

## Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

### Section 12, Pages 331 - 360

Here are two photographs and a series of letters written between members of the Roberson family during World War II and after. The first photograph shows Ivan Glenn Roberson in military uniform. The other shows the Roberson family: front row (left to right) Minnie Lysena, William David, Lottie Jane, Edna and the back row (left to right) Schuyler, Lottie Irene, Wilma Angeline, Tommy, Carl, Violet Juanita, (Ivan), John Dow. A majority of the letters, transcribed by Ron Roberson, were written between 1941 and 1945; however, there are a few written in 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1975. Many of the letters are written to and by Ivan Roberson who entered active service on October 10, 1941, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was assigned to the 40th Infantry Division of the United States Army, which had been activated for World War II in March 1941. Ivan appears to have been sent immediately to Camp San Luis Obispo, California, where he was assigned to Battery B of the 222nd Field Artillery Regiment. In April 1942 the division moved to Fort Lewis, Washington. It departed for overseas service in August 1942, and arrived in Hawaii in September of that year where they were assigned to defend the north side of Oahu. They were relieved in October 1943 to begin a period of intensive training. The division left Hawaii for Guadalcanal in January 1944. In April 1944 the division was transferred to the island of New Britain, now part of Papua New Guinea. They were relieved of their duties in November 1944 to begin another period of intense training for the invasion of the Philippines. They sailed from New Britain on December 9, 1944, and reached Luzon, Philippines on January 9, 1945. The division participated in the invasion and remained in the Philippines until September 1945 when it was moved to Korea. It appears that Ivan left the Philippines around the time the division was being transferred to Korea. He was formally separated from the US Army at Fort Logan, Colorado, on October 4, 1945.

Creator: Roberson, Ivan Glenn, 1919-1975

Date: Between 1941 and 1945

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**April 20, 1945: Violet to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Brother Ivan,

The war news is improving. Sounds like that perhaps by the time you get this, Germany will be through. Today is Hitler's birthday. I wonder if he enjoyed it? We're so in hopes you'll soon be coming home.

We plan to go to Hutch tomorrow. Juanita plans to stay home so she can work tomorrow. She's been down [there] since we have. I want to see the folks and C.D. has money to put on the place and some bonds to put in the bank.

The 3 smallest have had baths and hair washes before going to bed. I've got my bath taken and am ready for bed. C.D. done his washing up before he went to bed after working at the ice plant.

We get all of our ice free of charge. It's a nice saving. Is it so hot there? Do they have Frigidaires there or how do they keep their food from spoiling?

Juanita told me she had already written you this week. She plans to take charge of Junior Church for me this Sunday. It will help out a lot. This way I don't need to get word to Rev. Paulen I won't be there. Juanita helps me each Sunday so she knows how we do. We had 41 last Sunday and it really rained so I expect she'll have a dandy group Sunday.

Clarence's cousin Aron Church is quite sick. He's in the veteran's hospital here in Wichita. We went down to see his family last night. He can't have company. They think he's some better. He has heart trouble. He's had 2 brothers die with it. C.D. has gone to work again so I'd better close and get to bed. The banks close at noon so we need to leave before very late in the morning. Sure glad to get your letter. Love, Clarence, Violet and Family

**Tuesday April 24, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all pretty good here. It is quite wet here, has been raining every once in a while since Monday morning. Dad and Mother can't get in or out of that place

without the team or high truck. I guess if they got in a boat they could go quite a ways. Sunday they used the rack and team to pull Clarence's back through the water and then went to Church with them. Clarence had got in water Saturday night not knowing it was so bad. Dad pulled him to dry road and left car there all night. Just over the hill as you turn north to go home there is just a lake. It extends across road and into both of the pastures. There is water about 8 inches deep in the milk house. They have to go around the hen house to go to the barn. We all planned to go home Sunday but instead they all came here for dinner. There were 27 of us here. Don't you think it was some bunch for a two room house? It was pretty, so they got along OK. John got home with Miller's truck so when Dad, Violet, Fred and I rode on rack home after church to feed the chickens we left the rack and rode back to top of hill with John. Mom had stayed in our car. We took Murriel on the rack with us. Must close. Lots of Love, Minnie

**Wednesday April 25, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Just talked to Minnie this morning and she said she had written to you so I expect you know the news and maybe hear most of it again. Tom told Minnie and I we should get together and not write to them [him] on the same day. He preferred to have his letters scattered out a bit.

We had a nice time at Minnie's Sunday. Violet and family except Juanita were here over the weekend. They stayed with Mom and Dad Saturday night even if they had to pull off their shoes and socks and wade part of the way. I expect by now the folks will have to use a boat to get around. We had rain Monday and skipped yesterday and it started raining last night and is still at it. A neighbor of ours said it seems that we have plenty of rain when the river is bank full. I just wonder about that? We could use some sunshine now as it is cool here and a fire is really comfortable.

Fairy's Baby was 4 weeks old Tuesday. She brought Ronnie to church Sunday. Grandma and Grandpa Stiggins were there too and of course most of Ronnie's aunts were there



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too. Ronnie is growing fast and is a sweet baby.

Loren just finished his cereal and is taking his bottle. He is almost too sleepy to eat. He has a lot of fun playing now. He put his big toe in his mouth a couple of days ago. It was hard work for him to get it there, and then out it would go again, and then he'd tussle again to get it to his mouth.

I'm working on a dress for Mother, an organdie with a green dot in it. I have it almost done now. I took 2 dresses out to Minnie's Sunday that I had made for her. They fit pretty good, as I didn't have her to fit them on. I just fit myself and Mother is really a little smaller than I. She has lost quite a bit of weight.

Hope you are getting along fine. We haven't heard from Virgil this week. Lots of Love, Edna and All

**April 25, 1945:**

**Ivan to Minnie, Fred and Family**

Somewhere in the Philippines

Dear Fred, Minnie and Family:

I have three v-notes of March 11, 29 and April 4th, also two air mail letters of the 6th and the 12th. I thought I'd better write so you wouldn't think I wasn't getting your letters. About v-notes, I believe they are the only form of mail that doesn't see an airplane. I am glad Art Smith is better. Too bad about the egg and Delores Ann. Morris should of ate the egg don't you think? The islands I have been on is OK up to March 29 but one on April 3rd I haven't been there. Yes, they are getting around OK. I think Evelyn should have fun in the 4-H Club. Give her something to do during summer months. Murriel sure put down some nice chicken scratchings for a letter. I don't suppose 8 or 9 days difference in school will make a lot of difference. Vada Lee didn't loose much time in starting family. When I get back places will look like a Philippine town, full of kids. They have one on hand walking, one in their arms, and another on the way here in islands. Everything here is doing OK. I feel pretty good. The 23rd made 32 months overseas. Well, hope all are well. [This is] Pretty short for so many letters. Lots of love, Ivan.

**Wednesday April 25, 1945: Irene to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are OK only kinda damp on the outside. It started in raining Monday again. Was cloudy Tuesday and rained last night and today. What we are beginning to need is what you boys call ducks for land and water travel. Lots of fun. Mom and Dad have to use team and wagon to get out. Too many mud holes.

Saturday night Clarence and Violet went to Mom's, got stuck – Dad pulled them in, then out next morning. They had to wade to Mom's and back to car. Sunday Roy took us over. We got out at the first mud hole, circled the pasture. We got in home without wet feet. We were there a little while when John came in with truck. He was brave but he made it.

