with us. Now I'll tell you the joke behind it. Maxine and I put on formals and silver sandals and paraded around the house and more fun! We can wear each others clothes O.K. My formals fit her swell and she really looks good in them. She's going to wear one when I have my Wedding. Ha! Don't get me wrong.

Well, dear, So Long for A While,

All My Love,
Your Sweetheart,
E Laine

I love you.

Butte, Nebraska
April 3, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter this morning, Honey, and I really enjoyed it (after getting those last two;) also the pictures. I really enjoy looking at them and appreciate your sending them. I thank you very much, Sweetheart. I am going to show them to the children this afternoon if they have their lessons. They are really looking forward to the little "surprise" as we call them, and as usual, are so excited that they can't study. Isn't that children for you?

Today is Wednesday and what a day! It is raining, snowing and blowing. In other words, it is simply terrible. There is to be a special horse sale today, then we have to have weather like this. I'm getting mad at this old weather. It is always acting up when it isn't supposed to - especially now - like it did last December.

Honey, if it does have to be bad weather when you come home this time, well, I really will cuss. And I can do it, too. I haven't lived around my Daddy all these years for nothing. Ha! Ha!

One thing sure, Honey, you can never ever tell me or accuse me of doing something silly. A grown guy like you - ridding a bicycle. No fooling! I'll wager that it was a lot of fun, wasn't it? I sure used to like to ride but I haven't been on one since last Spring. But I do know how I used to ride one to school (high). More fun!! It is quite a lot of fun when you do it just for fun but not when you have to do it. That is usually the way it is with everything, isn't it honey?

There really isn't much to write about except that Evelyn & Floyd came over today and you know what that means. Darold will be leaving us. Oh! I hate to think of it. I was so happy with him there with us but now he will

be gone again. That feeling isn't even funny.

Well, my Darling, I wish to thank you again for the pictures only they make me want to be with you all the more which isn't possible now but oh! I am looking forward to seeing you!

Closing, with the best of wishes and All my Love.

I remain, as always,
Your Sweetheart,
E Laine

I love you, Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 3, 1946

I received your very welcome letter last evening and didn't write last night so will do it now. I usually get my mail at noon but it got here last night and I didn't get any today noon so I suppose it will be here tonight.

Honey, I'm sorry that I didn't write last night but I went over and got my shoes and by the time I read my mail I decided to go to the dance. I didn't have very much fun and danced twice and I really hadn't figured on going at first but that is the last one for me here so thought I would get a little practice before I go home. There probably won't be any dances at home to go to but I wanted to do a little dancing so that I wouldn't forget how.

Our first Sargent told us last night that they have received orders to stop our training so this is deffenately our last week. We are to move to a different Company Monday morning to get processed and then get our furlough from there. We will probably start home Wednesday or Thursday and are to get at least fifteen days and if we live farther away we will get more time. I am going down this weekend to buy my ticket and then will make reservations after we find out just when we will leave.

It is really a dirty shame the way we have been cutting up today in classes as no one feels like studying now that we know we are going home. Everyone is in a very man tonight and I think if anyone wouldn't get a furlough they would probably go awol.

You asked in your letter who went away with the empty pocket when we play pinochle. It just happens that we don't play for money. I don't believe in gambling and never do it very much unless I have a lot of money to loose. We really have had some good games and I enjoy them.

Wednesday Evening.

I'll continue now as I had to quit this noon. I didn't get any mail today again but don't feel bad about it as I'm so happy to be going home that if I don't get mail I know I can get the news later.

It has been a nice day here again. The sun was shining this morning but it clouded over this afternoon but was warm anyway. We don't have to wear any coats and it is almost too warm to wear wool shirts. We have been trying to get them to let us wear fatigues as they would be cooler and could send them to the laundry and save a big cleaning bill each month. I'm glad that I won't have to sit in these classrooms this summer when it is hot here.

A group of us just came back from the show so I'll finish this now and get it off on the 9:30 pickup. We saw "The Wife of Montie Cristo" and it was very good.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Darling.

P.S. You won't need to write to me here anymore as I'll be on my way home before your answer to this one would get here so I'll be able to talk to you instead of writing. Honey, I'll be with you soon and remember you wrote once that if I were home then I could give you a hickey so with your permission I might give you one in a few days.

Butte, Nebraska
April 4, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter of April 1st, this morning, Honey. It was really swell too. Gee! It would be wonderful if you could be home for Easter but Honey, you had better stay away until the Saturday before Easter because it is Lent until that day (Saturday) at 12:00 o'clock noon. Oh! I can hardly wait to see you! I am really getting excited about it. Really! Feature me excited!!

Honey before I forget, I will give you my telephone number. It is 115F4 - or Pleasant View School or District #12. Either one or all of them will get me. I perhaps won't be able to teach but I don't want to. I just want to have that wonderful feeling that you are home again. I, instead of not letting it interfere with my teaching, won't let my teaching interfere with it. Ha! Well, I don't care, it has been a long time since I have seen you - three 1/4 months tomorrow night. More than likely, you don't notice it so much, though, or do you?

I'll just have to tell you what happened in school yesterday. There are five children from one family that attend here and at noon I noticed that each one had a jar and every lid was punctured full of holes. My curiosity was getting the best of me so when one had me open her jar for her I inquired as to why the lids were punched. She said, "We have beans in 'em and didn't want 'em to blow the lid off." That, to me was about the best one I had heard for along, long, time. The folks almost split, too. I can't wait to tell Raymond

Everything is going the same - more work to do every day. We are milking 11 cows now and "I" had a

little calf the other night so we will be milking 12 in a few days and we are breaking six little calves to drink. More fun! But I really enjoy it. No! Fooling!

Our Aunt Laura Reiser is in the hospital. She had an operation yesterday morning and is getting along as good as is possible.

I am really anxious to get home tonight for two reasons: first to see if the school phonograph came and second: to find out and see if Edna received her ring today. Lennie sent it last Saturday, no Friday and she didn't get it yet yesterday. I told her that nothing can hardly happen if it is insured, which it is but I can't blame her for worrying. We had a bet on, about which one would ever get engaged first and I guess she is going to win the bet. I'm sure I'm not sorry about it as long as it is now.

Well, honey, I'll sign off as Pop may be coming any min.

Best of Luck,
All my Love,
Your Sweetheart,
E Laine

I love you, Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 4, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I received your very swell letter this evening and must say that it sounded like you were in a very good mood and more like yourself. I'm glad that you feel that way and hope you aren't changed by the time I get home.

Say, if Darold can sit on your lap and go to sleep, I don't see why I can't do that also. I'll bet you are really glad to have him back with you again. I'm afraid I will be just as sleepy this time as I was in December as I always get sleepy long about ten at night. Maybe I'll have to sleep during the day so that I can stay up a little later at night but I suppose a schoolteacher will have to get home and to bed early. (Early in the morning.)

Today was our last full day of school as we have four hours of class tomorrow. We have two hours off in the morning and will probably have a parade or an inspection again as we usually have something like that every week. We have a big deal for the last two hours tomorrow when the Colonel will give us our diplomas. I suppose he will have to give us a long talk about how glad he was to have us here and hope that we make good in this business. They can all give the same talk and none of them really mean it.

There is another dance here tonight but I'm not going as we had another G.I. party (cleaning the barracks) and I want to go to the second show pretty soon.

For some reason or another I can't think of anything to write anymore as I'm always thinking of you and home. In about ten days I'll be home for a few days to see you again. It's a good thing that I'm going home as I'm so far behind in letter writing and now I will tell everyone the news instead of writing.

I'll close for tonight Honey and meet you in my dreams.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 6, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Good morning, Honey. It's a wonderful morning here so thought I would write to you as I didn't last night. Three of us went up town to the B & O Ticket Office to see about train schedules and then went to a show. We couldn't get much information and didn't like the connections so are going to see how we can make it on the Pennsylvania line.

We finished school yesterday afternoon at 2:30 and then had our graduation exercises at 3:00. The Colonel gave us a talk and then gave us our diplomas. After that a Captain told us all about our work overseas and what kind of living quarters we would have and answered any questions we wanted to ask.

We are to move over to another company Monday and then start processing Tuesday and Wednesday and our furlough is to start at Midnight Thursday night. I'm going to see if that Company Commandor won't let me leave at 5:00 so that I can catch the 6:15 train to Chicago. I could be in Sioux City by 10:20 Friday night. I want to find out what trains I would have to take if I couldn't leave before midnight.

I guess I shouldn't figure on that furlough too strong as I might not get it. Frank and the fellow from near Sioux City won't get their furlough as they are getting transferred to the casual company. No one seems to know the reason that they are being sent over there. Our Captain is trying to get them stationed in this company as assistant company clerk and assistant Supply clerk. They really feel bad about not getting the furlough but they did get their diploma but are not to go overseas as C.I.C. agents.

We are to go over to the Photography Lab at 10 this morning as they are going to show us the film that we took last week with the movie camera.

Honey, I just came back from getting the mail and received two swell letters from my Sweetheart so will continue this now before I go to dinner.

We went over to the Lab and saw the pictures which we took and they look very good for beginners to take. Some of them got some good pictures of some girls. I sure wish that I could get a Speedgraphic Camera like we have used as they take very good pictures but they cost \$275.00 fully equipped with flash bulb and everything. That is the kind these newspaper men use.

I wrote to Edna last week some time and she should have gotten my letter by this time unless it has been lost. I haven't heard from Richard yet and wrote to him twice. If he has moved or something my last letter probably hasn't caught up with him yet. I'm afraid that if I go overseas this mail situation may get pretty critical as I won't be able to use my rank or serial number. We will just use our true name with a "Mr" in front of it. I only wish that meant for good and was a Mr. instead of a Pfc. In eight and a half months I'll be a Mr. in the proper way.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write this morning so will close for now.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling!

P.S.: Tell Edna that if she is still angry at me when I get home I'll just give her a nice big kiss and she will forget it. Would that be alright with you if I did that? Don't answer that, I already know your answer.

I'll see you soon Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 7, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

It's a very nice evening here tonight and I just got back from town so thought I would write to you before I go out again.

Seven of us went to the Ball Game this afternoon and then had supper up town before we came back. We saw Philadelphia and Baltimore play. It was a very nice day for it and we really enjoyed it. That is the first big league game I have ever seen. It cost us 15 cents round trip out there and back and got in free so it was pretty nice. The New York Yankees and Brooklyn Dodgers are playing here this Thurs. and if we have a chance we are going. I hope they will let us start on our furlough Thursday noon as I could see that game as I won't leave here until 6:15 or 7:45 in order to get connections out of Chicago.

I could leave here earlier but would have a long wait in Chicago so I would just as soon wait here. Mom wrote that they would meet me in Sioux City if I wanted them to so I wrote back that it would suit me fine. I won't get there until 10:20 Friday night if I leave here Thursday and I told her that I would wire them what time I would arrive. I wrote her today that she could call you and find out if you wanted to go with them when they meet me. I

don't know just what time they would leave home but wouldn't have to before 5:30 or 6:00.

Three of us went up town to a show and after we came back we went across the street to the Bowling Alley and bowled for a while. We had so much fun that we are going over there again tonight. They only have the Duck Pin Alleys and I would rather bowl the Ten Pins and use the big balls.

I packed some of my clothes this morning that I won't take home with me so that I won't have to do it in the morning. About all I'm going to take home is my extra clothes and a few clean ones. I don't feel ambitious enough to lug everything home and back again.

Honey, I'm running out of news so will close for tonight and will be seeing you soon.

All my love and Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 10, 1946 7:30 A.M.

My Darling Elaine:

Good Morning, Honey. I received your very swell letter yesterday noon but as I never had time to answer it last night, I figured as how this would be a good time to do it.

We moved over here yesterday morning and finally had our clothing check about 4:30. I have been appointed as group leader and am in a small room in one corner of the barracks all alone. One good thing about it is that I have plenty of privacy, almost too much.

They gave me a group of cards yesterday morning for each man to fill out stating where he was going to spend his furlough and that they could put down any place as long as they had an address where they could be notified in case their furlough was cut short. The Sargent that gave me these cards said that the sooner we filled them out and return them the sooner they could start working on our furlough papers and thought that they could get our papers finished and we would be on our way by Wednesday night.

I have to go over and see this Sargent twice a day and last night he said that he was pretty certain that we would leave Wednesday night so I went down to the Penn. Station right after supper and bought my ticket and got a reservation on the Liberty Limited for tomorrow night. (My pen got dry so I had to give it a drink.) I hope we get to leave now on Wednesday or I'll have to make another reservation for the next night.

It rained here almost all day yesterday and it was very nasty moving over here. They hauled our baggage but we got pretty wet walking over. It is very nice outside now but looks like it will cloud over before very long. It is warmer outside than inside.

We are not certain just how many days they will give us for traveling time but are to get either ten or seven days at home. I hope they give me a lot of days for travel so that I can be home for the Easter Dance if they have one.

Honey, if you can't go to Sioux City with the folks, I'll call you as soon as I can and will see you in a few days. I can't think of any more to write this morning so I close for now.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

April 15th 1946
Spencer, Nebraska

Dearest E Laine

Don't you faint now since I've set down and wrote a letter. I told you once that I'm not much for writing letters. But first of all, thanks a million for the birth day card. It was a swell card and the only one I received so I've got one person who thought of me on the 15th of April.

How is the school - mum going now - a - days? I hope she's is better than I have been. I suppose you've heard by now what happen to me Saturday nite? If you haven't, its funny its not reached, Butte yet? You may can see from the scraching I do I need a school-mum to educate me a lot. I guess I've never did a thing right in my life and now I'm getting to old to be able to learn any better.

I hear where your boy-friend is back now. Is that true? How long is he back for or is it for good?

Say, about those tow-nails, I open it outside in the field and the wind was blowing and they all got away from me. But one and I never knew you always painted your toe-nails. It wouldn't surprise me at times what some of these woman wanted to do.

I suppose you will be to the big Easter Dance in Spencer. I plan to be there if I don't die before than. In case I do and you hear about it, can you plant some onions on my grave some nite so I'll feel better when people walk by with tears in there eyes.

I must close now and hit the hay for its five in the morning for me unless it rains during the nite than it will be 9 instead. Be a good girl and hope I can see you soon, for I'm in a mood for loving. Goodnite and pleasant dreams, honey.

Love
'Larry'

P.S. Hope to have an answer soon -

Spencer, Nebraska
April 22, 1946

(Thinking Of You Card)

Thinking of You

Better things than ever,
Gladder hours and days,
More luck, more cheer,
More friends sincere,
And happiness always!

Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Butte, Nebraska
April 26, 1946

My Dearest Darling,

Oh! Honey! I just can't keep my mind going on the right track today. I keep thinking, Darling, of you. I couldn't hardly keep from writing last night but like this one - it will be old too, by the time you do get it.

Darling, I sure wish that you could have been with us yesterday, the last part of the day instead of the first part. My whole day was really ruined. I enjoyed myself but I wasn't there, mentally. We went into several large buildings, up elevators, and everything. Most of those stores were the ones with the furniture on one of the top floors. We really saw some beautiful furniture. I have never ever dreamed that furniture could possibly be so beautiful. One often sees pictures of it but I had never dreamed I would see it.

I found some oxfords that fit me and some other things I needed or most of all wanted. Ha! Isn't that more like me?

Oh! Darling! I suppose the folks really think that I am a baby but I just couldn't help it. I took it yesterday until we walked back to the car and I just couldn't hold it any longer. Darling, I love you so. I never knew that anyone could ever mean anything to me but I see that I knew not everything then because, Honey, I have found out differently. I love you more than words can tell and now, all I am doing is looking forward to the day that you will be home for good. That is a wonderful thought, isn't it dear?

Last night Daddy (yours) said that he hoped that you would be stationed somewhere close this simmer and

when the work was under control we could come and see you. Would that be fun!! He asked me if I would go along but of course I said "no" because I knew in the first place you wouldn't want me and second - you won't be that lucky (to be stationed close to home.) Darling, I just can't get you out of my mind. I love you so much. Last night they told me I had to come and stay at least a whole week with them. Honey, I am accusing you for that. You must have said something about it to them, didn't you? Darn you!

Oh! Honey! You remember how mean I am don't you? Well, yesterday I really was terrible. If it wouldn't have happened the way it did, or something funny like it happen, Honey, I couldn't have been sociable, or anything. I was so down in the dumps. We went into a large cafe to eat. The same one as before but this time there was a young guy that waited on us. He gave me an extra large serving of everything and you might know how I felt like eating. Anyway, I had to eat most of it so it would look nice, at least, but when I went to eat my pie, I had a hard time of it. This young gentleman was standing behind the counter just a few feet away and he kept watching me and teasing me all of the time. When I finished eating, he said, "Now don't you want some ice cream?" and I said, "Sure if you pay for it." and I'll be darned if he didn't go and get me some ice cream. He wanted to know my name and address, too but all he got was my address. I wasn't interested in the least. If I would have had a heart, I perhaps would have told him my name, but as I don't, I guess he will never find it out. Honey, if you should happen by chance, to run across my heart, please send it to me, will you? I may need it some day. Do you think so? Or are you going to wait until you can bring it back in person? But if it is in your way send it home, will you? Maybe I shouldn't have said that or I will get it in the mail sooner instead of soon. Am I right my Darling?

I wrote to Mom this morning and told her that they have new dining room sets in Atkinson. It seems as though Atkinson gets more furniture in than these large stores in the city. That is, more of the "hard to get" stuff. Sis keeps pretty good watch on the things over there. She wants some new things too.

Well, Darling, perhaps the folks will tell you all about the day so there really isn't too much use of my telling it, too.

All I can think of Darling, is you. My mind just won't concentrate on anything else. I wish we could have been alone more while you were home. I like being alone with you. Honey, but just about everytime, there was someone else around. Although, Darling, I enjoyed every moment that you were near me, even when I blew my top, I still loved you, Darling, and I'm very sorry for doing such a thing, Sweetheart. Do you forgive me? You never told me that you did but you seemed to act as though you did.

My Darling, it is almost time for me to have reading classes so I can eat some dinner. Since I live on love, I don't eat too much now. O.K. Darling?

Well, Sweetheart, I hope you had a nice trip and had a little sleep.

So - Long Darling, I love you with all of my heart.

All my love to you,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine.

I love you, Sweetheart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 26, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I'm about tired out tonight but will write you a few lines to let you know that I arrived okay at 5:30.

The train from Sioux City was very nice but I didn't sleep over two hours as we sat there and talked for along time. The train from Chicago was really terrible. The car we were on last night was very uncomfortable and the coal cynders and soot really came in around the windows. Smithy and I took a couple of back rests off and made a bed but didn't sleep very good. This morning we moved into a different car which was cleaner and had reclining backs.

When we got to Harrisburg, Pa. we had to change trains and that was another old dirty one so by the time we got here we were about as black as negroes and it sure feels good to get cleaned up again.

Four fellows from this company (2 from this group) are going to go to Alaska. They got back from their furloughs a couple days ago and tried to be stationed here but when they heard about Alaska they volunteered for that.

They haven't any orders for us as yet but think they will by the last of this month. Some think that those who enlisted for a year are to be stationed in the States.

Honey, I've got my eyelids propped open with toothpicks now so I'll close for tonight and write more tomorrow.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Remember, Darling, I love you with all of my heart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 27, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I just came back from the orderly room to see if I had any mail but didn't so will write you a letter this morning. There isn't much left of the morning as it is after eleven but I didn't get up until 9:30 so it seems like morning yet to me. It is going to be hard to get up at 6:00 every morning now.

It rained here all day Thurs. and sprinkled yesterday afternoon so it is pretty damp and rather cold today. The wind is blowing pretty hard from the North so will probably get colder tonight. I wish the weather would be as nice here as it was out in California where I spent my short but very nice furlough. A bunch of us were talking last night about the nice weather we had out there. There was a quite a few who did the same thing. We intended to go to California but had a little trouble and stopped at home.

Those who were back before yesterday got passes from noon yesterday until Monday morning so there aren't very many fellows here now. Two fellows aren't back yet so I don't know what happened. One lived in California and the other in Iowa. The one in California probably got an extension as his wife was expecting a baby. A fellow from Detroit was ten hours late getting back but I don't think they will do anything to him.

It looks like we may be leaving here in a week or so as they are moving 250 men into this company next week and if they don't get some of us out, there won't be very much room. I'm rather anxious to know when we are to leave. I guess I have those "traveling blues" like Manus Peterson as I am ready to leave here. I have been traveling so much that I can't stay in one place very long. I'll bet I could get over that if they would discharge me or send me home for eight months.

Just think Honey, I have eight more months from today and then the h - - - with the Army as far as I'm concerned and if they ask me to re-enlist I'm pretty liable to hit or shoot someone. The sooner I can get out and back home the better I will like it as I know my Sweetheart is waiting for me and I want to go home to her as soon as possible.

Darling, I really hated to leave home this time as the thought of maybe not seeing you again for several months really hurt but we'll make up for lost time, I hope. It seems like every time I go home it is that much harder to leave but I always can look forward to the day when I won't have to leave again. Maybe if I didn't love you so much it wouldn't be so bad, but as it is I love you very much and really will miss sitting in the car and being able to kiss you whenever I want to.

I think I'll close for today as I want to go up town for a while this afternoon as I want to buy a few things.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
April 28, 1946

My Darling Sweetheart,

Hello! Darling! How are you? I'm not so pretty good.

Honey, guess who I saw today. Our Uncle Earl, Aunt Edna & Gerry. Yes, Darling! I went to Bonesteel to the show with Mother, Daddy, Raymond, Frances & Kitty Lewis. It was: the Dolly Sisters starring June Haven & Betty Grable. Honey, it was really and truly a sad show. Maybe it was just me, Sweetheart. I won't say it wasn't but Honey, it reminded me so much of "us" - in so many parts of it. It already seems like weeks since you were home, Honey, I love you so much.

Here is hoping that I get a letter from you tomorrow. I'll really feel blue if I don't. I'll never make it until you get home again if I don't start hearing from you pretty soon.

Honey! I'm just as mean after you leave as I am while your home.

The folks were going to Spencer to the movie tonight and like a fool I left them talk me into the notion too and just as we were ready to get into the car - Wilbur Reiser, and his wife and baby girl came. So I wasn't very angry after I got all ready, etc.

Gee! But Darling I miss you so much more when I go to some entertainment and you aren't with me. I really have to cry about it. Honey, I catch myself crying for you every once in a while. I love you so.

Well, Sweetheart, Goodnight

All my Love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you Sweetheart.

Butte, Nebraska
April 28, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey, I just can't stop thinking about you. I keep letting you rule me. My dear, here it is Saturday night and I can't have you near me. It just doesn't seem right, Darling. Oh! How I love you!! Honey! You can get angry with me or what ever you want to but I just can't keep it to myself.

Sis went home today and I am sure happy. She started spanking Babe from the time he awoke this morning until they were out of sight on their way home. Oh! I don't see how she can do it. The old devil. Honey! I'll have to tell you what I did. It isn't even funny.

One of my pupils kept laughing yesterday afternoon while I was reading a story to them, so I told her that I would like to have her quiet but it (the quietness) didn't last long before she would start giggling again. I never said anymore until I told them to put away their work when I said, "Junie, I would like to have you stay and sit quietly

two minutes after the rest are dismissed.” So far so good but right after they closed the door she started crying and I just couldn’t keep from doing the very same thing so I found myself loving her up and letting her go before those two minutes were even gone. Oh! Darling, it is terrible to be this way. No! fooling! You can’t realize how terrible it really is. It is going to make my future years pretty hard to live.

I sat down for a little while - quite a little while this evening, honey, looking at the catalogues, trying to fine (my mind is gone, too) two Mother’s Day gifts but I’ll be durned if I can make a definite decision. I have only two more weeks to decide.

Last night, Honey, Raymond and Max were here. Max told me all about the “Wedding” but I can’t say much about it as yet - because these letters will have to go unmailed until about Tuesday or Wednesday and I won’t trust leaving them around as what Max told me is entirely a secret. “Twill be pretty soon though, dear. Do you approve of Max for a sister-in-law, Darling?

Oh! Honey! Daddy got a sorrel horse for me last Thursday. It still isn’t what I want but will have to do for a while until I can find what I want. I rode him all over this afternoon. More fun! Tomorrow I’ll be pretty stiff and that will be still more fun. Ha! Ha!

Well, Darling, it is 10:00 P.M. so I should go to bed. Huh?

Goodnight, Sweetdreams, Sweetheart,

All my Love,
Your Sweetheart,
E Laine

I love you Darling, More
than you think.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 28, 1946

My Dearest Sweetheart:

I’m pretty tired tonight for some reason or other but know that it wouldn’t be a completely enjoyable day without writting to you so here goes for a little chat with you if you don’t object. Objection overruled.

It was such a nice day here so this morning a bunch of us decided to go to the ballgame as that was a good way to kill time and wouldn’t cost anything so eight of us went. It was a double game between Baltimore and Montreal, Canada and lasted until 6:30 this evening.

We stopped up town and had supper and then stopped at the Bowling Alley just across the street and bowled three games. I really like to bowl but would rather use the large balls and pins but they all have duckpin alleys here like those in Butte.

Three fellows just came back from New York and they really did see a lot. If we get a three day pass I am sure going up there or I may go next weekend if it looks as though we may leave soon and not get a three day pass.

Honey, I'm sending a picture that a fellow took of us one day here. That was the weekend that we were restricted or "The Lost Weekend."

I'm pretty tired and can't think of any more to write tonight so will close and go to bed as we will have to get up at 6:00 in the morning.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart.

Butte, Nebraska
April 29, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Hello! Sweetheart! How are you today my love? Perhaps you are pretty tired if you went to New York over the week-end, aren't you dear? I know for sure that I am really tired and I haven't been to New York, either.

I have been quite busy today, tracing and drawing window decorations and blackboard decorations for May. I want to get them up because there aren't many more weeks of school left, Honey. There are only two more weeks left after this one. Happy thought! isn't it, Honey!

Just think Darling, we have only one more month together. By this Friday it will be seven whole months since that wonderful night in Spencer when you were such a fool, Darling, to tell me that you loved me, and I was crazy enough to believe you. Oh! Sweetheart! It was wonderful and it is yet, or isn't it for you? You said that the longest you ever went with one girl was eight months - so I recon it will all end pretty soon, won't it Honey?

Yeah??!!! I have more faith in our love than that, Darling.

I sure would love to have you home, Darling, we could stand up for a w - - - - . You get what I mean, I think, don't you? - - In Omaha. Maybe if you get that delay enroute when you go to California we might hit it O.K. if it is around the 20th of May or so. I sure hope that Raymond brings Max home tonight because I am really anxious to find out more. Can you blame me? Honey, please don't write and tell the folks (on your side of the family) about any of this because the least little peep out of anybody about the least bit of it, puts me in the black. Max is pentecost, you know and her folks don't approve of Raymond - nor the Catholic church so they are going to do everything secretly and then tell everyone and there won't be much that can be done, then. Smart way but I wouldn't do it. I'm so happy that Max is joining the church that I just love her that much more. I just never ever though she would do that - - - - ahem - would you?

Honey, I'm just going to have to tell you what our Daddy said, yesterday morning at the breakfast table. It is just too good to keep -- so opposite to Mother. We were eating breakfast and talking and out of the clear blue sky Raymond said, "What did you get new in Sioux City?" I told him and he said "Oh!" It never struck me at all how it sounded or what he possibly meant by it so I said, sarcastically, "Why, wasn't I suppose to get what I did, what did you think I got? I just bought what I can wear." Daddy popped up and said, "Yeah, I expected you to get something to wear alright but it sure wouldn't be for your head." By that time I finally awoke enough to let it dawn on me what they were talking about. It didn't take me long to change the subject. It tickles me though, as Mother said that she wouldn't let me have one. That is just the difference between Mother and Daddy but I'd still do what I want to do in spite of everyone else. I kind' got the hang of it when you were home. I did practically as I wished. When Sis is gone things run so much smoother.

Honey, 'Miss Elaine Counts' didn't get her name in the paper this week. Now wasn't that too bad? Mr. & Mrs. James Klasna and Clayton were dinner guests at the Walt Counts home Sunday though; did you know that? Gee! It was a total surprise to me, though. Ha! Ha!

Well, Darling, as time is slipping by, I'll have to close for this time.

Sending you all of my love, Sweetheart.

I remain,

As always,

With all my love to you,

Its your,

Sweetheart,

Elaine

I love you, Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. G., 2nd. Bn., Gp. #64, C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
April 29, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, its' been just a little over four days since I saw you but it seems more like four weeks so I'll just have to write as that is the best I can do for now. I love you so much that it really hurts to think of being away from you for any length of time. I can always look forward to being with you again but eight months is going to be a long, long time.

We have had a very easy day as we didn't do very much. I had to cut some stencils of our shipment number this morning and then had to put this number on each ones barracks bag. I have a few more to make in the morning and then we are to get our clothing tomorrow some time.

It was raining this morning when I woke up at 6:30 so we didn't have any Revele or police call this morning. I wish we didn't have any in the morning as it is too hard for me to get up that early. I guess I was in bed to late when I was home and am a little spoiled now.

A group of Japanese boys moved into the upstairs of this barracks this morning and are they ever noisy. I can't say that I am happy about it, although we won't have to keep that floor clean. (Time out to give my pen a drink). It seems as though the Japs sure do like to gamble as the dice have been rolling around almost all day.

I am going to the show and then go play Bingo and may bowl a few games after that. It is a lot more fun bowling and a person doesn't spend as much money as he would uptown drinking and I do believe it is better for a person. I haven't even had one beer since I left home and I haven't even missed it yet so maybe if I try a little harder I can resist it long enough to forget about it. Would that be O.K. with you.

Darling, I read in a wishing well where my fortune was "Your Love Dream Told." I think that was what you told me Tuesday night in front of the house.

I can't think of any more to write so will close for this evening as it is time for supper.

All my love & kisses
Your Honeybunch
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
April 30, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

At last! Honey! I just couldn't believe my eyes this morning when I ran out to the mailbox and found four letters and three of them were from the "one" and only "guy" in the whole world that means anything to me, besides "our" brother, Sweetheart. (The other letter was from my girlfriend in O'Neill.)

Darling, I love you so much and I really miss you. The tears really came to my eyes this morning when I read those letters. Oh! Honey! They are all I have to go by now that you are gone so "you had better make 'em good, Sweetheart." Ha! Oh! Darling, they are quite O.K. Never could any other letters take their place. They are alright the way they are just so you don't make a change. Truthfully, I'm not going to worry about it, Darling. Is there any use?

Honey, I am so deep in more "school stuff" that I really will be happy when school is out. We had the picnic planned for the 19th of May - Sunday. But my family of Pentecosts won't attend a picnic on Sunday, so really what will I do? I'm almost batty. We are going to use the box social money for the food --- hot dogs and buns, ice cream, and cookies. Then the patrons will bring pork & beans and potato salad to go with it. Here is the entire menu: Potato salad - pork & beans - hot dogs & buns - pickles - ice cream - cookies - coffee - lemonade.

Do you think that would be enough of a variety to fill you up, Sweetheart? How I would enjoy having you at the picnic! I really would put you to work, Honey! No fooling! (Your) Dad and Mom said they would come if it was on a Sunday. Naturally more people will be able to come on Sunday because most of the people are starting to plant corn. Sunday is about the only day that we could really get a crowd. How I am hoping for a crowd because I hate to be the center of attraction. If there is a crowd I can skip off. Now, my dear, don't get me wrong when I say 'center of attraction' because I know I'll never be able to attract anyones attention but you know how I mean it. Everything is "Teacher, this," and "teacher, that" and I don't go for that stuff.

This is certainly a disagreeable day. Raining, and everything else yet to boot along with the wind that is blowing plenty hard and - no sunshine. This weather sure gets me down.

Honey, I sure don't know the reason for this but I have been very hard to live with every since you left. Someone can barely say anything to me and I go all to pieces right away. I am rather surprised that I don't fly off at the kids. They seem to make so terrible much noise. I truthfully didn't know that the chairs and desks had so many squeaks. Thank God that I only have to listen them thirteen more days. Happy thought.

I sure am undecided as to what I should do. I'm supposed to tell the schoolboard at the picnic whether or not I want the school for next year. Well, I sure don't know what to do. That really puts me in a spot. I'm sure I don't know what to do. I know one thing for sure, Darling, and that is I love you and next year when you come home, I'm not going to be tied down so I can't even go with you. Honey, when you come home, I hope we can make up for lost time. There is going to be quite a bit to make up for, too. Isn't there, dear? Eight months, honey, is a long time and it is going to seem a lot longer, I'm sure. I'm in hopes that is the last time we'll be separated by this d - - - army. Darling, this is enough punishment for all the evil I have done, I am sure.

Honey, Max thought that we had called everything off between us. I guess that is the story now. How stories get started is more than I know. I guess this world is just made out of false stories. More fun! I get a big bang out of all of them.

I received the most wonderful letter from our brother Richard, yesterday, Honey. He wants to know what I was doing down at the Klasna farm and if we were getting serious. I believe I'll let you answer that. How about it Honey? What should I tell him? I don't know.

Sweetheart, please forgive me for the error I have made. I thought you were moved to a different address and that was my reason for not sending those other letters. I know I should be shot but Honey, I'll wait until you get home for that. Another thing when you see me the next time, Darling, I promise you that you can give me a hickey or as many as you want to as long as they aren't visible to the rest of the world. Remember that, Darling. I know you won't forget that. Ha! I guess I just lose nerve when I'm with you. I've never had (one) (a hickey) and I'm afraid it will hurt. Honey, I'm changing now, though. I feel so differently about it now though. I wouldn't care if it did as long as it was you, Sweetheart. Nothing could be cause I love you so. I sure wish I had a hickey now so I could look at it and have a definite remembrance of you, Sweetheart.

Well, Honey, I'll have to sign off for now. I promised the children a surprise and it is time to give it to them.

Meant to tell you, Honey, that I didn't go Monday night. I'm too much in love to care, Honey.
May I ask if my letters are too: Honey & Darling? I'll try to change them if you wish it.

<p>So Long, Sweetheart All my love & <u>Kisses</u> ----- Your Sweetheart Elaine</p>	<p>Surprise, isn't it? They are <u>all</u> for you. Not any one else gets even a share or one. "O.K.?"</p>
---	--

I'm in love with you Honey. Care?

Here is Richard's last address: Pfc. Richard D. Counts 37766723
Hdq. 6th Army, A.G. Pub.
Presidio of San Francisco,
California

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 1, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I'm sorry that I didn't write last night so I'll do it this morning and this will still go out on this mornings pickup.

I had a very rough night, night before last as the fellows upstairs were really noisy and I didn't get much sleep so I went to the show last night and went to bed early to get a good nights sleep. I was really sawing the logs and got woke up at 1:30 when a bunch of fellows came in feeling pretty high and woke everyone up.

We had a very easy day yesterday and it looks like it will be easier today as we have nothing on the schedule. I would sleep a little but then I wouldn't sleep very good tonight so I might get in a pinochle game this afternoon.

We got paid again yesterday so the poker games are going strong this morning. One good thing is that the fellows upstairs are going on furlough this evening so it won't be so bad.

