

<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Jan. 1, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked Jan. 1, 1943</i></p>
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Pine Bluff Arsenal
Jan 1, 1943

Dear Folks,

Just a short note on this the first day of the new year. We don't have the day off, it's business as usual here at the Pine Bluff Arsenal, so, of course, we didn't do much celebrating last night. In fact I stayed in and wrote a couple of letters and was in bed by 11 o'clock.

I'm sorry to hear that Norm & Marg. were feeling so "punk" at Christmas time. Hope everyone is all right now. Norm's set-up at Ft. Snelling seems to be a very good one. I think he ought still try for O.C.S. though, as soon as he's eligible.

As for myself, as far as O.C.S. is concerned I'm getting nowhere fast. I was talking to the Sgt. Major yesterday and he said that all of us who had made application for the Army Administration School were going to have to withdraw our applications and re submit new ones. He said that they were using new O.C.S. application forms and that we would have to re-apply on them. Personally I think we're just being given the old run-around, and that we're pretty well stuck here for the duration.

I sent the pictures you inquired about in my last letter. You probably have them by this time.

I was just now looking out the window and admiring our beautiful green lawn. Down here they have what the call winter grass. It grows from Fall to Spring. Just the opposite of ordinary grass. The lawns here at the Arsenal were just planted about one month ago and are now as nice a green as a newly planted spring lawn at home.

I'm enclosing a money order for \$20.00 and that reminds me, did you ever receive the \$35.00 I sent Dec. 7?

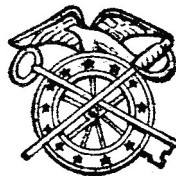
Well I guess that just about covers everything. Anyway this "short note" has developed into a pretty good sized letter. So until next time –

Love Mike

P.S. What is the address of this place that Norm & Margaret have rented?



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Jan. 6, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked Jan. 6, 1943</i></p>
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QUARTERMASTER CORPS
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

Pine Bluff Arsenal

Jan. 6 - 1943

Dear Folks,

I received your letter today so I have decided that I would answer immediately. There has been very little doing down here lately so I don't have much to write about.

Sunday morning I went to church in town with Bill Bean. We went to the Episcopal church which I found to be very much like the Catholic church. Sunday morning the weather here was very beautiful – just like a warm Spring morning at home. However, in the afternoon the wind shifted into the north and it began to be cold and has been quite cold ever since. Today is cloudy and dark, and this morning a few flakes of snow fell. We got out of church at 10:00 AM Sunday and decided to catch the 10:30 bus for Little Rock. In L.R. we had dinner at the Hotel Lafayette and then went out to Camp Robinson. There we discovered that Melvyn Douglas is taking his basic training in the 72nd. Battalion which is just one block from my old company. That is near the corner where you met me the first night you came out to see me a Camp R. We were talking to a Corporal in the 72nd and he said that Douglas was taking the same training as everyone else and doing very well.

While in Little Rock I think I saw a silver souvenir spoon of the kind that Ev wanted in one of the jewelry store windows. Unfortunately the store was closed so of course I couldn't buy it, however I shall try to get to L.R. some Sat. night as the stores are all open until 9:00 o'clock than.

I'm enclosing the proofs of the pictures I had taken. I sent a picture to Maya and El. so I don't think you have to send them another.

I received a letter from Ed Oberg today. It was the longest one I've received from him yet. He said that he had just written the Thomssens a letter. I guess he must be better at this letter writing business than I am. I certainly wouldn't be able to write them a letter. Wouldn't know what to write about. Ed also says that he's out of the hospital now and that he's feeling good but weak. He seems to have a job in the parts dept. something like what Laurie had when he was first at Barksdale Field. At any rate he says he's learning all about airplane parts and tools – maybe he will have a trade now when the war is over.

Yesterday morning we had a fire drill at 4:00 A.M. The Captain who is in charge of the fire dept. here was drunk and decided that that would be a good time for a drill. I guess he was just coming home. I hope he appreciated his little joke, I can assure you none of the fellows here did.

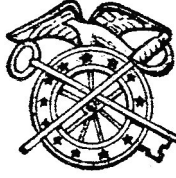
I've been made a private first class now. That means 4 more bucks a month. I didn't care much about the promotion tho. They didn't have any ratings open so in order to give me a rating they broke Bagby who had been a P.F.C. since last July. He felt rather bad about it and frankly I didn't care much for the way they handled it either. Another thing I didn't like is that if they start giving me a rating it means I'm to be kept here – I suppose they've definitely decided against my going to O.C.S.

It's almost quitting time so I guess I'd better close this letter if I'm going to get it in tonight's mail.

Love
Myron



<i>From:</i> Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated Jan. 11, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked Jan. 11, 1943</i>
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QUARTERMASTER CORPS
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

Jan. 11 - 1943

Dear Folks,

I got a letter from John Swesey the other day and he says that the temp. in St. Paul has been below zero. If that be true I'm rather glad to be down here. The coldest it's been here so far is 26°. However it's so damp down here that 26° is really cold.

How is the food rationing affecting you up there? Lately we've been getting water about three times a week instead of coffee and we haven't had any butter for about two weeks now. There seems to be plenty of everything else though so we really have nothing to complain about.

Today the signal corps started a radio code school for those of us who want to attend. Classes are held four days a week and each class lasts ½ an hour. I signed up for the thing just to have something to do. The work in this department has been so slack lately that I sit around most of the day wondering what to do with myself. This week will be even worse, the Major who is in charge of this office has gone to Chicago for the week. He said that he was going to try to find some stenographers to bring down here to work. Personally I think if the people that are here would put in just ½ a days work everyday there wouldn't be any shortage of help. I might add that the Major's home is in Chicago so that in all probability his real reason for going home was to get a weeks vacation – at the govt's expense.

I met Ray Mutz's wife yesterday, she is very nice. She's going to try for a job here in Pine Bluff so she can stay here as long as Ray does.

Spent a very quiet week-end – had dinner in Pine Bluff, saw Judy Garland in "For Me & My Gal", then back to the barracks and in bed by 9:30. Have a cold so don't feel like doing much.

Love
Mike

P.S. Am enclosing a picture of our General – A.M. Prentiss. He started in the army as a buck private – once.



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Jan. 12, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked Jan. 12, 1943</i></p>
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Pine Bluff Arsenal
Jan 12, 1943

Dear Folks,

Our new sales commissary list came out today so I thought I'd send you a copy just so you could make a comparison with prices at home. I imagine that the prices at the commissary at Ft. Snelling are about the same as these and if you find these cheap you ought to have Norm investigate. There's really no red tape to go thru; any soldier can buy, or he can secure a card from the commissary officer which will permit his wife to make purchases.

I'm sure the savings must be substantial because many soldiers' wives come 20 miles and more to do their shopping here. Of course you would still be subject to all the rationing laws such as presenting you sugar and coffee coupons – or whatever it is you do.

I got a letter from Eleanor written in Norwegian and I've been trying to translate it. I think I almost have it all. Will send it home after I've worked on it a bit more.

Love
Mike

<i>From:</i> Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated Jan. 14, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked Jan. 14, 1943</i>
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Pine Bluff Arsenal
Thursday

Dear Folks,

I received some rather astonishing news yesterday so I thought I'd write and tell you about it. Irene Mortenson wrote and told me that Mrs. Martin told her that Bob was going to be married. She said that Bob had given his girl an engagement ring at Xmas and that shoe thought they intended to be married either this month or next. Irene said that she had forgotten the girl's name, but if it's the same girl he was always writing home about it's Lorna Dyson. She is, I believe; Welsh, however I'm not sure. Guess I'll have to write Mrs. Martin and find out.

I received you letter at noon today; also the newspaper. So Mrs. Wilson thinks I look like a general on my picture. Down here – in the office – after seeing my picture they called me Angel Face. Said I looked like a little boy dressed in a soldier uniform.

The weather has been rather nice again the last two days but everyone seems to be getting colds. I'm just getting over mine.

Am enclosing El's letter.

Love
Mike

[*"El's letter" that Mike refers to at the end of this letter was one he had referred to in a previous letter also. It was written by his cousin Eleanor. She had written it in Norwegian, and Mike had to translate it, which he did by writing the English equivalent above the words she had written. The following images are of the original letter with his translation.*]

January
Januar 3, 1943

Dear cousin Mike,
Kjære kusine Mike,

Many, many
thousand thanks for your
tusind tak for din
photograph. Du er so
fin paa det portret.

Du looks so good.

Du er so pen.

I like it so much.
Jeg liker det so meget.

Maya also sends
mange tak for

de fine lommestørke.
(fena)

They are so much nice.
De er so meget pent.

Yes, it was so fine.
Ja, de var so fint.
(fent)

Page 1

Your sister sent me
en card table cover.

My, but that was
fine, also.

My mother and I
had Xmas in
had Yule day i

Rochester. We had
Xmas tree also
Yule tree also.

We had capon

and potatoes and dressing,
og potater, og dressing,
and cranberry and salad,
og cranberry, og salad,
and Xmas cake
og yulekake, til spice.

That was good also.
Det var godt, also.

We had
We had Mrs. Gaspard

and Therese here on
Xmas day
Yule day. Mrs Gaspard

was not very good
at it
are ikke ver godt.

Page 2

Hun is so shaky. Hun
 is stiff also.
 Ve har ben stiff, men
 ve ar ikke stiff nu.
 Maya ofte getter stiff.
 Ve har got en flaske
 i doset.
 Ve har got sum lifse.
 En norsk pikke braket
 us det. Men det ar
 ikke so godt sum din
 Mor baker.
 Jeg gaar paa skoolen
 imorgen. Jeg ikke
 liker til doer det.
 Ve hooper du vill
 skriver an brev til
 mig soon.
 Dra din kusine
 og tante
 Eleanor

Page 1



<p>From:</p> <p>Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p>Letter Dated Jan. 16, 1943</p>	<p>Addressed to:</p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p>Postmarked Jan. 16, 1943</p>
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Pine Bluff Arsenal
Sat afternoon

Dear Folks,

I haven't anything to write about today but then I haven't any work to do either so I might as well write. They tell me you've been having some cold weather up there. The radio has been announcing all morning that a cold wave is heading this way, but as the wind is out of the south right now I don't know where the cold is coming from. The temp. right now must be almost eighty. The windows in the office are wide open and the wind is blowing and ruffling up all the papers on my desk. It's rather odd that it should be so warm here. Lt. Fields just got

a letter from his sister in St. Louis which was written only two days ago and she says that it's been snowing all day and that there was about a foot of snow on the ground. Yet it has been quite warm here for the last 3 days.

I just wrote a letter to Bug Martin and I've been trying to recall whether or not you once wrote and told me you had a letter from him. Or was it that you were going to write him? Wonder where he is – Africa I suppose.

Well tomorrow is Sunday but I guess I'll just stay right here in camp. Can't afford to go out – too near to being broke. Guess I was too ambitious when I sent home \$20.00 out of this pay-check. I think I'll make it till the 1st tho.

There doesn't seem to be much else to say. The Capt, Sergeant, and the Stenographer are all arguing and in this confusion it's all but impossible to think.

Well I guess I'll close. I want to leave here a little early tonight as this is the night on which we get our laundry. I'd like to check mine before supper – last Sat. they lost one of my socks.

Love
Mike



<i>From:</i> PFC. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated Jan. 22, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked Jan. 23, 1943</i>
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Pine Bluff Arsenal
Jan 22 – 43
Fri. night

Dear Folks,

This certainly is the most amazing country. The day before yesterday the temp. went down to 2° and today it's back to 75°. Thus in one short week the weather has gone from 80° last Sat. to 2° on Wed. and back again to 75° on Fri. Some change!

Tonight Bill Bean & I walked about two miles down the road to look at some new construction that is going on down there. I was really quite warm walking and we never even had on coats of any kind. Another thing I noticed is that it's still quite light at 7 o'clock now. Is it that way at home?

We have a new Service Club here at camp now. It's very nice – has a reading room, a room with a soda fountain, and a large lounge. The lounge has a lot of over-stuffed furniture, a radio, jukebox phonograph (with the latest records), about 6 writing desks (that's where I am now). Tomorrow night we are going to have the official opening. We are going to have a dance and the General will make a speech. The C.O. said that with all the facilities we have here in camp now to entertain ourselves he was going to start limiting our passes into town. I guess it won't make much difference to me tho; the only time I go to town anymore is on Sundays. All our dry cleaning and laundry is handled by the PX now so that's no longer an excuse for going to town. Wed. the Major gave me his car and sent me in town on an errand. I used the opportunity to take my shoes to the shoemaker, then that evening Lorraine (the girl who works in our office) picked them up for me. Some service eh?