When Church was out Fred brought them back to the first mud hole, then they got on the hay rack and rode back to Mom's. Mother stayed in car – waited for them to do up chores. Then we all went to Minnie's for dinner. Edna's and Wilma's were there too. The kids played outside so it wasn't as crowded as we thought it would be.

Mom and Dad sure have the water around their house. They have to go around by the chicken house to get to the barn. All the low spots are sure filled with water – good frog ponds. Mom says the chickens wade in and catch the frogs then eat them. I think Mother should raise ducks this year instead of chickens.

Our school is out already. Minnie will be out this Friday.

You should see Clyde and Charles. No hair on their heads. They are even balder than when they were born. Sunday morning Charles started to clip his head so Howard finished it for him and Clyde before Wilma knew what was going on. She says, "What can you do?" I reckon she'll just have to wait for it to grow out. She is going to teach all day next year. Wilma has already started to figure out how she will manage it. Well I'd better close. Take good care of yourself. Lots of Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

**April 25, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

My Dear Son Ivan,

It is raining this morning so I will write

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to you instead of helping Dad milk. We didn't need rain here on this place, as we have had plenty. Two big ducks were swimming west of the house by the first cedar tree, under the clothes line, yesterday. There is quite a few ducks around, I guess they thought they had got to the lakes, so stayed with us. Clarence and Violet stayed with us Saturday night. They walked in from the hill for their car couldn't come through such deep water at the bottom of the hill. They and Dad took the team and pulled the car out of the water and let it stay on dry ground till time to go to Sunday school, then we all went in the rack. Pulled the cars back through the water and then tied the team and went on in the car to church. We all went to Fred's for dinner and John brought us home. I haven't heard from Tommy this week yet, but he sent some of his clothes home this week. Maybe he is getting ready to move somewhere. I've not bought any little chickens yet. Do you suppose I had better get ducks instead? When we go to town I'll get writing paper so I won't have to send you so many V's. Schuyler wrote to me April 1st. He was OK, said he worked on watches in his spare time as the water was too dirty to go fishing. You know he just loves to fish. Your last shells haven't come yet. Those you sent with old letters, did you want Mrs. Pollock to have more than the cat eye wrapped in a piece of paper with her name on it? You tell me what you wanted her to have and I'll try and get Minnie to take them to her. Minnie enjoys visiting with her. She is so nice to call Minnie when she gets a letter and we've been anxious to hear. We hope you are well and OK. We are fine for us. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God keep you in His loving care.

**April 26, 1945: Alice Thomas to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

[Postmarked Buhler]

Dear Ivan,

I guess you will be a little surprised to hear from me, after me telling Juanita I wouldn't write first. But little Juanita just isn't the type to take no for an answer. And I decided since I knew your parents and had met quite a few of your relatives, it wouldn't hurt me to write since she said you had asked me to.

I really don't know just what to say in

this first letter. From the way Juanita talks, I guess she has told you all about me. And she said she sent one of those corny pictures of me to you so you know what I look like.

But anyway, I will do my best to find something to write.

I was down to Juanita's house Monday April 23. It sure seemed good to see her once more.

I just have about three more weeks of school left. Then I am going into Nurse's Training June 1st.

It sure is nice out today. Just like summer. It rained all day yesterday.

Well it's just about time for the bell to ring for me to go to Bookkeeping Class, so I guess I had better close for now.

Hope you won't think me too awful for writing first, but Juanita has been after me to write for some time now. So I thought I would write a few lines. Hope to hear from you soon.  
Your Friend, Alice

**April 26, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are pretty good here. Murriel is trying to cut teeth. He has 7 through and two more trying to get through. Makes him somewhat cranky.

The sun is shining! Yeah! That is news to us. It has rained Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I just wonder if Dad's house is up high enough to keep out of it. As I told you, water was in the milk house. Guess he should build an ark. No kidding, the water has been where it never was before. Maybe it will dry up now.

I saw Carl Hysom the other day. He's home on 30 day convalescent leave. He's to have another operation when he goes back. He looks pretty good but doesn't get along very well without his crutch. He was injured in back of leg and hip. He told Fred he'd gotten kidded a lot about going wrong direction. It happened while lying flat to escape the shell and shrapnel.

School is out tomorrow. I have two dresses to get made. I've got Delores' about half done but Evelyn's isn't cut out. Guess I'll have to hurry.

Mrs. Pollock phoned this morning. She



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was wondering if I'd heard from you. We are all watching what the mail man brings.

Cannons are going to get a phone in soon. I expect they will be on our line. Just makes it a little harder to find the line not in use.

Rev. Duffy's are to be moved in parsonage today. Allen Teters' are going after his things in his truck.

Our Bermuda grass is trying to grow but it is hard for it to get up through the old grass. We never burned it off and it should have been. Fred must fix our lawn mower too or it will get too high to cut.

There hasn't been any mention in paper of 40th Division for several days so I can't watch the papers to get information. Sure wish things would get over with soon. Maybe if sun shines now our garden will grow more. Sure is slow with this wet cold weather.

Well I'd better get busy on girls' dresses. Lots of Love, Your Sis, Minnie

### April 27, 1945: Saxon to Irene

Phoenix, Arizona

*Irene included this post card that Saxon and Carl had sent her in a letter to Ivan dated May 7, 1945.*

Dear Kids,

Have the twins in bed and their last bottle for the night. Should be going to bed myself, but I don't feel like it just as yet. Yes it's nice to have a place to call your own and no rent or landlord. We have the outside painted but the inside isn't. Don't know when we will get around to do it. We've got the paint, but takes time. We're just outside of the city limits, in fact just across the street. Carl and I did the biggest part of painting also a lot the building. We have cement floors. We have window shades but no curtains. I'll take it back I've got the one for the bathroom, but it isn't up yet. We don't have a bath tub just a shower, Carl plastered it. It's a little rough in places but suits us. We've an automatic hot water heater - sure is nice to have it hot day or night. The back yard's fenced for chickens but no chickens as yet and eggs are still 45 cents a dozen. Have a few flowers, but very few. The kids sleep days and stay awake all night. So I don't get but very little sleep. Love to All, Saxon and Carl

### April 27, 1945: Violet to Ivan

Wichita, Kansas

Dear Brother Ivan,

We received your letter today and were really glad to hear from you. We were home last weekend and got to read those you'd sent Mother. There was one there from Schuyler we got to read too.

We went to see the Craig place while we were there. They were moving so we never went in the house. In the orchard they have perhaps 18 trees. There is a strawberry bed (it was in bloom). There was 2 rows of asparagus and most of a row of rhubarb. We intended to transplant some of our fruit trees over to the Craig place and found out there wasn't enough room.

Tonight is the Junior and Senior banquet. Juanita went to it but didn't take in the dancing afterward since she doesn't dance. They stayed and watched. Clarence has gone to work and it's getting late but I've been waiting for her to come home. She's home now so guess I'll finish this in the morning.

I washed today and only got a part of the clothes dry. It started raining after dinner. Yesterday is the only day this week it hasn't rained. And yesterday we went to Aron Church's sale. He is still in the hospital and in bad shape. He will never be able to work again, the Drs. say. Ted, their boy, came when he was so terribly bad. He's stationed at the Great Lakes. He had to go back 3 hours before the sale started, he left Wichita.

The highest cow sold for \$135. They would have sold higher, Elgar said, if it'd been in the fall for most of the farmers don't care to milk extra cows through the busy season. They were all 3 way tested. The tractor sold for \$300. It was not on rubber.