We were supposed to ship from here to Seattle, Wash. but that the camp there is quarantined with the Smallpox so we may go to San Francisco or wait here until they lift the quarantine. I would just about as soon stay here a little longer but we may have a lot of work to do and then again I'm ready to leave here as I've seen enough of Baltimore and would like to hit some other part of the country.

They changed the Companies around yesterday so that we are now in Co. C. They haven't' anything else to do to keep the high ranking officers busy so they have to move the companies.

Two groups are shipping out this Friday going to Europe but it is hard telling when we are to leave. I was over to the P.O.M. office this morning trying to find out when our shipping date is but they haven't received any order as yet.

Darling, I'll close for this morning as it is about time for mail pickup and then I'll remove a few of my whiskers.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Honey, I love you very, very much.

Butte, Nebraska
May 2, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your swell letter this morning, Darling. I also received a swell letter from Mom. I was rather surprised this time, she signed it 'Mom.'

Honey, it is a whole dreary, long week since you left. It definitely went slow but if the rest go by accordingly I won't say too much. I really miss you though because Darling I love you. If I didn't I wouldn't miss

you so much.

I'm sure happy that they aren't working you too hard, Honey. I sure wish I could say that. They have me going right and left as home. Dad has 200 more little chicks but I haven't messed with any of them yet. I'll save all of my chicken raising technique for future years. O.K.?? Or won't I need it?

Darling, I don't get this your Love Dream Told. What do you mean by that? That - what I told you that Tuesday night in front of the house - should have been forgotten long ago, and besides, Honey, it doesn't have anything to do with your love dream. I know, Sweetheart, that I shouldn't have said that and I'm learning slowly that I should keep things to myself. I am getting so I speak my mind and say anything. It's a bad happy (some kid just said he was happy so I wrote it, darn me) I mean habit. That was a terrible thing to say but it is too late to do anything about it now, only ask you to forget it. O.K. Honey?

Honey, you know it would be O.K. with me if you would stop drinking, entirely. You know how I love you now, I couldn't love you any more, any more than I do but I'd manage somehow to love you still more. And if you forget about it you know very well it would be O.K. with me. Richard has stopped drinking all together and he is stopping smoking, too. He smokes two cigarretes a day now. He has cut down quite a bit and is gradually 'reforming.' Goody! Goody!

Daddy sold two of my cows yesterday and bought a young heifer for me. My cows have had the worst luck this year and they were always the choicest of our herd. I guess it is just my luck this hear I only lost \$26.00 on two cows but I don't miss it like I would if it was right out of my pocket. That makes a lot of difference. Oh! Well. This makes me three cows and 1 calf - pretty soon 2 calves so I'm not doing too bad. I sometimes think that I will put the biggest half of my money into cattle and keep just enough in postal saving in case I would need some in a hurry for something. At second though, I believe I'll keep my money, then I won't lose so much. Oh! What is the use for me to worry about it anyway? Mother does all of my worrying. I'll do like Daddy is doing. "Let the Bohemian do all of the worrying about little me." O.K. with you, Honey?

Darling, I want to thank you for that picture. It really is O.K., I like it 'cause you look so cute on it. Really you do.

Oh! Honey! I have a sorrel horse of my own now too. I got it from Daddy. He wanted to keep it himself but I talked fast (as usual, of course,) and talked him into selling him to me and he can work him but has to let me ride him too. Pretty good deal. I can't wait now until I can have the time to keep him shinning. Will he ever look pretty then. Just two weeks ago Daddy sold our saddle. That really makes me angry because it was so pretty and such an easy setting one but it was close to 40 years old and one bellow borrowed it all of the time so he sold it to him for \$80.00 The leather was rotting just a little & quite a little at that so he thought he better sell it, while the selling is good. Now all I want is a new saddle and bridle and a riders outfit. I can just see my fur coat going next winter. Oh! Well! I'm too short for a fur coat anyway. Ha! Ha!

Well, Darling, I'll kiss your picture goodnight and sign off.

Honey, I sure wish you could read that letter from Our Mom. She said, "Thought I would get to see you at the dance last night. Why didn't you call and we would of come up and got you. We sure like to have you along with us." I believe they like me more than you do. Am I right, Honey? No, Darling, I'm sure they don't.

Well, Sweetheart, time is short so - so long - for this time. Thank you honey for the picture.

All my love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling. I do.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 2, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi, Honey. What are you doing besides reading this letter? I'm so tired that I can hardly navigate now but thought I would have a little chat with you before I go to supper as I want to go to bed pretty early.

I went to bed about 8:30 last night but I just as well not have as I was woke up about every hour until 2:00. Four fellows from this group brought two quarts of whiskey back with them and wanted me to drink with them but I wouldn't. They kept coming in here and waking me up so I finally closed the door and pushed my bed up against it but they would keep hammering on the door.

They finally got drunk enough that they forgot about me and when two were put to bed the other two got into an arguement and started rasseling (misspelled) on the floor and finally decided to go to bed. Those two were really bruised and skinned up this morning and all four of them were really a terrible looking sight. They have been feeling pretty rough all day and lay around in bed trying to sleep but aren't having much success as someone is always waking them up as they kept us awake so long last night. We should get a lot of sleep tonight as we are all so tired that we will be dead by the time we get in bed.

We had four formations today and each time they pick a few men to move some beds, blankets, or mattresses as they are having a big inspection in the morning and want them out of sight. I and nine other fellows had to move 60 mattresses this morning which took less than an hour so I don't think it hurt us any.

They told us this noon that if the inspection turned out alright in the morning we would be able to go on pass right after noon. I don't know whether to go to New York this weekend or wait and see if we can get a three day pass. I will ask the P.O.M. Officer in the morning if he thinks we will get a three day pass and I think my best bet would be to go this weekend. I want to go as this is probably as close as I will ever get to it.

I got another letter from Junior this morning. He said that I had better get as many good-night kisses as I could while I was home as you don't get them overseas. I think I may go down to St. Louis to see him sometime after we get out if you won't miss me too much for a few days.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write now so I'll sign off for now and get ready for supper which is in 25 minutes.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Remember, Honey, I love you.

Butte, Nebraska
May 3, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Hello! Darling! How are you? I am feeling rather blue. Honey, I didn't get a letter from you today, I guess that is why. But if you wrote Tuesday, you perhaps didn't mail it until Wednesday and that is probably why I didn't hear from you today. Darling, your letters aren't all I miss, either. I miss you more than anything or anybody

else. Honey, I love you so. I only wish that your picture could talk back to me, Honey. We could really have some wonderful chats, or don't you think so, Honey? Of course I wouldn't want you to be able to talk all of the time or I would have to move you into the front room, Honey. Ha! Ha! Get what I mean????

Honey, I really feel blue today. If I could have a good cry I'd feel better. Oh! Darling I feel so lonely without you. This life is really rough. Sweetheart, the more I see of you, the more I love you. Each letter I receive from you makes my love for you grow. You must believe me, and I trust that you do.

I don't know if I should tell you this or not but I'm going to. I feel that I should so I will. I received a letter from Larry Johnson this morning asking for a date the 8th of May - the big dance in Spencer, and he also asked if my Sunday nights were open for show dates. Well, Honey, I told him that -- what do you really think I told him? Honey, I told him that I was sorry but I didn't care to go Wednesday night and if I did go I would probably go with Raymond. It is Wednesday night and I know very well, that Raymond has to work so that is out, entirely, but maybe I can go with Kitty L. if her folks go. As yet I'm not even interested in going. I still have the effects of last Thursday with me. Any objections, Darling? (Objections overruled!)

Honey, I'm going to be honest with you right now. I tried to tell you while you were home but time was just too short. We never had any time just to talk. I would go with Larry if I could just go to be going but as it is, Honey, he feels about me, the way I feel about you. The more I go with him the more he loves me and Honey he has even tried, and still is, to get his Australian girl to stay over there. Now when a guy does that he must think quite a lot of the girl on this side. I have told him before not to be foolish because I had no serious intentions with him. There was another guy in my life. Honey, I don't know what to do. I haven't seen him since five weeks ago last Wednesday - oh! Honey! I mean four weeks ago last Saturday night, well I guess it will be 5 weeks tomorrow night. Should I even date him to a show? You know, Sweetheart, how I feel about you. He is going to be terribly broken hearted but maybe it would be just as good to get it over. Is that right, Honey? Should I tell him? Oh! What should I do!! I sure don't know. I don't have the nerve to tell him but for your love honey, I could do anything.

Sweetheart, I suppose you feel rather angry at me, now, don't you? But please get over it. You, my dear, are the only one that I have so much trust & faith in. I know, it is pretty tough when a person can't even solve her own problems but remember the one with Jean, honey? That wasn't so much different, only I don't want Larry to be angry, that is all but I want him to understand. Honey, I really would be jealous if you went with other girls, I'll admit and I suppose it would end up with a quarrel or not exactly that but when I'm jealous I get desperate. Now, honey, if you don't care who I go with or what I do, then that changes things, too.

Oh! Darling! I don't care if I never go with another one. I love you so. Darling, I'll have to admit, I am crying but I'll dry my eyes because I wouldn't want you to see me this way.

Well, Honey, I'm stopping here. I'll wait until I get an answer. Please take this, the way I mean it Sweetheart and you should know which way that is.

Good Luck & God Bless My Sweetheart.

All my Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling,
with my whole heart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 3, 1946

Hi Honey:

I'm in a very bad mood tonight but I will write to you anyway before I go to bed which will be soon and maybe I can sleep it off. We had another big inspection this morning and ever since I have been very peeved.

The first Sargent told us this morning that if the company passed the inspection o.k. we could go on pass this afternoon but when I went over to the P.O.M. office they said we couldn't leave before 5:00 as if our orders came through this afternoon we may have to ship before the weekend is over. The rest of the company got to leave at noon except the two groups who are ready to go to Japan.

I had planned on going to New York tonight but it is raining here so it most likely is raining or snowing up there so I'm not even going. It snowed there last week end when it rained here so it will most likely be bad there.

I went over to the P.O.M. office at 4:30 and they hadn't received any orders yet so we have the weekend free. I asked about a three day pass but they didn't know as it all depends upon how quick we get the notice before we have to ship. The way I feel now, I just don't care whether I get one or not and feel like leaving here right away.

When I was home Mildred asked me to see about a suitcase for them as I can buy them at the P.X. for about half price. I wrote them a letter about the kind they have here and I got a telegram today saying to send one to them so I'll have to do that in the morning.

Honey, I just can't think of any more to write now so I'll close for tonight and shave and go to bed and maybe I'll feel better in the morning.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Darling, I love you.

Butte, Nebraska
May 4, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Well, my Darling, I just received a swell letter from my Sweetheart so I am going to answer it right away. Perhaps you will get this one sooner than the others since you have moved and changed addresses.

Honey, I'll forgive you for not writing Monday night, I mean Tuesday night but you don't know how I missed your letter yesterday.

I was really blue yesterday Honey. Everytime anyone even looked at me the tears just rolled down my cheeks. That was the worst feeling that I have had for years. I was so shaky that when I would hold a book, it just shook. I could hardly read. Then last night after school I really topped things off. I was helping Daddy put up the chimney for the brooder stove and so I climbed on top of that little house but I slipped so grabbed hold of a roof board or rather the edge and I jerked my arm out of place. It is so sore and stiff that I can hardly move it. Evelyn use to help me and I could get it into place again but neither Dad nor Raymond could do anything with it last night. It was swelled so bad last night it looked about the size of Joe Louis'. Ha! It isn't quite so bad this morning but it sure hurts, I know that for darn sure. Oh! I'm the freakiest thing. Honey! Did you know that you are in love with a freek? I told you about it didn't I? If I can't do something with it I suppose I have to go to the doctor. Gee! How I hate those things. I don't mean it in that way, I merely mean I don't like to go to one.

Raymond took Mother to Lynch a week ago last night but there isn't anything the doctors can do for her without giving her dope shots and we won't have that so she takes double her amount of arthritis pills and she seems to feel a little bit better. The pain doesn't seem to be so great. You know it may not help her so much but it sure helps us.

Honey, this is Saturday and I'm teaching school. This is the day that I took off one Thursday, just to go to some old place where they had a thing called a train that took my Darling Sweetheart from me - off - for many, many, miles for a long, long, time. I'd make up a lot of days to be with you, Honey, I love you so and when you talk about shipping out, Darling, that really hurts. It just breaks me to have you even mention it. I don't know what I will do if you really do go across. I guess I'll have to come out there and go along with you. Would that be O.K. with you, Honey? I can feature myself close to the ocean or on it. I probably would collapse at the glimpse of it. But I'd feel safe with you, Honey, I'm not afraid then.

There sure isn't any news to tell you dear. Two of our cousins on my side found opposites. One is married, the other will be the 18th of this month. Well, Honey, one of the weddings is in this weeks paper (Margaret Reiser weds Carl S. Nolan). I forget what the headlines are but those are the names. She used to be a school teacher, then she went to College from there to Hollywood. I guess she is a stenographer now too. She used to have black hair but it is a straight dish water blond now. She bleached it and it really looks horrid. At least it did the last time I saw her. She hasn't been here for about four years. She didn't even come home for her Mother's funeral for she would have lost her job out there. I sure can't feature her being married. She is at least 35 years old already too but I'll admit that it's about time. Ahem! Don't get me wrong, please.

Oh! Honey! Our brother and sister-in-law were home last night. Max told me a little more but she hasn't decided just when it will be yet. She is going to get her diamond and wedding ring at the same time beings things are as they are. The only reason she won't say when is because she wants a double ring ceremony and he doesn't. Whenever he makes up his mind to want to wear one, she will name the day. I can't blame her, either. Max & I really get along. We think a like and we really agree on everything. They went to Lynch Thursday night to Dale Mulhair's wedding dance and Max even danced. She saw our Dad & Mom there and also Uncle John's so I can just imagine that Evelyn and Donnie were there too.

Honey! Mom & Dad were talking on the way home that night what a nice couple we make and how we get along. If they only knew! Ha! Ha! Life is too short to quarrel, isn't it Honey?

Gee! Whiz! I had better top before I get you angry, don't you thing, Honey?

Well, Darling, closing with all of my love to you, Darling.

I remain,

Your Sweetheart,

Elaine

I love you Sweetheart
with all of my heart.

Butte, Nebraska

May 5, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Just a few lines, Honey. I'm just so tired, I don't know what I'm doing but I just had to drop a few lines to

you, Darling.

We didn't get to get the mail this morning so I don't know if there was a letter from you or not, honey but I'm hoping that there is one there for me.

Frances went home last night so I was alone with the work this morning. Just as Raymond & I were ready to leave for church here came the Kids so we had to wait a few minutes and then left for church. We got there in time but didn't get home until about 11:40 and I had to get a big dinner because other company was coming for dinner yet. We had dinner at 1:00 P.M. and dishes were done by 2:15 P.M. Then Evelyn & Floyd & Babe left about 3:00. They drove out and our Mother's 2 aunts & cousin & family from Atkinson came. Then a lunch. They drove out a & here came our Mother's cousins from Stuart & their grandson for supper & to spend the evening night. I got supper & just finished eating when here came more company. Finally I was capable of finishing the dishes and here came our Grandma & Grandpa, Uncle Earl & Aunt Laura. So all in all, Honey, I have really had a long day. I enjoy company, but honey, I really had a bad day and I haven't been feeling so very good. It is 11:20 P.M. now and some company just left. I have to get ready for the rest for the night. More fun!! I'm really fagged out, Darling but I still find time for you, I love you so, Sweetheart.

Honey I had a bad time with our brother today. He had me waving his hair and everything. He merely had a date at 7:15 PM, with Max. I guess it will be just pretty, pretty, soon. He packed most of his clothes today so that means something. Honey, it really hurt. That guy really means a lot to me.

Darling, Mother is calling so I'll just have to close.

Remember, Sweetheart, I love you, no matter what comes, goes or happens.

All my love & Kisses.
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 5, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I didn't write yesterday so will start this letter noon but won't be able to finish it until after dinner as I am going to church in a little while and then eat dinner right away.

We played cards yesterday until 2:30 and then I had such a headache that I went to bed and slept until 7:30. I got up and went down to a cafe and had supper and then we bowled a while. I have been wearing my glasses now so that I won't get any more headaches.

I will continue now as I went to church and have dinner and when I came back no one was using the iron so I pressed a pair of trousers as they lost all their press last night in the rain. Twenty five of us put in 25 cents and bought an electric iron and then drew a name to see who got it and each man that put in a quarter gets to use it as long as we are with the fellow who got the iron. We can save money that way as it costs us 15 cents to get a pair of trousers pressed at the tailor shop. We can wash our own Suntan shirts and press them now.

It is really a beautiful day here after it rained all day yesterday and most of last night. Andy and I are going uptown to a stagemore as Fred Lowery (the blind whistler of Horace Heits orchestra) and Smiley Burnette are appearing there in person and I want to see this blind whistler.

Five of us decided Friday night to go to Washington yesterday morning and take a plane to New York but when we got up at 5:00 it was raining so we didn't go as we couldn't enjoy seeing a city in the rain.

Honey, I know now why you don't like the looks of these battle jackets as I don't like them very well myself. They would be alright if a person could get them tailored to fit right. The one I have is about an inch too long in the sleeves and two inches too long in the waist. I was going to have it altered but I couldn't find a place that would do it right away. I won't wear it very much longer as we will start wearing suntans pretty soon.

It is pretty dead around here today except for a poker game as almost everyone has gone some place. Those who live near here went home this weekend as it may be their last chance to get home before they leave. I sure wish I lived nearer here or were stationed nearer home so that I could get home and see my Sweetheart oftener. Some day, I hope, I'll be out of this Army and can be with her whenever I want to.

Well, Darling, I'll close for today as Andy is ready to go now.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
May 6, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Honey! I received two swell letters from my Sweetheart this morning. They were really good, Honey. Keep 'em coming.

Oh! Darling! What a dreary day. If you were only in the country close by, I wouldn't care what kind of weather we had. Really, Darling, I wouldn't but as it already is, I get too lonesome without you all the time without having the gloomy weather too. Do you mind my saying that, Honey?

It seems like a long, long, time since you left your Honey. You should really have to suffer for doing such a thing. But Darling, I won't mind it so much as long as you are coming back to her. That thought just pleases me so much that I'm content to wait. Honey, you're coming back and please say it. You know you will - for me. You know I love you and you're coming back.

Honey, only nine more days and I'll be free, white & 21. Ahem!! But really, I'll be happy. Our cousin asked me this morning if I was going to teach here again next year & I said I didn't plan on teaching anywhere next year but I hadn't decided for sure yet. Daddy said, "She probably has other plans." That man. He tickles me, it seems as though he knows more about it than I do. He wouldn't have to know very much, would he Sweetheart? I'm sure that is the truth, too, isn't it Honey?

Oh! Honey! I know how I am going to get to Spencer Wed. night if I decide to go. I asked Raymond if Max could come after me and he said she could. Then he could bring me home. Goody! Goody! Oh! Honey! I'm so happy about that. Gee! Wouldn't I be in heaven, though, if I could just go with you again, Sweetheart? It would suit me O.K. even if it wouldn't you, Honey.

Well, Darling, I'll have to sign off here & run along. I have to get busy, you know, it is a school teachers world, it is, it is.

So - So Long, Darling until tomorrow, don't worry, I won't put you aside from my thoughts, though. Darling, you are even in my dreams. I couldn't live without you, Honey. "I really love you." "I really do." Do you remember the first time those were said and who said them?

Good Luck & God Bless You.
All my Love & Kisses,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Darling, I really love
you. I really do.

Honey, we got a call tonight from Raymond. He & Max were married today, in Omaha so that is over. Darling, it is bad enough to lose you for a while without losing him for good. He meant so much to me. We don't know any of the details yet. They should be back by Wed., will tell you all, then.

Goodnight, Sweetheart.
All my Love & Kisses,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you so, Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot

Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 6, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I really was happy this morning when I went to mail call as I received three letters from my Sweetheart and one from the folks. Honestly, I still can't see how you can find so much to write about as I can't but your letters are perfect as far as I am concerned.

I felt good this morning but not so pretty good this afternoon. We played softball this morning as Group 63 wanted to challenge us and we played two games winning both so we are all pretty tired and will probably be sore and stiff by morning. This noon they called five of us out to take some more shots and as usual I had two. My right arm is a little sore now but my left will be in the morning. They made me a little dizzy at first.

I should be through with all of my shots now unless we get some shots for tropical diseases at the P.O.E. I have enough tetnus shots to last for three years and typhoid for seven and I won't need smallpox for another year and I hope to be out by then so I'll not even think about it.

Darling, you were right about all of these funny stories going around as some of the fellows asked me if I got married while I was home and I just told them "What do you think?" I finally had to tell them that I didn't as they told me that if I did I would have to buy them each a quart of beer and I knew that if I did that I would have to drink with them and I quit that.

When I was home I really cut down on smoking but seem to be smoking more now that I am sitting around so much. If I had something to keep busy all of the time I wouldn't smoke as much.

Honey, that was purely Mom's idea about having you spend a week with them and I know they would love to have you. It would suit me fine if you did and take a rest but if I know you, you wouldn't rest very much. This deal about being stationed near home is out of the picture I'm afraid but I sure would like to.

You mentioned telling the School board whether or not you wanted the school next year. I suppose it all depends on whether you could get a girl to stay at home but I'll bet you would be lost if you didn't teach if you like it that well. I won't express my opinion as I don't want to influence you in any way.

I will have to go to the P.X. and buy that suitcase and mail it to Louis' this afternoon before they are sold out. The Post Office wasn't open Saturday so I didn't buy it as I didn't want it around here over the weekend.

We didn't get to see that stagershow last night as there was such a crowd waiting to get in so we are going to try it tonight. We have seen the Movie already but we may have to sit and see it again in order to get a seat for the stagershow.

Honey, I will close for this afternoon and if I get the suitcase mailed I will sleep some.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
May 7, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Just a few lines, Honey to tell you that I didn't hear from you today, but Darling, I'll forgive you.

I really don't feel like writing or doing anything today but crying. Darling, what do you think of our new sister? Do you approve? I do; but, honey, it is really hard to give in and let her come first. You don't know how that hurts. It really makes me feel blue. I sure like Max but Honey, that means that Raymond is gone forever. Oh! I don't see how I can ever do it. Since he is gone now, there are just three of us left at home and I have to be the spoke in both wheels, for Mom & Dad. Darling, I really miss you, really I do. I love you so much and everything goes wrong when you aren't here. It is pretty hard for me to keep my chin up when you aren't here, Honey. Now if my eighth grade girl doesn't pass, I'll really be so far down in the dumps that no one will ever find me, and I never want to be found.

Honey, it is bad enough that you are gone for a while but to have Raymond gone for good too. That really cuts. Mother was a lot worse again last night. Her heart is so weak and the shock was too much for her. (when Raymond called).

Gee! Darling, I really missed your letter today. I guess they do mean a lot to me. And I'm not fooling.

Well, may Darling, It is time for me to dismiss school so I'll have to sign off.

With the Best of Luck to you,

I remain, as always,
with All my Love & Kisses,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you Sweetheart.

Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 7, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey. What you doing now? I just lit up a cigar and thought I would answer your swell letter which I received this noon. I hope you don't object to my cigar smoking once in a while. I really enjoy one or two a week as I don't smoke so many cigarettes that way.

I don't know what has come over me this week but I just don't feel like going anyplace now. We planned on going to that stage show last night but put it off until tonight and now we have decided to wait until tomorrow night. We will probably end up by not seeing it at all. We monkeyed around last night and then went over and played Bingo and tonight we are going to go to the show here.

I think the reason that you didn't get a letter that day was because of the poor mail service in this Company. They pick the mail up at 10:00 and 3:00 and when I mailed it at night it didn't leave the Company until the next morning. I have been taking my letters over to a mail box about a half block away as they are picked up three times a day there.

When they changed this Company to C. we have been using that as our return address and the letters addressed to Co. C. have been going to Co. F. and then over here. That just shows how the mail can get messed up in these Army camps.

You wrote about this Larry Johnson and I'm sure I wouldn't know what to say as I don't know him. The best thing would be to tell him the whole story and I don't think he would get angry about it but Honey, if you want to go with him I wouldn't stop you as I know it would be very monotonous staying home all of the time. I'll just leave it up to you as I figure you know best.

They told us at the 8:00 formation this morning that we were to have another inspection Friday and if we passed we could leave here at noon but there isn't any use of us figuring on it as the P.O.M. Office won't release us. They said that we could wash the windows today but we didn't as they would be dirty before Friday and we would have to clean them again.

I am going to New York for sure this weekend unless the weather is very bad as that may be my last chance to go.

Darling, I'll close for this afternoon as I want to get a haircut before the barbershop closes.

All my love and kisses
I remain
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Darling, I love you truly.

Butte, Nebraska
May 8, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

I received your most welcomed letter this morning and it was really appreciated because I didn't get a letter yesterday, that is, a letter from you Darling.

Honey, I guess you really will have to come home. Maybe I would either feel better or worse. Ha! I have stayed home now since you left and I haven't had much more sleep than I happened to catch while you were home. More fun! I have really been working until all hours of the night. More fun!

This Wednesday, Honey, and for once (or rather so far) it is a beautiful day and I mean beautiful. I guess Frances is going to wash today, at least I hope so because I want my Saturday's free. It is too much fun to wash on Saturday. Last week I had to teach and this Saturday I have to get my clothes lined up for next week. Perhaps it will be a big week & I also have to prepare for the picnic. That is still more fun! Oh! Well! I'm glad because then I'll be free because school will be out. That really is a happy thought. All of my plans for the summer are completely shot and it took Raymond to do it. But by the looks of things I have my summer pretty well planned for me by my father. He has the work all lined up for the next few weeks, that is for sure. There is corn to plant, hay to haul, feed to grind, chickens (Grrrrrrrrrr) to care for, and a little bit of everything to be done. I'm afraid I'm not working things just right because I'm not making a gain. You see the separator really fixed about half of the room, The darn thing, so I went to wash the paper and well, it all came off alright. What? Why the design & coloring came off naturally, not the milk & cream spots so you can guess what it looks like.

Honey, I received a letter this morning from another wonderful guy, too. It was a letter from Raymond. It was so comical I just had to snicker when I read it. Here is what it said: (You see he, & Max promised that I would get to Spencer tonight. She was to come after me in the Raymond's car)

Dear Sis,

Max will never be able to get there Wed. night with the car.

Besides that she is trying to claim half interest in that thing, now do you think I should let that happen?

Your one worry & Bro Ray

Dear Elaine,

I'd like to come after you Wed. nite but the old man won't let me. Be seeing you soon anyway.

Your sis,
Max

Tell the folks hello for us.

(over) By Ray.

The old lady just got hold of this as you can plainly see and, boy! is the war on now. She is so mad, that she says she is going out and get drunk, and gave me just one minute to get to the door if I wanted to go along. Ray. So Long Ray.

She just got in a little better humor and offered to lick the stamp.

Wasn't that a cute letter, Honey? The letter was sealed with a kiss because there are lip prints on the envelop. I believe it is about the color of - well - a - well - well, honey, do you remember that dame you had out one night while you were home? - the one that had real dark lipstick? Well, it was about that shade. Ha! So you know quite well what color it is. Ha! OR DO YOU???!!!

Here the time is just rolling around. I never knew it would or could go so fast but I sure wish I knew what the rest of the day holds in store for me. I would really be happy!

Tonight is the big dance in Spencer, Honey, but truthfully now, I don't feel like going. Honest, Darling, I don't but I guess maybe I will. I have a ticket & that is the only reason for my going. But as yet I don't know how I am going. If I go with Charley Lewis', I'll have to be ready to go home by 12:30 A.M. or 1:00 o'clock. Long before the thing is over. I would just as soon stay home as do that. No fooling! I really would. Johnny Fuhrer told me last night that I could ride along with him but Honey, I didn't think you would like it. I wouldn't have gone with him - just rode along. You know me - Uh-huh- I know, too well but that is your own fault. Ha!

Well, Sweetheart, bye for now. Have you received any of my letters yet? You never said and I was just wondering. I put 12 cents out for that one, but he only took 6 cents so here is hoping that you didn't have to pay extra before they gave it to you. That would really make me angry.

So, My Darling,

So Long & Good Luck,

God Bless You,
As Always,
I remain,
With All my Love & Kisses,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 8, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey. What are you doing now to keep out of mischief besides working? I sure wish that I had something to do to stay busy as this sitting around is getting pretty gruesome. I received your swell letter this noon and was very glad to hear from you so will answer it this afternoon if you don't object and I don't think you will.

These last couple of weeks have really made me lazy as I haven't done enough to pay for my meals. Of course, I don't object as I never did like the kind of work they have in the Army. I should go outside and get some exercise as it would do me a lot of good. We have another softball game scheduled for in the morning so will most likely be sore again the next day.

They have just installed a telephone in the barracks so that they can call us instead of coming over here from the orderly room everytime they want someone. They usually call for three or four men to do a little work each afternoon but I don't have to do that now that I am the group leader but would just as soon if someone else had that job as some of the fellows are always coming in here asking about this or that.

We played pinochle all morning and one game this afternoon but probably won't play any more until Friday as we will have to spend most of tomorrow cleaning windows and getting things lined up for the inspection.

Some of the fellows went to that stagershow last night and said that it was really good so I am going this evening. We came very near going last night but it was raining so hard that I didn't feel like going but went to bed early. I don't see why it couldn't rain during the day and nice at night so that we wouldn't have to go to those formations.

Honey, I'm really glad about Raymond and Maxine as they will make such a nice married couple. Tell Max that I sure would have liked to have been in Lynch that night and danced with her. I'll bet that if I would have been there you would have been with me and I don't think we would do too much dancing. We would have been out in the car as we never had enough time to ourselves when I was home. Now don't get me wrong, we most likely would have been having a friendly quarrel like we most generally did, or maybe I would have been trying to give you a hickey and would probably get slapped or would you have finally gave in.

Darling, I'm too sleepy or for some reason or another I can't think of any more to write so will close for XXXXX this afternoon and get some sleep. I think that if I keep this up I'm liable to sleep the best years of my life away although I can't say that my Army life is not the best years for me.

All My Love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Honey
with all my heart.

P.S. Please excuse the error above as I was thinking about sleeping and thought it was night already.

Butte, Nebraska
May 9, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

I received your swell letter today, Honey. Sure is swell to hear from you. Don't know what I'd do if it wasn't for your letters. They really mean a lot to me.

I went to the dance last night, Honey, and I really am tired today. No! Fooling! The music was by Don Loflon and it was simply divine. I have never in my life heard such beautiful music. It was wonderful but Darling, it would have been super if you could have been there. How I would have loved to dance with you. Nice thinking about it, anyway. I saw (our) Mom down town and talked there quite a while and then we found (our) Dad & talked him into the notion of going to the dance. Really, Honey, I danced with our Daddy. Not so bad, either. I mean I didn't do so bad. He is a good dancer but I'll wager that his feet were sore by the next (this) morning. Ha! You can very easily sympathize with him can't you dear? Ha!

Our brother & sister still aren't home. They should be here by tomorrow because Johnny Schmidt expects him to work tomorrow & Saturday.

Please excuse the shortness of this letter but I'm in such a mess here with invitations to make out & all of these reports that I can't think straight. Forgive me?

Honey, I went down to the cafe for about 15 minutes with a boy that used to work for us, Larry, & my cousin. I had my ice cream & we went right back to the dance hall. O.K.?

All my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I love you, Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 9, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received two really swell letters from my one and only Sweetheart today, one this noon and one this evening, so will answer them now before I go to bed.

I just came back from the show and have shaved already and feel a little better now. We saw Van Johnson and Ester Williams in "Easy to Wed." It was in technicolor and was very good. The color was very beautiful and had a lot of comidy in it. I like a show with some comidy in it.

Andy and I went to that stagershow last night and I'm telling you it was really grand. That Smiley Burnette is a very good actor and has a lot of jokes. Fred Lowery was what I would call really tops. How that fellow can whistle.

We have been busy today getting this barracks and another one ready for inspection in the morning. We didn't mind cleaning our own but when we have to clean another one that just isn't fair. We have a parade in the morning so we won't be around when the inspection takes place. We are really going to have to get on the ball as we get up at 5:45 and have Revele and eat breakfast and have our barracks ready for inspection by 7:15 as that is the time we fall out to go on the parade.

I never did mind a parade and I'm glad that we won't be here for the inspection but I think if we were in the barracks we would have a better chance of passing as they wouldn't check it so close then.

Darling it was a good thing that I wasn't home last Sunday when you had all of that company as that would have been more work for you if I would have been there with you, or would I have been invited in the first place. I might have even helped you with the dishes then. That would have been something if I would have.

Honey, It was just two weeks ago this noon that I left my Sweetheart but it seems more like two months. The days go fairly fast but not nearly fast enough to suit me for another eight months. I'm going to have time stand still for a couple of years when I get home so that I can make up for lost time. I'm always looking forward to the days when I'll be out and go back to the girl who said she would wait for me and I know that for sure.

Honey, I don't want you to worry about me as I'm coming back to you and I'm sure of that. When my time is up and they won't discharge me I'll just go home as they won't be able to do anything to me then.

Darling I'll close for tonight and go to bed and send All of My love and kisses to you.

Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Honey, I love you
more and more.

Butte, Nebraska
May 10, 1946

My Darling Clayton,

Oh! Honey! I'm really mad! I love you so much but still I don't like to have you smoking cigars. You know how I like to have you smoke cigarettes, even. It is O.K. if you smoke cigars, cigarettes, or what every you want to, while you are in the Army, as long as you are willing to stop when you get discharged. Are you willing?

Yes, Honey, I know if I told Larry the whole story, everything would be O.K. but how on earth can I tell him the whole story when I don't know what it is myself? Tell me that. You know, Honey, how I love you and if I go with him, it will just be to get me someplace. The only thing that really worries me, Honey, is that you will come back at me and say I 'two-timed' you. I'll be waiting for an answer to this, Darling and don't be bashful. Speak your mind and the truth.

I sure hope you get to go to New York, Honey. You should get to go as long as you have been planning to go - ever since you reached Baltimore, that is quite a while, isn't it Darling?

I received a swell letter from our Mother this morning. It was a very nice letter. Again they asked me to come down. I want to go down there Sunday and take Mom's gift down to her. I don't want to send it because the way mail travels, it perhaps would be broken before the destination would be reached. Anyway, here is hoping I get there Sunday but I'm afraid that the Kid's will come home & we will have a large wedding dinner. One thing for sure - her folks' won't give them a dinner or supper. Ha! Ha!

The Kids haven't come home, yet. Certainly they will be back by morning because Raymond has to be back for work tomorrow. Perhaps they will come home tonight to see us & then go on down to their place. At least here is hoping they come home. We haven't seen Raymond since Sunday. That is a long, long time.

Honey, it is a long, long time since I saw you, too. It seems like two months and it is only two weeks and one day. Oh! Darling, I love you so, only 7 1/2 months left to go on like this. So you have changed your mind about re-enlisting? I thought sure you would do it but by that other letter it doesn't seem that way. Goody! Goody! Honey, I really love you.