I can't seem to think of anything else just now, anyway it's just about time to hit the hay so I'll say "good night" for now.

Love
Mike

<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66th Bomb Sqdn., 44th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Jan. 31, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked Feb. 11, 1943</i></p>
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England,
January 31, 1943

Dear Folks,

I received Lorraine's letter a couple of days ago with the one of Margaret's inside so it finally got here. I also received the box of cookies & box of glazed fruit you sent. They sure tasted good. Hope it hasn't been too cold this winter but the worst should be over by now. It seems there isn't much one can write about so will have to quite.

Lawrence



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Feb. 8, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked Feb. 9, 1943</i></p>
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Pine Bluff Arsenal
Monday - 2-8-43

Dear Folks,

Have been rather busy the last few days so have fallen behind in my letter writing. The monthly statements for the officers' club got messed up and so they've had the entire Quartermaster office working on them for the last three days. Of course none of this work should be done on Army time but the Maj. has ordered us to do it so that's that.

Saturday night I went to a piano concert in town, I'm enclosing the program. It cost \$1.50 but was worth it.

Sunday morning Bean and I went to the Episcopal church. Because it was such a nice morning we went for a short walk after church and I noticed jonquils blooming in many of the yards. We had dinner at the Hotel Pines and the cashier had a bouquet of jonquils on her desk and she said that they had been blooming in her garden since before Xmas. Yet they think they have winter down here. A couple of weeks ago the church closed on Sunday because the heating system had broken down. The temp. was around 70° that day.

I've been trying to make out my income tax but will need to know the amount of interest I made on my bank account last year. Will you send me this information the next time you write? I wrote to the post office and they sent me a statement of the amount I made last year - \$647.77. I'll make out the blanks and send them home and Pa can pay the tax from my bank account. I'm afraid my salary here isn't enough to pay it.

Well I guess that's about all for this time.

We're going to have a road show here tonight. Last week Olson & Johnson were at Camp Robinson but of course we're too small to get such a large show down here. Our shows are small, usually just one or two entertainers, however they've all been pretty good.

Must close now in order to get this in the mail.

Love
Mike

<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Chemical Warfare Service Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Feb. 10, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked Feb. 11, 1943</i></p>
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THE SERVICE CLUB
CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

Feb. 10 – 43

Dear Folks,

Altho it's way past my bedtime (10 o'clock) I decided I'd try to dash off a few lines before retiring and maybe this letter will still reach you this week.

I received your letter today and also one from Eleanor and one from Geo. Mahowald.

Geo. says that he is now working from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M. He says that althou he's just starting those hours he's sure he won't like them. I can't say that I blame him. Outside of that he doesn't have much to say except that an epidemic of measles has broken out at his camp. He says he's afraid he'll catch them. He certainly worries about his health.

Eleanor says that she got my letter I wrote in Norwegian and was able to read it all.

Tonight instead of regular evening "chow" we had a little party. The dining hall was very nicely fixed up with table cloths (sheets) and everything. We had pork chops, baked potatoes, celery, peas, pickles, cream cheese & apple pie, and beer with our meal. After supper we had a little entertainment furnished by the women of Pine Bluff. It was all really very nice.

The weather which has been very mild the last few days suddenly turned cold tonight. The wind came up from the north and it began to turn cold almost immediately. Here's hoping it won't last long.

Well it's 10:30 – guess I'll take a shower and hit the hay. Good night!

Love
Mike

<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Feb. 13, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked Feb. 13, 1943</i></p>
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P.B.A.
2 – 13 - 43

Dear Folks,

Just a short note to tell you I received your package at noon today. I also received one from the Thomssen's. Because I was late I never had time to open either of them so I won't send my thanks until I find what I've gotten. Along with the package I received your letter – the one written Tuesday – and last night I got Ev's valentine. Quite a haul for two days.

I see by Julius' picture that he's a tech Sergeant, that means he's making about \$115.00 a month – the lucky bum!

Hank wrote and told me about Brosnan. I think I can understand his attitude; this business of kow-towing to everybody gets a little tiresome at times.

Today is Lander's birthday. He's just 15 days older than I am. We had planned to go to Little Rock tonight but Bean backed out so I guess we won't go. It's getting so we hardly leave camp anymore except on Sundays.

The weather has been very nice and bright lately but we've had kind of a cold wind from the north. I suppose you're getting ready for the Spring slush; I'm glad we don't have to go through that.

Love
Mike



<i>From:</i> P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated Feb. 15, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked Feb. 16, 1943</i>
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Pine Bluff Arsenal
Monday - 2-15-43

Dear Folks,

Thanks a lot for the cookies. As I believe I told you I received Ev's on Sat. and Toots' yesterday. I'll certainly have enough to keep me going for a while now.

Yesterday I went to church with Bill Bean and then we spent the rest of the day just loafing around town not doing much of anything. I suppose I shouldn't say loafing because in the afternoon we took a long walk around the residential part of town. In the morning it snowed here but in the afternoon the sun came out and it was very nice walking. While walking I noticed jonquils growing in many of the yards and also forsythia beginning to bloom. We also saw a number of Robins which were the first we've seen this year. I really enjoyed the walk very much but I'm afraid Bean didn't. He's from Chicago and his idea of a walk is something not more than two blocks long. He kept saying he was so exhausted he didn't think he could make it back to the bus depot.

By the way will you send me a camera again? Ray says I can leave it with his wife - I'd like very much to have some pictures of these guys and also this town. Enough for today.

Love
Mike

<i>From:</i> P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated Feb. 17, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked Feb. 18, 1943</i>
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P.B.A.
Wed - 2 - 17 - 43

Dear Folks,

Received your letter at noon today so will answer it immediately.

First of all - you ask where Van Buren is. It's about 175 miles northwest of Pine Bluff. Why do you ask?

What is this new set-up Norm has - working for the Bureau of Internal Security? Must be that the Govt. wasn't spending money fast enough so they created another new bureau.

I certainly don't envy you all that ice and snow. It's been rather cool down here the last few days but has turned quite nice again today.

You say that you're feeding a lot of birds this year. I believe I told you I saw my first Robins Sunday. Since then I've seen quite a few and also some cardinals. Apparently they spend their winters even further south than this and are only now beginning to return. The first of them ought to be in Minn. in another 3 or 4 weeks.

Well I guess that's about all to write about today – no news. Just get up in the morning, go to the office, come home at night, play a little ping-pong or go to a show, and then to bed.

Sorry to hear about Herb. How is he now?

Love
Mike



<i>From:</i> Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66 th Bomb Sqdn., 44 th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y. <i>Letter Dated Feb. 20, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked March 9, 1943</i>
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England,
Feb. 20, 1943

Dear Folks,

I received the birthday present you sent. The package was in good shape and everything was in it. I noticed by the date you had just sent it in time as they aren't permitting any packages to be sent anymore. It doesn't make much difference as we can get plenty of everything here. Everything is going along all right.

Lawrence



<i>From:</i> P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Chemical Warfare Service Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas U.S. Army <i>Letter Dated Feb. 22, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked Feb. 23, 1943</i>
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THE SERVICE CLUB
CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

Monday – 2-22-43

Dear Folks,

I received your letter yesterday and was sorry to hear that you've been sick. I hope you're feeling better now.

Along with your letter I received one from Ed Oberg. He says that he somehow hasn't gotten around to writing you a letter of thanks for the Xmas gift you sent him but he said that he was going to try to do so this week.

Down here the whole camp is excited by a rumor that we are going to be transferred shortly. There isn't any real foundation for this rumor except that we do know that a number of Waac's are coming here to replace some of the men. Then too we've been told to get rid of any extra clothing or equipment we have by March 8th. As a result of this order to get rid of extra things I'll be sending home the sweater and slippers you sent me and perhaps a few other things. I'd still like you to send me my camera tho, if you haven't already done so, as I'm rather anxious to get some snap shots of some of the fellows here.

You say you were invited out to Thomssen's – did you go? – did I tell you they sent me a box of nuts for Valentine's Day? Haven't written to thank them yet, but, like Oberg, will try to do so this week.

Well I guess that's about all for tonight, haven't done much lately so there's not much to write about. Spent a very quiet week-end right here in camp. The weather has been very nice and tonight we spent a couple of hours after supper sodding around the barracks. It was so pleasant out I almost enjoyed it. It seems that all I've done so far in this war is to have planted grass throughout the state of Ark. Oh well!

Love
Mike

The last few minutes I've been listening to a program over the radio – it's called "The Falstaff Hour". Forty five minutes of classical music put on by the Falstaff Brewing Co. That's where your money's going – to entertain the people of Ark. and the South in general.



<i>From:</i> Marlys Anderson 1724 Howard Ave. St. Paul, Minn Rte. 6 <i>Letter Dated Feb. 25, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> PFC. Myron A. Ellingsen 37277454 Q.M.Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Pine Bluff, Arkansas <i>Postmarked Feb. 26, 1943</i>
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Feb. 25, 1943

Hi Myron,

I am writing you a few lines to wish you a happy birthday. I hope you are well. The snow has been melting fast down here. It has been cold up here. We had a few warm days up here. We had a Brownie party. There were 16 Brownies and 8 Girl Scouts. Our troop is one years old.

Yours
For Victory

Marlys Anderson



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated Feb. 25, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p>
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P.B.A.
Feb. 25 - 43

Dear Folks,

Enclosed you will find my tax blanks which I've made out and would like to have you pay - from my bank account, of course. I don't believe I have to pay any state tax as you can see from my figures. If however you find I'm wrong I think you can fill out another blank for me and pay it the same as my Federal Tax.

I just returned from Conway, Ark. where I went this morning with Lt. Fields (my boss) to buy some butter for the troops here. We're having some trouble getting butter so went to Swifts in Conway as the Lt. thought he would have a better chance getting it if he could talk to them in person. He succeeded in getting 2000 lbs. which I believe is enough for 3 weeks.

It's a beautiful day here today and I enjoyed the drive very much. Conway is about 30 miles north of Little Rock. On the way back we stopped at Camp Robinson and I drove by my old company. Didn't get a chance to go in and see if any of the old gang was still there tho.

Let me know if you find the tax blanks O.K.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated March 2, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked March 2, 1943</i></p>
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UNITED STATES ARMY

March 2 - 43

Dear Folks,

As you can see from the stationery I have received your birthday gifts. Everything arrived in fine condition. The candy and money from Ma & Pa, the handkerchiefs from Toots, the stationery and money from Ev. Than you one and all! Besides your gifts I also received a box of candy from Maya and also cards from both Maya and El. On Sunday I received a birthday-greetings-letter from Marlys Anderson. I wish I had remembered it was her birthday so I could have sent her a card. Now I guess I'll have to try to write her a letter.

On Sunday morning Bean and I went to church. I'm really becoming a pretty good Episcopalian. After the services a lady named Mrs. McNally introduced herself to us and invited us to dinner. We had to refuse tho,

because Bean had been restricted to camp and was only allowed into town to attend church on the promise that he would be back in camp by one o'clock. He was restricted for one week because he skipped out of drill one morning. I suppose I could have accepted Mrs. McNally's invitation but I didn't feel like going alone. For an excuse we told her that we had to be back on duty by two o'clock.

Outside of that life down here is about the same everyday – pretty dull. For a while there was a rumor that we were going to be transferred but I guess it was just a rumor – we hear nothing more about it now.

We've had some very nice weather here lately but today there's a strong wind from the north and it's becoming quite cold. The radio says that it will be between 12° and 15° tomorrow. I suppose that hardly sounds like a cold wave to you but it really is down here.

I'm going to try to write Maya and El now so will close.

Love
Mike

P.S. Also received the camera – Thank you!



<i>From:</i> Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66 th Bomb Sqdn., 44 th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y. <i>Letter Dated Mar. 18, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked Mar. 28, 1943</i>
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England,
March 18, 1943

Dear Folks,

I guess it's about time to write another letter since it's about two weeks ago since I wrote one. I find it rather difficult to write as I can't find much to write about. I haven't been doing much lately besides working. Have been to town only a couple of times a month lately but with longer days and better weather intend to get in more often.

Lawrence



<i>From:</i> P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated Mar. 19, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked March 20, 1943</i>
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P.B.A.
March 19 - 43

Dear Folks,

I have a few minutes before closing so I think I'll use them to answer you last letter.