Junior is asleep in here waiting for me to take him to bed. Juanita is putting up her hair. She had her hair set tonight but with it raining it didn't last. It was such a bad night for their banquet with it raining so the girls with their formals got nicely damp. Clarence took Juanita over to the banquet. Betty came over to go with her but Juanita was late getting home from town so they never got to go together. The ones at Garvies bought 3 of the girls who were Juniors and Seniors their corsages. So Juanita was lucky.

I hope you're feeling fine Ivan and take

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good care of yourself. Mother was a lot better than when we were at Hutch last time. We had a grand time while we were there. Write us when you can and remember we're thinking of you, as always. Lots of Love, Clarence, Violet and Family

**April 28, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Just wrote to Virgil so thought I'd drop you a line or two. I guess this letter-writing is a habit. I've written about 20 letters this week and I'm still writing more.

Had a letter from Mary yesterday and a card from Aunt Florence. Mary says she will stay with Tom until the middle of May if he still stays where he is now. She's getting tired of eating out and is wanting some home cooking. She hasn't gone without home cooking very long yet, has she? I expect you know a lot about that. Even Virgil thinks he misses Mom's hot bread dripping with butter, and he hasn't been at sea very long yet. Aunt Florence says her father is having heart trouble and isn't very well and her mother hurt her back, so she's having her hands full. They are OK otherwise.

I sent Mary's letter and Aunt Florence's card to Mom and Dad this morning in a letter. I also sent your letter to Mom that we got this week. I've written to her three times this week and sent letters from someone else too in them. They are penned in with water and do get so lonesome, and letters do help them both so Minnie and I try to write to them once or twice a week. The roads are so bad we can't get home so we can do the next best.

Minnie had a card from Mom yesterday and a letter from you. Glad you are OK. She read them to me over the phone. We really use our phones as you can guess. Mom's face is still getting better and they are OK but have lots of water.

A guy in the news last night wanted to trade his golf clubs and sun tan lotion for a good row boat. A good trade I'd say, for this season. It is rainy and damp still this morning.

Saw by the paper that the southern part of Negros Island was invaded, but that the 40th was in the northern part. No word from Virgil this week. I'm sure we'll hear soon as Dorothy

heard three days ago. Last week he wrote our letters the same day and ours was two days later than hers. He was OK in her letter and still where it was warm.

We are fine. The boys are still asleep. Morris left for work at 6:15 a.m. Hope you are well and happy. Lots of Love, Edna and All

**April 28, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Well, school is out. In a way I'm glad. I get so disgusted the way the teachers slide over their work. Kids are exposed to their work but I don't think they take very well. 38 pages of arithmetic and a new thing in six days doesn't give them time to do anything but skip over it.

They had a nice program but kids and everyone were so noisy you couldn't hear it. I guess we weren't supposed to, maybe! Anyway I'd like to see a teacher have order over there just once. Miss Elston was good but since her there hasn't been none or at least not much.

So you heard from B.M.Y. What was on her mind? I'm curious you know.

Edna said she heard on radio the 40th Division was in north part of Negros and another division was now invading the south part. Not much in the paper now. Just full of material on European war.

Fred is going in town pretty soon so I'm just really writing in a hurry so he can mail this.

I made our girls a new dress apiece. It was red and white seersucker. Has white dots. I'm enclosing a piece so you can see how bright their dresses are. Evelyn asked me what I meant when I said a dress was bright. I supposed she'd known that.

Here comes Fred so I suppose I'd better close this.

Murriel has tonsillitis. Yellow spots on his tonsils. I gave him a dose of oil and did he object? Evelyn finally had to hold his nose for me. I gave him calcidin and aspirin. First I mashed it with spoon, put sugar and water in it. Last I just gave it to him and he ate it with no fuss.

I guess I'd better say bye-bye. Lots of Love, Minnie. Sure glad to get letter you wrote the 15th of April.



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**Monday April 30, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

It's raining again! We must have weather like you have had some of the places you've been. It must be our rainy season. I've got to wash pants again for our boy so I'll have to dry them by the stove.

Murriel and I had a sore throat so we never went to Sunday school. I hated it too as Mom and Dad went to church in the rack, the girls said. They told Evelyn to tell John not to try to go through those water holes with his truck as they thought holes were deeper than last Sunday. It just happened that John hadn't gone on over, so they told him what they said. John came to our place Saturday night and stayed all night. Yesterday morning Fred took the girls to Sunday school, came back and then John went to town with him. They didn't get back until Evelyn and Delores had come home with Esther Smith.

John seems in real good spirits. He doesn't weigh as much as he did. Looks much more contented since he is working steady.

Evelyn said Grandma's face looked pretty good. I sure hope it gets well.

Irene and her kids were here yesterday. Beth sure is a little thing. She is getting taller but is so thin. I told Irene she needed to have Beth take a nap every afternoon. Delores has always been small but she's been kinda plump. Don't think she's ever been as thin as Beth.

After we did up our dishes yesterday we walked north of here about a half mile, then Fred came along and picked us up. We walked down to see where Mr. Elliott had put the rocks and dirt in the ditch to keep water from coming this way so fast. Sure has washed the road terribly.

I haven't talked to Edna since Saturday about noon. You know we both must be sick. I'll get my letters mailed this morning then I'll call her up. Fred has gone to town to see about carburetor on his truck. He had one cleaned up. It won't idle so it needs something done to it.

Evelyn said that Rev. Duffy was real nice. Delores said he doesn't preach so loud. Our substitute preacher got kinda loud.

I think Mrs. Elliott's beans have rotted. Just too wet and cold for beans to grow. I'm glad I don't have any more in the ground than what I

have.

Murriel is in the bedroom hollering. Guess he wants some attention. I know he's glad the girls are home now. Well I'd better mail this. Lots of Love, Minnie and Family

**April 30, 1945: Violet to Ivan**  
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Brother Ivan,

Here it's Monday morning and time to get the girls off to school again. After this week there'll be 4 more weeks, then school will be out. Irene's school is out now.

I counted up our Collection money for Junior Church last night. We have altogether \$24.39 toward our Bibles saved since I've had charge. We had 57 there yesterday.

Clarence worked 7 nights last week. It will make up for his not working at ice plant when we went to Hutch and the time he took off for Aron Church's sale. We are anxious to get the Craig place paid for as soon as possible. We know when we go back to Hutch it will be slower work to get it paid for.

It is misting out this morning. It rained so much last week we were slow getting our washing done. Now I've got the ironing to do yet, or most of it.

We went to Mary and Watson Foulk's yesterday afternoon. Uncle Miny had been there. They told us some news. I suppose I'd told you him and Aunt Emma had split up. She'd gone to her daughter. We'd heard she had written to neighbors that she wished she'd never left Plainview and they said they wouldn't be surprised if she'd be coming back. Last night about 11pm Uncle Miny got a telegram. Said for him to meet the train she was on her way back. Uncle Miny had been having a good time doing as he pleased for a while and no jealousy or unpleasantness. She never liked to visit or much of anything. I haven't heard yet if she's arrived or not. We'd kidded him that she'd be back. He'd say no, he was through, he'd bought the furniture twice now and he was through. I think he thinks a lot of her even if he won't admit it.