I received my snapshots today so I am sending some on to you. That one of you, Sweetheart, is really swell. Today was the first time I saw any of them. You see I sent for three sets when I sent the film off. Pretty smart, huh? Please destroy that terrible one of part of me and that one of me in chore clothes. Purty please.

Well, Darling, so long for this time. I have one letter down and only five to go - that means a total of seven for today. I just wrote a short one to our (my) Mother's cousin & sent her a picture of her son, that I took of him while he was home.

So so long for this time, Darling. Remember, I love you.

All my love & Kisses,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Darling I love you.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 10, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I just came back from the parade so thought I would write to you this morning as we get off at noon and I am going to New York so won't write tomorrow and I know that it wouldn't be right to miss writing to my Sweetheart two days in a row.

Smithy and I are going to Washington and take a plane to New York this afternoon as it is just too nice a day to stay around here. We will get there this evening and will start back Sunday morning.

We heard last night that our orders were in and that we were shipping Sunday night but I was over to the P.O.M. office and they said that they hadn't received any notice of a boat in Port ready nor any orders yet.

Two fellows came back from the assignment office and were asking about the chances of going to Panama as two other fellows were put on orders for there. They found out that anyone with less than six months service would not go overseas but would be sent to their Service Command. Oh Why, couldn't I have less than six months left and be sent to Omaha. That would be swell with me and that still could happen as it might be quite a while before we get on a boat. If we monkey around another six weeks I'll be okay.

We really had some parade this morning. There were three companies and is all we did was parade to the parade grounds and stood there about an hour and then marched back. That is what I like as I really think the parades and inspections were what won the war. We got back here just after the inspection so didn't have to go through any of that. Everything must have been in good enough shape as we are getting off at noon.

I just came back from mail call but didn't hear from my Honey. I suppose I will have a letter this afternoon and I won't be here to get it. I got a letter from our folks.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write so will close for now and tell you about New York in my next letter.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling
with all my heart.

Pfc. Arthur Stewart Jr.
37815394
Service Company
23 Inf. 2nd division
Ft. Lewis, Wash.
May 11, 1946

Dear Elaine;

Well I suppose your school term is over isn't it?, and no doubt you are glad of that. What do you intend to do this summer, or shouldn't I ask that?

I wrote you a short letter while I was home on furlough, but you did not answer. However, what I wrote, I meant it.

I am with the 24 Inf. of the 2nd., division here. I'm going to start working in the motor pool in a few days.

We had a parade in Tacoma last Tues., and got a lot of compliments from the newspapers, and newsreel cameramen took pictures also. We have parades here at the fort 2 or 3 times a week. I like to march to a band so I don't mind it.

Tacoma is only 15 miles from here and Seattle about 50. Olympia is close too. Mt. Ranier is plainly seen from here, all though it is around 60 miles away. This is the only place I have been that a person can go ice skating, roller skating, skiing, swimming, at this time of the year.

I went swimming Saturday at a lake which is about 1/2 mile from here. It was a swell day, but the water is always cold. I rented a boat and went boat riding with a buddy of mine. I'm going up to Seattle one of these week ends and go sight seeing by ferry. It is a 9 hour trip - \$5 for round trip.

I just found out yesterday that I have relatives at Vancouver so I'm going to try to get up to see them some week end.

It is quite chilly here today as it usually is when the sun isn't shining. If the sun is seen for a week straight here, it is unusual.

I suppose you have a special boy friend by this time. Remember that letter you wrote to me saying that you were in the notion of going to Texas when I was there? I wish you would get the idea of coming out to Washington.

I think Warren Collins was here awhile but I'm not sure.

We are going on amphibious manuevers for 9 weeks off the coast of Calif. in Sept. I may get to see my sis there as she is at San Diego.

Well, Elaine, try and find time to drop me a few lines. I'd like to hear from you. So long for now.

Love,

Blondie

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 12, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, How are you? I'm just about exhausted again tonight but have to write as I didn't last night. Please don't be angry at me for not writing but I was so tired when I got back to Camp that I took a shower and went right to bed.

We didn't go to New York as we didn't get to leave until 5:00 Friday night so we decided to go Saturday morning but it was raining again so we didn't go. If we are still here next week end we are going Friday night rain or shine, and it looks like we will be here yet.

Three of us went out to the Pimlico race track yesterday afternoon and saw eight horse races. We couldn't get a seat in the grandstand as each seat was numbered and you had to buy a ticket to get a seat and we got in free so we went in the infield and sat on the ground between races and stood up while the horses were running. We got a lot of enjoyment out of it but were really tired. We didn't get back until 9:45.

Another fellow and I decided to go out to the Amusement Park this afternoon but didn't have a very good time as it rained too much. We rode the roller coaster once and then went to another park and rode it twice there. It was a lot longer and better ride the last place and we really got the thrills. That was the first time that I had ever ridden one and had fun.

It has rained almost all day and is really miserable now. I wish it would rain and be done with it instead of a little shower and then be nice for a while and then shower again.

Darling, I sure wish that I were home now as I love you so much that it is going to get the best of me before long. I really miss you Honey. We were talking yesterday about the three things we miss most while in the Army. A fellows wife (Sweetheart in my case), Home, and the bed. The bed is about the easiest one to fulfill as we can lay down once in a while.

We are to start wearing our Suntan uniforms starting Wed night and how I hate that. They look fairly good as long as they are pressed but after persons wears them a half hour they are all wrinkled and it doesn't take long to get them dirty. It wouldn't be so bad if we had some kind of a jacket to wear as that would look a little more like an Army uniform.

Darling, I'll close for tonight as I can't keep my eyes open much longer so I'll have to hit the hay.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you, Honey, more than
anyone else in the whole world.

Butte, Nebraska
May 13, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Hi! What cha' doin'? I hope that you aren't in any mischief that you shouldn't be in, Dear. But if anyone is into mischief, I know that you are right there too. Ha!

Honey, I know I should be shot for not writing yesterday, also Saturday, but Saturday I had to go to town, etc. and yesterday we had company from about 11:00 A.M. until after 9:00 P.M. Grandma & Grandpa were up for dinner & then right after dinner, Johnny R. - Mom's cousin came, while they were still there, Marg & Denny, Uncle Will Jordan & Billie & Golda Mae came out. They left and Raymond & Max came up & a little while later Charley Lewis' came and after they left we did chores & ate supper - the Kids were still there & then right after supper here came Rob Stahlecker and his Dad. Finally at 8:45 P.M. I went to the show at Spencer. It was really good and I'm not fooling, although I have seen some just as good. It definitely wasn't the kind I expected it to be. "The Bells of St. Mary's." It will probably be in Butte next weekend or so, and I hope that Mother gets to go. She has been talking about seeing it.

Well, my dear, I believe I'll have to quit. This week, I am so busy but as soon as it is passed, I'll be free. I have extra picnic planning too. More fun!!

So - So Long - For This Time.

All my Love,

Elaine

I Love You

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 13, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I received three swell letters from you this noon and must say that they really did put life into the day for me as I was really blue this morning. It seems like a letter from my Sweetheart can make me feel so much better.

To start the day off they came in and woke us up at 5:30 and then didn't have Revellie so we were all rather peeved as we could have just as well stayed in bed another hour. At our 8:00 formation they called all of us group leaders to the Orderly Room and said that we would all go to school at 9:00 as we are to take a three day course in First Aid. It is very dull and no one likes it as it is just the same as we had in Basic but it is worth knowing. I think the only reason they are giving it is to keep us from laying around in the barracks and to keep us out of mischief.

There are no signs of us getting any orders yet and if they don't come tomorrow we most likely won't go this week as they want to ship us out the first part of the week so that we won't have to travel or arrive out there on a weekend. Our orders could come in the morning and we would leave then as we are to be ready to leave in an hour's notice. I hope we stay here yet this week and then I don't care as I'm getting tired of this place and want to go some other place but we will never get to a place as good as this one.

So we have a new Sister-in-law now? I read in the Spencer Paper where they were married in Omaha but it didn't give any details about the Wedding. I'll bet it really seems funny at home now with Evelyn and Raymond both gone now and leaving you three alone but I guess it would have happened someday. I suppose they are going to live in Spencer if Raymond is going to stay at Johnies or does he intend to keep on working there.

Darling, I'll close for tonight as I want to drop a few lines to Max and Raymond and should write to "our" folks yet.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
May 14, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Here I am again, Clayton, after a day. Just think. I haven't written since yesterday. Can you believe it?

This certainly is a dull day and seems about all day to me. I am actually so tired that I don't know what to do with myself. It wouldn't be bad if I was just tired but I'm really sick. No fooling! I'm so deep in work that it seems like it will be more than three more days before I'm out of most of it. Some of these days or rather some day, I hope to be one whole day without a single thing to do or worry about. I can just see that day, can't you?

Gee! I know I shouldn't be tired but I am. I go to bed at an early hour - between 9: & 9:30 P.M. But I get up at 5:00 A.M. - so it really doesn't help to go to bed at 9 - that only makes it 8 hours of sleep anyway. Oh! Well, Here is hoping that after I get home tonight that I can snatch about an hours rest. Daddy won't be home, though so I don't know if I'll get to or not. There are so many chores to do. At least too many when it comes to doing them alone.

Today was Mr. (Harrison) Friend's funeral. You remember, the lady that was staying at our place during the day while you were home - well, it is her husband. He passed away Saturday night and Daddy has been practically living there since Sunday evening. They use to live neighbors to us for years and years. They were always pretty nice old people. Always ready to help anyone in need and drop everything right then and go. She hasn't decided what she will do but we have been thinking about letting her have our other house. It could really be fixed up cute with a little time. In a good day, we could really have it slicked up and really fixed up nice. She could have her things down there and work for us, too. That would be O.K. with me but I'll still have it plenty rough this summer, especially if we don't get someone to really handle most or all of the housework. So, as yet, I don't know what will happen.

If I don't find Elaine again, I don't know what I'll do either. I really miss her. No fooling! It is O.K. Honey, that you came home when you did because you found me about in the 'lull of the storm' as one would say. One good thing, I don't think that Daddy will make me teach next year. In fact I am quite sure that he won't insist that I do and here is hoping that he doesn't. My eighth grader passed in fine style, and I had half way decided to take the school for another year but I guess it is a good thing I didn't see the board members then because I am all out of the notion, now. One has good hours and the salary could be worse but I'll have to decide later if I'll take it or not. Why, who knows? I may even be married by the time school starts again. Think so? Daddy said he needed a hired man but he was going to leave that up to me - to get one. Encouraging isn't it? Now after what Raymond did, Gosh! I'm not myself anymore. I don't believe I could ever go through with it. No fooling! He has changed so much Clayton that you wouldn't believe that he was the same guy. There isn't a joke left in him. That isn't even funny. He came home Sunday and wasn't himself at all. Daddy & I had the milking done before he even knew we were gone and I had the separating done before he even came around. He used to be around Daddy no matter what happened and he didn't even talk to him much Sunday. He just isn't himself. Max has changed quite a bit but not as much as Raymond did. I just can't get over it. Anyway here is hoping they change back again before very long.

I'll have to tell you what little I know about the wedding: Where & By whom it was performed is all a secret. But they were married about 4:15 or 4:30 Monday afternoon. You see, they had their pianist engaged, the (priest or bishop whichever it was) engaged, their rooms, and everything like that, all by mail. All they had to do

was go and get married at a certain time. Early Monday morning, they went shopping to get their clothes. Raymond got a beautiful gray suit and is it a honey! Woo! Woo! One would think that gray wouldn't look right on him but it really looks swell. May couldn't find a dress so she wore that aqua one she wore to Bonesteel that night and then after the wedding she found one. It just doesn't look to me much like a wedding dress, though. It is a coral rose gabardine coat dress. It is more of a sport dress. In fact it is a beautiful sport dress but just not in the right place for a wedding with his dressie suit. They came back Friday about 3:30 P.M. and I'm wishing that they would get married again. They brought a beautiful set of a pitcher & glasses to match. It has scottie dogs all over it - glasses too. I had tried in several places to get a set but couldn't - Denny even tried in Hastings because I like them so well. Now then the Kids found them in Omaha & the next day I went to Kibby's and they had just received two sets. Of course mine are better having come from Omaha. Now that isn't all, they brought me a beautiful pair of gold earrings with ruby & sapphire sets in them. They are really honeys. On their way back from Atkinson they found an ironing board. The only one they were able to get - \$6.00 but when they reached Spencer - Agnes Kaup & Mrs. Hanson had a swell ironing board, cover & all on it, setting up in Max's room so they brought their ironing board that they had, and gave it to me. It really is a swell one. As soon as they get straightened around now, I'm going to get them a good set of dishes or silver ware. Mother is getting one and I'm getting the other for them. I really don't care how much they cost if they are good ones - those kids are always giving me so much and it is all expensive enough.

Well, Honey, I guess I have written about enough for today so will sign off. It will soon be four o'clock. Hurray!! Oh! I meant to tell you that the Kids did have a double ring ceremony. He finally gave in. No! Fooling! But Max has the most beautiful set of rings that I ever expect to see. Raymond's wasn't with the set but it really matches. Max's rings are like this (drawing of rings) & her wedding ring curves to fit the diamond. It is beautiful.

Well, So long for this time.

All my love,

Elaine

I love you, Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 14, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I received your swell letter this evening and it really made me happy for a while but now I feel very blue. I thought the pictures were very good except the one of me standing on the train. It looks like I had been dragged through a knothole. It looks like my trousers were just thrown on me and were about ten sizes too large. I showed that one to Smithy that you took of us looking at my watch. I suppose we were looking to see if the train left on time. Neither one of us knew that you took it but it wasn't so bad. That one I took of you was my error as I was taking it directly against the sun.

I guess the reason I feel so blue tonight is because it is raining again and I wanted to go down town again to a stagershow but can't go now. I'll be darned if I am going anyplace in this rain except over to the mailbox to mail this.

Darling I'm glad that you told Larry the whole story and it will be perfectly okay with me if you go with him as long as it doesn't get to serious as I intend to have you as my wife someday. I haven't been able to find a Sweetheart bracelet yet that I especially like but Honey I will send you one.

We have one more day of this First Aid Stuff and then we can say the h _ _ _ with that. They have been calling roll about four times a day to see if everyone is attending as those who miss it won't get any pass this weekend. I want my pass so I have no choice but would a lot rather come back here to the barracks and sleep.

I sure get a bang out of these married men in this group as they are always asking about whether or not the Draft law has been continued as it expires tonight at Midnight. A lot of them are going to write to their Congressmen and some of them tried to get passes this morning to go to Washington. I just tell them that if they would have joined the Regular Army long time ago they would be sure of getting out. I was wishing that I wouldn't have taken my 30 day furlough when I enlisted but then I wouldn't have had the last two furloughs and not been with you, so I guess I did the right thing.

The fellow who is being sent to Omaha leaves tonight at 10:00 and I sure wish I were going with him. If I knew that it would do any good, I would go to see the Assignment Officer and try to go to Omaha. They have been taking quite a few of the Regular Army men off orders this week but they all have less time to serve than I do.

Honey, I'll close for tonight by sending you All my love & kisses --

I remain
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
May 15, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

I received your most welcomed letter this morning and was very happy to hear from you - no letter yesterday.

I was very sorry to hear that you didn't get to go to New York. You have planned on it long enough, now, I do believe. It seems as though it always happens that way but Honey, you maybe aren't suppose to get to go to New York. Have you ever thought of that?

I want to go to New York or Chicago for my Honeymoon so I can really enjoy myself. Wouldn't that be super? Year, it is a wonderful thought, alright or maybe I should say, dream.

I have filled out so many reports and averaged so many grades today and I feel so tough besides that I really and truly don't know if I'm coming or going. Oh! Only two more days and I'll be free!!! How wonderful it will be.

Daddy is supposed to come after me but he must be still coming because it is five P.M. and he still isn't here. That makes me so nervous when he does not come. I called home and Mother said he was coming after me so I'm not going to start walking for a while yet.

There were eight high school freshies out to see me today for a while. They came in a coupe at that - about a 36 Ford.

Here is Daddy::

I didn't get this finished last night - Daddy came. The mailman is due any time now so I'll have to mail this in a hurry. But I'll write today.

My Love,
Your Sweetheart,
E Laine

I love you, Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 15, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I didn't receive any letter from my Sweetheart today but will really look for one tomorrow. I was going to write later this evening but we have to turn all of the lights out by 9:00 on account of the coal shortage but I thought that if I waited until I came back from the Hospital I might not have time.

One of the fellows, the one who was group leader before, went on Sick Call this morning and they put him in the Hospital. He had a bad knee and thought infection had set in as he skinned it one day while playing softball. He told me this morning that he may have to stay so I told him that if he needed anything to call back tonight and let me know what he wanted and I would bring it to him. He wants me to bring his shaving equipment and some cigarettes so I will pretty soon.

Darling, this should be a day for celebration but I don't feel like it as I have a terrific headache and besides the occasion isn't worth a celebration. Just a year ago today I was sworn into this thing they call an Army but it seems like longer than that. I guess if I could take it for a year I can take it for seven more months.

We finally finished that First Aid today and everyone is glad of that and we are beginning to wonder what else we will have to take. It wouldn't surprise me a bit if we had to take a refresher course in Japanese if we have to stay here much longer.

(Time out for a refill)

There is no sign of any orders for us so I am going over to see the Assignment Officer tomorrow and try to get sent to Omaha as even if they don't send me across I may never get a chance to get there.

Darling, Just think if I could get stationed in Omaha as I could go home every weekend and wouldn't be very far from my Sweetheart. It doesn't cost anything to think of these wonderful things. I love you with all of my heart and it will really hurt if I have to go overseas and be away from you for so long. In fact, it hurts just to think about being away.

I can't think of anymore to write now so will close and run over to the Hospital for a short while and then go to bed early and try to sleep my headache off.

Lots of love and kisses
Your Honeybunch
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Butte, Nebraska
May 16, 1946

My Dear Clayton

Here I am at last. I am sitting here, during noon hour, holding my little boy on my lap. He is such a pill and a real baby. I told him today that I like to eat people and I always start with the fingers or ears. He is quite bright and popped back with. "Gee! How does it feel with someone walking around in your stomach?" He is quite the Kid. I even kiss him he is so sweet - any objections? I have to kiss someone, you aren't here to kiss. This little, Lowell, is practically crying and has been since morning. He doesn't want school to be out and he wants me to say that I will be his teacher next year. Everytime I move from the chair he is right by my side and the minute I sit down he is right here on my lap. You can imagine how my dress looks, too. Thank goodness I didn't wear my pleated skirted dress today. Honey, I am almost as hard on a dress I wear to school with these babies around as I am when I go with you. Now don't be funny. But I merely mean that we are always necking. Or aren't we?

I didn't get this finished this noon but will try to do so now. I am so nervous and I suppose a little crabby too but I can't help it. I sure try not to be crabby. I can't blame the Kids for being excited. I am quite a little bit that way myself.

The picnic is Sunday and "our" Mom & Dad Klasna can't come because of Erwin Klasna's memorial services. I presume that will be one sad day for the Klasna generations. Just the thought of it - to me - just gets me.

I called home about 10 minutes ago and told Frances to tell Daddy to come after me before he goes to town but she said that he was just coming after me and had started already. I have to go up to see Miss Barnes this evening yet so I hope he hurries. But I know very well it doesn't take that long to come over after me so I am guessing that he went to town first.

Only one more piece of a day, Honey & I'll actually be free. Goody! Goody! I am really happy. I have all of my reports filled out, ready to send in and take to get signed tonight, so I can get my 'hard earned' salary. I have quite a large sum to collect. Goody.

Well, I must close, it is really getting late. Oh! I got a letter from "our" Mom today - a very nice letter in deed.

All my Love,
Elaine

I love you, Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 16, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Still no letter from my Sweetheart today and I really looked for one for sure today as I didn't get any yesterday. Honey, I love you so much that when I don't hear from you for several days, I begin to wonder if everything is alright at home. I suppose that after this week it will be quite some time before I hear from you again.

We finally got our orders today that we are shipping Sunday but aren't certain of the time as yet. I have been rather anxious to get our orders but now that we have them, I'm not nearly as anxious to go. I was hoping that we would leave on a Monday or Tuesday as we don't fancy leaving on a weekend. I had planned on going to New York this weekend but I guess I won't as we most likely will have to be back by Midnight Saturday and won't be able to leave here before tomorrow evening.

We have been busy cleaning the barracks today as they inspected it twice this afternoon and will again tomorrow afternoon. We have a showdown inspection on our clothes at 7:00 in the morning to see that we have everything and then they will issue us what we need. The only thing I need is a First Aid Packet now although I hope I never have to use it.

I went over to see the Assignment Officer this morning about going to Omaha and he said that it was too late as I was on orders already but that I might try it when I get to my next camp so I'm going to.

We finished our First Aid training yesterday and today they gave each of us a little card stating that we had completed the course. They gave each man a card whether he passed the test or not and two men didn't attend any of the classes and they even got cards so you can see just how good we are according to them.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write now so will close for tonight as I want to get these over to the mailbox. I wrote a letter to the folks already and wrote both of these in less than forty five minutes. I might go to the show as there isn't much else to do and we have to turn the lights out by 9:00.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams Honey,
All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Darling, I love you
with all my heart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 17, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey, How are you this bright, sunny but cloudy, dull morning. I'm rather peeved now but maybe I will get over it before long.

We were to have two inspections this morning but at the 7:30 formation they said that the three groups who are shipping Sunday could pick up their passes at 8:00 and leave but had to be in by 6:00 tomorrow evening. We had to fill out special passes and take them over for the Captain to sign but later told us that we couldn't leave as they did not get clearance from the P.O.M. Office and they won't open up before 10:00 so it looks like we won't get much of a weekend unless our orders are to leave Monday.

If we could have left here right away this morning, four of us were going to New York but it all depends upon how long we get off now. I signed to go to Washington and planned on going to a ball game there but it looks like it will rain so they probably won't play.

Honey, I won't send this letter until I find out something for sure today as we may find out our A.P.O. number and I will send it to you but if we don't find out anything we probably won't ship for a few days yet.

I am getting so that I just don't care what they do with me now as I'm so fed up with the way they run things around here as they tell a person one thing and in two minutes they say the opposite. The only thing I want out of this Army is a discharge and if they expect me to do much work they are going to have to pay a little higher wages and then I won't hurt myself.

Honey, we just got our passes so Smithy and I are going to Washington and try to catch a plane to New York and if we can't we will spend the day in Washington.

I'll, close for this morning as we are leaving soon.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 18, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, How is my little Sweetheart this fine afternoon? I hope you feel better than I do as I'm almost worn out already and it is only 1:30. I guess it is just my nerves as I have been on the go almost all morning and have been trying to pack my clothes also.

I received your swell letter yesterday afternoon and was I ever glad to receive it as I didn't get any for two days and was beginning to think that perhaps you found some one else whom you cared fore more than me and was going to quit writting to me but I don't think that is it as I honestly believe that you love me and I know for sure that I'm in love with you.

We are leaving here at 4:00 tomorrow afternoon by bus and then will go from the Penn Station but don't know just what time. We are going by Tourist Pullman which will be Pullman cars on the back of the Civilian trains as there won't be enough for a troop train. We figure that it will take us four or five days to get to Seattle so we will be pretty tired by that time.

I am sending an address card with my A.P.O. number on it but that won't get our mail to us at Seattle as that will be my overseas address.

I went up town for a little while yesterday afternoon but didn't stay long as I really got homesick. That was the first time I have ever felt that way. I don't know just what did it but when I was riding on the Street-Car I began thinking about you and home and how long it is going to be before I get to see you again.

We were really lucky last night as we went uptown to a show and it really rained but by the time we would change streetcars it would quit for a few minutes and we never got a bit wet. We didn't want to wear our raincoats so we just took the chances of getting wet.

I got a Birthday Card and letter from the folks yesterday and Mom wrote that they sent a package the same day but I don't think I will get it here as they don't bring the mail out to camp on Sunday. I suppose it will catch up with me in a couple of months someplace.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write now so will close I we are going uptown for a while as this is our last chance.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart

Clayton

Honey, I love you very much.

(Enclosure - Notice Change Of Address Card)

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 18, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I thought that I would write you another letter this evening as it will most likely be the last one I write from here as I don't think I will have much time to write in the morning as I have to get some papers and things lined up for shipment.

I was going to go up town this afternoon but didn't get any farther than the Bowling Alley on the corner as it started raining so we stayed there for a while and then had supper before we came back.

In a way I'm glad that we are leaving as those da __ _ed Japanese boys are coming back today and I sure don't want to be around here with them, but the sooner I leave here it will put me so far away from you for a longer time and that I don't like. Darling, I love you with all my heart and I want you to believe that as it is the truth.

I have been trying to find out what our address will be at Seattle but can't seem to find it. They said that we won't be there over three or four days and that you should use our A.P.O. number but it is hard telling. I suppose you had better write to me at A.P.O. 26295 C/O Postmaster in San Francisco and I will let you know what I find out in Seattle.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll close for this evening so that I can get this on the 6:45 pickup. I'll be seeing you in about seven months and nine more days and that is going to be a long, long time, to my notion it will be too long.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

P.S. I'm carrying my writing paper in my little handbag so that I can write a few letters on the way out there.

POSTCARD

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
Co. C., 1st. Bn., C.I.C. Center
Holabird Signal Depot
Baltimore, 19 Maryland
May 19, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

We just finished eating supper here and have a couple of hours before our train leaves so will drop you a few lines before I get back on the train. I tryed to call Daddy's cousin here but they must not have been home as I didn't get any answer from the other end of the line. We have an eight hour lay over in Chicago tomorrow afternoon so I'll write from there. I wish we had that layover in Omaha as I could enjoy myself there a whole lot more.

Love Clayton

POSTCARD

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
A.P.O. 26295 C/O P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.
May 21, 1946

Hi Honey:

Have a little time here in St. Paul so will drop you a few lines. Had a nice time in Chicago yesterday as we went out to a fellow's place that I knew in Camp Fannin and had supper with them. Will close for now.

Love Clayton

BIRTHDAY CARD

Butte, Nebraska
May 21, 1946

With Love for Your Birthday

This brings a lot of wishes
 For joy in large amounts
 But it's not so much the wishes
 As the love they bring that counts.

All my Love,
 Elaine
 Will write later, Darling
 Butte, Nebraska
 May 22, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Happy Birthday! Honey! How are you this fine evening? It is so windy here that I can hardly hear myself think. The way the sky looked tonight, I thought sure that it would rain and by the lightning and thunder !!woo!woo! It is really terrible. We really need rain and that is for sure.

Honey, guess who I just saw. Your Mother & Dad stopped in a while this evening on their way to Butte. I guess you had told them something about giving me your address. Right? Anyway, that was their reason for stopping. They tried to make me say that I would come down Sunday but I didn't make any promise. They'll come after me if I'll only come. As yet, I don't know what I'll be doing or when I will be doing it.

Honey! I have absolutely made the "revolution" not to make any promises. Pretty good thing to do, isn't it.?

I am really tired this evening. This morning bright and early, Daddy called me and so I got up and we chased those (supply any name suitable) _____ horses for a half hour, trying to get them in, after we had breakfast (which was at 8:00 A.M.) Daddy & I went out and fixed fence. That was really a lot of fun! We finished at 11:40 A.M. so I ate dinner and went to Butte for Eighth Grade Commencement Exercises. We got home from Butte around 6:00 P.M., ate supper, did all of the chores and at last I am free at 9:15. I do believe that if I keep this up, I will really be free - at an early hour - in the morning.

Well Dear, I will have to close for this time. I'm really tired.

Love, Elaine

I Love You

Please excuse this ink but I just splattered it on accidentally.

POSTCARD

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
A.P.O. 26295
C/O Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Shelby, Mont.
May 22, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

This is sure a heck of a way to spend my Birthday, riding an old train but I guess there isn't much choice on my part. We are in a small town in Western Montana and are to arrive in Seattle at 8:30 in the morning. It is really windy and cold here and if it is like this out West we might freeze unless we put on our winter uniform.

Can't think of any more to write now so will close and try to write a letter this afternoon.

Love Clayton

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
A.S.N. 37770018
A.P.O. 26295 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Somewhere in Mont.
May 22, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey. Whatcha doing? I suppose you have been waiting for a letter from me for some time now. I have sent a few post cards along the line and have finally decided to write a letter. I have been playing either 500 Rummy or Pinochle most of the time as there isn't much else to do to kill time.

We just came through the Glacier National Park and it sure was beautiful and we are still going through the mountains. There sure is a lot of snow on the mountains yet and is pretty cool here.

I didn't care for any of the country in Minnesota, North Dakota, or the East half of Montana but there is a place that we just passed near Whitefish, Mont. that I would really like to live. It is in the mountains and is much like a Summer Resort near a beautiful lake.

There are a few small towns along here but I suppose most of the people work in the lumber camps and mills.

We are sure getting to see a lot of country out of this trip but I would just as soon be home as I could enjoy home a lot better. I hope I can go from San Francisco when I go back East and then I will be able to see that part of

the country and will be ready to settle down and never more roam.

Our clothes are really dirty but we won't have to wear them much longer as we are supposed to get to Seattle in the morning and then we will start wearing our winter uniforms as it is pretty cold there. If I get a chance to get new summer clothes I'll turn these in and not bother to wash them. We hate to go back to the dinning car to eat with these dirty clothes as we have to go through the cars where civilians are.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write now so will close for today by sending you -

All my love & kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Honey
with all my heart.

P.S. I suppose you will have a hard time reading this scribbling but it is the best I can do on this train as it is either going up or down or from one side to the other.

Butte, Nebraska,
May 23, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

I received your card this morning and don't doubt it a wee bit that you hated to leave St. Paul if that is the way you were enjoying yourself. Maybe, it was a pretty good way at that; perhaps it helped you to forget about things. I'm really mad!! You never have to write another letter to me. No, I was just joking. Perhaps, I could have gotten by with writing that and making you believe it if it wouldn't have been for the salutation of this letter.

It really makes me blue to think about you leaving but I guess if I don't stop writing about you will get angry at me pretty soon, now won't you?

Daddy and I just came in from making a chicken pen. It is raining, thundering, and lightning so bad that we didn't like to be around the wire, etc.

I'll just bet that you can't guess what I did today. I know it is hard to tell what these women do from one time to the next but I did something this morning that really took nerve - for me. I drove the car to Butte, all alone this morning. I drove Raymond's to town once a long time ago but he was along and today I was in a pretty good mood so I took ours without anyone along. It wasn't bad but if there is anyone else along, they can drive - providing they are experienced drivers.

We are to have a large supper here tonight. Raymond & Max, Uncle Earl & Aunt Laura, Grandma & Grandpa, Uncle Dan & Aunt Anna Mae, & Rob Stahlecker are to be here. Here is hoping that it stops raining soon.

Well, I must stop and get busy. It is getting quite late.

So I'll close with sending you my

Love,
Elaine

I love you

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Seattle, Wash.
May 23, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I finally got here a long way from where I was and a long long way from my Sweetheart. We are all very tired from that ride as it was almost 3250 miles and we left at 5:15 Sunday evening and got here at 8:15 this morning.

They met us at the Depot with buses and brought us out here and hauled our baggage out in trucks. They just got that out here so we had to go bring them in. Everyone is waiting to take a shower now that our clean clothes have gotten here and we are all so dirty that we really need a good shower.

This is a fairly small camp but is really filled up now. We are just outside of the city limits and along the Pudget Sound Bay which is about a hundred yards North of here. We can look right out of the window and see the Bay. If we have some free time this afternoon some of us are going down on the shore and take a sun bath.

I wouldn't care about staying here too long as it looks like they are pretty strict although I really like the climate here and it is really beautiful around here now. There is a small park between this barracks and bay which is fixed up very nicely.

I went over to the Orderly Room when I came back from dinner and asked about laundry service and they have none on the post so we will have to do our own washing and I'm glad we have that iron so we can iron our own clothes.

I also asked about a mail address and they have one but we should use our overseas address as we won't be here long enough to get mail directly from home and it would be delayed if it were forwarded from here. It looks as though we will be leaving very soon as the next boat for Japan is to sail on May 29.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write so will close for today as I want to clean up a little.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Seattle, Wash.
May 25, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey, How are you this fine morning? I hope you are as well as I am as I feel fit as a King now. I am sitting in the Park on the edge of the bay just a short way from the barracks and have no shirt on. The sun really feels good.

It is so crowded and noisy in the barracks that I couldn't write very well there so will write now. I didn't write last night as I went up town a while as that was our first chance to leave camp

I was Company runner yesterday morning and then I washed some clothes in the afternoon as I had quite a few dirty ones. I have to wash some of my suntans today as I didn't have enough soap to wash them yesterday and they are really dirty after that train ride.

Two of us went out to Playland Park last night as there wasn't much to do uptown. That is supposed to be Seattle's Coney Island. They have quite a few concessions and are very good. We rode the Roller - Coaster and that was a real thriller. It was the best and most exciting ride I ever had on one of those.

We had a little drill in disbanding ship yesterday morning and then took a physical examination and then got some more shots if we needed them but I was lucky enough to get by without getting any. We all have a shot to get Monday morning for Blue Bonnet Plague and then will be finished.

We filled out some blanks yesterday afternoon for clothing if we need any. The Sargent said that we should ask for as much as we can carry as we will wear Suntans a lot overseas but I have about as much as I can carry now.

I got a letter from Mom yesterday which she sent by Airmail to Baltimore and it was forwarded to our A.P.O. number and came up here. It seems like the only mail which is going now is Airmail. We can't mail any packages now as the Post Office won't accept them so I don't know whether to buy anything to send or not. I wish they would at least send mail and parcel post.

"Our" Daddy gave me that \$10.00 to buy him a fountain pen but I haven't found any in the P.X. and if I did I wouldn't be able to send it to him.

Darling, I saw a Sweetheart bracelet yesterday and am going to buy it today and try to send in an envelope if possible and will let you know if I can or not. I am going to the Post Office and get some Airmail stamps as I know the mail will go for sure then.

Honey, time is growing very short now until I will be leaving these good old United States as we are to leave either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Well, Honey, I'll close for this morning by sending you -

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Ft. Lawton, Wash.
May 26, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey! I'm so tired that I can hardly move any more but know that you will be waiting for some letters from me so will try to scribble a few lines to you before I hit the hay.

We went down to get our clothing at 8:30 this morning but when we got down there everything was closed and after we waited for an hour and a half we came back. We are to get them in the morning.

Five of us decided to go out to the Midget Auto Races this afternoon and had some fun but they weren't as exciting as some that I have seen. We left Camp at 11:00 and took a bus out to the city limits and then ate dinner and hitchhiked the rest of the way out there and then caught a ride back into town. The races started at 1:00 and finished at 5:00 and I was rather disappointed as they only had one collision which didn't amount to anything. I like some speed but not quite as much as they used this afternoon.

We signed the payroll this evening and are to get a 10.00 partial payment tomorrow. Almost everyone is broke around here now and we will leave before they will pay our regular pay as we will be on the boat before the end of the month.

Darling, I went over to the P.X. yesterday afternoon to buy that bracelet but couldn't buy anything as they were closed for inventory. I went up to the Post Office to get some Airmail stamps and it was closed so I got some at the U.S.O. in town last night.