First of all you ask about the sweater and shirt I sent home. I think I told you that we had to get rid of everything that wasn't strictly G.I. (Govt. Issue). That is everything except handkerchiefs, socks, and underwear. You're right about my not wearing the sweater, the only way we were allowed to wear them was under our shirts. It

seemed like a very poor way to wear a sweater so I never used it. However I did wear the shirt a number of times and liked it very much. It doesn't quite match my trousers tho so I couldn't wear it without a coat.

You also ask where we left Ray Mutz's wife when we went to L.R. I thought I explained all that but I guess I didn't. Ray's wife came along. Lander's mother and two sisters came up from Texas for that week-end and we also had Lorraine Hermes (the steno from this office) so you see we formed quite a party. We had originally planned to go to Hot Springs on Sat. for the races but it was raining so hard we just stayed in L.R. The girls spent all day Sat. shopping while Ray, Lander, and I bummed around town by ourselves. In the night we went dancing on the roof of the Lafayette – that is all except Mrs. Lander and one sister who was only 14 years old. On Sunday Bean came up and joined the party and as he is very talkative added to the general entertainment. Frank's older sister is named Betty and is a freshman at the University of Texas. She's just 18 years old and is very attractive – but then who isn't at 18? Lorraine as I think I told you before is from New York. Her folks are living in Pine Bluff because her father is employed by the contractors who are building this arsenal. Mrs. Lander wrote Lorraine's mother explaining that she was going to chaperone the party so you see everything was very conventional and proper. Incidentally Lorraine was just 19 years old so you see it isn't only Bob Martin who is getting them young this year.

While in L.R. we stayed at the Albert Pike Hotel which I think is very much nicer than the Lafayette. Frank, Ray and I had one room and Mrs. Lander had reserved two other rooms for herself and the four girls. The rooms cost \$13.00 apiece for the two days so you can see she had quite a hotel bill. However she appeared to be able to afford it. We were really in very good company that week-end – Franklin P. Adams from the radio program "Information Please" was staying in the room next to Mrs. Lander's. He seemed to take all his meals in his room so we only got one little glimpse of him though.

Sunday afternoon while walking along Main St. in L.R. I ran into Ralph Jackson. He was on his way home (he's married and his wife lives in L.R.) He said that he thought he was going to be transferred soon. Branch Immaterial Training which they are now doing at Camp Robinson is to be transferred to Texas. I think the medical training that Orland Fonstad was in is also being moved to Texas. Camp Robinson will now be used to train combat troops only.

3/20/43

I didn't get this letter mailed yesterday as I had hoped so will add a little now.

I received Toots' letter written at work at noon today. Have you found out yet who it was that Julie met in Africa that worked with me?

By the way, where was Lawrence Tabbert sent after finishing O.C.S.?

I've tried to write a letter to Marlys three or four times but don't seem to know what to say. I'll try again over the week-end.

We've been getting a lot of rain lately but today is nice and clear. However the temp. dropped to around 35° this morn. And while it's about 50 now it still seems quite snappy. I hope it stays clear tomorrow; Bean and I are going to church and afterwards we'll meet Ray (he's catholic) and have dinner at the Pines together. The Pines is the leading hotel in town. This probably doesn't sound very exciting to you but it has really become the high point of the week for me – we almost never go to town anymore except on Sundays.

Well I've reached the end of the paper and just about the end of my thoughts so I guess I'll close.

Love
Mike



<i>From:</i> P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated Mar. 31, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked March 31, 1943</i>
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P.B.A.
Mar. 31 - 43

Dear Folks,

There's just a few minutes left before closing so I think I'll use them to write a short mid-weekly report. Monday I remembered it was Laurie's birthday so I wrote him a V-Mail letter, and today I wrote a birthday letter to El. I'm afraid both letters will be received a little late.

Well there isn't much doing down here. The weather has been very nice the last few days, in fact almost too warm. It looks a little like rain now though - hope not - we've had enough for a while it seems to me.

Well everybody down here is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Waac's and wondering if he will be replaced and sent out. I'm almost certain I'll be replaced but I don't know whether or not I'll be moved from this camp.

They published the furlough lists today and I find I'm due for another furlough about the first of June - if I stay here that long.

By the way are you having prints made of those pictures I sent? Bean will, I think, be leaving here within the next week or two and is very anxious to get the pictures before he goes.

That seems to sum it up for today.

Love
Mike



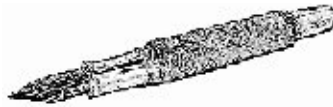
<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66th Bomb Sqdn., 44th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 3, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked April 14, 1943</i></p>
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England,
April 3, 1943

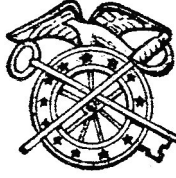
Dear Folks,

I thought I would try to write more often but it seems as if the time goes by so fast a couple of weeks are gone before you realize it. It is getting very nice around here again now with spring arriving. I sent home some money the other day so let me know when you get it. I was glad to hear that Lawrence T. was an officer now. Will write again soon.

Lawrence



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 6, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked April 7, 1943</i></p>
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QUARTERMASTER CORPS
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

April 6 - 43

Dear Folks,

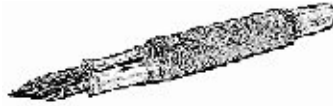
Just a few lines before quitting time. I received the box you sent today and everything was in good condition. I appreciate you sending the cookies but what with the rationing and all don't you think it would be better for you to keep such things for yourself? Speaking about rationing - we had so much meat at the commissary yesterday that they were afraid it would spoil before it could be sold so they have done away with rationing of meat for the rest of the week. They tell me that as soon as the word got around the poor butchers at the commissary were just about swamped.

The Waac's have certainly taken over the camp. They are so numerous at the Service Club and PX that there's hardly room for the soldiers.

I'm enclosing a money order for \$2.00 to cover the cost of the tablets - if it's more let me know.

It's just about quitting time now and as I don't seem to have anything to say I guess I'll just end now.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i> P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Chemical Warfare Service Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 11, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked April 12, 1943</i></p>
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THE SERVICE CLUB
CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

Sunday Nite

Dear Folks,

Just returned from the show and as I'm not very tired decided to write a few lines before hitting the hay. Bean left for O.C.S. yesterday afternoon and with him gone the camp seems quite dull. Tuesday Lander leaves on a ten day furlough so then it will be even worse. This afternoon Lander and I went into town and bought his ticket then we went to a movie after which we had supper in town and then we returned to camp to see another movie. Two movies in one day. I'm becoming quite a fan.

Yesterday PBA was presented with an Army Navy "E" award and we had seven visiting generals here. We had to wear our full uniforms all day and with the temperature up in the nineties it was almost unbearable. We were given the "E" award for having achieved such good production in such a short time. I was certainly surprised when we were given the award because I don't know of anyone down here who is breaking his neck working - at least none of the soldiers are.

I had a letter from Geo. Mahowald yesterday and he's still at Camp Hood, Texas. His company has been quarantined for measles the last three weeks and from his letter I judge he's getting pretty tired of it. He's still a

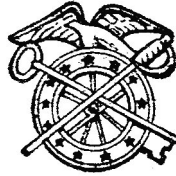
private but says that he has been trying to get into the Signal Corps O.C.S. He has a degree in electrical engineering and so I believe he might be successful. I also had a letter last week from Joe Truemper. He passed the first part of his aviation navigation training and is now studying gunnery. He seems to be very much interested in his work.

Well that seems to wind up the news for a little while again – Good Night!

Love
Mike



<i>From:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Letter Dated April 15, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked April 15, 1943</i>
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QUARTERMASTER CORPS
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

April 15 - 43

Dear Folks,

Well at last I've been made a corporal. They've brought three Waac's into the office and hired one civilian steno to do my work, and now that they've made these preparations to replace me they've given me a promotion. I don't know what all this extra help is going to do, half the time I couldn't find enough work to keep myself busy. There's so little work for the Waac's right now that they fall asleep at their desks from sheer boredom. Ray has been replaced by two Waac's and he said that they embarrassed him at the end of their first day there by asking him just exactly what his job was. He said, "I couldn't tell them that I'd been here for 6 months now and haven't yet been able to find that out myself." Ray leaves on his furlough next Monday night and his name is pretty well down the list so maybe I'll get a furlough along toward the end of May – if I remain in this camp.

By the way – I'd like to have some more prints of those pictures made. A number of the fellows here have been asking me for copies so I told them I'd have some more made. I'd like just those pictures on which we fellows are grouped alone – that is LaJerry, Mutz, Lander, Bean and myself. About three copies of each should be enough I think.

Toots – as long as you have some money left over maybe you can send me some more of those vitamin tablets. I received your letter yesterday and shall try to look up Orland J. the next time I'm in L.R.

Well I guess that just about winds up the news for today.

Love
Michael



<i>From:</i> Marion Knoll <i>Easter Greeting Card Dated April 17, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Pfc. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det., Pine Bluff Arsenal Pine Bluff, Ark. <i>Postmarked April 17, 1943</i>
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4 - 17 - 43

Dear Mike,

Hope this finds you well. George has left me now & I sent him your letter & your picture. Gee, it was a good one. We saw your Mom before he left. She looks fine. This is my hubby's address. Bye now & we'll all be happy when you boys come marching home.

Private G. Knoll
Liaison Pilot Det.
W.A.F. S. - 1055th
Waco, Texas

Sincerely,
Marion



<i>From:</i> Pvt. Geo. Knoll Liaison Pilot Det. W.A.F.S. Waco, Texas <i>Post Card Not Dated</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Pvt. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Pine Bluff Arsenal Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff, Arkansas <i>Postmarked April 17, 1943</i>
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4 - 17 - 43

Dear Mike,

Arrived at Waco Army Flying School the 9th. Weather here hot, and kinda like it but miss my wife after short married life. This set-up I'm in ain't what it's put up to. Must be at least 8 or 9 hundred other guys who thought of the same thing. Will send letter later on.

George K.



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Chemical Warfare Service Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 19, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked April 20, 1943</i></p>
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THE SERVICE CLUB
CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

April - 19 - 43

Dear Folks,

I've just been cleaning out some old letters and I decided I'd save one or two letter from each of the fellows I've met since coming into the army. These two that I'm enclosing I think I'll use as starters. Bean, of course, you know. Nick Palmisano was one of the boys who was stationed with me at Camp Robinson. His home is in New Orleans so he was quite fortunate to be sent to the Medical Det. at La Garde Hospital. In reading through some of the recent letters you have sent me I found some questions which I guess I have never answered. First of all Ev wants to know what the "R", the can, and the saw stand for on the handle of the spoon I sent her. They stand for Arkansas of course (or were you kidding?)

Then Ma wants to know if there is any fertilizer left to use around the apple tree. Well I'll tell you. I've been gone a year now and the year before that I was working at the Post Office so much I wasn't able to keep track of what was going on around the house. That makes it about three years since I've used the fertilizer but when I did use it last it was under the work bench in the garage. If it's still there it's probably not much good.

The Waac's are now in the office learning my job, the official date for them to take over is April 27. I still don't know what I'll be doing after I've been replaced - probably be transferred to the M.P.'s or some other lousy job.

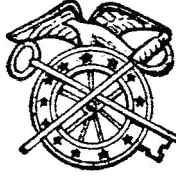
Ray left on his furlough tonight. He will be gone 10 days and when he comes back I suppose there won't be any job for him either. He's hoping he'll be sent to school - in Texas I think. He took an exam for it and passed but hasn't heard any more from it.

Lorraine has been transferred from out office to another department so it looks like the old order is definitely breaking up.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 21, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked April 21, 1943</i></p>
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QUARTERMASTER CORPS
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

April 21, 43

Dear Folks,

Just a short note before quitting time. I received your letter written Monday and am sorry to hear that the unsettled spring weather has got you all down. Perhaps you ought to come down to this nice warm climate for a little while. However, everybody down here in camp seems to have a cold of some kind so perhaps it isn't just in the cold North that colds occur. I felt a head cold coming on yesterday so I went to bed right after "chow" (5:30) and this morning it was pretty well gone – maybe there's more to this rest cure business than we think.

The soldiers here at the arsenal have started a victory garden. We are each supposed to put in 2 extra hours a week working on it. Today a bunch of the boys went out and planted 3 acres of tomatoes. I understand the garden will be about 10 acres when it's finished. Some of the fellows who are from farms really seem to enjoy working their two extra hours. Not everybody – however.