We got some bananas and so had a banana cake yesterday. Bananas are not always to be bought here anymore. There must be more coming in for C.D. was able to bring some more

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yesterday. He said he'd not had a banana pie yet. The girls are off to school now but Junior is still in bed. We are so glad you have been getting your mail OK. Write when you can. Lots of Love, Clarence, Violet and Family

**May 1, 1945:**

**Ivan to Minnie, Fred and Family**

Somewhere in the Philippines

Dear Fred, Minnie and Family:

I have one v-note of April 8, and two airmail letters of April 13 and 19 to answer. A few lines to let you know I am OK. It was nice of you to see about Mom's medicine. I heard of Roosevelt's death the next day I think. We get news every day and also at nights over radios of Hq Battery. I hear from Kay once in a while. He is a Corporal now in India. I am not supposed to keep a diary. It would be poor reading anyway. Name of girl that wrote to me from Hutch was BMY. I heard from one at Wichita some of Juanita's friends. The monkeys stay around OK. We have a large female and one little one. The big monkey really likes the little one. Your guesses are pretty good. You probably know more about the war than I do. Did Fred buy his generator? I am glad Art is OK.

I have had a little trouble with my teeth so I am going in tomorrow to get them fixed. Hope there isn't much wrong with them. I'll close hoping all are well. The pictures of Smith Boys were OK. Lots of love, Ivan.

**May 1, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of April 18th yesterday and to know you were OK then. We are just fine, all we get done, it seems like, is the chores, then Dad goes after the mail every day. He even goes in the rain, saying, "maybe we will get a letter from Ivan today." Most all last week was cloudy and rainy and yesterday it was misty all day and this morning it is thundering, guess it will rain pretty soon.

Saturday Dad took cream and eggs in the wagon to Clinton's and went to town with them. We went to Sunday school and church in the wagon Sunday. We saw quite a few wild ducks on the way, some swimming in the middle

of the road. Our new preacher and wife are here now, I think we will like them fine. We have had a good preacher since Sparks left, but he is going into evangelistic work. Evelyn and Delores was all our folks that were there. Minnie and baby had a cold, so didn't come.

I sure wish Irene and children would get into the habit of coming to Sunday school, the children want to come and I think they should get the chance, they live just a little over one mile from church. And Wilma should take time to take her children too, they will soon be so old they won't want to go. One thing I like about Mary is she is good to go to Sunday school and church and take Tommy too, whenever she can. I suppose we told you that Mary and Tommy are expecting the stork in August, is the reason Mary doesn't feel so well some of the time. But she is pretty good most of the time, works for the lady where they room some, it helps pay their rent, she says.

You won't have a hard time to find a wife when you come home. You should be glad you didn't get one before you went away, you don't have so much to worry about anyway. Carl Hysom is home on sick leave. He can walk but limps, he was at church Sunday with Pearl. He goes back to the hospital soon. I am glad you told me Wilma Marie's age. Alice told me Ralph was in the Philippines somewhere.

Chores are done and Dad wants to go to the mail box. The sun is about to shine, makes us feel more cheerful. I'll write more soon. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God keep you in His loving care. Love, Mom

**May 2, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

We are having lovely weather now. We had a grand day yesterday, so Loren and I spent the afternoon working in the yard. Loren was in his buggy playing and watching me too. He took his nap outside too. He really likes to be outside. The wind is strong today so I'm not sure whether I'll get to take him outside or not. I think I'll do my ironing today if I can stay inside long enough.

Mother and Dad went to church Sunday in the hay-rack. The water was too deep for a car. Minnie's girls went to church and they saw



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the folks. Minnie didn't go as Murriel had a sore throat. He feels much better now. Their school is out now so Minnie will have more help than she had.

I just wrote to Mom and to Virgil. It's been 2 weeks since we've heard from Virgil, but his girl-friend heard from him last week. He was OK then, but has moved to another ship so we aren't sure what that means. He thinks they will be going in your direction soon.

Mr. Hefling has his casts off of his legs, but one foot he can't put his weight on it for 3 months yet. It has been 2 months now since his accident. He scoots around all over the house on a big sofa pillow.

Mother T. spent the weekend with George Stiggins so they went to see Grandma Bainum. Fairy and her baby went too. They took a Kodak picture of five generations. Hope they are good. That is unusual.

Loren is awake now and thinks he'd like to have his bath. He's all smiles this morning. Hope you are well and getting along OK. Love and Best Wishes, Edna and All

**May 2, 1945: Juanita to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

Dearest Uncle Ivan,

I am in study hall right now and the teacher is calling roll. I hope she doesn't look over here because I am chewing gum and she just can't stand it. Most of the teachers are pretty sensible about it but a few? Oh well I'll chew it when I don't think she's looking and if she catches me I will have to spit it out. In Alice's last letter she said that if she didn't get cold feet she would write and your letters aren't as funny as heck and they couldn't be, they are as nice as everything. I'll have Billie get her picture taken and send it to you but you know what Alice looks like so you wouldn't need her picture. Friday night was the Jr. and Senior banquet. I had a pink formal. The girls up there at Garvie's gave me my corsage. It was a gardenia. They said it was from the Garvie bag friends. I had my hair put up and of course it rained but such is life. We had tomato juice as a cocktail, chicken and mashed potatoes and gravy. For desert we had angel food cake and ice cream. We could have coffee or milk but I didn't take either. After the banquet we came down here and danced. I

didn't as I didn't know how and I didn't want to make a fool out of myself before so many people. [illegible] the banquet later. Write soon. Take care of yourself, with lots of love, Juanita

**May 3, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all pretty good now. Murriel's cold is much better.

Boy! We still are having winter at our house. After Fred built the fire this morning, he looked and thermometer said 58 so it isn't so warm yet. I have a time keeping Murriel covered until it is warm enough to get up.

Delores just wakened up and it is 8:30. She thought when school was out she'd sleep until noon but I think she'd have a hard time doing it. Almost every morning we'd call her this last winter, she'd want to turn over and sleep some more. She always said she was sleepy. I put her to bed yesterday afternoon. I think she slept a good three hours. I know she needs more sleep than some children. Maybe if she has a nap every day she will grow faster. She's smallest one in her class at school.

I washed Tuesday, dried some of clothes then. I finished drying them yesterday. Now I must fold them and iron today. I'll be glad when they are all put away again.

I bought a bushel of tomatoes that had ripened too fast when trucked in here from Texas. I paid 75 cents a bushel for them. Got a lot of good eating of them sliced, and canned five and a half quarts of juice, so I got my money's worth.

Wilma's school is supposed to close tomorrow. These girls of ours would like to go over. I doubt if we will as they aren't having a program. Hardly worthwhile for the kids to go just for dinner.

Well, I hope it stays pretty so we can get some of these mud holes dried up. A week from Sunday is Mother's Day. Looks like we'll have to walk in around the ponds of water if we get to Mom's even by the 13th.

Murriel is quite a climber. He climbs up on the day bed now. Has to work a little but he gets it done. He'll hang onto top of his play pen and wrap his leg around a post of it and hang

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there a little bit. He'll go over the top before long at that rate.

Did I tell you Rose Hefling was back in Burrton? She's come here for the stork to make his visit. She'd been in New Mexico where her husband is working for the railroad. Ronald and his wife look for stork in June. This will be Rose's third and Ronald's second.

We covered up our dozen tomato plants last night. They didn't get too cold as it didn't frost but I didn't want to take any chances. They are just bedded in out here in one clump. I bought them Sunday evening and it has rained so until just now it is drying up enough so I can get in the garden. I'll get them put where I want them right away if it warms up. If not, I'll just leave them where they are.