Andy and I didn't feel like staying in Camp last night and there wasn't much to do uptown so we finally decided to go up town and bowled three games and came back. One thing that I hate about the town of Seattle is the attitude the civilians, tax payers as we call the, have about Servicemen. They like the Sailors a little and the Soldiers a lot less as the Sailors always have plenty of money when they get to town.

Honey, I'm really getting lonesome for you. Oh, what I wouldn't give to be able to go back to my Sweetheart as I love you so much that I just dread the thought of going overseas and being so far away from you so

long, but it will be for only seven more months and then we will be together again and will really make up for lost time, even what we couldn't make up for while I was home.

There is a big sign at the main gate here saying "Welcome to Fort Lawton, We'll show you the way to go home." That is a very nice sign but it looks to me as though they are going to send us the long way and give us quite a delay in route.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write tonight so will close for now.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Ft. Lawton, Wash.
May 27, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I received three swell letters from you today and I was really glad to hear from my Sweetheart again as that is the first since a week ago Friday. I never expected to get any mail here that was forwarded to the A.P.O. Darling, I love you so much that I really look forward to your letters and when I don't receive any for several days, it really dims the light of life but it brightened today.

We have been so busy today that we have been running around like chickens with their heads cut off. We went down and got our shots for Blue Bonnet Plague at 8:00 and then we went over and got our clothing. We got back about 10:30 and they gave us \$10.00 apiece as partial payment. We have been busy packing our clothes and turning in our old things. We have to pack everything in our duffle bag, hand bag, and one pack on our back.

It has been a very dull day as it has been drizzling all day and makes it miserable as heck being outside.

A fellow who was in Holabird with us who was sent to Fort Ord before we finished training just came in the barracks. He has been here for six weeks now and has been just sitting around. He is to leave Wednesday for Manila but on a different boat.

We got our orders this morning to leave in the morning at 8:00 and will get on the boat sometime before noon and are to leave on Wednesday. We are to sail on the U.S.S. Stetson Victory and are headed for Yohama.

Darling, I finally bought that bracelet this morning and mailed it to you this afternoon. I insured it so please let me know if you get it in fine shape. I also bought that fountain pen for "our" Daddy and mailed it this afternoon also. I was beginning to think that I wasn't going to be able to buy them and send them home but I guess I finally got them at the spare of the moment.

Darling, I will have to close for tonight as I have to clean up and pack a few clothes yet. I suppose it will be quite a while before you hear from me again as they probably won't have any way to get our mail off the boat to

bring it back this way.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
May 28, 1946

My Dearest Sweetheart:

Well, Honey, we have finally gotten under way, or at least we did as we are about fifty miles from Seattle and have stopped on account of engine trouble.

We left camp at 8:30 and they hauled us down to the docks in trucks and we went aboard around 10:00. We left the dock at 4:00 and were making fairly good time until we stopped. They have dropped anchor and we will be here for five hours.

We were put down on the second deck below the main deck with the rest of the fellows and were very crowded but we finally got permission to move up one deck in a compartment by ourselves but we have to pull guard duty all of the way across.

I have been made Corporal of the guard and have it fairly easy as all I have to do is wake the men up at a certain time and see that they get to their posts. They have thirteen posts and we are on duty four hours and off twelve so it isn't bad.

I love you Honey.

May 30, 1946

Hi Honey:

I missed writing yesterday so will write a little today. I plan on writing a little each day but I missed yesterday on account of having to feed the fish, if you know what I mean. I got up at 4:00 yesterday morning and managed to get the men on guard before I felt too sick and then went back to bed and didn't eat any breakfast or dinner but when I ate Supper, it all came back up for me so I had to go to bed again.

We his some very rough water yesterday and the boat really did a lot of rocking. It was going like a bucking horse and we are in a compartment right up in the nose and that was really rough. I guess that is what made so many sick.

We are still in some pretty rough water but the wind is blowing from the side today and is rocking the boat from one side to the other and the forecast is for worse yet so it is hard telling how it will be rocking tomorrow.

I feel quite a bit better today as I have managed to keep all of my meals down but my insides are still sore from being sick.

Darling, I love you with all of my heart, but yesterday I loved some good old dry land with every inch of my body. I guess I'm not much of a sea - going man as I love land too much.

I love you, Honey.

May 31, 1946

Hello Darling:

I'm up here in the crew's cabin at Midship and am enjoying some nice hot coffee. We have four guards posted here to keep fellows from coming through here bothering the crew and we just help ourselves to the coffee.

This is the first really nice weather we have hit as the boat isn't rocking very much but it really did about Midnight last night.

I have finally gotten my "Sea Legs," as they call it, as I'm back to normal again but have to eat rather slow.

When we get off this boat we won't be able to go to sleep without being rocked and will weeve from side to side when we walk. I would just as soon fly back to the States and be air sick for twelve hours than sea sick for 12 days.

I love you, Darling.

June 1, 1946
3:00 A.M.

Good Morning Sweetheart:

We went on guard again this morning but will be releaved at 4:00. We had to get up at Midnight and I must say that is a heck of a time to be getting up. We have changed the hours a little now so that one day our of four we have twenty-four hours off and that starts at 4:00 this afternoon.

When we left Seattle, three of us had decided not to shave at all on this trip but we finally changed our minds and de-whiskered yesterday afternoon.

I haven't been outside yet today to look at the weather but by the way the boat is rocking, I would say that there is a pretty steady wind blowing from the side. We had very smooth sailing all day yesterday and one of the crew told me that we would have nice weather the rest of the trip.

I was just up in the cabin and had some coffee and now I'm down in the mess hall relieving another fellow while he went up for some. That coffee is all that keeps me awake while on duty. If I went back to bed I wouldn't wake up in time to get the other relief up.

I have been trying to get some sleep during the day and yet be out on deck and get some fresh air as much as possible. I haven't had all of my clothes off yet except the first night as it takes too long to dress and undress every time I want to go to bed. I don't even take my boots off any more. It is so cold in that compartment at night that we almost freeze without all of our clothes on.

They have been leaving the lights on here in the Mess Hall all night and a lot of fellows come in here to play cards. There are four officers in here now playing Poker and have a quart bottle sitting beside them almost empty. They are sure lucky as they can sleep all day and stay up all night.

Well, Darling, I can't think of any more to write for now so I'll close for this morning as it is almost time to awaken the Corporal of the next relief, and then I can get some shut eye.

I figured this was about enough
to put in one envelope.
I love you Honey

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
June 2, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Here it is Sunday again, at least they tell me it is, and just another day for me although I have found it a little different than the rest. I haven't been able to keep track of the days as this getting up and going to bed two or three times a day rather confuses me.

We are on our 24 hours off now but have to go on duty again at 4:00 this afternoon and again at 4:00 in the morning. Last night was the first full night's sleep I have had on this boat and I really did sleep. I managed to keep warm as I dug my overcoat out and covered up with it also.

I was out on the main deck quite a while this morning and we saw three whales about a half a block from the boat. They were about 50 or 60 feet long and one was squirting water out of his head. We saw one shark day before yesterday but haven't seen any seals yet.

They have a large map here in the Mess Hall and each day they mark our position with a thumb tack. We had sailed 1396 by noon yesterday and they haven't marked our position yet today but I suppose we have traveled around 450 miles further. It is 4252 miles from Seattle to Yokahama by this route and we are supposed to be half way there by evening according to the days we are scheduled to arrive there a week from tomorrow.

We just went on guard duty and I have finished checking all of the posts so thought I would write a little more now and then write to "our" folks, as I haven't written a single line to them yet. We are along some of the Aleution Islands now or at least we can see some of them. About all we can see is the mountains but at least that is land and the first we have seen since we left the 28th.

June 3, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I'm back on the job again so will write some more as I haven't written any today and it is a good way to pass the time.

It has been a very cold day so I haven't been out on deck except for about a half hour this morning. I spent most of the morning sleeping and played rummy most of the afternoon. I suppose I should have slept more this afternoon but will sleep more tomorrow if it isn't too noisy.

We have really been losing a lot of time since we left Baltimore as we set our watches an hour ahead three times before we got to Seattle and tonight will be the sixth time on the boat. I'm afraid that I won't be able to gain all of that time as I won't be going back to Baltimore.

We crossed the International Date Line at 7:30 this morning but won't lose a day until Midnight tonight. Today is Monday, June 3rd but tomorrow is Wednesday, June 5th. What gets me is what happened to Tuesday. I guess that is the day that just wasn't there for some reason or another.

Some of us fellows have been guessing what day we will get to Yokahama and some are guessing next Saturday. They are guessing any day from Saturday noon to Tuesday night. My guess is Monday afternoon but that might be far off. We have traveled 2255.1 miles up to this noon so that leaves less than 2000 miles left.

Honey, I don't know what I'm going to do being so far away from you and to think that it will be a long time before we get to see each other. I love you with all of my heart and I want you to believe that. One good thing is that I can look forward to the day when we won't be so far apart.

I love you Honey.

Stetson Victory
June 6, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey, Whatcha doing? I'm back on guard again and just bought a few supplies at the P.X. so thought I had better write as I didn't yesterday. I have about an hour yet and then we start on our 24 hours off.

We hit so very rough water yesterday and as a result I was sick again. I lost my breakfast but didn't go to bed as it was too rough up there to sleep. I didn't eat any dinner and felt fairly good by supper time and went to bed early. We have some smooth sailing today although the boat is rocking some from side to side. I have managed to keep all my meals but don't dare drink any liquid as that really upsets my stomach.

Today is the last time the P.X. will be open on this trip so a lot of fellows are buying up cigarettes as they think they can sell them at a profit on the black market. I have two extra cartons and if we can make a profit I can quit smoking as we are allowed two cartons a week over there. Some say that we can get \$15 a carton for them and I can easily quit for \$15 a week.

I hope there is some way of making enough money to spend over there so that I can send my full month's pay home as that is the only way I can make or save any money while in this Army.

Honey, I'll close for now as it is time for relief and I want to shave and shower for the last time on this boat.

All my love & kisses
Your ISweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
U.S.S. Stetson Victory
June 8, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I thought I would write you a few lines this evening as this will be our last night aboard ship so will make this my last letter on board.

It has really been a wonderful day here and tonight will be a honey as the moon is so nice and bright and a soft ocean breeze blowing. When we went on guard at 4:00 this morning the sun was just beginning to peek over the horizon and was really nice. It sure does remind me of some of those wonderful Spring days back home and I sure do wish that I were back there now and then You and I could really enjoy an evening like this. Honey, I'm looking forward to the day, which won't be too far away, when we can be together again and enjoy life.

This boat got a radio message from a Liberty Ship about 6:30 yesterday evening that it was headed for Seattle from Yokahama and they had found a stow - a - way and would transfer him to this ship and now we are taking him back with us.

We met this other boat at 8:45 and stopped about 500 yards apart and they brought him over in a motor boat and now we have him in the "clink." He is a 13 year old Jap boy from Korea and was going to San Francisco as he has an uncle there.

He was very nervous at first but isn't now as we leave the cell door open but have a guard posted there at all times. The only English words he knows are Chief Engineer. There are several American born Japanese on board and they manage to talk to pretty well. I really feel sorry for the poor kid as he is so young.

I went to the second show last night and saw "Two Sisters From Boston." It was a fair picture but I didn't

get to bed until 12:30 and got up at 3:45 again so didn't get much sleep so I slept all morning. I shaved and packed my duffle bag this afternoon so I don't have much to do in the morning.

We are to pull into the harbor sometime before noon and are to embark at 1:00 and I sure hate to think of carrying that big bag up on deck and down the gangplank as it is really heavy but yet I will be glad to set foot on land, only I wish it were to good old U.S. instead of way out here.

Some of us were trying to figure out just what time it was back home and we came to the conclusion that we would have to subtract a day; go back about 5000 miles; and subtract around eight hours and we should hit it fairly close. When it is noon here it would be 4:00 A.M. the day before back home.

Darling, I have really missed your swell letters the past ten days but here is hoping that some are waiting for me when I get off this boat. Most likely there will be as most generally the mail gets there before the men do.

I'll close for tonight by sending you -

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey,
with all my heart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Haragashi, Japan
June 10, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I received three of you swell letters this evening and was very, very happy to receive them. I got three from the folks and one from Jim Kimball also.

We pulled up to the docks in Yokahama at 2:15 yesterday afternoon but weren't allowed to get off the boat until 6:30 as we had supper on the boat. We got in trucks and they took us to the station where we boarded a train and came out here to a Replacement Depot.

That was really some train as the tracks are close together and the cars are really small. We are about twenty five miles from Yokahama and it took us two hours to get here so you can imagine how slow we went.

This is a pretty small place but very crowded and was the former Japanese Military Academy. The barracks are made of some very nice cedar lumber but we are sleeping on camping cots and there are fifty of us in a room 36 by 60 and have no place to hang our clothes except a few nails on the wall. Everyone is hoping to leave here very soon as it isn't so nice now. We have to eat out of our mess kits.

We should be ready to leave here in another day or two as soon as our orders are cut but probably won't until after the 14th as they are taking a count of all men in the Army and don't want anyone moving that day but we can still get to Tokyo before then if they would just hurry up and get us on our way.

A group of us were put on detail this afternoon and we had to go down to the warehouse to clean it up but the first four of us really got a break as we went with a fellow in a pickup to another camp after some barb wire. We

loaded forty spools of it and then he didn't have room for us to ride back so he brought the wire up here and then came back after us a couple hours later.

I didn't get a chance to look up Tony yesterday but I have been inquiring how to get in touch with him. I can drop him a line but won't until I get a permanent address. I called Information tonight and found out how to call him so may do that tomorrow as he most likely will be at the office then.

I sure like the scenery around here as it is really beautiful. There isn't much ruins from the war yet or at least we didn't see much. The people live in little shack houses out in the country and raise a lot of rice. It is all planted in small patches and it looks almost like rye just as it is starting to ripen.

Darling, I'll close for tonight as I'm very tired from working so hard today.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Haragashi, Japan
June 12, 1946

My Dearest Darling:

Well, Honey, It has been two days now since I have written to you so will do it tonight although nothing interesting or exciting has happened since.

I monkeyed around yesterday morning and went over to get a haircut but there were so many ahead of me that I just came back. About 12:30 two Officers from C.I.C. Headquarters in Tokyo and had us fill out some information blanks and then they interviewed us as to where we would like to be sent and if we wanted in the Motor-Pool, Headquarters, or work in the field. They had our Service records there and looked them over as they interviewed us.

They asked me how much typing I had and how fast I could type and said that I had a very good chance of getting an office job and asked if I wanted in Headquarters or Regent so I said Headquarters and he marked that on my papers so it looks like Tokyo for me.

I sure wish that they would get us out of here soon as they are working me to death. They took us over to another section of Camp this morning and three of us cleaned up around one barracks before dinner. They had the walks made of rocks and we had to rake the bigger ones off and then took two and a half hours off for dinner. Some of the fellows took seven windows out of that barracks and it took the three of us all afternoon to put them back when one fellow could have done it in less than an hour. I don't mind doing work if there is a reason behind it but the way the Army does it we all feel like shirking.

I plan on washing some of my clothes in the morning as we won't leave before the 17th so I just as well wash them now but I found out that there isn't any use of planning on anything around here as the plans are usually interrupted.

This is really an odd country as they drive on the left side of the road and if I do much driving I will have a hard time getting use to it. About the time I learn how they drive here I'll be going home and will have to learn how it is done back there.

They use all paper money and we had to trade our good old greenbacks in for this. They have a system almost like ours but it takes 100 sen to make one yen and fifteen yen to make a dollar. It is rather confusing trying to figure out in American money just what we have to pay for the things we buy. They haven't much to sell in the P.X.

They have a fairly nice theatre here but I have seen the shows a long time ago but we get to see them free. I have been going over to the Red Cross building and getting free coffee and doughnuts every night.

The only bad part of this Camp is the way things are strung out as they have separate buildings to shave, shower, and wash in. Here is about the way things are arranged here.

	TOILET		WASH	
		MESS HALL		BARRACKS
SHAVE	SHOWER			OUR BARRACKS

They told us not to have much mail sent to us at this A.P.O. number as we will have another number as soon as we get assigned and it would take quite some time before it would be forwarded to us. I got one letter from "our" folks today which was postmarked May 31.

Darling there isn't any more news so I'll close for tonight as I want to shower yet as I really did work up a sweat working so hard today.

All my love and kisses
Your Honey
Clayton

Remember, Honey,
I love you

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
4th Repl. Depot
June 13, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey. How you all? I hope you feel a lot better than I do as I'm so tired that I had a notion not to write any tonight but had a better notion that I had ought to. It is so noisy in here that I couldn't go to sleep if I wanted to.

I finally got some of the things done this morning and afternoon that I wanted to as I got a haircut this morning and washed clothes this afternoon. Wee have some Japs as barbers and they really do a poor job as it is about as bad as the one I got when I was first inducted. The fellow ahead of me had his hair cut very short as he asked for it so I never said how I wanted mine so I found out that that was the only way he cut hair and as a result my hair is only a half inch long now. I haven't any waves left but think they will come back as they did before. If they don't, I'll let you put them back for me when I get home again. I don't mind this kind of a haircut as it is really cooler and don't care who sees me this way but would never do it at home.

I never realized how the black market is working over here but found out today as we got our ration cards for Candy and cigarettes and the Japs who work here were really buying them. I sold two packages of Red Cross cigarettes which were given to us for 67 cents each and two candy bars for the same price. I wouldn't do this very much but I want a little money to get by on until I get to Tokyo where I can get higher prices for things.

That is pretty good how the C.I.C. is in the black market as bad as anyone else and they are supposed to be working against it.

Honey, please let me know what size stockings and dresses you wear as I have heard that we can buy silk goods pretty reasonable and about what amount of goods it would take to make a dress as the goods are easy to buy and what color you would like and I will try to send you some if I get a chance to buy it. I think we will be able to make enough money off of the black market to buy a lot of this and we are allowed to send all kinds of this home.

Just think, two months ago I was home and we were together and it seems more like six. I sure wish that we were together again. I don't seem to mind it too bad over here as far as the life goes but time sure seems to go slow but it may seem different after I get assigned, at least I hope so.

Darling, I can't seem to find any more to write about tonight so will close by sending you -

All of my love & kisses
Your Honey
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
4th Repl. Depot
June 15, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Here it is, another Saturday night and no place to go but to bed and it is too early to do that so will sit here and converse with you for a while before I go over to the Red Cross Building for some coffee.

Honey, it is such a wonderful evening here and how I would love to be with you again. Maybe we could find some time to be by ourselves for once and I'm looking forward to then. I love you with all of my heart and how I miss those kisses of yours.

Please don't be angry at me, Honey, but I have started smoking my pipe a little so that I can save on cigarettes and sell them on the black market. Pipe tobacco is rationed also but can get more smoking per week than from cigarettes. So if you won't get angry, I'll promise to quit smoking it before I get back home.

Just think, I haven't had but one drink of beer since I was home and that was this afternoon and I really didn't like it. The Mess Sargent had one bottle of beer in the Mess Hall refrigerator and opened it this afternoon and five of us drank it.

A fellow came in and woke us up this morning and told us that we were on K.P. He started at the top of the list and took the first 26 men and beings as how I'm the sixth man I was on K.P. We worked from 6 - 8 and 11:30 - 1:00 and from 3:30 - 4:30 so it5 wasn't bad and we got some sleep this forenoon and afternoon. One good thing about being on K.P. is that we had plenty to eat.

Some of the fellows have been working in Headquarters on this head count and said that they heard we were to leave here Monday or Tuesday. We can't leave any too soon to suit me and I'm going to get most of my things ready to get out of here as soon as we get some orders.

Four of us went for a little walk around camp last night but it didn't take long as it is so small. We walked

on the inside of the fence as noone is allowed to go on the outside. They have M.P.s walking on the outside watching that nobody goes through the fence. We saw a quite a few men go through as there is a heavy wooded area just North of here and they go over there to meet some Jap women. I can't figure out why they want to have anything to do with these women. (as most of them have some venereal disease) but I guess these fellows just can't get along without women and I don't want to wish them any bad luck but I sure won't feel sorry for any of them if they do catch them.

At first I thought that I would really hate these Japs but as yet I hate them less than I do these black ____ (fill in any name) that came over with us. They are so noisy and really dress sloppy. I never knew that anyone could look so terrible and are really are a disgrace to the Army.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write now so will close for tonight.

All my love & kisses
Your Honeybunch
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart

One fellow in here has a portable radio and it really sounds good. They just played "I Can't Forget The Night I Met You" and Honey it really set my memory back to that night last October when I had my first date with you.

Today was my thirteenth anniversary of life in the Army and when I look back at it all it hasn't been too bad but I wouldn't care to go through it all again. I have one thing to be thankful for and that is that I have only six and a half months left.

Goodnight Sweetheart
I love you trully.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna
37770018 A.P.O. 26295
C/O. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
4th Repl. Depot
June 16, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Well, Honey, we finally got the good news tonight that we are leaving this ____ hole at 9:30 in the morning and everyone is really happy.

We are going to Tokyo by truck so we are to wear our fatigues so that we won't get our other clothes so dirty. I hope that we have some decent place to stay and hope that I get assigned to Headquarters in a few days as I want to get my things unpacked and settled down for a while.

It was a very beautiful morning here but really changed this afternoon as it started to rain about 2:30 and has been sprinkling ever since. I suppose it will be raining tomorrow as it usually does when we move someplace.

Darling, I'll have to make this one short as I have some packing to do and want to write to the folks and send them my new address which is:

441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams, Honey
All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
June 18, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi. Honey, Whatcha doing tonight? I thought I would drop you a few lines and ask if it would be alright for me to come up and see you for a while and if so what time I should come. I'm sorry, but it looks like I can't come so I'll just have to converse with you on paper as it looks like that is the best I can do for now.

We were to leave that Replacement Depot at 9:30 yesterday morning but they couldn't get the transportation for us so didn't leave until 3:30 and got here at 5:00. We were all glad to get here as everyone was sick and tired of that place we were in.

As soon as we got here they had orders for those who were leaving for some other detachments. Some left last night, some tonight, and the rest are to leave tomorrow night. There were 22 out of 73 that weren't called out last night as they hadn't gotten any orders for them but almost everyone was assigned or told where we were to be assigned.

We are all staying in one room (the 22 of us) on cots now but will move to other rooms as soon as they make room for us and there will be either six or twelve to a room so I'm anxious to get in one of those rooms and make myself at home for a while anyway.

They told eight of us this morning that we were to work in Headquarters as typists so we went down there at 1:00 this afternoon and started to work. We are all working in different sections but in the same building and four

of us are in the same room.

I'm working in the Morning Reports section and typed about an hour and a half this afternoon. There isn't much to type and there are three of us working there so we can really take it easy.

We are living in a large four story building that was formerly the Japanese Military Police Headquarters and is about like a dormitory. It has very nice woodwork and floors and is kept very clean. We eat in a very nice dining room and sit at long tables and have Japanese men wait on the tables and bring everything to us like they do in any cafe except we don't have any choice of meals but the meals are really swell. We don't have to fix our beds or sweep the floors as they have Jap women doing that work. If I stay here very long, I'm afraid that I will really get lazy.

A lot of Jimmy Doolittle's flyers who were shot down were kept prisoners and tortured in the basement of this building but they have moved all of that out so we can't see it.

We have about two miles to go to work so we have to go on an Army bus which doesn't cost anything but in a few days we will be issued a jeep for every four men to drive back and forth and can use it for pleasure on weekends so we will have it really nice.

Four of the fellows out of our group have been assigned to the Motor Pool as drivers and got their jeep this afternoon and they took some of the fellows who are leaving tomorrow up town tonight. I could have gone but I figured I would have a lot of chances to see it so gave the other fellows a chance to go.

Honey, I can't think of much more to write any more so will close for tonight and thanks a million for the conversation.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Sweetheart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
June 20, 1946

My Dearest Darling:

Honey, Please excuse my using a pencil but my pen is dry and I can't manage to find any ink and another fellow is using the typewriter. I guess I'm just a poor little old office boy who can't remember to fill his pen before he comes to work. I have finished all of my work for today but can't leave until 5:00 so I thought by writing to you now I could get more sleep tonight.

I was fairly busy this morning as we are getting some of the work caught now and haven't done a thing but read all afternoon as I was here all alone so didn't know just what to do. I'm from Missouri and will have to be shown. They were six days behind with some of their reports but now we are only three. I think I will be able to get the other three days work done in the morning unless some more important things come up.

They have a very nice Club House in a small building behind our Hotel and last night I bought a membership into this club as they had a very nice floor show there. We had to show membership cards to get in and they had a very nice show. Some of those Japs can really play and sing those good old American songs. They had a ten piece orchestra that sounded as good as some of those that play at Bonesteel. They have some good Stateside

beer and coke over there and it really hits the spot these hot nights here. We get two cokes for 9 cents and a beer for 12 cents. It costs \$6.67 initiation fee and \$2.00 every month besides what we drink but money means nothing to a person over here as we could make a lot on the Black Market. I sold a carton of cigarettes for \$11.40 day before yesterday which cost me 50 cents on the boat so I made over \$10.00 clear. If I could get out from town a ways, I could get more for them but if I sell two cartons a month for \$20.00 that will be enough for spending money.

I suppose you will be angry at me now that I have drank a few beers but a person has to drink something cold once in a while as the water here is warm and has so much chloreen in it that it tastes something awful.

It really is hot up here today as there doesn't seem to be any breeze and we are up on the seventh floor where we normally get quite a bit as the buildings right next to this one aren't as high.

Well, Darling, it's almost time to call it quits for today so I'll close for this time as I want to stop at the P.X. on the way back.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you, Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
June 23, 1946

My Darling Elaine,

Hi Honey, What are you doing long about this time of the day? I suppose you or some one else have been finding plenty to do to keep busy. It seems as though when a person is out on the farm there is always something that has to or should be done and I only wish that I were home now as I really do believe that I would enjoy doing some work for a change.

This has really been some weekend for me as I have really covered the miles and seen a lot of interesting country.

Four of us went over to the Motor Pool yesterday right after dinner to see about the jeep that was supposed to be assigned to us and found out that we were assigned one but they hadn't gotten our permanent trip tickets made out so we got a temporary one for this weekend and did a lot of driving.

We drove all over town yesterday afternoon and evening and had planned on going to Mount Fujiyama this morning but when we got up we decided to go to Yokahama but didn't even go there as no one was sure as to what road to take. We started out to see some of the country but as usual when we got back to the edge of town we had came in on a different road and weren't sure of the way back here to Norton Hall.

It was so hot this afternoon that I just went swimming a while in our own private pool here and then took a sun bath and went to bed. We all went out for a little ride tonight as it was a little cooler then. We were driving along one street and heard some good old American music coming from the basement of one building so we just

parked the jeep and went down to see what was what and found out that we were in a very nice large ballroom. The Jap women were all wearing formals and it looked to me as though they were doing very nicely dancing with the American people. I would have enjoyed dancing very much but just the thought of having one of them slant - eyed girls in my arms just doesn't seem to agree with me. I'm just going to wait until I get back home and do my dancing with my Honey. Do you mind if I wait that long although I might get out of practice but would soon get back in the groove by dancing with you.

I was really surprised yesterday afternoon when we were driving down the street in front of Headquarters and I saw Swede Frederickson's brother Jim. We stopped and talked a while and then I brought him back here for supper and then I took him back to where he stayed and visited until about 9:00. I went back up there this noon for a while to see him as he is being transferred further South on the Island. He has been working in G.H.Q. (General Headquarters) also but in a different building as a typist and got tired of the job and asked for a transfer.

There is a Wagner boy from Spencer over here also but I haven't seen him yet and as a matter of fact I'm not too anxious to meet him as he is an odd character. He is the kind of person who likes to tag along and has no initiative.

The other day I felt as though I wouldn't mind it too bad over here but I have really gotten a different attitude today. About all I can think of is you and how I would like to be home. They have an orchestra over here in the club again tonight and I'm telling you that music sounds wonderful to me. As I sit here, it just reminds me of the way the music sounds at a dance while we are sitting out in the car and what I wouldn't give just to be doing that very thing right now with you in my arms once again.

Darling I guess I'll close for tonight as I'm rather tired and I want to shave and shower yet and hit the hay.

All my love & kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you
Sweetheart

Please
excuse all of
the errors

Pvt. Bonnie Van Haitzma
A.S.N. 39497280
Co. D. 3rd Bn. 7th Regt.
Camp Kilmer, New Jersey
June 24, 1946

To My Dearest Darling

How are you doing Honey. fine I hope.

I final got here and we are sitting around waiting to get intervied. I meet the two guys at Omaha and we all came out together.

How did you get over last Thursday night. I had a little head ache but it wasn't to bad. and I still love you.

Did Jim come down Sat. night? He said that he was and I told him to take care of you. is he doing it. Ha.

I sure hated to Sat. morning. I wished I could have stayed for Sat. night. We would have been down.

How is Lois? I will have to write to her when I get stationed in a barracks.

I borrowed this stationary form one of my buddies. You'll have to excuse the writing for I am sitting on the ground. and the spelling well. I just never went to school. Ha.

Well, Honey. I suppose you will be going to the dance in Butte Wed. night. Well have fun form me to.

We will be here for about a week I think then we are going over. What would you like to have form over their and I will see what I can do about it.

Well Honey, I can't think of much more to write right now. and I don't know my return address yet. I will find out this afternoon.

With all my Love

Bonnie.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
June 25, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, What you doing? I have just finished all of the work that was lined up for today and I still have two hours to kill before quitting time so thought I would sit down here by this old typewriter and try to carry on a conversation with you if you don't object and if you do is all I will say is "Objection Overruled" so you will just have to listen. I have really gotten off to a bad start as I have made quite a few errors already. I must not be as good a typist as I figured I was, the reason is that I don't use it enough to really get back in practice.

I'm really glad that it has clouded up and is misting a little today as it isn't quite as hot as it was yesterday. There isn't much breeze through here any more as they have been putting in more partitions and have shut off the ventilation. It was so hot yesterday that by the time we quit work our shirts were almost as wet as if we had been standing under a shower with them on. It was terribly hot last night and as a result I didn't have very much sleep as I didn't go to bed until 11:30 but then didn't go to sleep for at least an hour and woke up this morning at 4:30 so I'm still tired and sleepy. We are always tireder in the mornings when we get up than we are when we go to bed. I guess it must be the climate or something.

I started turning in some of the clothes that I don't figure on using or taking home with me last night as I don't want to carry it around any more. They issued us one more set of Suntans last night so that we have four sets now but I am going to try to get some more as it is hard to keep clean clothes when we wear them all of the time so I am going to see if one of the Officers up here won't go down to the Quartermaster and buy me two sets. They don't cost very much and I could always wear them when I get to be a Civilian again.

We finally got our permanent trip tickets this noon for our jeep so now we won't have to catch a bus or try to bum a ride with some of the other fellows and will be able to go wherever we want to in the evenings.

I sure would like to know where all of our mail is being delayed as I haven't had any since the first day that I was at the Replacement Depot and I got three letters from you. One of the fellows from the Motor Pool was up to this Depot last week and got four letters for the bunch but I wasn't lucky enough to get any and they told him that the rest of it had been forwarded to here but it hasn't showed up any place yet. I am beginning to think that the mail sent directly to this address will get here before the other unless it comes pretty soon.

Darling, I'm in love with you so much that all I can think of any more is wanting to go home so that I can be with you again and so that I won't have to leave again as it has been everytime I get home for a few days and leave. There are really a lot of American women over here now but I wouldn't even think of taking them to a dog fight even if there own dog was fighting. You are the only one that I ever think of and that is all of the time.

I'll close for this afternoon by sending you,

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
June 27, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I just came back from a little tour of the city and will write some now as I didn't while I was at the office.

Tony Connot called me at the office yesterday afternoon but I was at the P.X. so he left his phone number and wanted me to call him back so I tried twice but couldn't get through so I called him this morning and finally got in touch with him. He had to come up here anyway so he came up to the office about 3:00 and I had finished my day's work so went with him. We rode around town a while and then came back here for supper and went down to the Ernie Pyle Theatre for a while and went down to the basement for coffee. As we were leaving we met Darold Velder form South of Spencer so had to talk a while. Darold is stationed further South on the Island but is here on temporary duty and is staying in the building just across the alley from where I work so I may get to see quite a bit of him.

We had a very nice visit but had so much to talk about that time was short as he left at 8:30. I plan on spending the weekend down at Yokahama and maybe the 4th unless there is something worth while going on here. I

know that there will be a big parade here that I can miss.

Honey, I can't figure it out as I have had five letters from "our" folks which I received yesterday but not a single one from you yet. The last letter that I got was postmarked the 13th. We didn't get any mail at all today but I'm still looking forward to some mail from you. Getting only letters from the folks makes me feel almost as though you haven't written to me and maybe you won't. If I don't hear from you soon I'm afraid that I might do something desperate like going on a heck of a party or something that I will regret or wish I had never done.

Darling, I think I will close for tonight as I want to write to the folks yet and then go to bed as I'm pretty tired.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 2, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I have finally gotten enough work done up so that I can see daylight at last and thought I would write to you now as I still have a little time before I quit.

I thought that this job would be pretty easy but found out different this week. Yesterday was the First of the month so we had to make out a monthly administrative report which was for all new men that were assigned, transferred out, and promoted the last month. I had to have that report finished by today so I came back down here and worked for three hours last night. I don't think I will do that any more as it isn't worth working that much for the pay we get. If they want me to work any harder they are going to have to give me a promotion first.

I'm sure glad that they passed this pay increase bill as I might be able to save a little money now that I am getting \$96.00 a month and if I ever get promoted to a Staff Sergeant I will be getting \$138.00 which is pretty good.

I went down to Yokahama Saturday afternoon to see Tony and stayed until Sunday evening and came back on the train. We looked the town over Saturday afternoon and went to a show in the evening and we just laid around Sunday afternoon as it was too hot to do anything. I went to church with him that morning and then went down to the Red Cross building and played pingpong until noon. Tony called me this morning and said that he was coming up this afternoon but I told him that I couldn't leave before 4:30 so he should be here pretty soon as it is 4:10 now.

It sure was a dreary day here yesterday as it drizzled along and rained all day and was awful sultry and hot. It is still pretty warm today but has clouded over quite a bit.

The Mail Clerk just brought the mail in and again I didn't get any. I'm beginning to give up hopes of getting any. Some of the fellows are getting letters from home sent to this address and I thought that I would be getting some also. The last letter that I got from you was dated May 23 and I got that on June 12.

Honey, I think I will close for now as I'm going to put my things away and get ready to go back to Norton Hall.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 5, 1946

My Dearest Elaine

Hi Honey, How is my little Sugar pie tonight? I sure hope that you don't feel the same way that I do as I'm really down in the dumps and I mean way down. It seems like nothing goes right around here.

Yesterday was a big day for some people but not for me as nothing exciting happened. We went down and saw the Parade in the morning and then right after dinner we went out in the country and came to an old Jap Airfield. There were a bunch of wrecked zeros there so we hunted for some thing that we could use for souvenirs but couldn't find much. We stopped at one building and there were a lot of new parts in there so we looked them all over. If I had some way of getting some of that home I sure would send it as I would like to have some of that aluminum and copper tubing.