Well it's quarter to five and so I'd better close. We're taking an inventory of one of the cafeterias tonight after supper so I'll be working overtime – we've really been quite busy this week.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66th Bomb Sqdn., 44th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 22, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked May 8, 1943</i></p>
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England,
April 22, 1943

Dear Folks,

I am finally getting around to writing again, although the time seems to go so fast I don't realize how much time has elapsed until I get your letters saying how long it has been since you last received a letter from me.

I spent three days in London last week. I sure enjoyed it there and saw everything that was of interest to see.

We have daylight here until ten o'clock at night as they have double daylight saving time.

Lawrence



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66th Bomb Sqdn., 44th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 22, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>PFC. Myron Ellingsen Quartermaster Detach. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas, U.S.A.</p> <p><i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked May 11, 1943</i></p>
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England,
April 22, 1943

Dear Mike,

I received your letter last week and decided I had better get busy and answer it as I don't believe I answered your last one.

I misplaced Bug's address but found it now so think I well drop him a line one of these days.

I was in London for three days last week and saw everything that was of interest there. That was the second dime I have been there.

Lawrence



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 26, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked April 26, 1943</i></p>
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P.B.A.
April 26 - 43.

Dear Folks,

I received your cards and box of candy and appreciate them both very much. Also received a box of candy from Maya so am quite well supplied for the time. However I've run out of calcium tablets and would like you to send me another box if possible.

Spent a rather quiet week-end doing practically nothing except lying around sleeping. Went to the show here on the post last night and saw "Hello, Frisco, Hello". It was a good picture and had very, very wonderful coloring.

Summer has returned here now and today our woolen uniforms are much too warm. We change into suntans (summer uniform) May 1st and that day can't come too soon for me. Yesterday I was out playing ball for about an hour and today my nose and forehead are all sunburned. I guess if I stay here I'll have a repetition of last summer - burn and peel until I hardly have a nose left.

Lander returned from his furlough at 4 A.M. this morning. He says that he enjoyed this furlough much more than he did his first one.

I'm still working at my job despite the fact that they added four Waacs to our office. The Major put in a request that Ray and I be kept in the office indefinitely. Don't know whether the request was granted but as yet we haven't been replaced.

Guess I'd better close this now so I can get it in tonight's mail.

Love
Mike

<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated April 28, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked April 28, 1943</i></p>
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P.B.A.
April 28 - 43.

Dear Folks,

I received your letter at noon today and am very sorry to hear that Ma is not feeling well. I hope by the time this letter reaches you she will be much better. Perhaps some of this warm weather we're having down here will reach you soon and you'll all perk up a bit.

The Waacs have become pretty well established in their jobs now and as a result it seems like about one half of the fellows here are doing nothing. They have a detail of about 30 men working in out Victory Garden which in my opinion is just a waste of time, because of the way they fool around instead of actually trying to do some useful work. However, nobody seems to care whether any work is done or not so perhaps it doesn't matter.

As for myself I'm still holding my job but as there are four Waacs in the office to help there's hardly any job left for me to do. I really don't know how much longer they can keep me here but the Major seems to think he wants me to stay indefinitely. I know that as things now stand they will soon have to ship about 100 men out of this camp and I only hope I'll be here long enough to get my furlough which I said is due about the 1st of June or the last of May.

Think I'd better close now so I can get this in the mail. Here's hoping again that this letter will find you entirely recovered or at least feeling much better.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>E. Hansen 430 5th St. S.W. Rochester, Minn.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated May. 1, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Postmarked May. 2, 1943</i></p>
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Saturday eve

Dear Mike,

Saturday night and Ma and I are beering it! We have now had two bottles in about 3 hours.

Thanks, kid, for the birthday letter. I appreciated your thinking of it and would have written sooner, but the army sent me company for Easter vacation. Wasn't that swell? So I was kinda busy for awhile. Well, now that that excitement is over there's nothin' to look forward to for a long, long time I suppose.

Toots writes that you have been replaced by Waacs and may move. Where? And when? Also think that Norm may be taken off the trains. What goes on here, anyway? Are we having a war, or something?

Had a very pleasant birthday. We had this class that night – Univ. Ex. And afterward four gals came over and surprised me. Had a bunch of goofy presents - wish you could have seen them – and ice cream and a great big birthday cake with candles.

Right now I am cooking a chicken. Wish I could send you a piece. One of the girls who lives on a farm brought it back and I would really believe it is a young turkey – hope it isn't tough!

The beer got the best of Ma and she has now departed for the bed, so the chicken and I are left to carry on alone.

Ma has had all her teeth pulled now and looks like Toothless Annie for sure, but time and the dentist will take care of that, I guess, and then won't she be purty.

Just five more weeks and school will be out! I can't believe it, and sure would like to know what I am going to do this summer. Maybe you can find me a job in a camp. Now I think that would really be something.

Well, honey chile, guess I better go turn the bird. And write soon to your tante ag Kusine.

Love and kisses
from
me-

Don't you love this peek-a-boo stationery? I'm trying to write light-



<i>From:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army <i>Letter Dated May 5, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked May 5, 1943</i>
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P.B.A.
May 5 – 43.

Dear Folks,

Received your letter today and so shall try to answer if immediately.

First of all the book "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" is my own. As far as I know I have no books belonging to anyone but myself.

Also received the calcium tablets you sent. It did seem that the last box went kind of fast but I'm only taking three a day which is the same number I always took. I don't believe that's too many. I don't know who that boy is that Warren sees in Texas. Mert Williams moved away some years ago but he went to Chicago.

Our weather here has been so dry and hot the last few weeks that it's rather hard for me to realize that your weather is rainy and cold. I'd certainly be glad to give you some of this heat. They tell me that it gets much warmer here at Pine Bluff than it does at Little Rock because Pine Bluff is about 300 feet lower. However, the nights here have been quite cool so it's nice sleeping anyway.

Last night Ray Mutz and I went to town and it seems that all the flowers must be in bloom here already. It was a very still night and the air seemed just heavy with the scent of so many flowers. It was nothing like Spring at home. We saw many rose bushes in full bloom.

I think you'll have to regard this letter as a Mother's Day greeting as it seems impossible to get cards in town. The places that do have them are all closed before we can get into town.

Love
Mike

<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Pvt. E. D. Oberg – 37277454 Hdq. & Hdq. Sqd. 16th Ser. Gp. A.P.O. 839 c/o P.M. New Orleans, La.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated May 5, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen Chemical Warfare Service Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas</p> <p><i>Postmarked May 7, 1943</i></p>
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May 5, 1943
Hdq. & Hdq. Sqd.

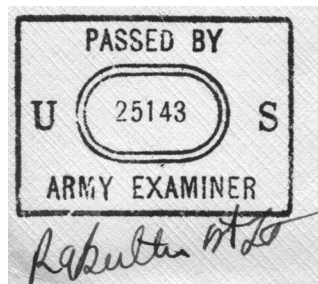
Dear Mike,

Your mail is coming through ok. The thing is that I got your letter with the picture alright but it was a little late. I meant to write but the bug got me again and I went to the hospital. I was there when I received you last letter. I am feeling fine again, so now I will try and get caught up on this end. I don't know how in the hell you fellows in the States get those furloughs. Down here you don't get one til you have eighteen months in the service so I won't be able to get home till sometime in Jan. of 44 and that is a hell of a long ways off. Today I got a letter from my sister telling that Dick Marvin had died. It seems that he had passed his physical OK and as he was walking out the door he dropped dead, but the thing that is not clear to me is that she says that he would be thirty eight years old this month. I was wondering if she didn't mean John Marvin. Have you heard anything about this? You know Mrs. Solee, well she was over to the house and said that he had some teeth pulled the day before, which helped cause the shock that did the dirty work so the doctor said.

The fellows sure are getting around, aren't they? All but you. If you happen to lose your job to the Waac's maybe they will let you see some of the country. When you do get back home, play a game of golf for me. I have had a lot of chances to play down here but have never gotten around to it. Sunday was my day off so I took a trip up in the mountains to a lake where they were having a fiesta. The Indians from the hills come in to sell different things that they make. It is quite a sight to see the different tribes with their particular clothing which seems to be the only way that they can be told apart. Otherwise they all look alike. It was my day for drinking and I really put away the beer that is if you can call it beer. Oh, for a glass of Hamm's. Well after spending the day at the lake I got back to the tent about 12:30. I really had a good time, but the next day was a tough day to put in no matter how well you can take it. The next day is when it really hurts, just like back home after a Sat. night out at Leo's. I didn't feel like doing anything and in fact I did just about that much. Well Mike, this is about all that I have for you now. The only thing is that I can't wait till I get back home and stay there. Did you know Willard Hatfield (played football for Harding with my brother-in-law Brown, and Taylor who lived across from your home)? Well he was a Lt. in the Marines and was reported missing in action by the war dept. There are no Waac's here to distract one so I will turn on the radio and see if I can get some news from across the pond. We can get Berlin quite easily down here and it is fun to hear what they have to say about the war. So once again this will be all for the time being.

Ed.

[The envelope that this letter was mailed in had been stamped by a military censor, which looked similar to the following image]



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated May 8, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked May 10, 1943</i></p>
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P.B.A.
May 8 – 43.

Dear Folks,

We're having our first rain in about a month today. It began raining about 15 minutes ago and is coming down quite hard now. I suppose now that it's started it will rain for a month, that's the way it seems to do down here.

Everybody here is all excited about the news from Africa. They think they can see the war ending this year. Personally I think we've got a long way to go yet.

I "blew" myself to a new summer uniform yesterday and as a result am going to be a little short of cash if my furlough comes up before the 1st of June (pay day). I'll let you know if I need any money to come home on.

We moved our office to a new building Thursday. We are now located about a mile from our barracks where as before we only had about 3 blocks to walk to get to the office. Also our new office is not nearly as nice as the old. However, the Major wanted us to move so that was that.

They haven't yet transferred anyone out of this camp since the Waac's came, but there are so many fellows laying around hardly doing any work at all that they'll have to do something with them pretty soon. There have been a lot of rumors of transfers but none of them ever come off. Right now they are saying that all but 20% of the 1-A men will be shipped out of here within the next 2 weeks. That is, all the 1-B men will remain here and 20% of the 1-A. That sounds quite reasonable to me.

I've been getting a big kick out of Lander the last few days. In 1939 he bought 600 shares of City Service stock at about \$6.00 a share. It immediately dropped down to about \$2.00 or \$3.00 a share and he's been hanging on ever since hoping for a rise so he could get his money back. In March the stock started to rise and he notified his broker to sell when it reached \$7.50 a share. It did this about 6 weeks ago and he sold making about \$700 or \$800 dollars. Ever since the stock has been rising and yesterday it closed at almost \$16.00. Now he's kicking himself because he would have made about \$5000.00 more. He says it's almost more than he can stand. Well I guess that's life for you – some days a guy just can't make a dime.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Ernie Holmes 475 Museum Drive Los Angeles, California</p> <p><i>Letter Dated May 9, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen 37277454 Quartermaster Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Postmarked May 11, 1943</i></p>
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465 Museum Dr.
Los Angeles, Calif.
May 9, 1943

Dear Myron,

I have your letter before me and observing the date on it I conclude I should be ashamed of myself for not answering sooner. Thank you for remembering my birthday. I fail to recall yours.

Well, sir, you could have knocked me over with a wadayakallit when you informed me of Bob's entering the field of matrimony. Hope he doesn't stay over there when this mess is over.

That was one for the books when Bob and Geo. met over there. Boy, I'll bet they were thrilled. That would be something if your brother could get together with them also. Perhaps eventually enough of the boys could get together and have a game of poker. I certainly miss those good ol' poker get-togethers, don't you? Those are very endearing memories to me. I was hoping to see you again before I came out here but I had to leave before gas rationing.

Where is you other brother now?

Received a letter from Geo. K. recently. He surely is lucky to be in that dept. of the army. I would have liked to get in there too but when the ordinary army doesn't want me I certainly couldn't get into flying. If it wasn't for my physical cond. I would have been a veteran flyer by now. Remember my Kelly Field ambitions?

As for my trip out here, it was quite uneventful. I took a merchant marine man out with me but I did practically all the driving. Only stopped one night for 8 hours sleep at a hotel. That was the only shut-eye I got the entire trip. The other fellow slept half of the time while I drove. The Plymouth gave a good performance. It is even better now as last Sun. I had the head off and put in a new gasket and cleaned out about a bushel of carbon. I am well satisfied with the results. I manage O.K. on 4 gals. a week but certainly could use more, at least twice that amount. So I'm riding trams and busses again. It means a lot to be able to drive to work.