They claim Hitler is dead. I'd sure like to know if it is so or not. Would be good thing if he were out of the way. Do you get much of world news where you are?

It is almost nine and I want to write Virgil and Schuyler before carrier comes. Write when you can, Lots of Love, Minnie and Family

**Friday May 4, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

I'll just finish answering your letter of April 18th as the mailman hasn't given me one to answer this week, so far. We have been having cool weather most of the week, cooler than a lot of days in March was. The fruit crop was hurt bad by a freeze after Easter, it even got the sand hill plums here. The potatoes are up and Dad hoed them today, our garden is late but looks good. I set out some tomato plants some time ago.

Delores Ann is plump not fat. Her face isn't fat, but just about right. She looks a little like a boy to us as she is the picture of Schuyler. I sure wish you could see her. Did Ruth ever send you a picture of her?

I commenced this last night. We have a nice clear day this morning, we are so glad to see the sunshine. The water is going down some. Dad is going to take the wagon out south this morning and see if he can't find a road out for the car through the pasture so we can get on the highway. He hasn't gone to town or anywhere in the car since April 13th. He has the cattle off to

pasture now. He rented that 40 acres again that he rented year before last, pays \$35.00 this time. He took 15 yearlings there to pasture. He has 13 at Clinton's, pays \$8.00 a season for them. Nyborg sold some of his cattle so he could take in cattle to pasture. He said there was more money in it for him, he charges \$12.00 a season. We milk five cows so that's not much of a job. We have two new calves this week, they are still with their mothers.

I guess spring is really here, our barn swallows are back building them a new home, they were busy last evening when we were milking. Their old nest got knocked down some way, they are putting their new nest close to where the old one was.

Well this is Saturday and I must finish studying my Sunday school lesson. I hope more of my family will be at Sunday school next Sunday. Well Ivan, I don't know a bit of news to tell you so maybe I'd better stop. I have a box of tomato plants here in the kitchen to set out today if I get to it. We are both just fine, and we hope you are well and all right. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God keep you in His loving care and speed the day that all you boys will get to come home again. Love, Mom

**May 5, 1945: Juanita to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dearest Uncle Ivan,

I promised to tell you about the banquet in this letter so here goes. We had the Cessna band play and then they had some entertainer, some dance, some tap danced and some used roller skates. Most of them were real good. At 11:30 it was over so another girl and I went to town to get us something to eat and we got home about 1:30. Not bad for us do you not think? We wore our formals up town and if people didn't look and of course some of the soldiers and sailors whistled. We did look funny and we felt funny. Enough about that I would think. By the way is there any soldiers over there who doesn't get much mail, and who would like to write to someone? If so why don't you give them my address.

*[Typed from this point on]* I went to town last night but not to work as I haven't felt like working. I went to a show, Billie went with



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me. When I got home no one was here but pretty soon Mom and Dad came and you can't guess what they had with them. It was a typewriter. So now I am going to have to write more often. I still don't know where all the gadgets are but I am still looking. Have you ever answered Billie's letter? She was saying last night that she wished she would hurry up and get a letter from you. She said she would send you a picture. Junior is here beside me and I think he wants to write a little so here he is. I went to church last Sunday. I am going again tomorrow. Mother teaches Junior Church. We sing and she tells stories. I like it. Love, Junior. Junior says I may write now as his fingers are wearing out. We had to pay \$25 for it, I don't think that is bad. Well I must close and get ready to go to work. Write soon, and TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. With Lots of Love, Juanita

**May 5, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are fine. Just now I'm in a hurry. We are going to Wichita tonight. We plan to stay all night at Violet's and then get blacksmith coal tomorrow. We are going down in the truck. Am afraid we'll be shook up some but I can't miss a chance seeing the kids. Evelyn went to see "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" this afternoon with a neighbor girl. They have just gotten home. Fred is in here washing, so I'd better get Murriel out of the bathtub. He sure does like it. Splashes water all over everywhere. Sun has been shining again today. Things are drying up, I'm anxious to know how the pond is close to Dad's. I hope it gets so we can drive through it. Our radishes are large enough to eat. Fred sure reminds me if I forget to pull some for a meal as he sure likes them. Delores needs someone to comb her hair. Guess I'll have to get busy or Fred will be ready before the rest of us are. I'll write more later. Love, Minnie

**Monday May 7, 1945: Irene to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Mom was just saying you didn't know Mary and Tommy were expecting a new arrival

in August. I just reckoned you knew as Minnie always writes first thing about things like that. Now that is the only new arrival that I know of right now.

I and kids went to Sunday school then rode home on hay rack with Mom and Dad. Then around 5:00 o'clock Dad took us back to road to meet Roy. There are so many lakes in road Dad still has to use hay rack to get out. Been like this for close to three weeks now. Dad says he could raise frogs there only the chickens would eat them up. They catch them and tear them apart.

Last night it rained a little bit more and is windy, cloudy and cold today. Yesterday was nice and warm.

Wilma Marie went after the cows last night and when she got in she had a lot of mosquito bites. She said, "swarms of mosquitos just ganged up on her." She looked like they had.

Saturday Roy took Walter to town, got him a haircut, new shoes, and a straw hat. Walter was just sitting on top of the world for a while.

Last week Roy brought home a small puppy about as big as your two fists. Is white with a little black on face and tail. I don't think it had been weaned good yet. It drinks milk good now though. I reckon Roy has to have something to play with. The kids sure like the pup.

I got a card from Saxon that tells a bit about their home so I'll put in for you to read too.

Minnie and Fred went to Wichita Saturday night and stayed Sunday so we didn't get to see them. Minnie had told Esther Smith where they were so she could tell Mother.

We've had our new preacher for two Sundays now. A young fellow with a wife but no kids yet. He preached a good sermon Sunday. I think everyone will like him. Didn't hardly seem the same without Sparks though. Ed Truesdale teaches our class now.

Well I'd better close and mail this. Take good care of yourself. Lots of Love, Irene, Roy and Kids

**Tuesday May 8, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

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Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are fine here. The sun is hid behind a cloud. It is pretty chilly outside. I suppose when it does get warm it will be hot instead of warm. We went to Wichita Saturday night and didn't get to come home until yesterday. The fellow Fred wanted to load him up at Watkin's had plans other than that, so we never got to go home Sunday evening as planned. We had a nice visit at Violet's. Also saw Lee's. They were all fine. Baby is growing like a weed but he isn't as fat as Loren Gene. Murriel is 13 months old today. He isn't as heavy as he was at 11 months. He is 21 lbs. and 11 oz. and at 11 months he weighed 22 lbs. He doesn't eat as good as he should. Maybe he'll get to eating better now that he's about over his cold.

Well Hutchinson closed stores yesterday to celebrate V-E Day. They got Truman's speech this morning announcing it. Wichita is celebrating today. My idea is that the celebrating is somewhat out of place. When the war is over is the time to celebrate. I'm thankful that they can soon be starting [to send] more material in direction of Japan and the victory in Europe will hasten the victory over Japan. I haven't seen Mother going on three weeks. I hope roads will dry up or that they can fix them soon. Sunday is Mother's Day and I know we'd all like to go home. Maybe they can come to some of our places. Lots of Love, Minnie

**May 8, 1945: Tom to Ivan**

San Diego, California

Dear Ivan,

I got your letter you wrote the 26 of April. I'm still in San Diego but I don't know how long. My wife has been with me for two months now. It sure is nice to have her with me too. I haven't done any cooking, only mess cooking, that is different. When you mess cook you serve the food and clean up the place, but I don't do that now.