We were supposed to have a party up on the roof last night as they have fixed a band stand and put up a lot of beautiful lights but it rained so they have postponed it until Saturday night. It will be about our luck to have it

rain again. It has been raining all day and quit just a few minutes ago but looks like it will start again almost any time. It was supposed to be the rainy season when we got over here and it has rained more since that time than during the rainy season. I really do hate this weather as it is too damp. It is almost cool enough tonight to wear a coat but I'm not going any place any way.

I was supposed to pull C.Q. tomorrow from noon until 5 but now they have a new ruling that we won't work on Saturdays so I will have it from 8 to 5. Maybe I will get to write some letters that I have been putting off for so long. I suppose I will be busy in the morning as there won't be very many who know that we don't work tomorrow.

I got a letter from "our" Mom this morning sent to this address which was mailed June 26 but I still haven't heard from you.

Darling, I love you with all of my heart and it really hurts when I don't hear from you. I sometimes feel like not writing any more until I hear from you but if my letters mean as much to you as yours do to me I can't possibly think of doing that.

Well, Honey that is about all I can think of for tonight so will sign off.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Butte, Nebraska
July 6, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Oh! What a day! What a day! It rains a while and then stops and then rains and then stops, etc. It is around 1:30 P.M. now and I'm waiting for it to stop raining so I can go to the field. If only it would quit for the rest of the day we could finish this small field of rye and then we would have only one little one left. That would really suit me O.K. I am so tired of this cutting grain anyway, especially with all of these break downs. Wednesday we had five break downs and finally we ended up in Spencer but still didn't get any repairs. More fun! More fun! I don't believe I told you about those in my yesterday letter did I? I didn't write Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of this week because we were cutting grain. When I would get in at night I was quite tired and then we had the chores to do yet. I was just too fagged out to write then. Please forgive me, will you?

Richard was supposed to get a furlough last Monday but he must have gone down to California because he hasn't come home. Gee! I sure wish that he would come, I'm very lonesome for him.

Honey, I'm really tired today, too, and last night I was up with Mother from 10:30 P.M. until 1:30 A.M. She was unconscious all of that time and how she did talk. It was terrible.

Lois is getting along fine but has to stay in bed for 13 more days, poor Kid! and Tuffy will be home in two

more weeks. They (the doctors) think he will be good enough by that time & I sure hope so. Him gets to come home with Tuffy, too. Sure be swell to think that those Kids will be out of there soon. I know what a hospital is like. (Voice of experience)

Well, Hon, it quit raining now so I have to go to the field.

Arthur Reiser came home last Sunday. It is wonderful to see him again. Eddie, also, is home.

Bye for now, Honey,
I'll be thinking of you,
Love,
Elaine

Bonesteel, S.D.
July 8, 1946

Hi Ya Clayton: -

First off I want to thank you very much for the lovely ann. card. it was very sweet of you to think of us - We had a nice day. Earl got me a lovely bouquet, we received many cards & in the evening Al, Glee, & we kids took a picnic lunch & went fishing. So Clayton when you get married make it for keeps, we have had 11 years of it & still think its a pretty good life.

Suppose by this time your in Tokyo and your schooling almost to an end - then what? Is it really as dirty & ill smelling as they say. We see so many pictures of starving people you wonder if it can all be true. How are your eats, drinking water dig. & amusements coming out?

The 4th pasted quite calmly for us, took in the Ball game at Gregory. Bonesteel lost by two points. saw 3 free boxing matches, came home took in the show & then shot off some fireworks & ate watermelon until we almost popped. It was Gary's first real 4th with fire works & he really had a glorious time. Gregory was supposed to have a celebration but a dance was all they had after words so you can call it what you will.

We have had grand rains & every thing looks good. Every one is busy cutting grain & the corn waist high.

We rode out to the farm with Dad last nite.

We have had quite a lot of company the last two weeks. Two of my cousins & families are out from Calif. & we have picniced back & forth. Yesterday a girl friend of mine, her husband & two children came in from Wash. State - & tomorrow another girl friend is coming from Calif. and Gary wants a Birthday party Fri. Guess I don't live right can't seem to get caught up. No wonder I can't get letters written. Seems like every body gets new cars to go around in but the Whiddens & they can't get any x.x.x.x.x the luck. They have an air fair in Omaha in two weeks - would almost give my hind leg to see it - but ---

Earl was so ambitious yesterday (Sun) too. He finished mowing yard, took off the wire stoop we had over the back door, cut limb off trees and just went wild in general. The back of the house really looks uncovered. Ha. Flies did hang around so we had to do something.

Our 3 buildings are really going up fast now. Sure will be swell to have both sides of the streets filled again. Have 3 houses moved in, so the old town is truly on the prod. When things get more settled will draw you a town map. Don't want you to miss out on anything. Ha or feel strange when you get back.

Well the O.P.A. is off for awhile & you know things and people have gone nuts. We had a Market in Omaha this week & didn't go because every thing is so unsettled you don't know what to do. Hope it won't be too far away before we get back to normal.

Well kid should go & soak clothes so I can get this big washing done. Made soap today & did some painting, sure is just one darn thing after another, eh?

Bye for now -

the 3 Whidden's

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 8, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I just came back from seeing the show so will write a few lines before going to bed. We went down to the Ernie Pyle Theatre and saw "Gentleman Jim." It was a good picture but I saw it a few years ago. We went to a show at Army Hall last night and that was the first one I had been to since I got here. I don't mind going to a show but it is so hot that a person almost roasts in there. I'm not anxious to go to bed yet as it is too hot to sleep.

A few fellows that came over here with us and went to different places to work as Agents came up here today and are going to go to school for three weeks. I had planned on taking them out riding this evening but it was too rainy for that. It started raining last night about 10:30 and rained all day and finally quit sometime while we were in the show.

I wrote to Mom this afternoon and asked her to send me some rolls of 620 film if she can buy it as I can barrow Tony's camera and it is pretty hard to buy that size film here. I told her to send it by airmail as that would be the quickest and surest way.

I thought that I was going to have a fairly easy job at the office but have changed my mind as I have really been busy. It seems as though right after the first of the month there is a lot to do. We made out a monthly report last week and sent it in to General Headquarters and they made up a roster from that and send it back to us to correct so we have been busy on that today and will finish that tomorrow.

The S/Sgt. that is with me there is getting to go home in a couple of weeks so that will mean that I have all of that work to do alone. He said that there should be two men in that Section. He told me today that I will get my Corporal rating the 15th of this month and should get Sargeant in another month. I hope I do and then I'm going to work for Staff so that I can get more pay to send home.

They are going to rather upset our black market for us as we have to turn all of our money into Military Currenecy and that will be the only kind we can use in the P.X. The money we get for cigarettes will have to be used in buying souvenirs and things from the Japs.

I sold two bars of hand soap today for 67 cents each and will have a carton of cigarettes to sell tomorrow. I think I will sell enough to buy what I want to take home and then forget about making any on the black market.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write now so will close for tonight.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 10, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, I hope you don't mind if I sit here and have a little conversation with you tonight. I didn't have time to write this afternoon either so will have to do it now as I have all kinds of time. I'm up here at the office again on C.Q. and there hasn't been a telephone call yet and I hope there isn't any either. Pat (the S/Sgt who works with me) was supposed to have this job today and tonight but about 9:30 this morning he felt sick so I took him back to Norton Hall and he didn't come back to work at all today. He went on a party last night and get pretty well licquored up and it really took effect this morning. He really was under the anfluence of inkhlal.

I don't mind staying up here as there isn't much to do except answer the telephone or try to find some information for someone if they come for it. I won't be able to go to bed before 10:00 so I will have plenty of time to write some letters that I should have written a long time ago. I am supposed to watch the Japs when they come up here to clean up so that they don't get ahold of some secret papers. I just follow them around and carry a revolver

with me just in case someone tries to do something they shouldn't. The Japs sweep the floors and dust off our desks and when they empty the ash trays they keep all of the cigarette butts and smoke them. They all have little pipes with small bowls that are just the size of a cigarette and that is the way they smoke these butts that we throw away. I'm afraid that I would have to be pretty hard up for a smoke before I would smoke a cigarette that someone else has thrown away.

Pat just came up and brought his canteen full of good old coke for me. He said that he thought it would go pretty good as it is awful hot up here and it really does taste good. He never told me this morning what he would give me for taking his place but I figured he would give me 100 yen as that is what most of the fellows pay but he just gave me 150 yen but I'm not supposed to tell anyone that he gave me that much. I didn't want to take it but he insisted as he has a lot of money. I figure that this is really an easy way of making 10 dollars for just one night. This makes \$16.67 that I have made in the last six days by pulling C.Q. for some other fellows. They are going to make us turn all of our yen in for military currency as they think that will help to stop the black market as the yen that they get from the Japs on black market won't be any good in the P.X. or any Military place. They will have to use that yen in buying souviners and things in these stores around here and they are really high on such things.

I got two letters from "OUR" Mom yesterday and she said that Earl and Edna were down one Sunday and Edna wanted my address as she wanted to write and tell me what kind of souviners to send or bring to her. I'm a little afraid that she is going to ask for something that is hard to get or will be so high that she won't want to pay that much for it.

I got two more letters from the folks today that were forwarded from the Replacement Depot which were written the 21st and 23rd of June and Daddy was saying that Ben thought it was Winter over here when it was Summer back in the States but it isn't. I only wish that it were a little cooler instead of so hot. The weather here in Tokyo is about like it is in Southern Kansas and Oklahoma most of the time. It gets fairly cold here in Winter but not until late and doesn't stay that way very long at a time. The reason that we feel the heat so much here is that it is so sultry and sticky.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write tonight so had better quit. I hope you will pardon all of the mistakes that I have made as I don't seem to be able to type so very well after working hours.

All my love and kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Honey, with all of my heart

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 12, 1946

My Dearest Darling Elaine:

I have finished all of my work for this afternoon so thought I would drop you a few lines before I can go back to the Hall. We have all day tomorrow off so that means I can sleep as late as I like in the morning.

It was awful hot here yesterday and this morning but has cooled off some as we had a very nice rain about 2:30 this afternoon. There was a big black cloud came up from the West and the wind blew, the dust flew, and pretty soon it just poured.

We were supposed to play softball this evening but I suppose we won't now as it is too wet. We probably would have lost anyway as that would be our first game and were to play against the Officers team.

Honey, I didn't get to finish this at the office as a few more papers came in and I wanted to take care of them so I wouldn't have to Monday.

It really is hot here again tonight and I'm in no hurry to go to bed as I won't be able to sleep for a while. The rain made it a little cooler this afternoon but it was so sultry that we sweated just as much.

When we got back tonight the manager of our team said that we would play tonight so we hurried and as we were eating they announced that the game was called off. We went out and practiced for about an hour but the field was just like a mud puddle. I think we will get a game for Monday night now. I really like to play ball and the exercise will do me good as we don't get enough around here as we ride everytime we go someplace.

We went over and got another shot yesterday and have to get another tomorrow and one a month later. They are for sleeping sickness so I don't mind taking them as it was fatal to a lot of men on Okinawa.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write now so will close for tonight. It seems like nothing happens and if it did we probably wouldn't be able to write about it.

All my love & kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Sweetheart.

Pfc. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 14, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, Whatcha doin? I thought I would write a few lines before I get ready to go to bed as it is too early and hot to sleep.

Tony called me yesterday morning that he was coming up here so I asked him to stay all night so he did. He got here about 2:30 and then we went out to the ball game and went again this afternoon. We went down to see Darold Velder at 5:00 last night and then he came out for supper. He went with us to the ballgame this afternoon.

Tony brought his camera with him so we took some pictures of us three. We had some taken of us two that weekend I spent with him and he showed them to me. They turned out pretty good. He is going to have some more made so as soon as I get them I'll send them to you.

We had a kind of a reunion party up on the roof tonight for Group 64. There were 20 of us that came over here out of 36 and nine of us were here tonight so we went up on the roof as there is a dance up there tonight. I don't think there will be any chance of us all getting together again as some of them will be going home pretty soon.

Tomorrow will make the end of my 14th month in this old Army and I will have four months and 13 days to do. It seems like an awful long time and can't say that I regret it very much but wouldn't want to go through it again. I have had a lot of experiences which I enjoyed but more that I didn't and I can truthfully say that I'm glad I had them all.

I only hope that the next five months go as fast as this last one has as it doesn't seem like I have been here over a month but I imagine time will start dragging pretty slow later on. I'm afraid that it will seem slower than ever if I don't hear from you pretty soon. I haven't gotten any mail from you since the 10th of June which you wrote May 23rd and it seems like ages ago that I got your last letter. I can't figure out why I get letters from the folks and not from you and I really don't think you have quit writing.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write tonight so will sign off for now and here's hoping that I hear from you soon.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 16, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I received a very nice letter from you this morning and was very glad to hear from you again. This letter was written July 6 and it is the first one I have gotten since the one you wrote May 23. I haven't heard from the folks for several days and have come to the conclusion that some of my mail was lost or burned in that plane the other day as there wasn't any for the fellows here.

It is hotter than blazes here this afternoon and I believe that it is the hottest day we have had yet and the

forecast this noon was for about another month of this. I'm afraid that we will all roast up here if they don't get some fans for us. They have tried to get some three different times but are unable to get them.

I suppose you are all through with grain cutting by now. I believe I would enjoy harvesting this year as I could run the new combine if I were home but will have to postpone it another year.

I finally got my corporel rating yesterday so will have to get my stripes and sew them on as they are pretty strict about that around here. A Lieutenant told us that as soon as he could get shoulder patches for us we were to sew them on and everyone would wear there stripes. Just think if I were home now or you were over here you could have a job of sewing for me. Would that be alright with you.

We played our first game last night and got beat as we had expected. We couldn't get organized until the fifth inning and then we started to get some hits and played better. They beat us 10 to 20 and we are to play the same team Thursday night so we may be able to do better.

This job is going to get the best of me yet if I'm not careful as I have been busy trying to find something to do or read as I haven't enough work to keep me busy half a day. I at least have time to write letters and read books during the day.

Darling, I'm running out of words so will close for this afternoon.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st C.I.C. Det.
G.H.Q., A.F.P.A.C
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
Tokyo, Japan
July 23, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey, Whatcha doin? I thought I would write to you tonight as I didn't last night. I'm sorry that I didn't get to as I unpacked the rest of my clothes and turned in some that I didn't need and got some more that I needed and was so tired that I went to bed. I have been fagged out the last few days and went to bed at 9:30 last night and didn't get up until 7:00 this morning.

We played ball again tonight and finally won our first game out of three 5 to 0 and I am tiredder than ever now. We finally got organized tonight and played a good game but I suppose I won't play much more as most of the fellows are married and will be going home soon and won't have enough players left for a team.

Honey, I can't figure out why I haven't been getting any mail from you as I have been getting mail from the Folks very regular and got only that one from you since I got here. I figure that maybe you have been pretty busy harvesting and are too tired to write, so if that is the reason I'll excuse you.

I got a letter from Grandma Whidden this morning and two from the folks this afternoon. Daddy wrote that Collins went out to Jerry Mashek's place and took him to Butte and had him in jail two days and then took him to Norfolk jail but now he is out on Bond. Jerry wrote Irene two letters after she got married this last time and threatened to shoot her if he ever saw her again so she just turned the letters over to the F.B.I. and then Collins took charge. I sure wish they would put him behind the bars for about five years and maybe he would cool off a little.

I sure feel sorry for a couple of Sargeants here in a way but on the other hand they had it coming to them. One was a Buck Sargeant and the other was a Staff Sargeant and they both got demoted to Privates today. One night after the show over at the club they brought two Japanese women over to their room and were caught and as a consequence were demoted. It serves them right as they thought they were big shots.

It rained here almost all morning but not hard enough to do any good and is just as hot tonight as ever. I wish it would cool off and maybe I would feel like doing something but there isn't much to any way.

Darling, I will close for tonight as it is 10:00 now and I have to shave yet as I might not get up in time to do it in the morning and have to make up my laundry list to turn in tomorrow noon.

All my love & kisses
Your Honeybunch
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitisma
39497280
A.P.O. 26564
c/o. P.M. N.Y.
New York
Roesheim Germany
July 25, 1946

To my Dearest Darling,

Well what is my little School teacher doing Today. I suppose you are working pertty hard. Well Darling I am leaving Germany tomorrow. We are going to Le Hare France. I don't know why. because that camp is going to close Down in 4 months and I will probly be back in Germany.

I havn't received any mail for a month now. but I am hopeing for some mail any time now.

How are the Dances around their Honey. I hope you are haveing fun. have some fun for me to, will you Darling. they are having a show in camp tonight I think I will go.

When Did you say your birthday was? you told me once but I can't remember.

I hope Lois & all the others are feeling better now. Has Jim been Down latly?

I went on pass last night and I never want to go again. The streets are narrow only room for one car & it is dirty. I wish I were back in the states. They had a pertty nice Red Cross show up town. That's about all they have.

Well Darling It's almost time for Retreat So I will say I love you. for now.

With all my Love

Bonnie

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
July 25, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I just came back from the softball game and thought I would drop you a few lines before I go to bed. I'm so tired tonight that I'm going to bed early. It is only 7:30 but my back has been bothering me lately. I guess it is from sitting around so much and I would rather be moving around more. I never could sit around much so this is going to get me down yet.

I really put in a hard day today as I worked two hours this morning and then read a book the rest of the day.

I won't have much time to read in the morning as I will have quite a bit to do in the morning and plan on taking the afternoon off as I am to get a day off for pulling C.Q. on a weekend but I won't be able to do that. If we aren't too busy tomorrow I will settle with a half day.

It has been a pretty nice day here as it was cloudy and cool so it wasn't bad up in the office. It would have been a very nice day to stay here and sleep and now I wish that I would have taken this afternoon off instead of tomorrow.

I got a letter from Edna (our Aunt) this afternoon and she sure wrote a swell letter. It sounds like Bonesteel is really booming as they are building new business places and moving in some houses. I also got two letters from Mom today.

I didn't buy any of that silk Monday as I found out that it wasn't very good grade and I figured it was too high. I heard today that they had some down at the Tokyo P.X. yesterday but I very seldom go there. I went down there this morning but it was gone. They were selling 5 1/2 yds for \$2.50 which is very reasonable as that I figured on buying cost 3.00 a yard and was poorer quality. I think that I will have to go to all three P.X.s every day and maybe I will be able to get some.

I am going to try to save up enough money to buy a camera before I leave here. It costs \$165.00 and has a flash bulb attachment for taking pictures indoors and at night.

Honey, I'm too tired to think of any more to write so will close for now.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
July 27, 1946

Hi Honey:

I just came back from the show so thought I would write you before going to bed. Andy and I went to the Ernie Pyle theatre and saw a U.S.O. Stage show and it was really rotten. I don't think I will ever go to another U.S.O. show as I haven't seen a good one yet but it at least is someplace to go to pass the time.

This has sure been a dull day as there wasn't a thing to do. I went down on Ginza Street for a while this

morning to do some shopping but came back with nothing. Ginza Street is where they have all of the gift shops and markets. I laid down right after dinner and turned on the radio and finally went to sleep but woke up in about an hour and couldn't go back to sleep and was tireder than when I first laid down. I didn't sleep very well last night as I got another cholera shot yesterday afternoon and it really bothered me last night as I played ball and that made it all of the worse.

I wanted to go to Yokahama this afternoon and barrow Tony's camera as I got that roll of film that Mom got from you and want to take some pictures. Tony said that I could use his camera and then take it home with me so I am going to unless I buy one myself. I ran out of ink so had to barrow some and it happened to be black so don't think that your eyes are deceiving you. I plan on going to Yokahama tomorrow to the ballgame if I can get the jeep and will get the camera then.

They have an orchestra over in the club tonight but I'm not even going over to hear it as it is a G.I. bunch and from here they don't sound so too good. It is really fun to listen to these Japanese orchestras as they play very good and when I hear that music I only wish that I had you near me dancing with you again.

I have been counting the time now and five months from tomorrow my time will be up but if I get my discharge out in California I'm afraid that I won't be able to get home for the New Year's Eve dance but if I get it in Ft. Leavenworth I'll be home by then. I heard once that Camp Beil, Calif. and Ft. Mead, Md. were the only two places that they were giving discharges.

I guess I will have to close for tonight as nothing exciting ever happens around here so there isn't much to write about.

I Remain
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
July 29, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, How are you this fine Summer morning? I just finished reading the paper and have nothing to do for a while so thought I would write to you now. It is 8:15 and by the looks of things I sure won't have much to do. I really need some rest this morning as I have been working awful hard. I think I am going to see if they won't let me have an easier job or get me a helper as I have been working too hard. Since I have been here I haven't

worked enough to pay for my meals and I managed to find enough to keep busy for three hours yesterday. I'm really getting lazy but I will be able to snap out of it as soon as they hand me that paper saying Honorably Discharged. It will take me a while to get hardened in so that I can work.

Pat (the Sargent here with me) went on a party last night as he and some of his friends celebrated because he is going home next month and does he ever look tough this morning. He doesn't feel like doing any work and I know just how he feels as I have felt the same way.

Some of the fellows wanted me to go to Mount Fujiyama with them in the morning but I'm going down to see Tony and then we are going up there next weekend. Most of these fellows going are fathers and may leave soon so they want to go while they have a chance. I heard this morning that they are going to cut orders for fathers next week so they will be going home soon. They are really lucky to go already and maybe they will get out before I do but it is hard telling as they really are slow about sending men home for discharge around here.

I was talking to our assignment Officer yesterday and asked him about when he thought I would start home and he said it would be any time between the 15th and the end of November so I definately won't have over five months left here.

Honey, I was just thinking back and remembered that just six months ago last night you went with us to O'Neill when I took the train to Fort Leavenworth after my 30 day furlough. That seems like it was a year ago instead of half a year and to think that it will probably be another six months before I get to see you again.

I see that there is enough material here to make out another Morning Report so will close and get busy.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
July 30, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Here it is, only 9 A.M. and I haven't done a bit of work and it looks like I won't have any to do the rest of the morning but will have a little for this afternoon. I will have to start working tomorrow as I am going to start on our Month Report and that will keep me busy for a week anyway.

I sure would like to go back to the Hall and sleep the rest of the day as I'm so tired that I can hardly move. I didn't get to bed until 11:30 and then couldn't sleep. I went down to the Ernie Pyle last night and saw a stage show and then stayed for the movie which was "The Return of Frank James."

After we came back from the show three of us sat in the Day Room and made up some applications for discharge as the other two fellows are both fathers and they have to have a letter of application. We wrote these up and I am going to type them this morning.

I went to Yokahama Sunday afternoon to see Tony and borrow his camera but he wasn't around so I didn't get to see him. I am going to call him today and if he happens to be coming up here I will have him bring it. I got a letter from Mom yesterday and She got two rolls of film in O'Neill and sent them to me so I want to borrow that camera and take some pictures before Tony goes home and then I won't have to take it home with me.

It started raining yesterday afternoon about 2:30 but not hard enough to amount to much and about 10:30 last night it rained real hard and got cool enough that we had to pull covers before morning. I think it was part of that Typhoon that hit here.

Darling, I'm still waiting for some letters from you and haven't gotten any for a couple of weeks now.

I will close for this morning as there isn't any news from way over here.

As I remain
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
August 2, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I just came back from the show so thought I had better write before going to bed as I haven't written for several days now. I have really been worn out lately. I have been busy making out the Monthly report

and finally finished it today so maybe I will be able to take it a little easier for a day or two until we get the Report back for correction.

I went up here to Army Hall to the show and saw the show that I had seen back at Holabird but I enjoy seeing a good show again, at least it is something to do to spend time and make the evening go faster.

I hope it rains all day tomorrow and Sunday so that I can sleep but I suppose it will be nice and I won't do any sleeping either but I could sure use the rest. My back has been bothering me again this week so I am going to make an appointment with the Massuer here to give me a treatment pretty soon. I don't think I am getting enough exercise or not the right kind and I am lacking some vitamins. How I would like to have some good fresh milk once in a while. Milk is a luxury over here and I haven't had any since I left the States and don't expect to get any until I get back. We used to get fresh butter but now we are getting some kind of cheese spread that is made from goat milk.

We got paid day before yesterday and that was the first time since the last of April so I drew \$155.67 for three months. I haven't been able to send any of it home yet as the Post Office isn't selling money orders until tomorrow so I'll have to wait until then.

I got a letter from Mom today that she wrote June 1 and it went to the Depot here and they forwarded it to the 11th Airbourne and then back to the Depot and here. I still haven't received any from you for several weeks and I'm beginning to wonder if I will hear from you again.

I'll close for tonight and go to bed.

As always
Your Honey
Clayton

I still love you Darling.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma
39497280
A.P.O. 26564
c/o P.M. N.Y. New York
Paris, France
Aug. 4, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Sorry I haven't written soon but we have been moving around so much we haven't had a chance. We left

Germany and went to Laharve France, it is right on the coast. We were their for a couple of days and then we went to Paris and here I am. Paris is a pertty nice place but I don't like the Frogs. in other words the French men. They don't like G.I. and they will cut your throat for 10 francs.

Darling I wish you were here. We could have fun. I suppose that you are going to start teaching school pertty soon. I wish I could be their to go to school and let you teach me. Ha.

How is Lois and the rest coming I hope they are all feeling fine.

Tell Lois I will write to here when I get assied to and outfit. Do you ever see Jim around. Is he taking good care of you like I told him to.

Honey when I get home again if I ever mention joining the army you hit me will you. Ha.

We are staying right in the middle of Paris. In a Hotel. It covers 2 blocks. They have every think in side of it.

I don't know where we are going form hire. I wish I know.

Well I had better close for now.

Darling I love you.

Love

Bonnie

Here is a picture of the boat we came over on. The name is U.S.S. Westminster. and a little Souvener for Paris.

Love

Bonnie

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
August 7, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, Whatcha doing tonight? I just quit work here tonight so thought I would drop you a few lines before going back to the Hall. I came back down here at 7:30 and it is 10:30 now so will call it a day. I had this Monthly Roster to correct and had to finish it before noon tomorrow so that is the reason I'm down here.

Pat went home yesterday so that left me to do all of the work. He hasn't been here all week and I don't blame him as I don't figure on doing much the last week or two that I am here and I hope that is soon as it can't be too soon for me.

There sure hasn't been any mail to speak of for over a week now so I can't write much as there are no questions to answer. It must be held up some place along the line as very few are getting any mail.

Honey, I haven't received any letters from you since the one you wrote July 6. I'm still looking for some but my hopes are beginning to drop every day. I was beginning to think that you had forgotten me and wouldn't write any more but I didn't think that would be possible.

I'll close for tonight so I can go back to the Hall and go to bed.

Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Cpl. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
August 9, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I have finally finished that report and all of my work for this week so thought I would converse with you a few minutes if you don't object, or don't you even care if I write to you any more. Honey, I love you very much and think the world of you but there is one thing that has me stumped and that is why I haven't heard from you for such a long time. I have been getting letters from the Folks pretty regular and not one from you since the one you wrote July 6. Surely you have a little time to drop me at least a few lines or have you found someone else you care for more than me.

I got three letters from Mom this afternoon and she sent me a picture of the bunch taken at the river when Joe's, from Montana, were there. I sure would have liked to have been there as I haven't seen Joe since 1940 and that was when I was in College.

In another forty five minutes, I will be able to leave here and have another week finished and then get ready to play ball again. I am going out to the Replacement Depot tomorrow morning as Pat called this afternoon and said he left a pair of sun glasses here and wants me to bring them out as he can't leave there. I am going to stop at Yokahama on my way back and barrow Tony's camera so I can take some pictures Sunday.

I can't think of any more news so will close for this afternoon and hope I hear from you before long.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Remember, Honey, I love you
with all my heart.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
August 15, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I suppose you are wondering why I haven't written to you for a few days lately but to be honest with you I have been waiting for a letter from and have finally come to the conclusion that I might as well quit looking and waiting for any as it has been two months since I received your last letter and I'm sure that if you have been writing at least some of them would have gotten here.

I have really been busy this last week as I have a roster to type up and give their name, rank, serial number and if they have credentials, give their credential and badge numbers. I have it almost finished except checking it again and will finish that tomorrow.

I am two days behind on my own work now as yesterday was a Holiday and we didn't have to work. I am on C.Q. tomorrow night so I will have a chance to do some work then. There is another promotion list out today so that will be another two days work.

I was promoted to Sargent today so will be eligible for Staff Sargeant in another three months and I am really looking forward to that. I wish I could get it in another month so that I would get more pay and could get more money sent home. I will get \$120.20 now and if I make Staff I would get \$138.40. I would be foolish not to enlist for another year as that would be almost all profit but I don't like it here that well.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write now so will close and go out to the Club and have a few beers before going to bed.

I remain
Your Sweetheart
(I hope)
Clayton

I still love you Darling.

Pvt. Bonnie Van Haitsma
39497280
Med. Det. 359th Engr. GS Regt.
A.P.O. 228
c/o P.M. N.Y. New York.
Bursells Belgium

Aug. 17, 1946

To my Dearest Darling

Sorry I havn't written sooner but we have been moving around so much that I never get a chance.

Well hows every thing back home. fine I hope. I suppose you are working very hard? How is Lois and every one.

Darling, I have a new job in the Army now. I am a med. The needle happy guy. I like this kind of work. I have to study up on all the kinds of medicine but that not to hard. I have been In all most every thing now. The Inf., T.C. & Engr. and now the med.

I havn't heard from any one since I got overseas. Two months now. If I don't get some mail perty soon I might go nuts. Ha.

All the other guys are gone to the show. and I have to stay here because I am C.Q. (Charge of quarters) and I hate that. Because I have to stay up all night.

Darling I am still looking for a ring. and I think I can get one here in Burssels. They have every thing form the states. They have better cars then we have I think. They are all brought form the states. so don't be surprised if you get one perty soon.

I never saw such weather. I have been here for three days at it is still raining.

Well darling I have a guy that is sick. and I have to give him some pills so I had better sign of.

with all my Love.

Love

Bonnie

Edna Whidden
Bonesteel, So. Dak.
Aug. 22 - 1946

Hi Ya Clayton: -

As long as its taken me to write to you, you wouldn't imagine, we enjoyed your letter very much, but we did a great deal So please keep them coming when you have time.

Saw in the news reel where in Tokyo they had a dance hall Pyle's (Ernie) where officers and men could dance, & have a bit of fun, have you been there? Or heard of it? Had a nice band & Jap girls doing a special dance & etc. Didn't look bad at all.

Its raining here to nite, we are beginning to need it badly not so much for the corn but pastures, gardens, & etc. Have been doing quite a lot of canning. 2 crates peaches & pears, put some corn in the locker (Oh by the way the locker is going full swing) Sure is nice to have it too. Our garden hasn't amounted to much for tomatoes & etc. Guess we didn't work enough in it.

On the west side of the street the new building are getting finished pretty fast. Have the windows in now. Maxine S. is putting in a coffee shop over there. so we have to break in new help. Have a girl from Naper to take her place. Small, Blonde, blue eyes. wears glasses. 5-2- so she is alto gether different from Max.

We put in a new walk in box its to be hooked up to morrow, plan to use a serve yourself store, don't know if we can make it work but we going to try it. Have a new fruit rack & center Island coming and its costing lots of dough so certainly hope it will work out.

Polio is really got every one on there toes. Gary ran such a temperature Tues & we called the Doc quick. but guess it was stomach flu & cold, at least he is better, cut out pictures & played ball to nite for which we've been very thankful. Starts to school in two weeks. Gosh sure hate to think of it. He is in & out of the house so many times a day & always wants lunch for he & his pals that I'll really miss him. We don't have a case of polio in Gregory County so the school starts the 2 - Winner postponed there Labor Day celebration, lot of State Fairs are put off & even the 4.H. showing until there isn't so much sickness.

Earl went over to the Lake and got our boat & put it at Lake Bary out by St. Charles. Then he & two fellows went Frog hunting. We are going to have Frog legs for dinner soon.

I have a girl friend visiting here from Calif. & my there has been so many picnic dinners & etc. in her honor. I've had a heck of a time keeping my work up & family fed without missing out on to much. Has been fun tho, she goes back Mon. so it all stops. She teaches school out there.

Well kid time for me to sign off for now won't be such a slow poke next time.

Bye.

Edna.

Greetings from the rest of the family.

Butte, Nebraska
August 26, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Well, here at last I have sat down for a chat with you. It may be short or long. I don't know which, as yet. It just depends upon how many times I am interrupted and how long before you chase me away.

What have you been doing lately? I mean besides drinking beer and working? Boy! I sure wish that I could find time for drinking a glass of beer at my own rate of speed. I would really enjoy that. I wouldn't care if it did make me sick. At least I'd get a rest.

Richard is still home. He is supposed to leave tomorrow night but I rather doubt if he will. Of course there is nothing definite until 4:00 P.M. tomorrow.

Mother is feeling a lot better now, according to the way she felt before but she is having a pretty bad time of it tonight. That means that I will, too. A person really gets tired after being up so terribly much. Last night was the first night that no one sat up all night for three weeks. Did I ever lose, not only sleep, but weight!! I am down to 107 lbs. now and I can really tell it, too. My clothes are too big, too. Ha!

Gee! Whiz! It has really been a long time since I was fortunate to see your folks. I never get away on Sunday or I know that someone would have someone for dinner someday. Guess who!!? I haven't been to a dance in Spencer since the 4th of July and only 1 dance since the 10th, so you can imagine how much and how often I get to go. It is really fun. I know that.

I presume that you and Tony are having fun out there aren't you? Well, have some for me, I'm sure I can't have any here.

Say, Honey, can you still get Japanese silk hose or in fact, any kind? If you can get me a couple pairs, I'll send you the money right away. I am completely out of any, except a pair of Nylons that I can't wear. They are only a size & a half too large. I wear only a 9 or 9 1/2. Preferably 9 1/2.

That old clock up there on the wall keeps going right along. It has reached 10:30 P.M. already and I have to fix my hair yet, so you can imagine how late it will be before I get to bed.

Yes, and another reason why I should get to bed is merely because I have eaten a pecan log about as large as this plus 15 caramels - (large) and there is some root beer out here that keeps tempting me so don't you think I should go to bed, too. Ha! I hate to admit it, but - I'm still hungry!

Monday, a week, (the 2nd) I start teaching again - the same school (#12). How I will love that! - the last year of that for me!!! Hubba! Hubba! Hubba!

Well, Honey, I must sign off, I'm really tired.

So, I'll close by sending you my Love

E Laine

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster

San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
August 29, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Believe it or not, I have finally been able to see the light again after being flooded with work so thought I would take a little time off to write to you. I've been awful busy and still have a lot to do as soon as I can start on it but will have to wait until Monday as I can't make out my report until all of the fellows that are to leave go as I have to enter them and we are expecting orders on the 24 month men tomorrow.

We got the orders yesterday on the fathers and we lost 101 men that went to the Depot today. It sure seems different around here as we have about half a staff left. It used to be pretty noisy in here but now that we have lost the screaming fathers it is very quiet. If we loose another group or two like those today we won't have much of a C.I.C. left over here.

I got a letter from Mom yesterday and she wrote about your mother being pretty sick. Honey, it was really a shock to me as that is the first I had heard and I sure hope she is better by now.