I am working in a machine shop at war production of course, operating drill presses mostly for 60 hours a week. We work on aircraft parts. Sh-h-h.

I experienced my first blackout here on Easter night. I was waiting for a bus and so had to stand alone in the dark for an hour and there wasn't any moon so it was really black. Planes went out and searchlights went on and I had me a nice shelter picked out just in case.

We have a "dim-out" here at all times when it's dark. You can't see much but it isn't bad. Auto lights aren't restricted so that isn't bad either.

Well as usual I've gained my usual weight of 25 pounds, much needed and I feel much better than in Minn. I intend to remain here permanently.

Are you still doing the same thing there? You didn't say just what you did there.

Well, don't wait as long as I did to write. How the letters stack up on me.

Wishing you the very best of luck, Mike.

Your ol' Pal
Ernie
Alias – Holmes, Holmsey
Molmsey, Kingfish,
Cal, and others



<i>From:</i> Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66 th Bomb Sqdn., 44 th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y. <i>Letter Dated May 10, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked May 17, 1943</i>
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England,
May 10, 1943

Dear Folks,

Received two letters from Lorraine in the last coupler of days and was very sorry to hear that Mother is ill. I hope by now she is all right. Was glad to hear that you liked the flowers. I was wondering what they would look like. I presume by now the weather is such that you can get outside and work on the garden.

Lawrence



<i>From:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army <i>Letter Dated May 12, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked May 12, 1943</i>
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P.B.A.
May 12 - 43

Dear Folks,

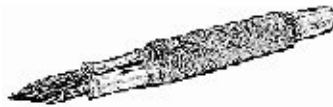
Received your letter today, the one with the picture pasted to it. I presume you've pasted the picture on because it is a likeness of Norm. I might have been fooled into believing it was Norm if it wasn't for the fact that this person has on working clothes. Seeing those I knew immediately it couldn't be Norm.

Spent a rather nice evening in Little Rock last night. Mr. Trickett, our civilian chief clerk, was making a trip to Dallas so Ray and I drove him to L.R. after work. He took us to dinner at "Frank's" where we had a mighty fine meal. Afterward we bummed around town and didn't return to the Arsenal until 12:30 A.M.

Those floods which you had up North are getting down here now. The trains from St. Louis to L.R. all are being re-routed and as a result are running quite late. At Fort Smith, Ark. the river rose 25 ft. in 24 hours. This morning the District Engineers Office called us and said that by Friday the highway between Pine Bluff and L.R. will be impassible. They expect a rise of 31 ft. here at P.B.A.

I'm enclosing a letter I received yesterday from Laurie. He certainly doesn't cause the censor any trouble.

Love
Mike



<i>From:</i> Irene 955 Wakefield Ave. St. Paul, Minn. <i>Letter Dated May 15, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army <i>Postmarked May 16, 1943</i>
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Saturday May 15
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mike,

Surprise, just one month since I received your letter and I'm answering it already. You added a wee bit of sarcasm in that letter which is the reason for my being more prompt.

Yes, good old Geo. Knoll is finally in it. He is at Waco, Texas. Marion said he didn't like it at all at first. I guess they didn't have anything ready for them when they arrived. They didn't have uniforms so had to march in their civilian clothes and then too it's awfully hot down there which didn't help matters any, but now everything is under control and George is happy and so is Marion I guess. I know I shouldn't say this, but honestly the way she talks you would think George was the only one who had to go in the Army. She makes me so provoked sometimes when she starts raving about the Army and George that I have all I can do to hold my tongue.

It's just pouring rain outside right now – in fact it has been raining all day. Just because I have every week-end off now it has to rain. Did I tell you that I have a new job – still with the Telephone Company, but in the Traffic Superintendent's Office. I like it so well – the time just seems to fly by.

I suppose you have heard by this time about Johnny Marvin dropping dead out at Fort Snelling the day he was inducted in the Army. His Army life came to an end mighty fast and they say he just hated the idea of being drafted and he would have been thirty-eight in October.

Do you ever hear from the Martin Boys? I just heard the other day that George is over-seas. Has he been gone long?

It's midnight now and I can't think of anything more to write about so think I'll roll in. You know I'm not accustomed to being up at this late hour – I'll probably feel like a dish-rag tomorrow (laugh) – wish I would feel that way after having had a good time the nite before dancing and cutting up, but nothing like that happens anymore. Oh well, the war can't last forever. Good night Mike.

Truly,
- Irene -



<i>From:</i> Kaye 1330 Edgumbe Rd. St. Paul, Minn. <i>Letter Dated May 15, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen Pine Bluff Arsenal Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff, Arkansas <i>Postmarked May 17, 1943</i>
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May 15, 1943

Dear Mike,

Well I see congratulations are in form. I see you are now wearing an extra stripe – or is it two - on your arm. How come you didn't say anything about it?

Quit your bragging about the warm weather and the suntan. You'll be sorry when you come home that you haven't your winter uniform. We don't know what it means to have anything like what you're enjoying.

What position are you reducing your waste line in baseball? How many games has your team won?

Our victory garden is not getting along with the vegetables but it sure can grow weeds. So I can see some excuse for me this summer.

I see by the picture in the paper that WAAC's are taking some positions at your camp. Fort Snelling is getting quite a unit in now. What will that do to your job?

Well, it sure is good that you are having a furlough. I imagine that's something Uncle Sam doesn't have turned down very often. Just think, two weeks with pay.

Mike, maybe when you are home I could practice my ping-pong on you if you have any time.

There was a black-out the other night, and I couldn't help thinking of Harvey putting on his tin hat and his arm band. Walking up and down. I can just hear Myrtle teasing him.

Well, guess the news just ain't and I imagine the next time you will be home.

As Ever
Kaye



<i>From:</i> Henry R Potthoff 933 Mound Street. St. Paul Minn.	<i>Addressed to:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen (37277454) Chemical Warfare Service Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas
<i>Letter Dated May 17, 1943</i>	<i>Postmarked May 18, 1943</i>

933 Mound St.
St. Paul, Minn.
May 17, 1943

Dear Cpl. Mike,

I am just a little afraid of answering you last letter to me. It is just one month ago since I received it. You know it is spring time here to and even though the weather is like winter I still have my work to do. Taking off storm-windows, putting on screens and trying to get my lawn in shape for the one month of summer we have. I am now trying to shake off a head-cold which I think I am not doing right. Just trying to shake it off without a drink just doesn't seem to work.

Well Mike, as far as excitement goes around here it is pretty far between parties. With Harv and Ray working day and night it leaves me to tittle my thumbs at home. The last time I was out to Gord's with Harv, Harv just jumped out of the car on Earl and Hastings when I made the stop and picked up a coaster- wagon that was laying in the middle of the car-tracks. Lucky there are no houses laying around. I would have to haul them home, too. It just seems as though Harv would enjoy taking candy from a baby, the big brute. What a glass of beer won't do to some people.

If it hadn't been for Kay Altman and Mercedes I wouldn't have known that I had a birthday outside of my folks.

Say Mike, your Rosemary is pretty nice stuff. Keep your eyes to the front. What women won't do for the army. No wonder I can't get anyplace with all the women in the army, what the hell is left for me? You guys not only get the glory but the women, too.

Gord and Mary say they received your letter and the picture for Sandy.

I hear Tim is a sarg now. He really likes the camp he is in now. He is coming home on furlough in June.

I can't think of Johnnie Marvin without wondering what a shock it must have been to his mother. We went down to see him and his mother said she couldn't just realize that he had passed away. She said that she was still in a trance.

As I know of no other news I will have to come to a close for this time. Hoping this letter finds you well.

I am sincerely yours,
Hank.

P.S. Flash! I just heard Swede's home-port is now in North Africa. He calls it Rondo St.



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated May 18, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked May 18, 1943</i></p>
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P.B.A.
May 18 - 43

Dear Folks,

I'm a little behind in my writing this week but we've been quite busy here and I just haven't found time. For the last week now we've had 1200 troops of Army Engineers from La. up here fighting the flood. Keeping them in supplies has kept us all pretty much on the jump. However, I guess the river is supposed to reach its crest today so perhaps it won't last much longer.

On June 1st we're going to set up a new bookkeeping system here and that together with all the other business we've had lately has caused my furlough to be postponed. The Major says we can go as soon as the new system is set up and as things now look that should be no later than June 10th or thereabouts. I guess that won't be so bad – perhaps it will be a little warmer up there by then. I've become quite used to the warm weather now because it's been so very warm down here the last week. I can't understand where all your cold weather is coming from - certainly not from this direction.

Must close now in order to get this into the mail.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated May 19, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked May 19, 1943</i></p>
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P.B.A.
May 19 - 43

Dear Folks,

Although I haven't anything to say I decided to try to dash off a short note during lunch hour.

Since this is the lunch hour perhaps I could tell you what we just had for dinner – it was rather good. We had a Swiss steak, french fried potatoes, string beans, lettuce & tomato salad, bread, butter, lemon-ade, and for dessert pumpkin pie. Almost all our meals are as good and consequently you hardly ever hear anyone complain about the food. In fact everyone says that the food here is better than any other Army camp they've ever been in- even the Waac's think so. The Waac's have the same cooks they had in Des Moines and yet they say their meals are 100% better since coming here. It must be that the cooks get better food to work with here – tho I don't know why.

Our flood has been standing still, neither rising nor falling, for the last 48 hours, but they had 6 inches of rain up in the northern part of the state last night and so they expect things to become worse before they become better.

It's very hot and sultry again today.

Love
Mike



<i>From:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army <i>Letter Dated May 24, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked May 25, 1943</i>
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P.B.A.
May 24 - 43

Dear Folks,

Well another week-end has gone by during which it rained much of the time, and in fact it's raining even now. If it doesn't quit pretty soon our flood never will go down. They expect the river (which had dropped a couple of feet toward the end of last week) to start rising again, due to the large amount of rain which has fallen in the northern part of the state. We will have the engineers here but I don't know what they are doing since most of the levees around here have already broken anyway.

Our new bookkeeping system is coming along quite well and I think we should have the whole thing settled by the 5th of June. The Major has promised me that I could leave any time after the system is completed so I think I shall ask to go about June 9th. That is how things look now, at any rate.

I received a nice long letter (5 typewritten pages) from Mrs. Martin last Thursday in which she gives me all the news concerning Bob & Bug and also the folks at home. She really writes quite a good letter – at least I find them very interesting. It's the second one she's written me since I returned from my last furlough.

I also received your package today, however, it arrived just as I was returning to work so I never had a chance to open it. Judging from the outside condition I'd say everything inside would be alright (it looked like cookies to me). Will write you more about it later.

Tuesday May 25 – 43

Didn't finish this letter last night as I'd hoped.

Looked into your package and find the cookies to be in good condition. We thank you!

The sun is shining this morning making this a fine bright day – not too warm. Hope we've seen the last of our rain for a while.

Must close now so I can get this in the first morning mail.

Love
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66th Bomb Sqdn., 44th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated May 29, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked June 11, 1943</i></p>
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England,
29 May 1943

Dear Folks,

I was glad to hear that everyone is all right again and that you were pleased with the flowers.
I don't remember much about the spare tire that was on the car but believe it was quite old and not so extra good. It seems to me the car must be getting pretty old now and none too good, too.
I suppose by now you are spending a lot of time in the garden.

Lawrence



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 2, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked June 2, 1943</i></p>
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P.B.A.
June 2 - 43

Dear Folks,

Just a few short lines today before closing. We've been plenty busy the last few days – worked until 11:00 o'clock last Saturday and until 10:00 o'clock Monday. Knocked off last night long enough to go into town and see "Hello Frisco Hello." I'd seen it before out here at the Arsenal Theater but it was the only good show in town.

I'm going in town tonight to pick up some dry cleaning and think I shall leave early enough to have supper. One of the fellows in the Q.M.'s is being married tonight and then entire Detachment is invited so maybe I'll go. He's not marrying a local girl but a girl from his home in Iowa.

How's the weather at home now – it's very hot and sticky down here today and in fact has been for the last two or three days. I'm beginning to feel as tho I could stand a little of your cool weather.