I'm helping fix boats, small ones. We are putting in plates to reinforce the lifting cable brackets. I guess you know this is V-E Day. I sure hope you get to come home soon and you can drive my car. I still have it and I'm going to keep it. Yes I made fireman and passed my test

for third class also, but I won't get it till I go overseas and then might not get it.

Mary said, why did you send this Japanese money? Why didn't you send some good money? Ha! Ha! Before Mary got here I went to shows a little but I played ping pong most of the time. I got me a watch for \$20.00 at the ship service. The Doctor said she will have a boy and I sure hope it don't look like you and be as ornery too. We have been to Old Mexico two times. They sure have a lot of things to buy.

I guess I didn't tell you I made me a hunting knife and a sheath. I made the sheath at the YMCA; it is a USO also. So you think the navy feed not very good slop? I guess they don't but sometimes we get a pretty good meal. I guess the folks are all OK only for the water around their place. I don't mind washing when I don't have anything to do.

I got a letter from Carl and he don't tell you nothing only he said that he has bought a house and he is finishing painting it inside, and that is about all he said. We are working out of trucks. They have a carpenter truck and a machine shop truck, that is the one I work in. I drill the holes in the plates and help with the bolts. We have to shorten bolts and put longer threads on them. They are them landing craft boats that has a wide ramp, the front end falls down.

How did you like the weather out here? It sure gets cold when the sun don't shine. About the airmail stamps, I didn't have one at the time and just sent it. But I will put one on this letter. Well tell me when you are coming home? Ha! Tom Jr. and Mary and Your Brother Tom

**May 8, 1945: Violet to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

Dear Brother Ivan,

It is raining, or trying to, here today. I've been trying to do some sewing. There's always plenty to do. Mrs. Young was over to get me to help her on a dress she's making. Don't mind the time it takes me to help her only by the time we talk so long and I get home I'll waste so much time.

I've got my figures fixed for next Sunday but I must fix my scenery for 2 scenes. One for a desert scene as Philip goes to Gaza where he meets the eunuch of Ethiopia and he



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converts him and the water and land scene where they leave the chariot and go into the water and Philip baptizes the colored eunuch of Ethiopia. We're studying the Book of Acts and take each chapter or story as it comes. We had the story of Stephen last Sunday.

We were really surprised Saturday night about 12 PM when Minnie and Fred and Family knocked on the door. Lottie Grace and Clarice were at Walt and Mary's over the weekend for the first time in a long while. Fred, Juanita and Evelyn went after them. They were in bed. They got home here and wakened up and Delores and Clarice were taking a bath at 3 AM. Delores had a bath before she left home too. They took another one Sunday afternoon. We have really dirty children here, don't you think? We like to never get them asleep. Junior slept through everything. We mixed ice cream before going to church Sunday morning. Fred and Clarence got ice and froze cream. Minnie visited Junior Church. Murriel went with his Dad and Clarence. Fred's clothes weren't clean enough, so he said, to go to church and Clarence, after working Saturday night would have gone to sleep. Clarence never rested until about 6 PM when the Kids went over to Lee's and Luella's. Fred couldn't get what he wanted to Sunday so he never got to go home until Monday morning. They ate breakfast early and left and then it was time to get my youngsters to school. Evelyn's school is out so she's lucky.

We heard from Minnie today. She said Monday was celebrated for V-E Day there. Everything closed, Ward's even closed. Some things closed here but others waited until Tuesday when President Truman gave his talk. However it was done, it was a glorious occasion and I just hope V-J will soon be here. That's what really concerns us the closest. However, you'll have help now so it won't be so long. I just feel like you'll be home before '48 though, whatever happens.

I've got my washing to do and hope to do it soon. Yesterday was Junior's birthday. He is 4 now. He wanted a banana cake for his birthday. So that's what he got. I happened to have just enough bananas on hand for it. Mary wrote to me that you couldn't get bananas there, that Thomas is served them now and then at the base. She said he'd brought her his banana home

to her since she liked them. Do you have bananas there?

I believe it is just cloudy out now. I hope the sun comes out.

Oh yes, L.G. found 5 airmail stamps over at the store where someone had dropped them. She said we'd both use them. Her and I both would write you and use her stamps. I'd better close and leave some room for her to write. We got a letter from you yesterday written the 26th of April. We heard from Thomas and Mary yesterday too. We really enjoy hearing from you and appreciate every letter you write. Don't work too hard and take good care of yourself. With lots of love, Clarence, Violet and Family.

PS: Lottie Grace planned to write you but she had company until late. The kids did go out and get some waste paper in the evening. They really got a pretty good load. Then she had her music to practice. It took some time to straighten and fix the papers to tie and get them out of the way. C.D. plans to sell them before long for the youngsters. So she will try to write to you soon. Love, Violet.

PS [at top of first page]: Looking over the letter I find I put Hutchinson as address. You'll excuse me when you know I got to bed Sunday AM at 6 in the morning and got up at 7:30 AM. We did have so much to talk about. I only feel sorry for Minnie but I just couldn't get her to bed. We really had a grand time.

**May 10, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Enjoyed your letter so much that you wrote April 25. We got it yesterday and were glad to know you were OK. Got one from Aunt Florence yesterday too. She's OK and her mother and father are feeling better. Her Dad has an asthma heart and isn't too good. She is quite concerned about her parents to know they are getting old and do not know Jesus as their own personal Savior. She feels they would have a peace that would endure if only they would believe. It is too bad. We hope they will realize their need before it is too late. Aunt Florence wondered if you had gotten her Xmas package. She asked about you and Virgil. We sent her our family group picture and she was glad to get it.

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Loren was only 2 months old, but he looked much older. Would like for you to see them but gave yours to Mom. Thought maybe you wouldn't have any place to keep it. If you want it we will send it to you.

Kenneth, Grace Stiggins' husband, phoned her Monday morning from New Jersey. He is going to be stationed in a hospital in the States, but don't know where yet. Grace is pretty good. Fairy and son are getting along fine.

The folks are pretty good, but still have plenty of water. I'm sending your letter and Aunt Florence's to Mom this morning. She enjoys letters a lot.

From the radio report on soldiers coming home, we hope you will get to come before long. You have been over there a good lone time. At 11:00 am the radio is going to broadcast the point system. We [are] hoping it means that you'll get home before long.

No word from Virgil since April 12, but hope to hear soon.

Loren is spoiled some I expect, but he is such a good baby. He is so happy that everyone likes to play with him. He is asleep now. He holds his hands out to us now. Lots of Love, Edna and All

### May 10, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of April 23rd on the 8th of May. I intended to answer it yesterday but didn't get it done. This is the first letter I've started to write this week. Somehow yours always comes first, then the rest are next. We have a cloudy, misty week so far, we have not had a good wash day yet this week. It's real cool this morning, down to 42 and wind is in the North, it's too cold to work in the garden today. I plowed most all the garden Monday, in the middle it was too wet to plow. I am almost afraid to set out more tomato plants till it gets warmer. Cool weather plants are doing fine in the garden, but beans look a little cold. You know they like warm weather.

We are so glad that part of the war is over. Dad says, "maybe Ivan will get to come home pretty soon." You couldn't come too soon to suit us. They said over the radio that boys that had been in the Pacific two years or more might

get to come home now. We sure hope so anyway.