I'm going down to the Re Enlistment Building one of these days and try to find out about when I will start home as we have been hearing a lot of rumors lately. Some say that we get a 30 day furlough before our discharge but I doubt it very much. I want to find out so that I will have a better idea when to figure on getting ready to leave.

We have Monday off so that will give us a three day weekend and will give me a chance to sleep but I don't suppose I will as I want to go out to the Depot to see some of the fellows that went out there as I didn't have much of a chance to see them this noon. It sure seems funny to see some fellows go home that came over here after I did. It has just been a vacation for them as we left the States just three months ago. I figure that I have been over here half the time I will be as I should at least be going back in three months.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write so will close for this afternoon and please excuse me for not writing sooner as I have been busy during the day and tired at night.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pvt. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Det. 359th Engr. G.S. Regt.
A.P.O. 228 c/o P.M. New York, New York

Bursfels, Begluim
Aug. 29, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Honey, I am the most happiest man in the company to night. I got two letters form you to night. The first letters I received since I have been overseas. That has been two months. You don't know how Happy I was. I was out on a emerg. call. and didn't get in for mail call but another guy got it for me. When I got out of the ambulances. He gave them to me. I think I allmost cried. I was so. happy.

Darling I sorry about that promise but we have been traveling around soo much that I havn't had a chance. But, I will do better in the future. I wish that we could also go out again. but when I get home again we will realy make up for lost time.

I suppose you are allmost done with most off the Harvest. Honey: so now you will probly start teaching school. I wish I could be one of the peoples. Don't you.

So you aren't going to wait for me after Jan. 1. 1948. Well Darling I don't think all H _ _ _ could keep me away form you Darling Because I love you. and aways will.

So you can cook? I didn't think you could. Ha.

Honey. I am no longer a P.F.C. I got broke when I was on Guard duty one night in Germany. I went to sleep and the office of the gurad caught me. He only broke me so that wasn't so bad.

Darling could you send me a larger picture of you. one I can set up on my Desk. so I can see you all the time.

I will send you one as soon as I go to town and get one made wich will be tomorrow night.

Well, Honey. I think I had beter close for tonight. But don't think that your letters tire me because I could read them all night. I read the ones I got to night over three times all ready.

So I will say good night with all my Love & Kisses.

With all my Love

Bonnie

Honey I love you

Pvt. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Det. 359th Engr. G.S. Regt.

A.P.O. 228. c/o. P.M. New York, N.Y.
Brussels, Belgium
Sept. 3, 1946

To My Dearest Darling,

How's my Darling doing to night. Fine I hope. I havn't received any more letters but am still hoping to get some any time now.

Darling I just back form a Emergecy. A guy wreak one of our amublances. He was drunk and a truck side swipe the amulance and he lost control of it and he smacked into a car. He was hurt perty bad. He's in the Hospital now. I hope he lives.

I am going to Leaize tomorrow. We are going to set up a a Dispencery down their. It is about 100 miles form Brussels.

Darling. I hope you are not working to hard. or do you work. Ha!

Has Jim been down latly. I havn't heard form him since I been here. It sure is a lonesome place over here. When I get home this time I am going to stay home. But of corse, darling we have to go out and have fun won't we Honey. I haven't taken a drink since I left home and I am going to stick to it also.

We sure have a lot of excitment around here only at nights and I sure hate to ride after dark because they have such poor roads over here just small narrow roads.

Well the lights are allmost ready to go out so I will say good night sweetheart and pleasant dream.

I love you Darling

with all my
& Kisses Love

Bonnie

441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 3, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I have been sitting here by the radio listening to some very good dance music and it made me think of the good old days and how I wish I were back there taking you to a dance but I guess it is just wishful thinking for I'm over here and you're a long way away, back home. Just sitting here thinking of you wasn't doing much good so I decided to write to you and then go to bed and dream about you.

We all had to go to a class room at 6:30 tonight and the Major read the articles of War to us. We are supposed to have them read to us every six months but this was the first time since I left Texas and that was almost a year ago. A year ago today we went out on bivouac and it seems more like two years although I never regretted a bit of it and don't think I ever will as it has been a great experience which I will never forget.

It sure seems dead around here tonight as almost everyone has gone some place or are out in the Club. I went out there and watched a few fellows play poker a while and then came back. I never even had a coke while I was there let alone a beer or two. I don't know what is the matter but since all of these men left there isn't any excitement around here. There has been 207 that went home since July 16.

Honey, I'm down in the dumps so far tonight that I can't even think of anything to write about so had better quit for now.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams, Honey
I'll see you in my dreams
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Det. 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o P.M. N.Y. New York
Brussels, Belg.
Sept. 5, 1946

Dearest Darling Elaine:

I received your most welcome letter today and was very glad to hear from you. No you didn't write any thing to make me mad and I don't think any thing will make me mad. Because I it take quite a bite to make me lose my temper. I am always a happy go lucky guy.

I sure am sleepy to night. I never got any sleep last night. We had to take a guy to the Hospital. Its 38 miles to the hospital and we broke the ambulance down coming back from the Hospital and we had to walk for about 10 miles to another camp to get a jeep to come back to our camp. The I almost wrecked the jeep. I went to sleep driving I was in the ditch when I woke up. I was really scared. So I think I will go to bed erelly tonight.

We haven't went to Leaize yet. We may go tommorrow. I don't know yet.

It dosent take much nerve to push a needle into a guy. Its a lot of fun I think but the fellows don't. They call us "The needle Happy bunch." That a good name for us I guess.

Well Darling they gave me my one little strip back to me. I don't know how I got it back though.

Darling I hope your mother stays well.

Honey, So my cousins are giving you a bad time. Tell them to keep away. that you are all ready take. "private proerty"

Well Darling I am allmost asleep now so I will just say good night to the wonderful girl in the world.

Love & Kissess

Bonnie

I love you Darling.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 7, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey, What you doing? I suppose you are most likely in bed right now as I write this as it is after midnight back there. It is 2:15 P.M. here so it would be 12:15 P.M. there. I'm up here on C.Q. and thought I would write to you even though I haven't heard from you for a long time. In fact the last letter I received from you was written July 6.

This has really been some day as a lot of men have come in for their orders and records to go home and the telephones have been ringing one after another so I have had a lot of interruptions. I just got a call that we could pick up the orders on the 22 month men and I got two calls asking for reservations for men leaving by train but they got the wrong number both times. I hope I never have this job again on Saturday as it is always a busy day. I get one day off this week but will take two afternoons off as I have to work every morning or I would get behind with my work. (Another phone call) I plan on going to the War Crimes trial once as I think it would be a good experience and well worth my time.

We have 33 replacements out here at the Depot now so they should be in the first part of the week. They are all Neise boys and will probably go out in the field to work as interpreters. I hope they get some replacements up here pretty soon as we will loose quite a few men again. We lost 8 men out of this office in the last two weeks and got three replacements.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write so will close for this afternoon.

Love

Clayton

I love you Darling

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Det. 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228, c/o PM, N.Y. New York
Bruxsells Belgium
Sept. 8, 1946

Dearest Darling Elaine

I havn't received any more mail yet but am hopeing to any time. I received a letter form Jim. the other day. sure was glad to hear form him. He said he had his car almost fixed.

Darling I am enclosing a picture its not very good but its all I have and they don't have and photo shoppe in town. so thats all I could do. I am still looking for a picture form you Darling.

Today is sunday and think are pertty deid around here. I think I will go to bed perTTY soon. Darling I wish I could be with you this sunday.

Say Honey. How would you like to come over here. I good arrange it I think. But you can't Leave home. Sorry I menated it.

We Have been developing films all afternoon & taking pictures. We made some perTTY good pictures. We have have a dark room and every thing to develope picture with. It is a lot of fun.

Honey, I sure will be glad when I get home so we can have a lot of fun again.

The caught some G.I. selling ciggerats on the Black Market and he got 5 years. So I quite selling my ciggerats starting right now. Because I want to get home.

I got my P.F.C. strip back agin. they can't Keep a good man down. Ha.

Well Darling. I think I will say good night for now. I still want a picture please Darling.

Love & Kissess

Bonnie

I love you darling.

Butte, Nebraska
Sept. 9, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Well, Honey, here it is another dreary day. How I love them!!! Hubba! Hubba!

What have you been doing lately, Honey? Nothing much, as usual, I presume.

I am trying to write this and have classes too and it doesn't work so pretty good so if I get a little lost or get everything mixed up in this think nothing of it. Ha!

Boy! Don't ever say that it can't rain in Nebraska. It has really poured down since Saturday. I have had a large washing on the line since Saturday A.M. and it still isn't dry and probably won't be until the weather clears up.

Honey, I sure wish that you were here. It has been a terrible long time since we have gone anywhere together. I thought if I wouldn't write that I was lonesome for you that you wouldn't mind being there quite as much but by gorsh! I can't hold out any longer. I am so lonesome for you that it isn't even funny any more. Wait until you get home. Boy! Do I ever have time to make up!!

There is a dance in Spencer Wednesday night and I would really enjoy having you here as my date. I usually go by myself since my cousin is home (Arthur Reiser.)

Well, Honey, school is out and I have a lot of work to do before I go to town yet so, so long and Good Luck.

God Bless You,

Elaine

Edna Whidden
Bonesteel, So. Dak.
Sept. 9, 1946

Hi Ya Sgt.

Not bad, not bad so here's to you. We'll drink to that when you come home. Sounds great that you'll be home for Xmas. Guess that's really one time a person hates to be away.

Man such rains as we have been getting in fact last nite the lightning & thunder almost made a person jump out of there skin. It's a shame we didn't get this a month ago. The corn is so green yet that we need 2 weeks of warm weather for ripening & now it stays cool.

We were down to Spencer Labor day, saw Bonesteel win the Ball game 3-4 that was a swell one & nice to take. Saw the folks & the house they bought, sure looks swell from the outside & am happy for them & they have worked awful hard & I think its time they took time out for fun.

Yesterday we had our church Misson Feast at Naper from the rain we had was afraid we couldn't make it. Had a pretty fair crowd out in spite of bad roads. Had lots of food left over. Guess we needed, some G.I.'s to finish up the chicken, pie & etc.

Gary was pretty tickled to hear that your a Sgt. & he wanted me to tell you, he has one tooth out in front, another loose, he can tie his shoes now & he's going to school next week. We have had so much polio around that they put school off for two weeks. We don't have it right in Bonesteel. Winner is the closest but Boy that's plenty close for me. 6 new cases there the only Blessing about it is it hasn't left many cripple most have had it in a light form. of course several lost there lives with it.

Say since your in Tokyo every time we find mention of it we read it in hopes that you've either been there or know about it. Anyway - The Life Magazine told of the G.I's in play "Mikado." Its an Operetta, but believe it worth seeing. Anyway if you do. We sure want to hear about it.

Clayton are souvenirs terribly expensive such as letter opener, fan. Would be glad to pay you for them. Am afraid a vase would most likely come broken if not packed real good. If you have time & want something to do, and would scout around I would certainly appreciate you letting me know about it.

Had a dance here last Tues. nite. Roads were pretty tough & with Spencer having one on Monday nite. here Tues & Butte Wed - Thurs, it was to much going on.

Marty, H.L. were up two weeks ago, he is going to teach in Boys town this year. He wants to come up for hunting the worst way. Thought possibly over the week end. Lots & Lots of pheasants but they are small. Had to go to Mitchell last week, Earl threw his knee out of place & Dr O'Neil put it back. Coming home I hit two of them with the car, neither one was very big.

Well Sarge guess I'll hit it for time being. Bye & Best Regards from all.

As ever.

Edna

(Enclosure) 1 2 3 4 5 7 6 8 9

G a r y

Gary wanted to send you this. He knows by Xmas you'll be a General - so step on it Boy -

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 12, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I have finally finished my roster and handed it in to Lt. Niemeyer but suppose he will find something wrong with it and give it back to me as he is always trying to find errors with our work but is having a very hard time. He is taking Lt. Bush's place up here as soon as Bush leaves so has taken almost complete charge. He doesn't get along with anyone.

I thought I would drop you a few lines now so that this letter will go out on this afternoons mail. I want to get as much work done this afternoon as I can so I can take tomorrow afternoon off but it looks a little doubtful now. That is the trouble with this job, all of the work comes at once.

We have really been having some swell nights to sleep lately as it is so cool in fact we usual pull on a blanket before morning. Had quite a time last night in our room as a fellow from Wisconsin that came over with us and was in our group at Holabird moved into our room and we drank several beers and then went down to our room and drank some Jap gin. He got to feeling pretty good and then started acting silly and was really a clown. He always was a good natured guy and full of fun.

It looks like I will be on my way home in two and half months as they request orders for us a month prior to our discharge date. If we get any terminal leave we will start home that much sooner and get a furlough before discharge but no one seems to know for sure how much time we have coming.

Honey, I can't think of any more to write so will close for now and am still waiting for some news from you.

All my love & Kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

Pfc Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med Det. 359th Engr GS Regt.
APO. 228 c/o PM. N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Sept. 13, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Honey. whats cooking to night (chicken - do you want to neck). Ha. Darling I received a couple of letters to form you and was I happy. They were dated the 1st of July & the 17th of July. They have been following me all over E.T. and final caught up with me.

You know me better then that don't you? I wouldn't even walk across the street with any of this Europe women. Because I have a beautiful girl back home and I love you Darling.

Some of these guys that are marrieing these women over here I can't see it. but maybe they love Them. I'm sure I could do it.

Maybe if I wouldn't of meet you before I came over here it would of seem different, but, Darling I just want to get back to you. and stay with you forever. I have saw all of this world I want to. I want to fine a nice quit place for just you & I.

You remember that proimes I made that I would go out with any other girls? well Darling, I am going to stick to that promise. Because I love you very very much. I am counting the days till I am home again and this time it will be to stay. I am get to come home about July 1948. if I am luck. with 24 months services overseas. They may go home. that pasted on the Bullit borad. So I am see you sooner. I hope I do Darling.

Well Honey. I finally got to Liege and boy is it ever a dump. We have to build the Dispencary and we havn't done much work on it yet, but getting a little done at a time.

When we wake up this morning we heard a couple of Dogs howling in the basement and after chow we went down and got two little puppy's out. They are about 4 months old and they sure are cute. We fed them and it looked like their stomachs would burst open. Then we gave them a bath and they sure hated that. They are asleep now on a chair. They pertty happy right now.

Darling, I sure hate to till you this but I can't find a ring over here. They don't have any such thing I guess, because I can't find any. So you'll have to wait till I get back to the states. I hope you won't get mad. will you? They have some odd looking ring that I wound even call a ring.

Well, Darling I thing I had better close for now. So good night and pleasnt dreams Darling.

With all my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Pfc Bonnie Van Haitzma 39497280
Med Det. 359th Engr GS Regt.
APO. 228 c/o PM. N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Sept. 15, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Honey what are you doing tonight? I just came back from the G.I. club. It is really a nice club. They have every thing that you want to drink in it. I only had a coke. I quite drinking Ha. (I have really) The boys bring women out from town to dance with. I wouldn't look at one a second time. They have a P.W. band. It is a pretty good band. They play American songs.

Gosh Honey! While I was over there it kinda made me home sick and I wished I was back with you. Just think Honey. How nice it will be when we can be together again. I wish I knew that I wouldn't of signed up for three years.

The boys are over at the club getting drunk and tomorrow morning they will come on sick call. with a hang over. and want us to give them a buck slip so they won't have to work. I sure get a kick out of them. Ha.

Do you ever go to any Dances Honey. I hope you do. I want you to have a good time, if I can't. So really raise the roof for me too. ok. Darling! And when I get home we will really raise the roof. If it's okay with you Darling.

We took some pictures Today of the two little puppy's. I hope they turn out good. I will send you one. I was holding them both. They sure are cute. A black one & a black & white one. We sure have fun with them.

Do you ever see Jim? I have heard from him only once. He's probably to busy fixing his car.

Say Darling I am still waiting for a picture. I had better get it pretty soon or I am going to come and see you. I wish I could Darling. I'd be there tonight.

We went to the show this afternoon and saw Getting Gerties Garter. It was sure good. I almost laughed myself sick.

Well darling it is getting quite late so I had better close for now & I will say good night to the beautiful girl in the world.

With all my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 16, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, I was really surprised this afternoon when I received your letter of August 26. It was delayed someplace along the line but it is hard telling where.

So you are back to teaching school again? I didn't know whether you were going to or not as you never mentioned anything about it. I always knew that you were a good school mom, and how do I know? Well, it's like this, it takes a good teacher to teach me things and you did. I won't say what but will let you figure that out. I always wished that I had taken normal training but I haven't the qualifications to teach.

You wrote about silk stockings but I'm sorry to say that they are very scarce here also. A fellow got three pair a week ago Sunday but by the time I got there they were all gone. They weren't very good but would be better than none. They have white silk blouses once in a while so if you will let me know what size you wear I'll send you one. They come in sizes 32, 34, & 36. You would probably have to make it over but not very much.

I'm really tired lately so I'm going to go to bed early tonight and maybe I can catch up on some of my sleep and not sleep during the day. I used to get up at 6:30 every morning but now I have a hard time waking up before 7:15 and then I have to rush to get breakfast and to work.

I went down to the supply room this evening to trade my O.D.s in for new ones but they don't have any in yet. I have lost some of my weight, mostly around the waist and my trousers fit rather loose. I have some other things to turn in before I go home also.

I may leave here sometime the last part of October and get back to the States in time to take my terminal leave but don't know just how many days I have coming.

Honey, I'll close for tonight by sending you --

All my love & kisses

Clayton

I love you Darling

Pfc Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med Det. 359th Engr GS Regt.
APO. 228 c/o PM. N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Sept. 17, 1946

To my Dearest Darling

Hi Honey. Hows every thing going. fine I hope. I just got through with sick call. and am I ever glad that its over for one more day. All we had to day was a bunch of Drunks & gold bricks. mostly drunks. and I see how they act. And I never want to get drunk again as long as I live. and Honey I want you to help me kept my word.

Remeber Honey. The first time I saw you, you were just going to go milking. Do you know. How old I thought you were. about 14 or 15. Then I asked Lois and she said you were 18.1 I wouldn't believe her at first. But I did when we went to the Dance together. I'll never forget that night. I was in love with you right then & I always will be. Words can't express my love for you darling I wish I could see you now. and when I think of 2 more years, till I do see, I almost feel like going AWOL and coming home.

But when I do get home Darling we are going to make up for lost time.

I am here alone today my buddy went up to Regiment after supplies & some rations form the P.X. They don't have a P.X. down here.

I haven't received any mail since Sat. but it's so slow getting to us. I get 2 or three letters form you at onces. I read them over and over. Oh Darling I love you Very Very much.

I just came back form chow. They have 250 men to feed here and we have to stand in line for about 1/2 half a hour. I ma getting sick of lines. I'll be glad when I get out.

Say Darling when I get back to the states I get a 60 day furlough. if I have one comeing. And then I have to go to Fort Lewis Washington to get discharged. Could go you to Washington with me and after I get discharged we could have a vacation in Tacoma. If you wanted to we could have a lot of fun.

Well Honey. I guess I had better close for now. I'll be thinking of you Darling every minute till I get home.

With all my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

T/5 Jerome L. Fiala 377757877
HQ & HQ. Co. 13th SIG. SV. BN.
APO 757 N.Y., N.Y.
Frankfurt, Germany
17 September 1946

Dear Clayton,

About time I write you in answer to your letter I received some time ago. Sure did appreciate hearing from you.

So Tony is home & a civilian already. At least thats what my mother wrote me. He sure didn't take long about it did he? It seems as though he could have at least dropped you a line to let you know he had gone.

So you think my gal friend is O.K. huh? Well I'll tell you one thing it sure makes time pass by a lot faster by having a girl-friend, even though it is a German. She is getting to talk & understand more English all the time. Boy I'll go with a Fraulein any day before these Wacs. Believe me these Wacs are hurting too.

You should see the write-ups they put in the papers about G.I.'s going with these Frauleins. WOW Jealous is the word I guess.

By the way congratulations on your promotions Mike. I guess I'll always stay a Cpl. These Sgts we have here just don't give a d ____. By the way I'm taking a new job starting next week. Will show these guys here that I don't have to continue working for them. I'll be working right in downtown Frankfurt for my former C.O. at Wiesbaden, where I worked as Company Clerk. He is a swell Joe and if there is any ratings to be given out he will get em. Maybe you didn't know this Clayton but I'm staying here until my discharge & am then going to be a civilian & work at this new job. It's called "Chief Clerk Personnel." Pays \$3500.00 per year plus 20% over - seas which will make me around \$4,000.00 per. Not too bad huh? I've signed only for 6 months now & can always extend it if all proves out O.K. & I like it. My room will cost me \$13.85 a month & meals 75 cents a day. Now the currency has changed so my P.X. will cost me hard earned money. You know what * mean. Clayton don't for once think I stayed for this girl friend here. No I inquired about jobs back home etc. three months ago & it was very doubtful that I could find a steady job, so asked my folks etc & they said it's O.K. with them if I can stand it over here & save money. I'm sure I can save more here than back in the states. Of course I must stop & figure my income tax will be h __ _ but after all anyplace you make a lot of money you must pay out a lot in income tax.

Hope you will excuse my pencil writing as that's all I had at hand at present. I get tired of typwriting all the time. I've forgotten how to write already, as any fool can plainly see. Ha

By the way Mike I'm going to be a (professor) (Sp) soon. Yup I'm to start wearing glasses in one week. Boy won't I look like a sad sack then? Ha.

Well Mike it's chow time now, so will make a mad dash for the chow line. Write soon & I'll also do the same. Hope this finds you O.K.

Your Buddie,

Jerry

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 18, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I received your swell letter of Sept. 9 this morning and was very glad to receive it. You talk about being lonesome. I am so lonesome that I just sit around at night and then go over and have a beer before going to bed so that I can sleep, otherwise I would just lay there and think about you. When I go to sleep I can dream and that is a lot more pleasant than just thinking. I'll admit it probably wouldn't be so bad if I had you over here so I could take you to a dance or show or talk to you over the phone like old times but we are so far apart now but won't be for too much longer.

I had it figured that I would leave here the last part of October and be home to take 33 days terminal leave but I found out that our reenlistment furlough counts against us so the set up now is that I will get 15 days and will leave here between Nov 10 and 15. I will be here long enough to make Staff Sergeant but I would rather be home. They could still change that but I still think I am getting jipped.

It has been a very miserable day here as it started raining about Midnight last night and still is. It got pretty cool last night but is very hot and sultry now. I always know when it is going to rain as my knee starts bothering me.

I have really been busy again this week and have quit for today as I don't feel like working myself to death. I was notified yesterday noon that I had to make a roster off everyone in C.I.C. and had to have it finished by noon today so I cut a stencil for the forms and then had two men help me and we finished it by 10:30 this morning. We really were busy but now that we have that finished we are taking it easy.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write so will close for this afternoon.

All my love
Your Sweetheart
Clayton.

I love you Sweetheart.

Butte, Nebraska
September 19, 1946

My Dearest Clayton,

Hi Honey! Whatch know! I don't (_____) I've had all I know scared out of me.

What have you been doing lately? I know nothing that you could get out of doing. Right? Right (Write) with eversharp. (Period.)

I really feel mean today. It seemed kinda good to feel kinda like ones old self. I really don't know what it is like to feel mean, though, really mean like I used to feel when we went someplace together. Guess when you get back I'll have to try being mean. May I?

Listen, Honey, I don't know _____

Remainder of letter is completely unreadable - water stained, smeared, etc.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitzma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Lieze Belgium
Sept. 20, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi. Honey. I'm sorry I havn't written soon but, I have been taking sick call in town every morning and getting back quite late & then I have to make out my reports and by that time its is a 11 o clock and I can't keep my eyes open.

It is now. 6. A.M. and I am taking sick call. The other guy takes them in town this morning. You are probly sleeping yet. because our time over here is 8 hrs. faster then your time.

Darling I am sending a couple of pictures that we took the other day. They aren't very good. I never take a good picture.

Honey. I received 4 letters last night form you. They were dated. July 23. July 27, Aug 3. and Sept. the 10th The mail is finally catching up with me.

Gee Honey I was really sorry to hear that your mother was sick. I hope that she is feeling better now. and stays better.

Say Darling. What was I talking about in the cafe that embarassed you. I can't rember what it was. I'm really sorry for what I said though.

So Jim is going with Vera King? Why she's only 16 or 17 years old. Why did Jim quit Lois? He is a funny guy & I have been runing around with him for about 2 years now.

Oh Darling. I'll really be glad when I get home again. What you say about the army is true. I know what color of hair you have and how tall you are but I can't remember the color of your eyes. Well it dosen't make any difference. I still love you Darling.

How many students do you have? If you don't have too many, I will start to school again. How would you like that? Do you go home every night or to you stay their?

No. Honey. I don't care if you go out with other guys just so you have a good time and don't get serious with them. These girls over hear you can't have any fun with them because they can't speache English very good. so I just leave them alone. I go to the once in a while and read at night or work on my reports so I spent my evening very interesting don't you think so Honey?

Well darling it is chow time So. I guess I had better sign off for now.

All my love

Bonnie

I Love you Darling.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 21, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Well, Honey, here it is another dull weekend and nothing to do. I have just finished supper so thought I would chat with you for a while. I managed to get up at 9:00 this morning, too late for breakfast, and just sat and laid around all morning. Right after dinner I went down to the barber shop and had a hair cut and my regular Saturday shave. I am always too lazy to shave myself on Sat. so I have the barber do it.

I managed to get outside long enough to go to the P.X. at 2:15 and then did a little selling so now I have money enough to go down town and buy a few souvineers.

I went down to the Hibya Hall last night and saw a very good stage show and then saw the show "Wonder Man." I had seen the show before but couldn't recall just what it was about until I saw part of it. I think I will go to the Army Hall to the show just to pass the time away. I have seen almost all of the shows that are showing here. I suppose the new ones will get here after I leave and I will miss out on seeing them but I won't care as long as I get home so that I can be with you again.

I sure wish they would make up their minds as to how much terminal leave I have coming as they change it almost every day. I guess I won't know for sure until I get to the Seperation Center. I think I will go to Ft. Sheridan, Ill.

I got a letter from Earl & Edna yesterday and Edna was asking about souvineers so I'm going to see what I can find. I have a little of \$100.00 Jap money so will most likely spend most of that as things are pretty high. I saw a camera today that I want to buy. It is a 127 but has adjustable shutter openings and speeds and cost \$25.00.

Honey, I'll, close for tonight as I sold some merchandise this afternoon so will have to deliver it yet.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Dearest.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitisma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Sept. 21, 1946

To my Dearest Darling,

Darling. I received a couple more of your letters Dated the 9 of Aug & the 11 of Aug. and Honey. I was really glad to receive them. I really got the letters to day. I got 12 letters. I am finally getting my mail. It sure makes you feel better when you get mail.

Well, Darling. I am finally a uncle, a boy. He was borned the 9th of Augr. & my birtday is the 7th just 2 days after mine. so we can celebrate ours together.

Well Darling I suppose you are just getting ready to got out to night and I am almost ready to go to bed. I am so tired that I can hardly keep my eyes open.

Now Darling. That is a good ship I come over on. I never got sea sick, so it is a good ship. Ha.

So Jim quit Lois? and is going with Vera King. He's almost robbing the crattle isn't he. But don't tell him I said so or he might not like it.

The other guy that is down here with me went to Regt again and he won't be back till Monday some time? I hope I don't have too many sick guys.

Darling. I was over to the club to night and only had a coke. I'm still sticking to my prosmies because I love you Honey. They really have the drunks over their. Not only the G.I.'s but the women also. I can hardly stand the sight of this women over here. Honey. I just wish I were with you to night. I would be one happy G.I. and I mean really happy.

Well, Honey, I guess I had better say good night.

Sweetheart I will meet you in our Dreams.

With all my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Sept. 23, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Darling. How's every thing going with you. I'm doing fine only I wish I could be with you tonight my Darling.

My prayers were answered. I got a letter form you Darling. And was I ever glad. You don't have to worry about me not loveing you Darling. Because I will love you till the day I die. O.K. Honey. I miss you.

Maybe you won't have to wait till Jan. 1. 1949 for me. I may be home in Aug. 1948. or around their some time. How would you like that Darling. I'll be the Happies guy in the world when I can take you in my arms again.

And Darling about those three guys, Tell them that you are private property. Tell them to scram.

You better be ready when I get home because we are going to be married it its all right with you Darling.

Two guys are playing poker & they want me to join them. But I told them I had something better to do. Write to the wonderfull girl in the world. Gosh, Darling. I love you. I can Hardly wait Till I gist home.

We have a new medical officer. I have never meet him yet. but I hope he is a nice guy.

They are haveing quite a time up at Regt. The two Sgt. are not on talking Terms. I wounder how it will work out.

Well Darling it is way past my bed time. So I had better say good night Sweetheart and Happy Dreams.

All my Love

Bonnie

I Love you

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 23, 1946

Hi Honey:

It is such a dreary day here that I just don't feel like doing anything so thought I would drop everything and write to you. About twice each day one of the Officers will come tearing out here with a little work and want one of us to drop what we are doing and do a job for them. I wouldn't mind it so bad if they would show a little appreciation for our efforts.

It started raining early this morning and has been sprinkling a little all day so maybe it will be a good night to sleep again. It was cold enough this morning that a coat felt good. I hope I'm not over here when it gets real cold as we would almost freeze in those jeeps and they would be hard to start. I only wish that I were on my way home now as it is really getting monotonous over here now.

A fellow just brought the mail in and I got three papers so now I will have something to do tonight instead of going to a show and it is too cold to drink any beer.

Honey, I feel so down in the dumps this afternoon that I can't think of any more to write so will have to come to a screeching halt and will send you -

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitzma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Sept. 23, 1946

To my Dearest Darling

Hi Honey. what are you doing Today? Teaching school I suppose.

Today is a very boring day for me. I am hear alone & time just stands still. Yesterday afternoon was the same way. Every one was gone. and I had to stay. I just kept thinking of you. Darling woundering what you were doing and wishing I could be their with you. and Honey. I can take orders perty good and if they are form you I don't mind them a bit.

We had a perty large sick call this morning. Most every one got drunk last night. Even the Kernal was drunk and never showed up for reverly this morning. The first Sgt. has came back form the week end yet and the hole company is drunk.

I'll really be glad to get out of here.

Honey. I really miss you. What did I ever sign up for three years for. I could still kick my self for doing it.

You have propable hear about me being a uncle, a boy. His birtday is two dayes after mine is.

We have lost one of our litle dogs. We let them out side and one of them walk off or some one took him. The other one is kinda lonesome with out the other one.

Darling. I am praying I get a letter form you tonight in the mail and if I don't I'm going to tell the mail clerak off. (Ha).

We Darling I can't think of much more and a patient just walked in. So I will have to close for now. By-By.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you Sweetheart.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 26, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I sat down here a while ago to write you a letter but can't seem to think of anything to write. About the time I got started with the heading a house boy came in and asked for a Mr. Brown as there was a man here looking for him so I went out to see him. It seems as though Brown owed him some money for something and never paid him but Brown left for the States a month ago. It was some Jap so I'm not going to worry about it.

One of the fellows in this room wanted me to go with him over to see his girl's sister tonight but I wouldn't go as I can't seem to think of going to see any Jap girl when I know that some one very sweet and nice is waiting for me to come home. Now just in case you are wondering who this swell girl is here initials are E.I.C. I haven't gone with anyone for four months and I think I can wait another two and a half months until I can go with you.

Time seems to be going fast over here but I sure hope it stops the minute I get home or we will never be able to make up for all of this time we have been so far apart. Someone said once that we can never make up for this time that we have been apart but you can just bet your last penny that I am sure going to try it and at least make good use of my time when I get home.

This has really been a day as we have been trying to figure out just how many men we have in C.I.C. and how many in each Region. We have three different files of the men and none of them were right with the others. They finally came to the conclusion that mine was correct as I had all of latest information.

Darling, I can't think of any more to write so will close for tonight and get ready to go to bed so I can dream about you some more. I will see you in my dreams.

Goodnight, Sweet Dreams
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

P.S. I have figured it up and I have only 46 days left here in Tokyo.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Sept. 29, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Honey. What are you doing today. I'm not doing very much. We really had to work last week. from Tuesday till last night or Sat night. We have been giving shots to the boys. We had to go to every company in our Regt. and there is 8 companys and about 400 men to each company. I am really sick of giving shots.

Honey. That's why I haven't written for the last four days. But I will try to make up for them. from now on. So you believe in ghosts. (Ha) I bet that was a scare when the organ started to move by it self. What did you do to the children? I hope you didn't hurt them? Ha!

Honey, Last night a couple of my Buddies got drunk & I had to put them to bed are you going to put me to bed when I get drunk after I get home? or will you shot me? Ha.

I heard from Jim the other day. He said he had his car fix up now. I guess it was perty well smashed up.

Darling I hope your mother is feeling better & every one else.

Honey. They still have the club open & every body gets drunk. I sure will be glad when I get home so we can have some fun.

I only have 20 more months over here. Thats isn't very long. They we can really have fun. Huh? Honey.

Honey. I will send some more pictures when I get developed. I hope they turn out good.

Well Darling Its all most chow time So I had better close for now.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
September 30, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Hi Honey; Believe it or not I'm back in the mood of writing letters tonight so thought I would start by writing to you. That is about the only mood I am in as I'm really under the weather. I received your letter this morning that you wrote Sept. 19 and that really put some pep into me but it soon wore off as I had to forget about that and go to work.

I caught a cold over the weekend and sure wish that I could get rid of it. My throat and chest are sore and my head aches so I'm just a complete physical wreck tonight. I went down town Saturday night and got caught in a shower so imagine that is the reason I have a cold now.

Honey when you wrote about them changing your Plans of Training so often reminds me of my job as almost every day I have something new to do and I'm getting sick and tired of it. M.R.U. brought over some forms to fill out and wanted it back by Wednesday night with all of the information on it. They wanted all Regular Army men to fill one out about when they enlisted and if they intended to re-enlist again. I showed them to Lt. Bush and he said that I should type on each one that these men are on TDY and we have no way of asking them these questions.

I got a letter from Jerry today and he said that he was going to be discharged over there and take a civilian job as he could save more money than in the States and thinks it will be hard to get a steady job at home. He has a German girl that he goes with but said that wasn't the reason he is staying there.

Honey, about this vacation of yours, I think you had better keep planning on it as I am not sure just when I will get home as our terminal leave time will be figured again at our Separation Center so it is hard telling how much time they will give me. They have it figured here that I have 15 days coming. I am to leave here around Nov. 12 and it usually takes about 35 days to get back to the Separation Center and discharged. Let me know when you plan on being in Omaha and maybe I will be able to meet you there.

I think it is about time to close tonight as I have to write home yet and then go to bed and get plenty of rest.

Goodnight, Sweetheart,
All my love
Clayton

I love you Darling.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
October 2, 1946

Hello Honey:

Whatcha doin besides feeling mean and working? I sure wish I could feel like me again for a change but it seems almost impossible. I'm beginning to think that my old cold is going to get me down yet. Maybe if I had some good Stateside whiskey I could drink some of that and go to bed & sweat it out. Better still, if I were home and then I could give it to you and let you worry about getting rid of it. Would that be alright with you?