The flood is going down now – has dropped about 3 or 4 feet in the last two days. A captain of the Engineers was just in here and he said he thought they would be leaving about the end of the week. They (the Engineers) came here a couple of weeks ago from La. to fight the flood.

This is my last sheet of paper and also the end of the news so will close.

Love
Mike

<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>L. Ellingsen 11034 McLean Ave. – Zone 6 St. Paul, Minn.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 2, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen Q.M. Det.-Pine Bluff Arsenal Pine Bluff, Arkansas</p> <p><i>Postmarked June 3, 1943</i></p>
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1034 McLean Ave – Zone 6
St. Paul, Minn.
June 2, 1943

Dear Laurie and Mike,

I see that you worked over the weekend Mike. Well, we didn't have such an extra special vacation ourselves. It was almost a repetition of last year's rain – only this time it showered and stopped and then the sun would come out for a couple minutes and then some more showers, so we didn't get much done in the way of gardening.

Maya and Eleanor came up Friday night. Saturday they went Shopping and I was sick in bed with goodness only knows what – guess it must have been a kind of flu – in the evening Ev and Eleanor went over to Edna's and they got Norm's wedding present from them – a white vase. Sunday Maya and Eleanor went out to George's for dinner while we went down to the kids. Norm took us for a little ride to Newport and back – in the evening we just sat around. Monday Pa tried to work in the garden between showers and Ev and Eleanor tried to cut the grass but the lawn mower is on the blink or something because it almost takes two to push it – well they finally got the front cut and then Eleanor came around to the side and pushed the mower through the basement window (by the coal chute) – so that wasn't so much help. Then they went over to Constance's for dinner and then home. In the evening Mom, Ev, and I went down to the Mounds and saw "Forest Ranger" – not much of a show but it was in Technicolor and had a couple very amusing shots. Well, I said we should walk around Cypress way for a change and Mom couldn't see why, but finally we went that way and when we got in front of Brozek's Mom found a dollar bill on the sidewalk. So we had a profitable walk. I almost stepped on it and Ev said she never would have seen it either. So that was the way we spent our weekend.

Last night when I went out to see my pea crop the old rabbit had eaten most of them up so today I got a can of Lime and put around the bed to see if that will keep them away. This is the pestiest year you ever saw for rabbits. Everyone imaginable is having a garden and then the rabbits feast first – we can come after I suppose. I just got through planting some navy beans for winter. Pa is going to plant some flowers. Mom is sitting on the front porch talking to Mrs. Johnson. Mr. is going to get an ear phone which costs \$180.00. Ev went out to dinner at the Automobile Club in Mpls with some salesman who calls on her. Mom told her maybe she could find a new boy friend and she said, "Oh, he is all right but he has one of those chins that come like this." She explained it with her hands – receding chin. If she is going to look until she finds a perfect looking man I think she will have a long wait.

Larry called Clara the other night and told her he couldn't imagine why Ev never wrote him anymore. She was kind of mad because he never wrote to her, but I guess he is excused. Clara complained to Milton about it too and one Sunday Milton and Larry got together and he wrote home that Larry is so busy he can't understand why he can't write and one day they can find out – so I guess his lack of writing will have to be overlooked. Milton said he had gotten so thin it was just terrible – and when he was here he was fatter than he ever was – so he must be working.

Norm is going to start working in the depot this week and will have that job for about a month I guess. He works three shifts – two days at each.

I don't think that Art is using such good judgment in naming his baby Michael. Michael Martin doesn't sound very good. If they want an Irish name they should have called it Timothy or something that blends better.

According to the evening papers they are going to start hiring women street car conductors and inspectors here in town.

Beisang's area going to have their little boy operated on tomorrow for his cleft mouth. You can't tell it on his speech because he talks just like any other youngster, but it is hard for him to eat.

There are hardly any kids playing out in the street any more. Guess they have all grown up – strange as it seems. Beisang's youngsters are so grown up this year – their oldest girl is almost as tall as I am. The only little ones around now are Marvin's and they don't come down this way. Even Skippy Paddock is about as tall as his father.

It's too bad Eddie has malaria again. Ev said they had some excitement at the store in the jewelry dept yesterday as long as it lasted. Clarence never came to work in the morning so Emil didn't think much about it and later on Clarence's sister called and wanted to know if he was there because he hadn't come home Sunday night. She said he had gone over to some friends and was going for a ride someplace with them, but she didn't know where they lived so she couldn't get in touch with them. So Emil got excited and thought something terrible must have happened to him so he called the police dept to see if they had any one in jail. They didn't have Clarence so then he called all the hospitals and he wasn't there so finally he went and asked Agnes if she knew the name of these people and she did so she called there, but she couldn't get any answer. So then Emil called the Bureau of Missing People and told them about him and then he called some Federal office and gave them a description of him, then he got the number of his auto license from the Capitol so they could put out a broadcast for him – and then about noon Clarence comes in (after he had been home and found out from his sister what Emil was doing for him) and told him he better call off the search – so then Emil had to call back all these places and tell them they had located him. Clarence had been with these people but the car broke down so he stayed with them for the night and in the morning he had his car fixed first. Was Emil mad – he said that is the last time he is going to do anything for anybody. Ev said it sure was a lot of excitement while it lasted.

About Bean – maybe he will flunk out because Norm says it is just terrible the way they give those guys demerits now that they are discontinuing officers' schools. Norm was talking to someone who just got through and he said one of the boys had only one day to go before finishing and they kicked him out because his belt buckle was off to one side. He said they are so fussy they give you demerits for every little thing. Tommy Keane wrote home that he is sorry he took the training because he works so hard he would much rather be a private for the rest of the war – so maybe the regular boys are not so bad off after all. About that fellow in the picture whom you said could live at home – well Norm does that, too, but I wouldn't exactly call it a break because he always has to be on the alert in case they call him – and sometimes he goes all the way out there for only a few minutes. The other day he had just gone to get a tire up at Martin Joyce's when they called and wanted him out at the Fort right away – so Marg had to run over to the station and tell him. When he got there all they wanted was for him to attend a movie. Now that he works in the depot he will only be given 50¢ a day spending money – so I suppose he will have to drive all the way out there to get that. He doesn't mind it thou – he's happy. You know those kids have put \$78.00 a month in the bank ever since he got into the army. Not bad, huh?

Toots

Mike, Maya would like us to drive down on a Sun. when you come home.



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>L. Ellingsen 11034 McLean Ave. – Zone 6 St. Paul, Minn.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 6, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen Q.M. Det.-Pine Bluff Arsenal Pine Bluff, Arkansas</p> <p><i>Postmarked June 7, 1943</i></p>
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Sunday

Dear Mike,

Guess while I am waiting for something to do will write you a letter. We were going for a ride (Pa and me) but Mom wanted to know if I was crazy. Ev is painting the woodwork in Mom's room and Mom is taking her usual P.M. nap so that is that. Well, I can tell you about the weather again. Suppose you will think I am a little off always talking about it, but it is the most interesting subject we have outside of the war and lately it even surpasses that.

Wednesday and Thursday it was so hot we almost passed out. In fact we didn't have our summer wash dresses out and the spring ones were just unbearable – then Thursday night we awoke in the middle of the night just

about frozen and couldn't imagine what was the matter now. Friday we were all back to our earliest spring clothes – it had gone down to 40 and it's been that way since only it's a little warmer now – about 48. Ever since Friday morning we had the good old furnace going full force – so I don't know what you better do when you come home – perhaps take along your sun suit for one day and your heavy winter overcoat for the next.

Last year at this time the peonies were almost all over with – now they are just beginning to bud – so you can see what it is like. The bridal wreath bushes only commenced to bloom Thursday. Don't know what will become of the victory gardens – guess they will all rot before warm weather really comes our way. We have had radishes in for about 7 weeks now, but they are so bitter from staying in the ground so long, we have just been able to start picking them.

I am going town to the kids' in a little while with a rhubarb pie. Should I bring you one, too? Norm started working at the depot at 7:30 this morning and Margaret went on general at Midway a 7 – so they won't get home until late – so Mom told Norm yesterday that she would bake the a rhubarb pie for their dinner tonight. Norm came up yesterday – “heh, where is our rhubarb?” So Mom went out and picked them some. Every time they come up they want rhubarb because they like the sauce so well – so we supply the rhubarb and part of the time the sugar, too. Nobody can say Mom isn't a good mother-in-law. In fact I guess Norm embarrasses Margaret sometimes by asking for things when she thinks he shouldn't. Lately we have been looking high and low for a can of oil. They all insist it disappeared one day when I was oiling the machine and think I hid it somewhere. Yesterday our electric clock went on the blink so when Norm came up he looked at it and decided it needed oil so Mom told him our oil can disappeared and I was the one who did it – so the Norm said he had taken that particular oil can down to his place for his revolver. He came up here one day and saw it and thought it would be just the thing for his gun so he took it. Maybe you can see Norm rigged out when you come home. There is a nice piece in the paper today about P.M.'s – they have to have a nice personality and have an I.Q. of over 110.

The last flower on the plant you sent home for Easter started to bloom. After that we are going to put it in the garden, but now it is on the front porch. It has bloomed ever since – pretty good.

Little Ray had his first hair cut the other day. Hank stopped off from work and took him to Price's. When Ray came home he stopped by to see. Then Pearl got off the car at Hastings and Earl and decided she would walk by to see what was happening and there he was sitting waiting for his turn. So she went up to Bessie's while Ray stayed with Hank. Then Uncle Hank had to put him in the chair because he didn't want his daddy to do it. After that Uncle Hank gave him 50¢ (a gip I think) to hand to the barber and he did that so cute – then they all went home – the first hair cut. My goodness to hear Pearl tell about it you would think it was the first person who ever had their hair cut. I think that will be a spoiled kid – you never hear her talk of Harry's or Wally's like that.

Kenny Miller's son (From Suburban Ave.) was out playing in the street with the kids the other day and they had some little toy airplanes that they were shooting around in the air – and one of them hit him in the eye and cut the eye ball in two – now he is in Miller Hospital minus one eye.

I wonder what kind of day Bob had for his wedding. It rained here all day.

Well, it is 3 o'clock now and Mom said we would eat our pie then because we were all too full after we got thorough with dinner – so I guess I will quit. Pa wants to know when we are going to start.

Toots

Wonder how the sponsors of Harriet Island like this weather. They started an amusement park like Wildwood use to be over there, but it has rained ever since they opened so they can't be making much money.



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 7, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked June 7, 1943</i></p>
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UNITED STATES ARMY

June 7 - 43

Dear Folks,

Well we've just about completed all the work on our new stock control system and as a result I think I shall ask that my furlough begin on June 16. I'm rather anxious to get started on this furlough because they have started shipping some of the men out of here and I don't want to get shipped before I get a furlough. This morning 30 fellows were transferred to Camp Wolters, Texas and Lander says that there is another shipment of 60 to follow soon. I don't think I'm one of those scheduled to be transferred but of course we can't be sure.

In your letter you talk about driving down to Rochester some Sunday When I'm home. Where are you going to get the gas for such a trip? I thought all pleasure driving was out. I've been sounding out the Motor Transportation to see if he wouldn't give me a couple of gas ration stamps but so far I've had very little success.

I've been writing this letter a sentence or two at a time – between interruptions. I think now perhaps I'd better close and get back to work.

Will write you the end of this week and tell you definitely whether or not I'll be able to get away on the 16th.