We went to church and Sunday school Sunday in the rack wagon. Irene and children came home with us, then Dad took them back as far as the mail box in the evening and Roy met them there. We go through the pasture south of us, so we don't have to go through water. Dad went that way to Buhler Monday with the car. He got stuck in a soft place, came back, got the team and pulled car out, then went on to Buhler. He didn't get stuck coming home, so he is planning on going to Hutchinson today. He has been fixing the manure spreader, just about finished it I think.

Thomas and Mary are still in California, I heard from them Tuesday. Thomas had made him a knife, he said it wasn't as big as Ivan's. Do you still have yours? Well it's too bad it has to rain in the daytime, so you will get wet. Dad took the cream to the corner yesterday, and it rained most of the time. He waited about an hour, then came home. The cream man was a little late as he had a flat on the way. He walked here and Dad took him and the cream back to his truck. It wasn't raining then.

Well Ivan we hope you are well and all right, so I'd better stop as I want to send this to town by Dad to mail. Good-bye with lots of love. May God keep you in His loving care is our prayer. Pop and Mom

### May 10, 1945: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

I got the letter you wrote the 25th of April yesterday. Sure glad to hear from you and to know you were OK.

They must have large families there where you are at. My three keep me plenty busy. How do they ever get their work done? Or don't they have work to do?

John came to our place last night. He came in from Miller's, brought his clothes. He didn't like sleeping in the basement there and thought he was getting some rheumatism. His stomach bothered some. He's lying here on daybed reading now.

I haven't seen Mother going on three weeks now. Sure wish we could go over that road.



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Mary has to come home by June 7th as her ticket expires then. Tommy is still here which is quite lucky for them and all of us.

I tore off two sheets so find myself writing on back of another one. Guess it is waste of paper. That is what Delores said it was when I got a letter from Luella. She'd written on one side of paper only and Delores noticed it and told me it was just a waste of it.

Fred is pretty busy in the shop. Guess since it isn't raining quite so much the farmers can get around and do more.

Tomorrow evening they are having a shower on Mrs. Young. She was Mrs. Meyers last year. She was married day school was out. We may go if we get around to it in time.

Tuesday night we went to church to the V.E. services. First I'd seen Rev. Duffy. I think we will like them real well. I guess even though we have a good minister we can find another just as good or better. Mrs. Duffy seems to be a good mixer too which will be nice for our community.

Sure is cold outside today. It is cloudy and damp like and you really need a jacket on.

Well I'd better get this in the box or I'll miss the carrier. Lots of Love, Minnie

**May 11, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are pretty good but Evelyn has a bilious spell this morning. Her head and stomach aches. Pretty soon she'll throw up her socks and maybe she'll feel better. I guess I'll have to take her into Lonquest and get her to have another treatment. She took one then Mrs. Lonquest went on a visit and we haven't been back.

It is cloudy today. I wanted sun to shine so I could wash. I sure need to. Guess I'll have to order the kind of days I want a little earlier. Maybe I'll be more apt to get what I want.

Murriel sure hollers dady and mama now. Funny part is he'll holler dady when his daddy isn't around. He's hollered it to Mr. Elliott and Okey as they have gone past where he is playing.

John is reading. I told him he might get a pen and help me with my letter writing. He doesn't seem much enthused about it.

I plowed my south garden last night. It does look nicer this morning. I need to have Fred fix the handles of plow a little different as they are a little high for me to handle. He fixed them to fit him I guess.

Fred is sharpening plow shares. He is getting busier as harvest draws closer. He went to Carl Sellers' last night to fix carburetor of his tractor. He came home, ate supper, then he went to Sammie Miller's and welded some on tractor hitch. From there he went to town and tried to buy an axle and wheels to fix a trailer for Marion Coberly. Marion and Clark Miller have bought a hay bailer together. They need the trailer to go with outfit someway.

Our radishes are getting green lice on them so they won't last long now. Our lettuce is not quite ready to use. I worked on Fred's books last night. I have some more to do. Must get it done before it piles up too high for me. My patching has really piled up so I must start getting it caught up.

Dad was here yesterday afternoon. He was on his way to town. He said he came out through south pasture. He said first time he did it, he got stuck. He put trash in and got it so he can get through. We are going to Irene's for Mother's Day. We never have all been there at once and this way we won't take a chance of getting stuck.

John took Delores a ride on the bike yesterday. She sure liked it.

Evelyn didn't join 4H after all. Fred and I talked things over and decided maybe she'd better spend more time on music and some extra reading, etc. this summer. They don't have much order at 4H meetings over here so we think it best that she go to things we can attend. So many of these kids are so silly it is pitiful. I wish they had some fetching up.

Well I'd better write Tommy a line and let him know I think about him once in a while. Lots of Love, Minnie and Family

**May 12, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

We were so glad to hear from you again this week. We got your letter yesterday that was post marked May 5. It took only six days to come, quicker than usual. From your letter you

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must be farther south and have better or quicker mail service. I called Minnie and read your letter to her. She was glad to hear from you too.

This morning we were listening to the 6 o'clock news broadcast, and we heard about your division again. It said you had landed on the southern island of the Philippines, Mindanao. You landed on the northern part and Morris thought it said you landed ten weeks ago, so if you did you were there when you wrote last. It said too that the 40th had been in six major battles, so from that we have figured your points and you surely are eligible to come home. We hope so and hope too it won't be long until you can come. I know it has been a long time to you, and to all of us. It is so hard on all our boys and especially when they have been in battle so much. You surely deserve to come home soon. We are planning that for you anyway. I'm sending this snap shot of our family. [missing from envelope] I'd send some of Virgil but we're getting some more prints made, as so many places they will make only one print at a time, and it takes so long to get them back too.

It is damp, cloudy, and cool. Just come over and your feet will get muddy here too. It doesn't seem like summer at all, so damp and cold. I expect summer will soon make its appearance soon and really be warm. I guess we do need some sunshine.

They had a program and open house at Sherman school last night. I took Gayle and had a nice time. He sang in the mixed chorus. He seems to like music too. Hope he gets along with it as well as Virgil did. Morris had a long day yesterday so he stayed at home and kept Loren. I put Loren to bed before I left so he wasn't any trouble. He's so good most of the time. When he wakened up this morning, he chewed his fists and didn't cry at all. I guess if he got hungry enough he'd cry. I fed him when I was getting breakfast and now he is asleep again.

Ross Stewart is home on leave and he came over to use our phone. He just lives, or did, across the street from us. He wanted to know where we got the baby. I thought he was kidding so I said, "we just found him." He said, "I didn't know you had a baby." Before he left he said, "Why, Mrs. Tucker, now that isn't your baby, is it?" Well I begin to wonder sometimes myself, for it has been so long since we had a baby, but

it's nice that he is ours, for he is such a nice boy and so happy too. So many would like to keep him. I can't blame them much.

Hope we get a letter from Virgil soon. His last to us was written April 12. Although Dorothy heard April 19. I know we shouldn't expect a letter often since he is on the move, but we do enjoy them and are always anxious about him. I guess we are anxious about all our boys. That is natural and we think of all of you often, hoping and praying for your welfare, and safe return home. May God in all his mercy give you courage, and strength to face the trials of each day, and may He be your faithful companion at all times. Without God life wouldn't be worth living. With God we can have assurance "that all things work together for good to them that love him."