Marvin Smith (the fellow I met in Sioux City that time) came up yesterday to go to school and then is going to get a Warrant Officer rating so I took him down town after supper last night as he wanted to buy a guitar but we couldn't find a good one very cheap. Found one that he really liked but they wanted 30,000 yen or \$2,000 for it.

Honey, I haven't been able to find anything to send you for your Birthday yet but if I can I will send it but it may be a little late. I found something down town last Saturday that I wanted to buy for you in the worst way but I didn't have enough Jap money and now that I have it I suppose it will be gone.

I'm running out of news so will close for this afternoon and go to work.

As Ever

Clayton

I love you Darling.

Mr. & Mrs. Emil Klasna
Spencer, Nebraska
October 2, 1946

Dear Nephew Clayton:

We're thinking of you tonight, so I thought I would sit down and write a letter. I have several letters to answer, so will write yours first, we've just finished supper and the evening work is done, we wonder what you are doing. How do you like Japan by now? or maybe you don't like it at all? Your mother was saying that you expect to be home before Christmas, that will sure be nice to be home again, won't it? We're so glad to have Harold home and hope we can all be together this Christmas, Harold hasn't been at home for the last four Christmas's. Twice he spent in the Hospital, and 2 Christmas's in the service.

Today, we went to Spencer and Butte, its been a windy and dirty old day. Last night we went to Alvin Havranek's wedding dance in Spencer, there was a large crowd there, your folks were there too. Your folks are getting anxious for you to get back home, and I don't blame them. Harold is sitting here at the dining table, sorting over some pictures to send to one of his buddies at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He said to tell you that he will write to you one of these days. About a week ago we got a new Kohler light plant, so Harold has been really busy wiring up the barn, garage, etc with lights. He put up lights in front of our garage & barn too, 150 watt bulbs. So now we have 100 watt bulbs in the house, and can use as many lights as we want to. I got an electric iron the other day and hope to get a sweeper as soon as I can.

Sounds like you must have a pretty easy job over there, it wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't so far from home, would it? We enjoyed getting the nice letter you wrote us and the description of your trip to Japan was interesting. The last two months when Harold was overseas he never got a bit of mail, he was moving around so much that his mail didn't catch up with him, so now we are getting our letters back that we sent to him in June. He hasn't got his clothes yet, he sent them home by express when he reached the States, but so far they haven't come, it sure takes a long time. It's a good thing that he had some old clothes here at home that fit him. or I don't know what he would be wearing now.

Tomorrow, we, the Club women, are going to clean up our Club room were going to scrub the floor, and wax it, clean our silver-ware, wash windows and put up our heater and a range stove so we will be pretty busy, I hope quite a few of the women come. There are twenty-eight members in our club so we should have plenty of help.

It won't be long until it will be time to pick corn. A job you will not have to do this year, I don't suppose. Emil has already fenced in a patch with the electric fence and turned our hogs in. We have 158 head of hogs so they should pick quite a bit of our corn.

I'm sending you a picture of Harold and our new dog Bowzer, taken since Harold got home. Our little black & white dog got run over and died. This one is just a young dog and seems to be pretty nice, only that he never barks when anyone drives into the yard, I wonder what we could do to make him "bark" when we want him to. ha! I wish he could understand our language.

Well, Clayton I really don't know any news so I'll close for this time, hoping this reaches you feeling fine and it will seem nice to see you around Spencer again. Wishing you lots of Good Luck & write again.

Love

Harriet & Emil

Edna Whidden
Bonesteel, S. Dak.
October 3, 1946

Hi Ya Boy,

We are having Rain, - Rain, - Rain. Close to 5 in. this last week forecast says - turn to snow so we may have a bit of fun out of this yet. And don't be surprised when you come we'll all have web feet.

Picked tomatoes, all the flowers I wanted saved, want to make a few more qts of juice & then call it a day.

The folks were up a week ago Sun for dinner & Grampa & Gram stayed over nite & spend Monday with your folks Grampa wants to have a sale, seems like his last sick spell, he just can't seem to get his work done and the doctor told him to quit so thats the deal as yet don't know whether they plan to sell the place or just rent out the land. Their ideas are different yet.

Earl went out hunting the season open Sat, but no luck. Its been so nice, none have come down yet. So he isn't very excited as yet. Pheasant season starts the 15th so will su8re have some in the locker for you when you get back. Put in two more spring chickens. Would like a turkey or two with this darm meat shortage you have to have something on hand. Gary is quite excited about school, especially about football & Basket ball. This is the first year for football for more than 10 years so you know its almost like educating every body around here.

Say don't know if your interested in the World series or not but St. Louis & Boston Red Sox are battling it out Boston 3 - St Louis 2 in the Sun. game - To day. the other way around so it pretty interesting.

Am enclosing Corn Palace program. Really wasn't so bad.

Must close & get my youngest to bed.

Bye for now.

Love
Edna, Earl - Gary

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Oct. 4, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Honey. what are you doing to night. I am all most ready to go to bed. But I will write to to you first.
Darling.

I went to Regt. mon. morning & came back tuesday night. We had to ride in the back of a 2 1/2 ton truck. Boy was it ever cold. I now have a cold. While I was up their they gave the company more shots and I got in on it as usuall. I always do.

Darling I always think about you. I don't know how I am going to stand it till I get home to you. But Honey when I do we are really going to have fun.

Darling I havn't received any letter this week form you. but I will get one either tomorrow or the next days. Honey that what Keeps me going all day. and when we have mail call. I am the first on their and the last one to leave. and when I don't get a letter, Darling. I walk away with my head down and feel pertty bad. But Honey: I keep thinking of you all the time. Oh! Darling I really love you.

Darling. what have you been doing lately. Having a nice time I hope. Because. Honey. I want you to be happy all the time.

They still have the club open. but. I don't know how long it will stay open. They have fights ever night.

Well Darling I had better close for now Darling. So I will say good night to my Dear Sweetheart.

Goodnight Darling

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
October 6, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

I was going to write to you this morning but a fellow talked me into going out and taking some pictures so went and then just got the envelope addressed after dinner when my roommates girl came up here with a note from him. It is now 3:30 so I'm going to finish writing now regardless of what anyone wants.

Jack went out to his girls house last night and never came back so didn't think anything of it as I figured he would be back by noon. He slid off into a ditch or something and got stuck so wanted me to come out in a jeep and pull him out so I wrote a note back that I would go out with one of the fellows from the Motor Pool and meet him at 1:00 at a certain streetcar stop. Four of us went out there but couldn't find him nor any jeep as none of us knew where the house was and we never saw around this streetcar stop so about 2:30 we decided to come back. I don't know why he didn't come back here him self and show us the way back. I suppose he figured I would get a jeep and take his girl out there but we are not allowed to have Japanese people so I'm not going to take a chance and get caught as it would be a rough penalty and I sure don't want to get in any trouble as I'm going home soon.

The Motor Sgt. and I went to the Ernie Pyle theatre last night and saw "Badmans Territory" and it was really good. The two of us may leave here together as my date of departure is Nov 12 and his is Nov 15. He is from Sam Houston, Texas and is a real friend. I hope we can at least get on the same boat and if I get my promotion before I leave and they let men in the first three grades ride first class we are going to try to get in the same room.

It has really gotten cool the last couple of days and I am beginning to wish I had my O.D.s out of the cleaners so I could wear them.

Honey, I have been doing a lot of thinking the last few days about going home. In fact it has made me really homesick. I suppose things will be so much different that it won't seem right but I'm going to make the best

of it.

I can't think of any more to write so will close for this afternoon.

All my love and kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Major & Clara Olin
Bristow, Nebr.
Oct. 8, 1946

Dear Clayton,

It's been quite a long time since we got your letter and am so ashamed for not writing sooner. Gee how time does go down here on the farm, we just don't have enough of it I guess.

We enjoyed your letter so much, it was so full of news. Your work doesn't seem too bad but it would be better if it took up most of your time. Perhaps by now, a lot of the bombed areas are cleaned up & fixed up somewhat, so the sightseeing is more interesting. You'll probably never have another chance to see Japan again, we hope, so if its possible, a person should try to see all they can.

Do those Japanese maids seem to do the work willingly? But I'm sure they do for a bunch of good looking G.I.'s. And how do you like their looks? Guess there are some fairly good looking Jap girls but they probably aren't maids.

From what your folks say, you should be making that trip back across the ocean pretty soon. I'll be that's really something to look forward to. Hope you can keep your ears down this time. I hate to think of what I'd go thru' if I ever went across. And yet I'd like to see some of the old world over there.

We've had the wettest fall so far, for many a year. It began to rain Fri. nite & kept it up until Sun. forenoon. Then started in again late Sun. nite & rained until Mon. nite. Guess we got about 6 in. Is every thing soaked up now, including us. Major got soaked several times. We had another such prolonged hard rain only a couple of weeks ago, so we won't need much snow for that necessary spring moisture. You can imagine tho' what our roads are like. The mail has been getting by about every other day, but doesn't make the Ft. Randall route.

Major & Joy Howell hayed together this year & put up about 25 or more stacks. The hay around here wasn't very good so they rented an 80 acre hay land, north east of Gross, nearly 9 miles from here. They got 15 stacks there so now we know will have enough, if we can get it home. They plan to truck it all. It'll be more expensive but so is the hay this year if we'd have to buy it. Time is getting short & Major wonders if he'll get everything done before cornpicking. Hope the weather stays settled.

Our corn will be real good again, guess we're kinda lucky clear out here at that. It isn't as good in places even rather close to us. We do seem to get in on some rains that some of the rest of then don't.

Louie's were going to go to Omaha today with Ronnie but because of the heavy rains & the poor forecast for today, they didn't go. It's a perfectly clear, warm day today tho' & I bet they wish they had gone. I only hope

something can be done for Ronnie, as time goes on, it makes one wonder. But he has made quite a lot of improvement altho' he doesn't walk. It seems to me that his eyes are his worst trouble and I surely hope something can be done for them.

You're missing out on a lot of wedding dances Clayton. Of all these young guys getting married, one doesn't have to wonder why its hard to get a place to live.

Elmer Hall, a really high priced & pretty good orchestra plays in town tonite. We planned to go, but it all depends on the roads by tonite.

Of course you know of the house your folks bought. It was always one of my favorite houses in town. I hope they can move in & really enjoy it before too long. No one deserves it more than they. It's hard to feature them retiring but just what your Dad needs I think to get him back on his feet.

It's still impossible to get what one really needs & every thing else has gone up so much. I wanted an oil heater so badly this winter but I guess the old one will have to do again. Do you suppose things will ever straighten out again?

I talked to Mother & told her I was writing to you so she told me to tell you hello from her & she hopes you'll soon be home. She is quite well.

Well Clayton I better end this & get to work. Hope you're well & that you'll be home this year.

With affection,

Clara & Major

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
October 8, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Hi Honey! Whatcha doin now? I think you are most likely in bed right now and probably enjoying some sleep and maybe a dream or two, or don't you dream any more. It is 1:30 here so it would be 11:30 Monday night back there. I really had a good sleep last night and feel pretty good today. I went to bed at 9:30 and got up at 6:30 and if I keep that up I will have enough sleep stored up so I can sit through a show without falling asleep when I get home.

I am really looking forward to the day I leave here and then will start looking forward to the day I get home once more. I will be relieved of duty on Nov 12 but won't leave here until the 20th as they cut orders on us the 10th, 20th, and 30th of each month and we will leave in which ever catagory our departure date is in. I have just 35 days left up here in this office and they are starting to go fairly fast and it doesn't look like they are very anxious to get replacements. We will start loosing men out of the office the last of this month and then a lot next month. The latest rumor is that there are a lot of Wac's coming over here and they will take over the office jobs and the men will go out in the field.

Yesterday was really a nasty day as it rained almost all day and finally cleared off about 4:30. It didn't just rain a little it just poured like water out of a bucket and a person had a hard time driving in it. A Jap almost ran into me coming off a side street as he didn't see me at first even if I did have my lights on. It is fairly nice today but the sun hasn't been out since Saturday afternoon.

Honey, I think I will close for this afternoon so that this will go out on this afternoon's mail.

As Ever

All my love
Clayton

I love you Sweetheart.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Oct. 8, 1946

To my Dearest Darling,

Hi, Honey, what's cooking. We just came back from the club. boy what a drunken bunch. I'm sure glad I don't drink. (Ha).

Say Honey: I haven't heard from you for 10 days. have you forgotten me, or is it the mail transportation. I hope you haven't forgotten me because I haven't forgotten you and I won't ever? I am still hoping to get a letter from you every day but they just don't come. Darling I hope I get a letter tomorrow from you.

We haven't been doing very much lately. Just the usual things bandaging up guys & so forth.

Honey we have about one emergency a night. We have a pretty bunch of rough guys. but they're not too bad.

We are going to Regt. tomorrow to have our picture taken for our I.D. cards. some more foolishness. but that all the army is now. I will be glad when I get out. I am going to stay out also.

Darling every day that goes by is less time I have over here.

I just put two guys to bed. They were drunk as usual.

Have you had any more scares in your school house. I hope not. Don't be too hard on your pupils Darling!
(Ha.)

We Darling. I had better close for this time. So I will say good night to the wonderful girl in the world.

Good night
Sweetheart.

Bonnie

I love you Darling.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
October 10, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Happy Birthday, Honey. This letter might reach you after that day but here is hoping you a happy one and many more. Next year I will be home and can say that to you instead of having to write.

I'm really getting anxious to get out of here as we have a new Commanding Officer now and is changing everything. He has it now so that half of us go to dinner at 11 and the other half at 12 when we get back. That makes the morning pretty short and the afternoon long for me as I go at 11. He thinks that half of us should be on duty all day and I suppose next he will have half working Saturday and the other half Sunday. I think that when they start doing things like that it is time for fellows like me to quit and go home. I think I can take it for another 33 days but I sure won't like it.

I got a letter from my cousin Harold (the one that was discharged from the Navy recently) this morning and he sent me a picture he had taken and he really looks good in civies again. It has been almost two years since I saw him.

I don't know what is the matter but I can't seem to think of anything to write about any more so will close.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

I'm sending a
cartoon that was in
this morning's paper.

Harold D. Klasna
Spencer, Nebr.
Fri. Oct. 11, 1946

Dear Clayton,

Well I guess it's about time I drop you a few lines. Boy it's really cold here tonight at least I think so. It's 30 above. It's a little different than the Pacific weather & I'm not used to it.

They had a dance in Spencer last Tue. Elmer Hall played, I had a good time. I've been going to Fairfax about every Sat. I'm still going with Donna yet.

We got a new light plant about two weeks ago. I wired up the barn & garage & put one light out side of the garage & one out side of the barn so we can light up our yard pretty well at night.

We have been hoging down some corn for the hogs & today Dad & I ringed the hogs. It snowed a little this morning but it was all melted in a few hours.

I was going to a party at Johnsons the twins tonight but they called it off because of the roads & weather. We were going to have a steak supper & you can guess the rest. They are going to have it next Fri.

I'm getting to know a few more of the kids around the country now. Gosh when I first got home I didn't hardly know any one.

Kay Mills plays in Fairfax tomorrow night for the dance so will try & go.

We really have been having a lot of rain here lately. It has rained ten inches since Sept. 1st.

There is another dance in Spencer this coming Thursday but don't know who is playing as yet.

Well I just can't think of much more so will sign off. Hope you get home soon.

Your Cousin

Harold

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitzma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Oct. 12, 1946

To my Dearest Darling wife.

Darling I received your letters of Oct the 2 & 3 and I was really glad to hear form you.

Darling I hadn't heard form you for two weeks. I was really glad to hear form you.

Darling I was so glad to hear form you and I am not mad at anything. I am really happy because you are having fun.

Darling I want you to have fun while I am gone.

But Darling when I get home we will have lots of fun. And Darling I mean really fun.

Darling I have something to tell you also. But I believe you Darling every word you said & I also like children. I just love them. Darling you don't have to worry about me spanking our children. And Darling if I get mad when I get home you tell me off.

Because I won't have any reason to get mad at you because you are the most beautifully girl and wonderful girl in the world. And when I get home we are going to be married right away. ok with you Darling?

I havn't been running around with any of these women over here because out of a 100%, 97\$ of them have V.D. and that very bad. In other words it is the clapp & shyplus, and in 10 years it can come back on you and the

children will be borned blinded or any thing may be wrong with them. That is why I am not runing around with any women over here.

Darling, I can wait for you. And when my time is up. I'll come a running to you. Honey. I love you so.

If any body tries any thing funny with you like trying to have inter course with you just let me know and I will go AWOL and come to you and the guy that try's it will be a dead Duck. And I really mean it Darling. Because I love you so much Darling.

This is Sat night and I think of you all the time Darling. Day & night. I really love you Sweetheart.

You Don't have to worry about me getting mail Darling it takes quite a bit to make me mad.

Darling I am going to send you something for your birthday. And also Darling HAPPY BIRTHDAY DARLING. I'll love you for ever.

Well darling I guess I had better close and go to bed. I will see you in my Dreams Darling. Goodnight Sweetheart.

Please Excuse ths scribling Darling

Love & Kisses

Bonnie

I love you Darling

with all my heart. A kiss to you.

Butte, Nebraska
October 14, 1946

My dear Clayton.

Well, Honey, I'm back on the job today - this is Monday.

What have you been doing lately? Whatever you do, don't work too hard, it is almost time for you to be coming home, you know. No fooling!! Hubba! Hubba!

It is only 29 more days before the 12th of November, Honey and that isn't very far off. Oh but these last few months have really gone slow. You can't imagine how slow they have gone for me - not only am I waiting for you to get home which seems like ages but Richard is to get home the 8th of next Month - only 25 more days. Gee! But they go so slow. Honey, not only 29 days is it until you get home but days and days after that. Those will be the long days. Honey.

Honey, I didn't just exactly like what you said in your letter last week - I don't just exactly know how to take it. I know things will seem changed, things will be changed and things have changed but if you are discouraged with what is before you already, what will it be like when you get home. I know, Honey, I'll have quite a time getting myself re-adjusted too but I believe that maybe I can. Afterall, you have been away a long time and we hardly know each other. Luck just never seemed to strike us so we could be together any length of time. It has been meeting and parting, Honey ever since the first time I met you, to go with you. It seems as though - may I say it? your folks think too much of me, and if things don't happen to go just as they have it planned, they are going to hate me all my life. But this time, like never before, you will be home to stay or go, as you choose which will make a lot of difference. We can be together more, etc.

I'm going to tell you a very good joke on your Mother, when you get home. It really tickles me but I guess

it wasn't funny to her.

Well, Honey, there is a big dance in Spencer Thursday night and boy am I going to celebrate - too bad you aren't here to see me - well I really believe though that where you are you will see just as much of my celebrating as the people here will. Really. And listen, Honey, you had better start drinking and plenty, too so you have enough to last you the rest of your days, because after you get home, - well, you know what. ----

Well, Honey, I'm still waiting.

It is time for me to close for I have to hurry home before going to town and I'll also mail this.

God Bless You.

With all my love,

I love you

Elaine

B. H. Garrett
629 N. 43 St.
Omaha, 3, Nebr
Oct. 14, 1946

Dear Clayton:

I have been a long time answering your letter but you see it is like this we were in California from July, 15 to Sept. 1.

We found your letter here on our return home. We were glad to hear from you, and how do you like Japan by now. Any real news about coming home yet.

We just came home from a weeks visit at The Whiddens at Chambers. They were all fine, and as usual we had a lovely time. You see Ben has been a man of leisure since July 15, he is going to work Oct. 15 with a new co. very much like the old job. A Branch manager for a concern much like the Challenge Co. You see the Challenge Co. closed their Omaha Branch so he had a 3 month vacation, but no pay.

The Sasek's are all fine. Ben Blair thought he might come down and pick corn near Omaha this fall. Alice has to find a new place to live. The lady needs the room for her Nephew. and believe you me apartments are hard to get and that is what she would like, and not to share a home like she has had.

I plan to go back to California Jan. 1 you see the stork is coming to the Calahanes again, and Grandma has to give the family a bit of good care. It is so hard to find any good help out there unless they charge so terrible much. that ordinary folks can't afford to have help. Betty Anns other baby will be 2 1/2 years old when the new baby comes.

Just what kind of weather do you have over there this time of the year. I don't need to tell you about our weather here for you know all about it.

However it has tried to snow already, but it isn't very cold yet.

Well Clayton I promise not to wait so long again to answer your nice letters, so let us hear from you real soon, hope this finds you well and mighty happy, we are both O.K.

Loads of Love

Ann

James Klasna
Spencer Nebr.
Oct 16, 1946

Dear Clayton,

We received a letter from you today and were glad to hear from you. We are all well and hope you are well also. Well I went after the picker down to Spaulding yesterday. I left here about 4:30 in the morning and got to Spaulding about 8:30 and had my breakfast there and then went out South where the picker was and took the elevator off of it and some more pieces and got it loaded about noon and then drove to Spaulding and found out before I got there that I had no brakes on the truck. There are some steep hills where I got the picker, so I drove up to a Ford garage & they found out that I had no brake fluid so they had to bleed all the wheels before the brakes would work. So was glad to get it fixed. Now I have good brakes. I got home about 6L:00 in the evening. I brought 50 fencepost at Spaulding, and hauled them home. It was very nice & warm when I left home and then about 3:00 it started to mist and misted hard until about 5:30 and then it quit. Them Zahm's picked only 10 acres with the picker so it is like new. Will try it out now soon. Mama & I hauled 2 big truck loads of hay from the other place today and I have 1 more load in that stack to haul in the morning. I had to run down to the depot this noon with the truck after a new rocking chair. and will take the other one that they send us, back to the depot and ship it back to Sears tomorrow. Emil told me today that they put a bid on this Schmidt place right east of us. I hope he gets it. Will close for now.

Love

Daddy

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
October 16, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, please forgive me for not writing for such a long time but I have been awful busy and at night I usually hit the hay pretty early. I'm going to get my work all caught up this afternoon and then will be able to take it easy for a while until I start my monthly reports and than goodness that will be the last time for me.

It is really a beautiful day here and how I hate to have to be inside. Monday and yesterday were pretty wet and dreary and a person really does appreciate a day like this. Sunday was very nice so I drove around all morning and then went out to a football game in the afternoon and at night three of us went to a dance where there were a few White girls but we never danced as there were about 10 men to every girl. I guess I'll just wait until I get home to do my dancing.

When I was on C.Q. Saturday, Lt. Bush asked me when I was due to leave here and said that he thought he would have a replacement for me Monday. A fellow who works in another section is going to take over my section also as he doesn't have much to do. They won't get any replacements for a while and it takes quite a while to learn this job so he is going to take it over and then if someone else comes help them with it.

We have a new Commanding Officer and four other new Officers now and they are really changing things around. I'm glad that I'm leaving soon as I figure that when they start doing that and getting strict it is time for me to leave.

Darling, I'm running out of news so will have to close for today.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Oct. 17, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Honey. I am sorry I havn't written sooner. I will try to do better form now on. I suppose that you are working hard, every day. I really am. They are starting to make me work a little harder now. They put me on the club committee. We have to run it now only three of us and the boy's get pertty drunk but they don't cause much truoble any more.

Darling. Their is a guy's going home every day. 41 of them left yesterday for home so they can get their for Christmas. I wished I was with them. I would really be happy.

Honey, were gave shoots to the army's depenedne's. yesteraday we gave sure did have fun. The women were scared of the needles. And they didn't want to take them. But we talked them into taking them.

Darling The letter I wrotte you the 12 of Oct. Well I was pertty drunk. But I meant every word I said. I don't know why I got drunk. But Darling it won't happen again. Maybe it was because I was happy. Because I got two letters form you you Sat. and I was really happy.

Darling we didn't have any sick call Today. that helps us out quite a bite because we don't have to make out reports and all that.

Darling I am sending another picture. Its. not a very good one. I will have some more taken and send you some more. Darling I am still waiting for a picture of you.

Honey Today is your Birthday isn't it? HAPPY BIRTHDAY DARLING

Good bye for this time Darling.

Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Mrs. James Klasna
Spencer, Nebr.
Oct. 20, 1946

Dear Clayton,

Will write this afternoon. We are all fine and hope you are also. It has been nice weather the last 2 days but am afraid it won't last long as the radio said rain again tomorrow night or Tuesday. If it would stay this way it would dry out the corn. We wanted to start picking tomorrow but won't get to as the corn is to wet to crib very fast and we are not quit ready to start yet as we have to fix the corn crib at the other place and break out a few more lands on the other place. Daddy hired the Kirsch boy last night to haul corn from the picker. He said he would work for \$8.00 a day that is less than the most want but seems hard to get any body at all. He is going to start Tues. morning if we want him by that time. We just got back from John Barta's funeral. They had it in the hall and there were a big crowd there. Glen took a load of lumber to St. Charles yesterday and stopped at Earls on his way back and it was just supper time so he ate supper with them. He took them some 410 & some other shells. Gary had quit a cold but he wanted to know how old bird was. Daddy finished plowing the patch west of the orchard on the other place yesterday afternoon. Daddy & Harry Reel went hunting up north this morning but didn't get only 1 that Harry shot and then Daddy & Clyde went to the other place and daddy got 1 but they didn't get home until after 11 oclock so it was to late to co9ok it for dinner so will have it for supper. I guess the birds are not very thick and are awful wild. Daddy & Glen are working on the picker and want to go out and try it out a little yet this afternoon. Clyde's girl came out to Reels with him last night and he ask Daddy this morning if they could go over and look at the house. Daddy told him he could but he had better wait until we get it cleaned up a little so don't know if they went

or not. He bought the heating stove from Glen and wants to buy the window shades and curtians, Linoleum, rug & davenport & cupboard. He went to a sale up by Fairfax Friday and said everything went so high he didn't get any furniture. He wanted to know if he bought any if he could put it in the house over there. Well I can't think of any more to write so will quit for this time. We got a letter from Joe & Maxine yesterday and they said

Love

Mother

(over)

they have 5 in of snow up there and they have had lots of rain too.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
 Med. Dec. E-514 359th Engr. GS Regt.
 APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
 Liege Belgium
 Oct. 20, 1946

To my Dearest Darling

Hi Honey. How are we doing. fine I hope. I havn't heard form you for a week now but I never give up hopes.

Gosh. Darling. They had a pertty rough time over at the club last night. They had a couple of fights & broke up a few chairs & tables. We had to throw a couple of the guys out. They got me on the club committe and I don't like it. I and another guy have to check up on all the women that come in. and give out passes. Darling, I meet a lot of girls but none of them are as pertty as you are. "I really miss you darling."

I will really be happy when I get out. They have been sending guys home every day. I wish I could go with them but I can't.

Darling we saw a U.S.O. show up town to day and it was really good. only it didn't last long enough.

Honey. are you having a good time. I hope you are. Have fun for me too. will you Darling.

I have to go to work in about 30 minutes. and I sure hate to. I am really tired to night. But I guess I will have to go.

Well Darling don't for get to send me a picture soon.

I guess I had better close for now. Honey.

Love & Kisses.

Your Sweetheart.

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Butte, Nebraska
October 21, 1946

My Dear Clayton,

Well, Honey! How are you this fine day of October? I am feeling fair, for a change.

This certainly is a nice day. Only one thing wrong - I didn't get any important mail today. Darn it!! I really miss that.

I have been writing so much all day that my arm will hardly go any more. Tomorrow and Wednesday are examination days. In a way, I am really happy - then Friday I'll get another check. Won't I like that !!! I'm beginning to believe that those checks are all I live for anymore. No fooling!! Well, anyway, it keeps a person wondering whether or not I'll even get one. They never have enough money in the Treasury. I have to wait. It is really getting me down, no fooling.

Last Friday we had Teacher's Institute. More fun! We had two wonderful speakers. I have never heard any like them before. Words can't possibly describe them, especially the one. Oh! Darling! He was so wonderful. We sat and listened to him from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. and could have sat through another two hours without even knowing it. One speaker we had was very dull. Of course, it wasn't his fault. He was to come on the bus, and the bus was 2 hours late so he was really nervous and really got us twisted up. Otherwise he may have been very good.

Raymond came home this morning to help Daddy pick corn. I believe I am safe to say that I don't believe that they will get too much of the corn out. Isn't that naughty of me to say that? Well, anyway, the first thing they did this morning is go to Atkinson so now - do I know what I'm talking about? Ha!

I really had a nice birthday aside of two things - it turned out to be a flop of a dance and I was so terrible sick all day. I couldn't even eat any supper. I received a beautiful Coty's make-up set from Mom & Daddy Klasna, too. I was really surprised. I didn't even know they knew when it was. I received several other beautiful gifts too.

Well, Darling, it is 4:00 P.M. so I should sign off.

Good Luck & God Bless You

All my love,

Elaine

"I love you."

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
October 23, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

I received your letter of the 15th this afternoon, the first for quite some time, so thought I would answer it as I realize that it has been quite a while since I have written to you but things have really been going backwards and by the time I get back here from work I am so tired that I just don't feel like doing anything.

Honey, I finally got the good news yesterday that I may leave next week but found out today that I am leaving day after tomorrow so have really been on the go. I went over and got two shots and a vaccination yesterday afternoon and then got a partial payment this morning and then spent the rest of today breaking in my replacement. I'm so tired now that I don't feel like anything but will have to start getting some of my clothes ready to turn in tomorrow and will pack a few things when I finish this letter.

I have been wondering what I will do when I get back to the States as my terminal leave won't start until Dec 13 so I may have to lay around some camp but I am going to try for a furlough or something. I guess I will just

have to wait until I get back to see.

Honey, I guess I will close for now and get busy on packing and then maybe guzzle a few beers before going to bed if I will have to really get enough now to last me a long time.

All my love & kisses
Your Sweetheart
Clayton

I love you Honey
and will see you soon.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
October 24, 1946

My Darling Elaine:

Honey, here it is my last night in Tokyo so will drop you a line or two, maybe two dozen or so. I have seen the orders today so know for sure that I will leave tomorrow afternoon.

I didn't work this afternoon as I wanted to pack and turn in some things as I won't have time to in the morning. I'm going back to the office and work a while, just long enough to help the other fellow make out the morning report and then pick up my orders and come back here. I still have a few things to pack which will take about fifteen minutes. I have to get my laundry at noon and then will be ready to shove off for Home Sweet Home and the one "I Love" whom I know is waiting for my return and the one I love very much.

We have a big party scheduled for tonight which is to start in an hour and it will probably last three or four hours and will most likely end up by someone putting us to bed but who cares. I'll probably have enough beer to

last me until I get home, oh! I forgot, the rest of my days.

Darling, I think I will close for now as I want to write to "our" folks and let them know that I am coming home. I'll let you know when I am to leave for the ship and as soon as I get back to the States, so until I see you soon --

Lots of love & kisses
Clayton

I love you Honey and we'll make up for lost time when I get home and it will be home for good this time.

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
4th Repl. Dep.
October 27, 1946

Hello Honey:

I'm over here in the Orderly Room relieving a fellow on guard so he can go eat so thought I would scribble you a few lines. I'm supposed to be Sgt of the guard so all I have to do is see that the men get over here.

We pulled in here about 3:30 Friday afternoon and expected to leave last night and would have if we would have gotten here before noon so now it doesn't look like we will leave until tomorrow at the earliest.

There isn't any news so will close for now and write again before we leave or will try to wire from the States.

All my love

Clayton

I love you Darling

Sgt. Clayton L. Klasna 37770018
441st. C.I.C. Det. G.H.Q. A.F.P.A.C.
A.P.O. 500 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
Tokyo, Japan
4th Repl. Dep.
Nov. 4, 1946

My Dearest Elaine:

Honey, I'll write just a few lines this morning to let you know that we finally got our orders to leave sometime today and most likely it will be tonight. I'm really anxious to leave as this laying around is about enough to drive anyone nuts. This is our 10th day here so it's about time to leave.

I'm to get discharged at Camp Beale Calif. and I will get there almost a month before my terminal leave starts so don't know what I'll have to do but will let you know when I get there. I'll wire you if I can when I get there or will call home and have the folks call you.

I'll close for now and will be seeing you soon.

All my love & kisses

Your Sweetheart

Clayton

I love you Honey.

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. Co-B 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Nov. 7, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

I'm really sorry that I haven't written soon. I have been taking care of The Dispensary myself, and I haven't had much time of.

I received your letter and was very glad to hear from you. Darling you don't know how much I miss you. I am counting the days when I can be with you again.

Darling I don't know what to get you for Christmas. They don't have very much in the P.X. for Christmas. I am going to get you something that you want, and I hope you like it.

Well I suppose that you have all your corn pick. I never did like to pick corn.

Well Darling I don't have to long over here yet and will I be glad when I get out.

We have been perty busy here in the last few days, it seems like every one is getting sick all of a sudden.

We still have our G.I. club open, but we can only have dances three nights a week. The C.O. made us cut down on the dance. He says the men can't work the next day if they dances. Well his men don't do any work any way. at least I dont.

Honey. I hope your mother is feeling better. She really likes to go out side.

Well Darling I guess I had better close for now. It is bed time, so Darling I will say good night.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling.

Good night.

Sweetheart

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. Co-B 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Nov. 11, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

I received your letter yesterday and I was really glad to hear form you. Darling, we are having quite a vacation. Now for three days we havnt work any way, but we have to get. We have three P.W. that do all the work.

Darling I don't know what I'm going to do when I get out. Jim P. wants me to go in with him on farming I don't know if I will or not.

Darling. you have quite a problem don't you? I don't know what to say. I still have two years over here Honey. If I were you I woundn't work in the new Deal. thats to much work. If you want to start a style shop with

your girl friend. and if you like that kind of work. it up to you. But Honey when I get home. were are going to the west coast for a while. if its okay with you Darling.

Honey. I really miss you. very much. Two years isn't very long. But it is long enough. And I was only with you for three times but, I feel like I have knowen you all my life. Oh. Darling, I love you very much.

Darling. I think my folks have for got how to write. Because I haven't heard form them now for two months. I wish they would write once in a while.

Darling I hope you are having fun at home. But tell those three guys that you are personally property. My property. Ha.

Honey. I have quite drinking. I don't know why I drink any. It doesnt do any good. It does you more harm then good.

So Darling. I have quite drinking. Because I know what will happen if I don't when I get home. I'll be drunk all the time. So I am quitting now.

Well Darling it is almost chow time so I had better close for now.

With all my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Pfc. Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med. Dec. Co-B 359th Engr. GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Liege Belgium
Nov. 18, 1946

To my Dearest Darling

Hi Honey: Sorry I havn't written soon., but I have just been fooling around.

Tonight is Mon. night and it is raining out. That's all it has been doing for the last 2 weeks. I wish it would quite raining some time.

Honey. I got drunk over the week end. I don't know how I got started but I got feeling perty good. I wasn't two drunk.

How is every thing going back home. fine I hope. It is all most thanks giving. Last year at this time I was in camp Roberts Calif. I was in baic training and it was pertyt rough. But now I have the life of leasure. Ha.

They are having a show tonight "leave her to Hevean." I have saw it about 8 times in the last three weeks. We never get any new shows or any thing in this camp.