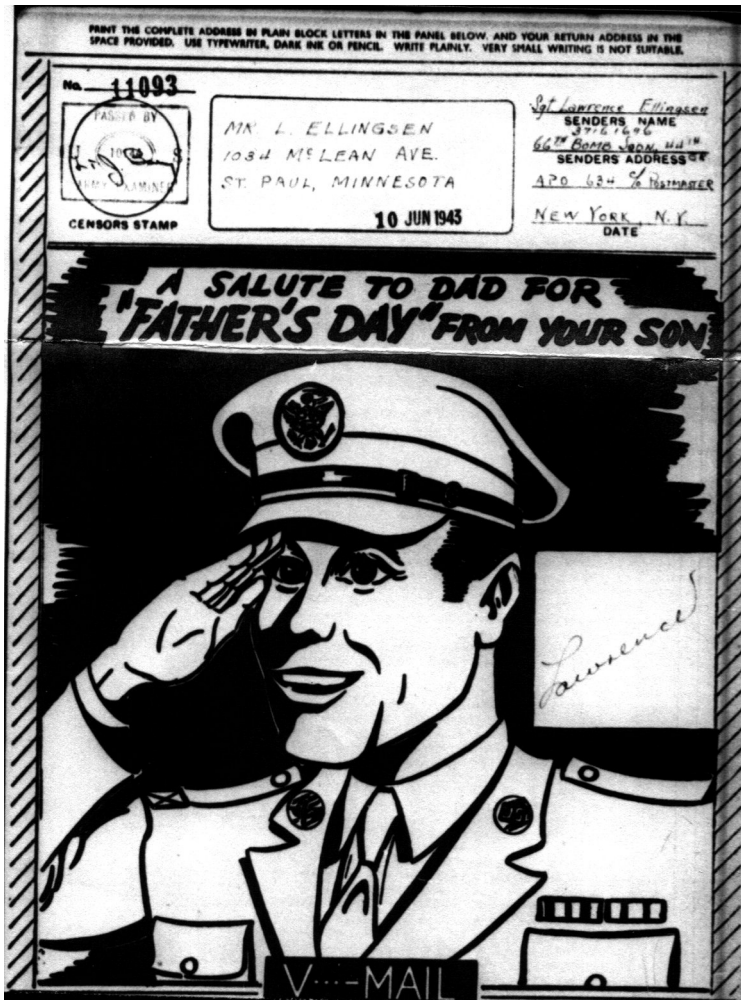
Love
Mike

P.S.: It's so hot here today we're all just about melting.



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66th Bomb Sqdn., 44th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 10, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mr. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked June 15, 1943</i></p>
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[For Fathers' Day, 1943 Lawrence Ellingsen sent a V-Mail greeting to his father. The following image is of the original V-Mail he sent. It is unclear if the image shown was some form that the Army Post Office supplied or if it is a drawing made by Lawrence. It is shown at the actual size of the delivered print.]



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>L. Ellingsen 11034 McLean Ave. - Zone 6 St. Paul, Minn.</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 10, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det.-Pine Bluff Arsenal Pine Bluff, Arkansas</p> <p><i>Postmarked June 10, 1943</i></p>
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Wednesday

Dear Mikie,

Got your letter today so I guess I will answer it right away while Ma and Pa are finishing eating - we had stew - very good. When you come home you don't need to bring any gas coupons. I have a system. This batch of coupons is good until July 21st and I haven't used any of them yet and I still have about 1/3 of a tank of gas so I guess we can get to Rochester and back unless you intend to use about 5 gals a day. It only takes about 5 gals each way - maybe 4. What you can do though is try and get yourself some meat coupons because ours don't go so very far when you have to buy both butter and meat - but of course, I guess we could get along anyway because Pa is sort of a miser with them. Maya bawled him out when she was here because she thought he didn't let us have enough

butter so she went and bought a pound with her tickets. So that part is settled – all you have to do is come home – but let us know.

Harry dropped in on his folks the other day and didn't even let them know he had a furlough in sight. That way might be all right but Mrs. Wilson is so upset over those boys that something like that is sort of a shock. She hasn't heard from Franny for ever so long – he is on the Aleutians – and she used to hear from him twice a week – until this Attu business. She doesn't know what has become of Fritzie and Carlis is waiting to go out – he has been placed with a commando unit.

Harry came over and visited Mom yesterday and she said he is still the same old Harry – I have just seen him through the window and he still walks the same – Mrs. Fruith says she thinks he doesn't talk quite so much. He said when he came into the depot the first person he saw was Norm. Don't let Norm know you heard this because it might take away some of his efficiency – but Harry said he met a fellow on the train by the name of Johnson who said he lived in this district someplace – so naturally they became friends – and this fellow said his folks were picking him up so they would drive Harry home. Good enough – but Harry had on a winter uniform and this fellow just had on his summer outfit minus hat and tie – so Harry said the first thing he knew was that a M.P. tapped this fellow on the shoulder and said "Get our tie and cap on – You know you have to be respectable looking when you go through this place" Harry said it didn't take the fellow long to put his tie and cap on. So then Harry looked and said, "For crying out loud if it isn't Norman." He said he hadn't any idea he worked there. We have heard from others, too, that Norm sure does his stuff.

The sun came out today. Can you imagine that? So now we are going out and cultivate a little. Pa came home early and he said he had to come home to dry dishes. Mom said today she decided to do her ironing before she washed the breakfast dishes and before she could finish that she started to get company. Mrs. Fruith – then she went to the store and found Marg and Norm down there so they drove her back home and stayed awhile and then Mrs. Fleisbak came and she stayed until almost supper – so she was just washing dishes when Pa came and he dried them for her. – You should see him – you would think he was going to rub away the design on them.

Oh, by the way I think maybe there is something wrong with the car. Sunday P.M. I was going down to the kids' with that pie and the car wouldn't start – so I thought the battery had died down – then after supper I thought we could push it out away and crank it but I thought I would try the starter again first and the thing started like nothing – so I guess maybe it is something else. Perhaps that cable that connects with the battery is wearing away – We have another one in the car I noticed one day.

Well anyway as long as I had the car started I told the folks we could for a ride so I was talking to Mom in the back seat when I told Pa to get the kettle and put some water in the radiator. After quite a while he yelled how do I get into this thing and here he was trying to work that ornament on the top of the radiator grill work. So Ev told him he had to raise the sides – and he couldn't do that either and said "How do you work these handles so you can get inside?" So I had to do it. Such a man. Then I told him to lift up the carpet and see if the battery needed water and he didn't know what to do at all about that so we let it go and I guess I will wait until Sat. to see now. All he knows about a car is that it is a car and that is all.

We still have the furnace fire by the way but suppose we can let it out tonight as long as the sun came out. The soldiers here all had on summer uniforms for a while but I noticed tonight when I came home that most of them were back in their winter ones – so when you come perhaps you had better bring a jacket along with you. Of course, I suppose you could always use one of Norm's and stuff a couple pillow inside.

Doris Nelson called last night. She had been to Rochester to see about a teaching job. Wouldn't it be funny if it was in the same school with Eleanor? She was at the depot waiting between trains so Mom told her Norm was on duty there at that time and she should see if she could find him – so after the description Mom gave her she found him. When Mom told her he was fat she couldn't believe it. She must have found him right away because he told Mom today that she came right up to him and started talking. Her mother goes with her wherever she teaches. I don't know who runs the farm now – but she said William is in the army too. The Engineering division someplace in Mo. So I suppose it is only Noble and Hjalmer there now.

Ma is starting to do dishes now so I guess I will quit. Oh, we got a card from Bugs the other day and it only took 6 days for it to come from the time he wrote it. It must have been lucky enough to go by plane all the way. He said it was a year since you and he entered the army and he had done a lot of traveling in that time but he still thinks the Bluff is the best place he has seen so far.

Love
Toots

I didn't read this over so if there are any mistakes you will have to make this out yourself.

I talked with Saumweber today and he said if you came home on a furlough he supposed you would visit them at the post office.

Zella Beth Keane is getting married Sat. There sure are a lot of weddings around here lately. I have been talking to a girl on the corner every morning who got a diamond from her soldier friend too and is going to get married if he can get a furlough and I just found out the other morning that she is the Rossi girl. She seemed to know me and said she thought I knew who she was. She isn't exactly pretty but there is something very attractive about her. She said John is teaching in Frazee and was down here with the basketball team not so long ago – and Delmo lives next to Stems on Pacific. They both have two children. John two girls and Delmo one of each



<i>From:</i> L. Ellingsen 11034 McLean Ave. – Zone 6 St. Paul, Minn. <i>Letter Dated June 13, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det.-Pine Bluff Arsenal Pine Bluff, Arkansas <i>Postmarked June 13, 1943</i>
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Sunday A.M.

Dear Mike,

Guess I will write while Mom is getting dinner ready and Ev is painting odds and ends – door knobs and whatnot. That seems to be all she cares to do. Pa is taking the regular Sunday bath. Of course, it rained again this morning so we couldn't go outside. It's almost noon now and it looks like the sun will come out in a little while so maybe it will be nice this afternoon.

Yesterday morning it rained too but after noon it got nice and hot. Pa washed the car and Mom the cushions and me – I tried to find out why the starter won't work but couldn't. Maybe it's the starter itself. You can see when you come home.

If you come home this week maybe we could go to Rochester, but Mom said I better not tell Maya and Eleanor that because we can't make any plans. I don't know why not. – but it seems that it will most likely dwindle down to you, me and Mom. Ev goes to Chicago next Sunday for a few days buying – all on her own. Sunday is Fathers' Day and if Pa doesn't want to go Mom thinks we should stay home – and Norm and Marg won't go most likely unless Norm gets some hours whereby he has the main part of the day off – so that's that. He hasn't been up for a couple days so we don't know what hours he will be working by next Sunday – but he never gets a Sunday off that's for sure. He was supposed to get Fridays off but it seems to us that he must get Saturdays off in order to get his hours straight.

We had a letter from Eleanor and she works in a department store from 11 to 4:30. She says she likes it real well – but Ev said that after 20 years she won't think it's so much fun.

Harry doesn't have to go back until Tuesday. He looks very neat I think, but of course, he is wearing his winter uniform and that makes a difference, too.

Zella Beth Keane got married yesterday at 3 o'clock to a sailor in the Merchant Marine. She was married in the house and Eunice said her train was so long that when she stood in front of the Bay Window in the living room where they had sort of an altar, the train ended in the dining room door, and people all stood around the train. Outside of that she said it was a very nice wedding, but in so small a house they shouldn't have tried to be so formal. Marguerite Henke's marriage license was in the paper too last night, but we don't know when she will be married because she said the other day she hadn't made any plans and then the next day the license is in the paper – so she is keeping things to herself. Mrs. H. told Mom sometime ago that she wanted it in the church but Marguerite didn't so I don't know. The man she is marrying is Clarence Anderson and he lives at 1260 E. 7th. We drove by last night to see what kind of a house he lived in and it was very nice (Cats). We had an errand to the City Dump though and we just wanted to extend our drive.

We won't write to you anymore now until you come home.

Toots



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 The Service Club Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 13, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota</p> <p><i>Postmarked June 13, 1943</i></p>
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THE SERVICE CLUB
PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, ARKANSAS

Sunday 6-13-43

Dear Folks,

Well at last my furlough has been definitely made out, and unless the Major changes his mind again I will leave here Tuesday night.

I intend to catch a train out of here at 10:00 P.M. Tuesday night and that train should get me in St. Louis Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. Then I can catch an Alton train out of St. Louis at 9:00 a.m. which should get me in Chicago at 2:30 P.M. Wed. afternoon. That will leave me two hours to catch the 4:30 Zephyr home. There's only one thing wrong with this schedule and that is the M.P. from here to St. Louis is often too late to make the 9:00 o'clock connection with the Alton in St. Louis. If I should miss that connection I'll have to take a later train out of St. Louis and then catch a night train out of Chicago reaching home sometime Thursday morning. In any event I will wire you from Chicago as to the time I will arrive in St. Paul.

You say the weather is quite cold in St. Paul yet so I will take a jacket with me from here. The temp. here goes into the nineties almost every day now so a little cold weather will be most welcome to me.

I'm going into town this afternoon with Frank Lander and so will close this letter now in order to get this letter in the mail.

Sincerely
Mike



<p><i>From:</i></p> <p>Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army</p> <p><i>Letter Dated June 30, 1943</i></p>	<p><i>Addressed to:</i></p> <p>Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota Zone 6</p> <p><i>Postmarked June 30, 1943</i></p>
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[This is a note Myron Ellingsen wrote upon his arrival in Little Rock, Ark. on his way to Pine Bluff Arsenal after his furlough]



AMERICAN RED CROSS

7:30 P.M.
Wed. Nite.

Dear Folks,

Made perfect connections all the way down and arrived here in Little Rock at 6:45 P.M. Have just cleaned up a bit and had some supper. Am now waiting for the 8 o'clock bus to Pine Bluff. Besides making good connections all the way I also managed to get a seat all the way. In fact I think I sat too much.

Must hurry now in order to catch the bus.

Love
Mike

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies....." and "To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy....." The Charter of The American National Red Cross. By Act of Congress January 5, 1905.



<i>From:</i> Cpl. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas U.S. Army <i>Letter Dated July 3, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minnesota <i>Postmarked July 3, 1943</i>
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UNITED STATES ARMY

3 July 43

Dear Folks,

When I was home you talked about the fact that Laurie's V-Mail was dated in a different manner from our mail. I find now that this new method of expressing the date was prescribed in a War Department circular about 2 months ago, however we just received the circular her at P.B.A. when I was home on furlough so of course I didn't know about it then. And so you can see that P.B.A. is so far removed from things that the news reaches us about a month or two after it reaches England and Africa.