Honey. I may go to Germany pertyt soon. They are talking about closeing this place down. By the 10 of Dec. We all have to be out of Leige. I'll really be glad of that.

Darling I wish I could be home with you for Christmas. But I will be their in 1948. I hope if nothing happens. Darling I really miss you and I love you very much.

They have been trying to starve us to death over here. For the last week we have been eating beans & sour kraut. I could go for a nice steak. Ha.

They had three fights over in the club. Sat night. I got my hand hurt. I have it bandaged up now. I am going to have and xary taken on it tomorrow. I hope I don't have any broken bone in it.

Honey. Have you decided on what you are going to do when school is out? I hope you pick the one you like the best.

Well Darling It is all most time for the show to start. I think I will go see it again.

So I will say good night Sweetheart.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you

Mrs. James Klasna
Spencer, Nebr.
Nov. 27, 1946

Dear E Laine.

We got your picture and letter to day and was sure glad to get them and if you don't think I like the picture just come down and see where I put it. It is on the radio where I can see it ever time I am in the dining room.

Thanks a lot for it. and I mean it too. I should of written sooner but I have been so busy watching for the bus and mailman thinking I would either hear or see Clayton coming that I neglected writing. but I have not heard a word from him since I got the telegram. Sure hope he gets home by tomorrow anyway.

I was sure sorry to hear you are not feeling good. Hope you are better by now. You must take care of yourself. Hope your daddy is better by now. We have about 6 days of corn picking yet. We have been working

hard to get done before Clayton gets home but the weather has been pretty bad for picking either too cold or too muddy. Jim's mother has been staying with us while Louie & Mildred are in Rochester. She is not able to carry in her cobs and coal and Louie always does it for her when he is home. She got a card from him this morning and they plan on getting home some time tomorrow.

What are planning on doing tomorrow? I guess Jim & Glen will pick corn part of the day if Clayton don't get home. I went to Butte this morning and got a duck for dinner. We couldn't get any in Spencer.

Well I guess I had better quit before you get tired of reading this.

Thanks again for the picture. and come down when you can.

Lots of love.

Mom.

Butte, Nebraska
December 11, 1946

Good Morning!!

Are you up already? -- It is now 9:15. I'm up but I can't say that I'm awake. Ha! Ha! You sorta' left me in a daze last night. Ha! Oh! Heck! I really feel mean. And I didn't have anything to drink, either. (Meow) Ha!

Well, anyway, of course I have a purpose for writing or I wouldn't be doing so -- naturally that's me. Anyway - you once promised me that we would go over to Evelyn's. Do you still want to go? Let's go Sunday if you can or can't you? But I can't get away on Sundays but I get to do what ever I want to next Sunday, and besides you are going to be up there all the time and you'll be too much like Raymond on Sundays. The Kids weren't planning on coming over next Sunday - we got a letter last night - but it may be that they will change their mind. We would have to call and find out - you'd have to do that. Ahem! Ahem! Bad cold this morning.

I really have to hurry with this before Gus goes. But anyway, let me know what you think about it, please, and don't wait too long, please.

Well, I simply must get this finished.

So - s'long, Honey,

Love,

Elaine

"I love you"

May I be allowed to say it, anymore?

T/5 Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
Med Det. 359th Engr GS Regt.
APO 228 c/o PM N.Y. New York
Brussels, Belgium
Dec. 13, 1946

To my Dearest Darling.

Well, Honey. Hows every thing going. fine I hope. Well its all most Christmas again. Last year I was in Calif. at this time. It was nice and warm. But over here it is really cold. and rainy. I think I will sign up to go to the South Pacfice. What would you say about that?

Honey. I am suppose to be on duty tonight. but we don't have very much treating to do so we just sit around and argue or play cards. and I am getting tired of play cards so I thought I would write some letters.

Honey. I don't think I would know what to do with a letter. Because I havn't received one in 4 weeks now.

Well Honey I don't know where I will be for Christmas. But I wish I could be with you. I just have one more Christmas after this one and then I can be with you. And I will sure be glad when I am.

Honey I hope that you like whats in the package I sent you. I know it isn't very much but their isn't much over here that you can get.

Well Darling here comes a patient so I had better close for now.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With all my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling.

Congratulations

And Best Wishes
on this Happy Occasion
May all good fortune
be yours in the future!

Announcements have arrived here, telling of the birth of a son on Dec. 3rd to Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Schorling of Bassett. Mrs. Schorling was formerly Miss Elaine Counts daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Counts.

From an,
"Old Friend"

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

Here's hoping each day
of the whole Christmas season
Is brighter than any
you ever have had - - -
And after they're over,
here's hoping they're followed
By three-hundred-sixty-five more
just as glad!

All my love,

Clayton

January, 6th, 1947

Dear Son.

Your paw hopped the frate train an got offn it in Seattle
an got hiself a job. in one of them thar steal things that
carrys your guns to you acrost the water, his first job in
47 years, an he gits \$50.00 a weak, so I thought I wood do
a little fixin up. in the house. I sent to Smears & Rowboats
fur one of tham thar bathrooms you heer about sometimes.
It took a plumber to put it in shape. on one side of the
room is a great big long things sometimes what the pigs
drink out of, only you git in it an wash all over, on the

other side is a little white thing called a sink, this is
for lite washing, like face an hands, But over in the
Korner we really got something, you put one foot in wash
clean then you pull a chain an git fresh water for the other
fut. Two lids came with the darn thing, an we aint had any
use for the darn things in the bathroom, so am using one
for a bread board, an the other I framed your picture with.
They are awful nice people to do bussness with, "they sent
us a roll of writin paper" with it,
Take good care of your self, an keep away from tham thar
GURLS.

LOVE
MOM.

P.S. if you can guess who this is from, write right away.....

Butte, Nebraska
January 7, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

Good morning! Isn't this beautiful weather. Wouldn't I love to have it stay this way. Maybe it will be nice if the weather doesn't change (Quite obvious, I know.)

What have you been doing, or shouldn't I ask - probably - I shouldn't ask. Period. More than likely you have been busy loafing around or eating candy, etc. when you know that you definitely shouldn't be doing it but of course I know that is it, anyway.

Did you get all of the invoicing finished? No fooling but I would really love that job. Now laugh at me. I don't care. But anyway I still mean it. I just can't wait until school is out. Yippie! Only 81 more school days and I'll be free and I really want a job as clerk in a store - then second choice - I'll go away to school. They are almost too close to choose from because I want to do both very much but I'm afraid I'd get too lonesome if I went to any place but Omaha to school. That's my reason for clerking, first. Oh! If only my dreams would come true but I'm afraid that it won't be my luck - as usual. But wouldn't I be happy!!!!

Gee! Whiz! It has been so long since I have written to you that I have forgotten how.

Oh! MY Gosh! My little second grade girl - the one with long hair - just came up to my desk, laid the clay down practically on this paper and looked at me and said, "Miss Counts, may I wash your hands." I almost split. That really tickled me. She is sitting here giggling now but I can't scold her. Oh! Heck! Such is life! At least the life of a school teacher and I'm sure that I don't love it.

The kids were over from Atkinson, Sunday and was that Darold ever a sweet guy! He was really sweet. We were going to go over there after church. I called and someone on the line said they thought the McNairs started for Butte and about 10:00 they drove in. They didn't know what to think when we weren't surprised to see them but that isn't saying that we weren't glad to see them. Anyway, the Kids talked me into going over there next week. That Darold said, "Aunt Ane, 'ou jus' have t' come an' put Darold's farm together 'cause Mommie won't do it an' I can't p'ay wits it." It is one of these large farms and isn't together. I told the kids I had a date with you for next Sunday & Floyd said he'd call you and tell you I wouldn't be home if he couldn't get me over there any other way. So, Honey, please don't get angry. Just set the next date - if you want one and I'll be available. I can't hardly make it Sunday night, I'm afraid because we never get home until so darn late. You know Dad, once he gets there, he doesn't want to come home. Oh! These men!

Well, Honey, I'll close but I'll be expecting a letter by Saturday at the most.

Love,

Elaine

Were you able to get those sandals? Please let me know whether or not you got them and I'll try to get them Saturday -- maybe. There's a wedding dance in Bonesteel next wk. isn't there

T/5 Bonnie Van Haitzma 39497280
264 Medical Detachment
APO 887 c/o PM. N.Y. New York
Paris France
Jan 27, 1947

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Honey. I wasn't doing any thing so I though I would drop you a line or two.

I am working all night to night and right now it is about 2 clock. P.J. I am really getting sleepy. I have to

give shots every three hours. I work for 24 hr. and then get 24 hr. of. Its not to bad, but I have had better jobs.

It is really cold out. Tonight. I am setting by a fire and I am still freezing to Death.

We went into Paris last night, to a G.I. night club. They had a dances and a floor show. It was pertty good to. We had quite a bite of fun.

Honey. I hear that every one is getting married back home. maybe I should get home so I could get married to. Ha. I wish I could be home with you. Darling I miss you very much.

Darling you sound as if you didn't like teaching school. I thought that you did. Ha.

A drunk just came in and he has a cut on his head. time out to fix him up.

Well we have him all fixed up. I hope know more comes in while I am writing this letter to you Honey.

Well it is all most Three clock and I have to give shots so I will say goodnight Sweetheart. pleasant Dreams Darling.

With all my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Butte, Nebraska
January 27, 1947

My Dearest Clayton,

I know, I shouldn't begin this letter this way but I can't help it and I know, too that I shouldn't be writing you a letter in the first place -- the less said the better.

I'm sorry, Honey, what I said about Thursday night. If you want to go to the dance in Spencer, I guess it is your privilege to go, and I'll have to get used to it, sooner or later, anyway. We are both right here - you'll soon be

here all the time and we have to face it. Maybe you don't have much to face. I wish it was that way for me as long as it has to be. We have parted only four times before but none of them were like this one, I still had hopes.

Well, Darling, I'm sorry I wrote this but I've done a lot of thinking - I've had exactly 10 hours and 45 minutes of it and now I'm so broken up that I'm not even going to try to think, I can't. Oh! If only I could have a good cry!!

Well, so long, Darling, I'll be seeing you Thursday night. There's a dance in Bonesteel the 4th isn't there?

With love (still)

Elaine

Valentine Greetings

To Someone Dear

You will find
the sweet contentment
And the pleasant hours we share,
And the happiness that's mine, dear,
Simply knowing that you care,
In this Valentine - and with it
Goes a world of love for You -
May your dearest dreams forever
Bring you joy by coming true!

Love,

Elaine

Butte, Nebraska

Febr. 11, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

Yes, it's me and I'm lonesome for you already. Can you believe it? Well, it's true anyway, and if you could see me right now, well, I really don't know what you would say.

I'm sitting here (by the table) with my left foot all bandaged and nursing a few bruised spots - including a kinda' sensitive eye. I don't believe that I'll ever try - or rather - ever go with you any place again. I have never

been quite so 'beat-up' the next day - in all my life. Oh! Honey! I feel so tough and everything but I have to laugh through it all. Dancing, etc. last night forced those bones apart in my foot and it swelled so bad I had to put tight elastic bandage around it to get it down to my shoe size and I have three large blue spots on my leg where I got in some one else's road. Ha! More fun! I'm also having a hard time getting my breath. My ribs are a beautiful blue. - - Wouldn't you like to see that? Ha! Oh! I feel so mean to night I could really beat up on someone or something. Aren't you happy to be where you are!!!

Gee! Honey! But hasn't this been a wonderful day? - I'm worried though, because it usually makes up for the good day in very short order.

Did you have to work hard today, Honey? I sure hope that you didn't. I know for sure I didn't. I gave examinations and made a great progress on my pillow slips. I can finish them tomorrow I hope. I wonder what I'll take along to work on next. I've taken funny papers, magazines, phonograph & records, catalogs, even my clown & made him a new suit of clothes, and now then my embroidery work. I'll let you find something for me to take along next time. No foolin!! I have even taken the memories of the night before, along (too often, Ha! Ha!). Gee! I really feel mean tonight. No foolin!

Well, I guess I had better get in gear & get this nonsense stopped but the reason I even started this was to tell you that Daddy is closing the North gate tomorrow & it won't be open unless it rains, I mean snows. You can sure tell where my mind is!!!!

Well, Honey, be a good boy! Ha! and take good care of myself and - well I don't have to say, "Don't work too hard 'cause I know you won't." Ha!

With lots of Love
Your Sweetheart
Elaine

Honey, I received the beautiful valentine from you today. Did you read it over before you sent it? Oh! Honey, you are so darn hard to figure out, and if I don't get things straight pretty soon, Honey, I'll be a nervous wreck trying to get them straight.

Goodnight, Honey,
&
Sweet & pleasant dreams,
Love me?

Eenie Meanie Me.

Butte, Nebraska
Febr. 20, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

I received your letter this morning and I was expecting it. I was going to write & mail one this morning but my woman's intuition told me to wait and so I did.

Now it is 3:45 P.M. so I'll really have to hurry.

Guess what I did this morning Honey! I cutted off my liddow finder nails. I couldn't patch that one that you started breaking the other night, even after I nursed it all day yesterday trying to save it. I cut 8 of them off and am sending 7 of them. The eighth sprouted wings and flew away & I can't find it.

Well, Honey, I'll finish this at home because I have to get my "stuff" together and get 'my Kids' off. So so long for awhile. I'll be back before too awful long I hope. Well I guess I didn't make it quite as soon as I thought I would. I was busy making stuff for my kids right after I got home and then chores, etc. Finally at 8:15 P.M. I just plain went to bed because tonight we are going to have company & I have a big two weeks washing to do just as soon as I get home. A girl that used to work for us, her husband, boy, Mother & sister are coming. More fun! Maybe we are a hard family to work for as other people think but the girls always write and come to visit for years after they quit our place.

Boy! Do I ever have a toothache. I simply must try to get to Spencer tomorrow to get them fixed. At least I hope I get to go.

Gee! How I dislike thinking that next Monday is 'my day.' Every dog has his day & I don't think it is fair for me to have a whole week of it & besides I'm only a puppy yet. Ha! At least I was told the other day that I was a mere little child yet. Honey, do I act that young, am I that bad?

I'm going to town tonight after school & if my coat isn't there I'll be looking for it Sunday. But Honey, you don't have to bring it Saturday night. I'll get along without it Sunday. Ines is going home Sat. night so I may not get to church Sunday anyway. Don't come down Sat. night purposely, Honey, what ever you do. I'll get along somehow that's plain to see. Ha!

Honey, my ribs are still so sore that I can hardly breath. I won't neck with you again. Ha!

Well, Dear, I'll have to sign off for this time, Honey & get to busy.

With my love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

I got my
coat, Honey &
thanks a
million

Butte, Nebraska
Sat. - 8:00 P.M.
By Guess! Ha!
Feb. 21, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

I received your letter this afternoon around 4:00 P.M. If Daddy wouldn't have gone to town this afternoon,

I still wouldn't have that letter and I've been looking for it since Wednesday morning, and then gave it up and definitely planned on seeing you thursday night. - and talk about expecting to see you - well, I was so ill, I could hardly stand up alone, and got up out of bed - left home at 10:00 P.M. but it was all in vain. I was sure I didn't see you there so came home during the first dance after intermission, just as ill or worse. There was only one kid in school yesterday and I thanked God for that because I was really feeling tough. I don't feel too bad today but far from good, and I'm going to bed in a very short time but I have to write this letter first.

Honey I didn't mean to be hinting for you to come after me the 4th. That is up to you, if you want a date with me - the night is open to you. We could maybe have the evening to ourselves, which I think, would do us both good, and Honey, if you want a chance to make up and try it again. I guess you have it. Honey, do your folks know anything about this? Mom finally got it out of me because she knew something was wrong - but how she did it, I still don't know. I can keep almost anything to myself.

Well, I guess I should stop and go to bed before someone else has to put me there. I'm really feeling terrible right now.

So - so long for this time, please let me know some-way by 7:00 o'clock. Tuesday night whether or not you'll be here and what time.

Our mail carrier doesn't go - hasn't since Wed.

With love,
Elaine

P.S. Be sure to come
in the north
gate from the
highway.

March 1st - 47
Spencer, Nebr.

My Darling E Laine -

Just a note this will be, I hope you can read it. I can't use my tumb to write. It didn't give me any trouble for I was really tired and was dead when I hit the hay, (bed), last nite at 11:30.

Honey, you were joking last nite when you said you didn't like your green - suit and shoes. Weren't you, honey? Gee, I sure hope you were. I really like them, honey.

How's that cold of yours? I hope it better by now. I feel lazie as heck today. Honey, lets go to Norfolk, huh?

Well, darling, Dad wants to go to town so I'll have to take him in. He's ready now, so I'll close for now. I love you, darling! Be careful, honey, and God Bless you.

With All My Love

Dopey

Butte, Nebr.
Mar. 3, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

Sorry, but my pen just up and changed colors. There was blue ink on my pen point and I can't continue

with blue as I don't have any here.

Whatch' doin' today, Honey? Are you very tired? Really, I'm not tired at all. I simply feel pretty good. No foolin!! I have been doing alot of embroidering today. My only trouble is: I'm afraid that I'll run out of things to embroidery. I have only one more dresser scarf to work on and that won't take me long. Then I have a little chrocheting to do around the edges of four scarfs and then I believe I'll indulge in making either a bed spread or a tablecloth. I mean a chrocheted one. My patterns for a coat & suit should have been here Saturday so I'll find out tonight after school. That will keep me pretty busy making that because I won't have too much time to work on it. I've never tired making a coat and I just want to experiment on one to see if I can do it. But I simply cannot find any nail heads. I was so foolish not to try in Norfolk the other day, but I'm going to write to Sears or Montgomery & see if I can't get some, at least it won't hurt to try.

Well, Honey I guess I'll have to quit & go home. I have to look those dubuzzie's up in the catalog etc. and I dislike being here alone. The kids just left - only 49 more days. Ho! Honey! What a wonderful thought!!!!

Pardon my pencil please but I'm sitting here thinking of you - the pen & ink too far away and if I walked after it I'm afraid I'd never get back - the bed would get me - Boy! I feel tough! I actually felt good all day but tonight I can hardly take my aching side and my right wrist went out of 'kilter' too, so I can hardly use it to write with and Honey, you cracked my neck last night! Darn you! Oh! Honey! I really don't mind that part though - it's just a remembrance of you and I'd rather have that than a hicky? - how do you spell it? - anyway I don't care to know how.

Oh! Honey! No foolin'! But I do wish you were here tonight. I'm kinda' lonesome.

Well, Sweetheart, I guess I really should go to bed I'm kinda' pretty awful tired so -

Goodnight, Sweet
dreams, Sweetheart,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

P.S.

I just put that dubuzzie in an envelope for "our" Daddy. Now I'm afraid to send it.

Butte, Nebraska
March 6, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

Honey, may I be excused for writing with a pencil? I guess I did it the other night too, though, didn't I? I'm sorry, really but there isn't any ink here at home.

Have you been busy this week, Honey? I haven't heard from you yet this week but I won't get to send you one after I do, hear from you.

Gosh! Honey! I'm going to hurry with this because I simply must get to bed. It is only 7:30 P.M. but I really need to go to bed. I've been so darn sick I've been going around saying that I should be down to Raymond's & maybe the 'hearse' wouldn't be so expensive. Ha! I was really down last night, though. I was so sick I couldn't make anything register. They talk to me but I never realized what they were saying; it was just so many words without any meaning at all. But today I can get things to register a little better. Ha! Ha!

Well I don't know whether I'm going to be happy or glad next week. My kids may not move away now. They may stay but I'll know by next Monday and don't think I'm not praying!

Well, - Grandpa is calling. That's over with! It only took me ten minutes. Not bad, was it. Ha!

When are you coming down or up Sunday? Say, Honey, find sumpin' for us to do, won't ya'?

Well, Honey, I believe I've got to scramble or else I'll go to sleep right here.

Goodnight & Sweetdreams
Sweetheart,
Love,
Your Sweetheart,
Elaine

Butte, Nebr.
March 11, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

Well, I guess I'm going to have to hurry with this if I want it mailed. I'm just afraid I won't make it as it is.

Yes, I know I need a darned good scolding but I taught school yesterday & gave examinations, also. I was on my feet almost too much. I hit the davenport last night after I got home & I stayed there until I went to bed. I feel a lot better but I hope I get to feeling a lot better. I'm so tired my arms & legs just don't want to move. When I'm down, I feel pretty good but this sitting & standing really gets me. If I dared do it, I'd resign this Friday - it's the last week of this month, but then again, I should be able to stick it out 8 more weeks. That really isn't too long.

Gee! Honey! I'm really lonesome for you. I don't believe I'll be able to stick it out until Sunday. Listen, Honey, if you go to O'Neill, Thursday night. Stop in and see me, "Or don't you want to." "Don't worry, I am almost positive I won't want to go along so be calm about it."

Well, Honey, be a 'good' boy (if you can) and I hope to be seeing you soon.

Don't worry about me 'cause I'll be O.K.

Lots of Love,

Your Sweetheart,

Elaine

On St. Patrick's Day

This brings a lot of shamrock
To say how much you mean,
And hope, like it,
our friendship
Will be forever green.

With love,

Elaine

'Hope to see you Sun or Monday night at least, -- or else!!!!

Butte, Nebraska
April 1st, 1947

My Darling Clayton,

Honey, I'm going to jot you a few lines this A.M. and make it snappy, too.

I am here alone. One family isn't going to be here today and the other little girls' Mother came along this morning, got her assignments, etc. and took her along home with her. I am going home in a few minutes too. Lucky me!! - Can I come down?

The first thing -- You better not come over to see me here at school this week because I won't be having school all this week. Now don't tell anyone this but I'll explain when I see you -- probably soon, I hope. So don't say anything, please.

One day this week I may go down to visit Elaine's school so I may stop in - do you care?

Darling, all I did last night was dream about you. It was wonderful!!! I wish I could every night but if I did, well, it would be too bad because I would be living in a dream all the time then - or am I now?

Well, Honey, I'm going so I'll catch Gus (the mailman).

So - long, Honey -- are you over your cold? - I'm getting over mine. Goody! Goody!

Honey! Why didn't we go off someplace Sun. night - I still think we should have. Ha!

Oh! Say! Honey! Let's go to Sioux City or Omaha some time when Raymond has to go - that way I could sure go. But I wish this week could be some other time because I get this week off. We could go any time this week.

Well, so long, Honey,

All my Love,

Your Sweetheart,

Elaine

Honey, I love ya'

T/5 Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
10th Constab. Sqdn. Med. Det.
APO. 800 c/o P.M. N.Y. New York

Wuasburg Germany
April 6, 1947

To my Dearest Darling.

I really sorry Darling that I havn't written sooner but we have moved again. We are finished with our training and I am sure glad that it is over. The last two days we stood inspection one for the Genearl in com. of the 14 contab. Regt and the next day The commander of all the forces in E.T.O. That was a perty big day for every one every one was dressed up. and every truck and building was cleaned. all the troopers had yellow scarfs on and a 45. at their side, they really looked sharp. And after every thing was over they told the medics to pack up. so we all shiped out the same night. we are about 20 miles form where we were. I like it better out here. More things to do. And more clubs to go to.

Darling I suppose it is really nice back home to day. Well it is raining here and has been all day. I wish it would stop so we could go to the show to night.

Darling I got a German to make me a picture frame. and it is really nice. Now if you could send me a picture I would be all set. And I would really like to have a picture of you. I never got that one that you sent. I sure would like to have one. Honest Darling.

I am going to have some taken and when I get them I will send you some if they come out good.

Well Darling I can't think of much more for now, so will close.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

P.S. Happy Easter Darling. I forgot it was even Easter. thats what the army dose to one's mind. (Ha).

Love

Bonnie

Butte, Nebraska
April 9, 1947

My Dear Clayton,

Uh - huh! It's me again -- just wanting to pick on you. Of course I shouldn't say 'again' or should I should?

Well, Honey, did you get home O.K. yesterday morning? Gee! I sure hope so but what did your folks say? I was really scared about that part. No fooling! I'll bet that they are sure of keeping closer tab on you now -- and my folks probably just plain won't let me go alone anywhere now until the roads get a little more "travelable." Ha! But I'm supposed to go home and get the eggs and go up town after Daddy tonight, and I'll bet the road won't be too nice, either. But I'll keep praying and I'll bet I'll make it. I'll bet 'cha!

Do you think that the roads are going to dry up by Friday night? If they don't -- I'll walk to the car no matter where you leave it, but really the North road will be O.K. if it dries at all. Denny went out that way last night. It was better already then.

Say, Honey, did you see that car in the ditch that we saw - there by Grady's? Are you sure it wasn't Dopheide's? Daddy saw Clem go down the road and I still think that I was right. More so than ever, now.

My Kids are here today and now I have to worry about them getting home. No school kids yesterday, so I really had to work. I had to help Daddy fix the brooder house, some more. I really hate that job but it doesn't do any good to say anything, so I keep still.

Honey, please forgive me for acting the way I did the other night. That was really awful and I'm very sorry that I did it and I'm also very ashamed of myself for it. But Honey, you still don't know what it is like to be jealous and you are really fortunate not to be that way. I try for all I'm worth to get over it but I simply can't succeed - so I'm going to keep trying until I do succeed, and maybe I really will. What you should have done to me about that time isn't even fun to talk about and Honey, how could you say what you did when I told you 'to tell me what you think of me?' Honey, you're swell.

I gave examinations part of the time and we also had Knighthood of Youth Club. I thought we should take time off and have it today because we haven't had it for four Wednesday's now. Something turns up every time.

Say, Honey can you come up Sunday? I don't have to work Sunday - Ines is going to be at home (our place) for once so I won't be tied down. How about it? Eh? Evelyn & Darold are coming over to stay and I reckon if the roads get good that the Lynchites will be home too. I don't care, though, I'd like to take off some place and not come home until morning (Monday). My Sundays are never my own so come up Sunday and then I won't have to work. A deal?

Well, Honey, it is getting close to four o'clock so I'm going to sign off for this time and I'll look for that 'line or two' by Friday.

Again, I say, Please forgive me, Honey.

With all my love and
the Best of Luck
Your Sweetheart,??
Elaine

I love you Honey

T/5 Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
10th Constab. Sqdn. Med. Det.

APO. 800 c/o P.M. N.Y. New York
Wurzberg Germany
April 9, 1947

To my Dearest Darling.

I just received your Easter card & letter and they were both swell. I'm really sorry I never sent you one but I never thought of it till it was to late. We had a very nice Easter sunday. It didn't rain till about 6 clock that night. and it has been ever since. They have me on S.Q. tonight I went on at 12 o clock this noon and I go off tomorrow at noon. It's not to bad. I don't mind it.

No I am not working to hard. They have me driving the amulance & a jeep but they jeep is too cold to drive.

We have a pertty cold place here to live in. We have know coal. I sure wish they would get some.

I suppose it is pertty nice back home now. I wish I was their. Well I only have 18 more months in the army and then I think I will sign up for three more years. Would that be okay with you. Ha.

Darling I hope you are feeling better than you have been.

No I don't think much of these German woman. they can't dance. They can only smoke you ciggarets up for you.

Our medical officer is in the Hospital for three of four days so we are having apertty good time while he is gone.

Well Darling I can't think of much more so will close for now.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

10th Constab. Sqdn. Med. Det.
APO. 800 c/o P.M. N.Y. New York
Wurzburg Germany
April 17, 1947

To my Dearest Darling.

I was just sitting around not doing any thing so I thought I would write to you. I received your letter yesterday and I was glad to hear form you.

It has really been nice here for the last couple of days. Every one is taking a sun bath.

No I am not doing very much. They have me assigned to a jeep & a 1/2 ton truck and ambulance. I have to keep them runing and drive them.

We took our medical officer to Frankfurit Monday. It is about 100 miles form here. It took us all day. We took a few pictures and stop at the red cross.

We had quite a bite of fun. Our medical officer went home from Frankfurit. I wished it was me that was going home.

Darling I can hardly wait till your picture gets here. I am sending one that I had taken when I was taking training. I had my Rifle & yellow scarf. and Helment linner on. That was the day the Genral came to inspect us. We really looked sharp.

Some guy got his fingers cut all most of. and we had to take him to the Hospital and on our way back we stoped at the P.X. I sure wish they would get some new stuff in the P.X. It is always the same old stuff week after week & month after month.

Well Darling it is all most time for chow so I had better close for now.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you Darling

Butte, Nebr.
April 18, 1947

My Darling Clayton,

Yes, Honey, it's me but that isn't very much, today. I'm sure glad that there isn't a dance tonight. I'm simply too tired and I feel like two of myself instead of one. Now, Honey, don't take me wrong. I didn't mean it the way it could be taken so don't get ideas, Honey -- please.

Whatcha' been doin' the last few days, Honey? Do you have your grain in? We have - finally, and now Daddy is helping Mr. Rockford. I'll sure be glad when they get finished. -- I'm tired of working until 9:30 and 10:00 o'clock -- at night and tonight I have to wash & fix my hair, do my weeks washing & do some ironing and probably go over to Rena & Lawrence's for Rosary tonight. Do you think I'll get it all done? Tomorrow morning is the funeral and tomorrow noon I have to go to Lynch, so I simply have to find someplace to go Sat. night. I guess we'll stay down to Lynch for the dance. Care? Well, if I have my way about it, we won't stay. My gosh! Here it is Friday already & it is two more whole days before I get to see you. Gee, I wish it wasn't so far off. You told me that it wouldn't be but I'm afraid that it will be.

Are you going to be home Sunday? - or will you do like Richard does? - when he found out that his girl was coming, he'd run off. Maybe it was the safer thing to do. Ha!

Well, Honey, I'm afraid that the mail man is going to beat me so I'll have to hurry.

So - so long; Honey, -

I love you, Honey & I'll be seein' you soon.

All My Love,

Elaine

Darling, may I
bring my little
blonde along Sun.?
Or R U 2 jealous?

T/5 Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
10th Constab. Sqdn. Med. Det.
APO. 800 c/o P.M. N.Y. New York
Wurzburg Germany
April 22, 1947

To my Dearest Darling.

Hello Darling. I received your letter yesterday with your picture in it. I was really glad to received it. And Honey. I really think the picture was swell. Thanks a lot. Darling I didn't know you when I first saw it. It seems that you have changed since I saw you are. Maybe I just Don't remeber you. But, I really Love the picture Darling. I wish it was you in person.

Darling when I got you picture I was home sick. I don't know why. But I left like going a w o l. Darling I love you very much.

Darling I hope that you don't have to have an operation because I saw some of the guys get one and I couldn't watch all of it. I must be a chicken. Ha.

Darling you must be pertty busy at makeing all that stuff. What are you going to do with.

Darling I just heard some bad new today. They say now that we have to serve 30 months overseas. If thats so. I won't get to come home till Oct. some time. and if we only have to serve 24. I will be home in July. But they can't keep me over here 30 month because I get discharged Dec. 23 and I have some furlough time comeing so I have then their.

Well Darling I will close for now.

All my Love,

Bonnie

I love you very much

Butte, Nebraska
April 26, 1947
Friday, 3:40 P.M.

My Darling Clayton,

Honey, I certainly can't quite figure out why I haven't heard from you yet this week. I simply can not make myself believe that something has happened. Or didn't things set well with your folks? I can't believe it can be any of these but maybe you have been waiting to hear from me - have you?

Well, Honey, have you gone to see Fr. Condon yet? I sure hope you have as I don't have any idea how long it will take.

Darling, Wednesday night I talked to "our" (my) Daddy about it and he doesn't object to having you for a 'son-in-law' but I haven't really said it right out in plain English to Mom. I know she will just have a 'kniption' if you know what that is - but after all - I won't be so far away but what I can come home once in a while - or won't you let me, Honey? I'm not really worried about it.

Honey, I wrote and told Elaine that I would stay with her next week-end, the 3rd because that is my weekend off & the next weekend, I have to be here because Ines will be down getting ready for the Sheldon wedding. Then if everything is O.K. with you, and works out O.k., we could plan on the 16th weekend, to go to Omaha or ? I mean turn that around, as that is my weekend off again and the next weekend is Ines' again & the following then is the one just before June 2nd. Time won't be going fast enough for me, that is for sure but I'm afraid that something is going to make me rush some, as slow as I am. Ha! Ha!

Well, Darling, I guess I'll have to hurry along. I sure will try to get this mailed this evening if any way possible, or you won't get it tomorrow.

Remember, Darling, I love you with all my heart and I'm thinking of you always.

With all my Love,

Your future 'Wife,'

Elaine

I love you Sweetheart!

T/5 Bonnie Van Haitsma 39497280
10th Constab. Sqdn. Med. Det.
APO. 800 c/o P.M. N.Y. New York
Wurzberg Germany
May 1, 1947

To my Dearest Darling.

Hi Honey. I was just sitting around not doing any thing so I though I would writte to you.

Honey. Here it is the first of May. Boy time sure does fly for me over here. I hope the rest of my time flyes like the last few months has. I will be home perty soon.

Well Darling. I suppose you are glad that your school is all most over. and you will be able to go on your vacation perty soon. But I can't get a vacation for quite some time yet. And when I do it will be forever.

Honey. I went to the I & E offices this morning and found that I could finish my high school so I am going to. I think I start next week. They send me all the books I need and at the end of a month I take a test. I can take two subjects a month so in about 3 months I should graduete and it cost \$2.00 for enrollment. and after that I can take up college if I want to. But I think I will take auto machinec for about 3 months.

Darling, How are the dances. I havn't been to a dance since I left Paris. And I havn't been drunk either so I am reforming. Ha.

Well Darling they are calling for me down stairs propable have to go to the hospital are some thing so will have to close for now.

All my Love

Bonnie

I love you very much.

Butte, Nebraska
May 1, 1947

My Darling Clayton,

Oh! Honey! I love you, and I simply can't get you off my mind, even a second. No, Honey, I don't want to but I simply can't go on like this and go through being at home and take all I have to. Daddy doesn't say a word but Mother certainly does. I knew that it was going to be this way as soon as she found it out. Maybe I give in easily, Honey, but this is one time I'm going to fight for what I want. She has to give in, Honey, I won't. My whole life will be ruined. If I can't have you now, Honey, I really don't know what the future will have in store for me and really I won't care. I'm forgetting about the rest of my dreams that I had planned and we will let time and circumstances determine the rest. I only wish Mother could see daylight. She has to, Darling, she simply has to. I don't know exactly what to do. Honey, do you think this would be a good idea or not? But if I, the first thing after school was out, got a job somewhere, so I couldn't be at home - from Monday morning until Sat. nights, that she would get over the idea she now has. Honey, I don't know what to do. I wish you would just plain tell me what to do. I won't object to your being frank with me, Honey. If you don't, I might even go to summer school and actually teach three more years. It wouldn't make any difference to me then anymore.

Oh! Darling! It is going to be a long, long, time until next Wednesday. Hope you don't miss me - oh, well, you won't. Anyway, I hope that we get home early Sunday evening but you hadn't better call until around 8:00 P.M. or so.

Well, Sweetheart, I'm going to sign off. I hate to plague you with this letter Honey & I'm Sorry, But, Darling, I love you & will forever.

All my love to you,

Your (wife, 2 b)

Elaine