Now that I am more or less settled and in the old rut again I find things here to be changed very little. Our \$85,000 bakery is now operating in full force, but instead of producing \$20.00 worth of bread a day as they intended they have now found that \$10.00 worth is enough. Eight men (soldiers) are employed in the bakery to produce this \$10.00 worth of bread so you can see why it coasts so much to fight this war and also why we are so short of help.

When I returned here I found that I had letters from Bean, George Mahowald, and Bug Martin.

Bean is not coming back here but has been transferred to Camp Pickett, Virginia. He is in the Quartermasters there and says he likes it very much but that the camp is not as nice as P.B.A.

Mahowald writes and says that he had just returned from a furlough and that while gone he had been made a sergeant. He also says that he has been accepted for officers training in the Army Post Office but that he has to wait now until he's called from Washington. He enclosed a letter he had from received from Joe Goudreau, one of the fellows who was with us at Camp Robinson, which I am enclosing in this letter.

Bug Martin wrote a card in which he said that he heard I was going home on another furlough and he seemed to envy me very much. He has a new address now –

Cpl. George V. Martin
Hdq. Sq. VIII AFSC
A.P.O. 633
c/o the Postmaster

New York City, N.Y.

Ray Mutz has been transferred to the University of La. and he wrote Lander yesterday saying that he was very well pleased with the place. He's supposed to study some sort of foreign language – Slovenian, I think.

My trip down here, as I said in my letter from Little Rock, was uneventful. The Zephyr arrived in Chicago 40 minutes late but the Alton to St. Louis was a little late in starting so I made the connection alright. It was so cold going from Chicago to St. Louis that they had heat in the cars. It was also quite cold here in Pine Bluff when I arrived Wed. nite and remained pleasantly cool Thursday but yesterday it began to warm up and now it is in the nineties again. They tell me that they have a cold spell here about this time every year and the natives here call it "Blackberry Winter." They call it that because it usually comes about the time the blackberries begin to ripen. Just the opposite of our Indian Summer I guess.

I gave the Malverson to Lander and he says he'll take it but he hasn't started yet – no spoon.
Guess that's all for now.

Love
Mike

[In the 5th paragraph of this letter, Mike tells of a letter written by Joe Goudreau that was forwarded to him by George Mahowald. Goudreau, who had been with Mike at Camp Robinson, Ark., was stationed in North Africa and had written this letter to George Mahowald on May 30, 1943:]

APO 538
North Africa 5/30 – 43

Dear George,

Your photographed V-mail letter rec'd today and mighty glad to hear from you once more – I noted it was mailed May 9 so it got here in 3 weeks which is about the average time. I'm still getting mail tho that was mailed in April – they no doubt were delayed some place. It's certainly a happy day when we receive any mail.

I'm glad to hear you are in charge of the Waac's. Must be nice working. I hope now you receive the rating you spoke of – you deserve it George. Should have had it before. Hope too you make the OCS also as it's mighty nice to be an officer, especially in the States. Congratulations to Mike Ellingsen too on his promotion. When you write him again, tell him to write me sometime. I had a letter today from Joe Truemper. He has about finished his schooling and expects to be sent out soon. Said he flew over Camp Hood one day. Also that Lt. Joe Brectel is training Negro troops in Texas. A year ago today you landed at Camp Robinson and I the following day. Looking back now, I realize what a dandy time we had while there – Confidentially George, soldiering in the States is paradise to over here. It's pretty rugged here – pup tents to live in, eating out doors. I haven't ate out of a real set of dishes in over 3 months – nothing but mess kits and we used to crab to beat hell at Camp Robinson when we had to eat the occasional meal out of them – also thought the bivouac was tough. So when you boys in the States think you're being mistreated, think of the boys over here and thank your lucky stars you are still in the States. I'm fine though, am used to it I guess, but I'll be pretty darn happy when we get to come back. Hope the next invasion or invasions start soon and get this over with. If they are as successful as the African Campaign was, it won't be long. The 538 APO is assigned to the North West African Air Force so we are in a pretty good set-up as far as the APO's go. Plenty of work and long hours and all day some days wish you were over here to help us out. We do a terrific volume of Money Orders and Stamp sales business. Last month ½ million \$ in MO's sold so you see we are not exactly loafing on the job. I can't tell you as to our location in North Africa but I flew here by plane and that was quite a thrill, after being used to riding in those old one lung crates in N Dak. The weather is hot as hell during the day, but the nights are chilly. It's dry and dusty so it reminds me of N. Dak. in '35 or thereabouts. The rainy season is over, for which I am thankful – the mud and water was tough.

Well George, I can't think of any more to write about that wouldn't be censored so will have to close for now, and save the rest until I see you. Pleasant hunting in ND. When??? I hope soon but rather doubt it'll be this fall. You can send this on to Mike E if you care to. Tell him to write and you do the same again soon. Please. Oh yes I ran into an old friend of mine that lived in Flasher – he is stationed at the same field here that I am and we see each other most every night. Seems good to see some one from close to home. He gets the Mandon Pioneer and brings them down to me when he is done reading them and I assure you they are read by me thoroughly. Suppose you heard of the floods etc. in ND this spring. Must have been a sight when Mandan was all under water. Worst in

history so the say. Hope ND hits the jackpot again in crops. The boys can really go to town then with so much money.

Plenty of Arabs and French here George and beautiful scenery. Camels are seen on the roads with a couple of Arabs riding them. Nothing to buy here but wine and souvenirs and they ask 10 prices for them. It's 9 PM here now, 1 PM at home – 8 hours difference in time.

Joe



<i>From:</i> Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66 th Bomb Sqdn., 44 th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y. <i>Letter Dated July 6, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul – 6 - Minnesota <i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked July 13, 1943</i>
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England,
6 July 1943

Dear Folks,

I suppose by now Mike is back in camp. It was very nice to hear that he was able to get another furlough. I will be getting a few days off so will be seeing a little more of England. Am going with a fellow from Michigan. I am using a different pen so you will probably be able to read this letter.

Lawrence



<i>From:</i> Sgt. Lawrence M. Ellingsen 66 th Bomb Sqdn., 44 th Bomb Group, A.P.O 634, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y. <i>Letter Dated July 20, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Mrs. L. Ellingsen 1034 McLean Ave. St. Paul – 6 Minnesota <i>V-Mail Letter</i> <i>Postmarked July 25, 1943</i>
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England,
20, July 1943

Dear Folks,

I just received your letter which you wrote on the 2nd of the month. Was glad to hear that Mike had been home on a furlough. I spent a couple of days at Cambridge last week and had a very nice time. I never thought that someday I would be visiting these places I had read so much about.

Lawrence



<i>From:</i> Mrs. Dan Dinneen [Eleanor] 430 5 th St. S.W. Rochester, Minn. <i>Letter Dated Nov. 17, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> P.F.C. Myron A. Ellingsen - 37277454 Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Arkansas <i>Postmarked Nov. 18, 1943</i>
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430 5 St. S.W.
Rochester, Minn.
Nov. 17, 1943

Kjere litten kusine Michael,

Nothing, nothing, nothing you could have sent me would have pleased me more. How did you know that silver is my weakness? Anyhow, it is a beautiful tray, and thanks lots. Honestly, it is a honey and I like it very much.

We had a nice wedding, Mike and I wish you could have been there. The wedding itself wasn't so much, of course – just went out to the church – but we had dinner at the hotel – 17 guests – and all the trimmings. Had a cake with a soldier groom, etc. and then left for the Nicollet. Of course they didn't let us off too easy – stole our grips which we had to get at the sheriff's office – such horseplay – but all in the game, I guess. We went over to see your folks one night at Marg's. Suppose Toots told you about that.

I'm planning now on going to Fla. – the 10th I hope – (also hope) I'm going to fly to Jacksonville.

Had a nice letter from Toots yesterday. She was telling about Norm's furlough! Also that you might get one. If you do, when will it be?

The weather has been cold, as you no doubt know, and Ma is suffering from a cold, too. She stayed home from work today, but I don't know what good it did her because she washed some clothes and hung them outside and now her cold is worse. People never change, do they?

Well, kid, guess that's about all the news of importance around here.

Really wish I could tell you how much I do like the tray, tho Mike. It is by far the prettiest gift we received. Ma says all I need now is a silver coffee service. We put our old cracked granite one on it but it didn't seem to look so good.

Hope we can see you when you come home. If it's around Xmas I probably won't be here, but Ma will. Well, kid, I'll send you a post card from Fla. – if I get there. Let us know when you are coming home.

Love,
Eleanor



<i>From:</i> Cpl. Edward Oberg 37277436 540 th Bas Hdq & Air Base Sqd. APO 839 c/o P.M. New Orleans, La <i>Letter Dated Dec. 1, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Sgt. Myron A. Ellingsen Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. U.S. Army <i>Postmarked Dec. 5, 1943</i>
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Guatemala
Dec. 1, 1943

Dear Mike,

I thought you would be home last week so I did not write as I said I would, but now I get a letter from Hank telling me that you would not be home till xmas. How do you do it? I am enclosing the picture you asked about.

I have been getting all of your letters ok, you and Hank both sent clippings to me about Stoeckmann so I believe I am still on the beam.

There is very little that I have for you this time, except that we have a new address, but am in the same old place, and I took you advice and got another rating, might be up to you one of these days if I don't watch out. Going to take time out and go to the PX for something to eat. It's eight o'clock. Will be back later. – Feel better now but still can't think of anything to write about. Might ask a few questions to fill up this page. What kind of weather do you have there? Any snow? Do you write to Harvey? Heard he would be home on furlough this month.

About the only thing else I can tell you is that now I am living in a barracks after six months in a tent. It is a lot warmer; only use three blankets now at night.

This country beats me. Banana and pine cedar trees grow next to each other, flowers bloom the year around mountains, rivers, lakes. Hot and cool weather but no snow. The land of eternal spring, but I will take Minn. anytime.

Eddie



<i>From:</i> E. Ellingsen 11034 McLean Ave. St. Paul, Minn. <i>Letter Dated Dec. 14, 1943</i>	<i>Addressed to:</i> Sgt. Myron A. Ellingsen Q.M. Det. Pine Bluff Arsenal Pine Bluff, Ark.
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St. Paul, Minn.
Dec. 14, 1943

Received your very welcome letters and I am glad you got back in good time and had plenty room for yourself on the train. When you left we took Evelyn back to work then we drove back the river drive thinking we could see the train pull out, but no such luck. In the evening we went down to the Mounds to see Heaven Can Wait. It was very good.

Pa is going to ask Phill Murnane about your encounter. Yesterday I went over to Fruith and Mr. was sick in bed. I think it was his old trouble. Harry Wilson came home yesterday. He came over last night. Toots and I went to the Mound again. The sun has been shining every day since you left. Today it is 42 above; beautiful day. The bank called and so I suppose Lawrence had more money. I sure hope you can stay where you are. Dick Hueffmeier is still in the hospital. Mabel Potthoff came home. She is going to Wards. Myrtle Murnane is going to New York last of this month to see Bud. He is going to be moved. I hope you can read this. You better answer all your letters. Can't think of no more to write about. Next time maybe I can do better. – Your Mother

Dear Mike,

It took Ma two days to write this letter so now I will finish it.

Today I got a card from Eleanor and she wanted to know if you were still in Little Rock. What do you think I should tell her? She said the fruit was from Dan. She wanted to pay him but he said he wanted to send it. Not bad for not knowing the guy. That is better than those relatives of ours.

We are now going down to see Marg. Will finish this later. Back home. Norm came home from the Fort and it took him 1½ hours. First he missed the trolley so he had to walk. Then he had to wait for the next car and as

they were going across the bridge some young kid pulled the trolley off the car and broke the rope so all in all he got home at eight.

Now that the 710 has broken up they don't have very much to do. Their unit is now called provisional M.P. and are now waiting to be moved. The 1-A's are going to be shipped to Mich. But Norm doesn't know where he will go. So he is just waiting from day to day. He said he doesn't see any hope for himself as everything he goes into closes up, even Fort Snelling.

Tonight Dick leaves so Mom, Marg, Bonnie & Dick celebrated last night by going down to the Terrace. Guess this is about all that I can think of so will write Ele and tell her that you left Little Rock 16 months ago. Maybe Ma will finish her letter now. Eve -