I have another \$20 to put in the Coop for you. Your balance now is \$761.78. It climbs up, doesn't it?

I must write a line to Virgil. I want to paint the high chair this morning as Loren is big enough to use it. Hope you are well and happy. Lots of Love and Good Wishes, Edna and All

All folks are OK but still lots of water out there. We're all going to Irene's for Mother's Day. The folks can get out by going through the pasture.

### May 14, 1945: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all just fine here. It sure is chilly for this time of year. Yesterday it was almost hot and here today you need a jacket on outside. John is in getting his winter underwear on and half of his supply of pants and shirts. Anyway he's not going to get cold. Fred came into breakfast and told John they reported it was snowing in Nebraska. That is what started him to putting on his extras. They won't come off until 4th of July, I suppose.

Evelyn is washing the dishes. I must dry them for her. It is too cold to wash so I'll patch and sew some today as soon as we get house work done.

Yesterday we all went to Irene's for dinner. Had a nice time. We were all there but Ruth and Delores and Violet and children. Howard didn't come either. He's been going to



## Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

Rowlands' a lot since he stays there of a night too.

How many points do you have? We figure they ought to be sending you this direction sometime soon. Sure hope they do anyway.

Mother is fair for her I guess. Her face sure looks better. I guess from what she says she does have spells where it burns a lot. Will be glad if it'd get clear well.

Murriel is standing here patting me. Guess I'll have to fix him a bottle pretty soon.

Well here's John with his winter underwear, a sweat shirt, a shirt and two pair of overalls. Don't know how many jackets he'll put on.

We had a nice service at Sunday school yesterday but I didn't get to enjoy much of the preaching. Murriel decided he wouldn't be good so I spent most of my time in back room and out in car.

Loren Gene sure is getting fat. Cute as he can be too.

We saw Fred's folks last night. I think Mother Evans is doing fine after her operation.

We went down to cemetery yesterday evening and set out a small cedar on our lot. The cemetery sure looks pretty. They've trimmed all the trees and mowed the grass. Sure looked nice. Guess they are ready for Decoration Day.

I'd better mail this. I'll write again soon. Lots of Love, Minnie and Family

**Wednesday May 16, 1945:**

**Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of April 29th yesterday, and of May 1st Saturday. It's sure so nice to hear from our boy that he is all right. No, I don't mind you repeating such good news, for that is the most important news to us you could tell us, so you can't tell us too many times to suit us. We are so glad the war in Europe is over, so you folks will have more help. Dad and Morris was counting your points, and they say you have more than enough to get to come home, so they are expecting for you to get to come home in the near future. Wouldn't that suit you and I just fine.

I think we are having our rainy season here now, *[Here the handwriting changes without explanation; it looks like "Dad" has taken over for a while]* and we sure are getting more than we need but we have to take it and we have no place to put only in the low places. We are just about got all the water we need. The underflow has filled the cellar nearly full. But we hope that the rains will let up soon. The wheat is good where the ground is not too wet. Down around the brandy Lake, the wheat is poor and in the sand hills also. Oats is not much good too much moisture. Well we hope that you have enough points to bring you home that will be grand. Glen Van buren is released from the German prison, where they had him and that is fine. Steve is over here yet down in Texas. I think the last we heard Clifford is still here but he may have to go yet. He works out in the booster station there at Haven. *[Handwriting changes back to Lottie Jane's]* He was sent to be examined some time ago.

Well Ivan, breakfast is over and Dad is ready to take the can of cream to the corner, to meet the cream man, so I have to stop and send this to the box. I'll write again soon. We hope you are well and OK. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

**May 16, 1945: Violet to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Brother Ivan,

Received a letter from you today. It was written May 7. Really glad to hear from you. Are you feeling OK now? Ruth said it took Schuyler so long to get completely over his sickness. About the snapshots, as soon as we get some films we'll take some pictures of the family. Will try to get some before long.

I'd like to see inside one of their houses there. Do they have radios, sewing machines, pianos, etc. With children so close together do they usually have extra large families there? Or is it several families in each house?

Is the rainy season so bad? Which kind of weather do you like best? Rainy or not? Don't think I'd care so much for rainy season: we've been having it here. Today is the most decent day this week. I washed today. Lottie Grace took

## Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

care of children tonight and she has a job for tomorrow night.

The MacArthur School where the girls go is having a festival tomorrow. The program lasts 3 and a half hours they say. There are 1,441 pupils enrolled there. There are five fifth grade rooms. L.G.'s room wrote to MacArthur telling him how their school was named for him. He sent them an autographed photograph of himself. He wrote he was sending it with his affection. MacArthur is the largest school of its kind in the U.S.

They give free instrument lessons. All except piano. L.G. is taking tonette lessons. Clarice was so excited about being in the program tomorrow she could hardly get to sleep. C.D. is off to work. Junior is asleep. Juanita wants to go to Buhler Commencement Exercises and I expect she will. Take care of yourself, Love, Emerys

**May 17, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Gayle is at school and Loren is sound asleep. Loren ate at 6:00 a.m. so is really sleeping now.

Morris has an infected ingrown toe-nail so went to Dr. Tuesday and had the nail cut out on that side. He has just left to see the Dr. this morning. It is coming along fine. If he had seen a Dr. a few days before he wouldn't have had to miss any work, but he thought it would get alright by soaking it, but it didn't. He will be back to work pretty soon now.

We had two nice letters from Virgil last Saturday. That was the nicest Mother's Day gift I could have had for it had been quite a while since we had heard from him. He has a change of address, and has been on three different ships recently. The last one he was put on he was transferred at sea on a trolley affair. I guess that was quite an experience for him. He's on a baby flat-top and a commander carrier craft. He says there is an Admiral aboard too. There is a barber shop and cobbler shop on the ship. I expect he is north of you for his ship carries fighter planes. He is OK.

From the radio and papers you really are doing things and going places. We are hoping and praying that all will be well for you. We

heard this morning your division was in central Mindanao now and are having hard going.

We were at Irene's Sunday for dinner, as it is hard to get home. All the folks were there, even Clarence came in. Mom and Dad are pretty good. In fact, Mother's face surely looks good. It looks almost well and she seems to feel pretty good too. We had a nice time. Mother T. spent the weekend with us and she had a nice visit too. We came in town early enough to stop at Arthur Stiggins' and Bushes. It was Mother's Day and we thought the rest of Mother Tucker's children would like to see her too.

Gayle and I went to the commencement sermon over here at school Sunday evening. Morris stayed home with his toe and took care of Loren.

Tonight Mrs. Burleson and daughters Vernice and Estelle are coming over for supper. The girls live in Hutchinson and work. Mrs. Burleson is here on a visit and doctoring a sore finger she has. Juanita Burleson is at home with Mr. Burleson as Juanita's husband has gone overseas just recently.

Grace Stiggins' husband is at a hospital in El Paso, Texas. He wrote that he may be home soon. Minnie and family are OK. John is with them at present. Thinking about getting a job I guess.

Today is wonderful out. We've had such cold weather and damp weather that the sun looks good. Loren weighs 18 lbs. when 5 months old. Lots of Love to You, Edna and All

**May 18, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are fine here only Murriel has had some cold. Sunday it seemed to settle in his eyes. They have been somewhat red and watery all week. I think they are some better today.

Edna just phoned and said that Carl and Saxon had phoned last night. They are all right. They are taking care of twin boys now. They are two months old. Guess she's got her hands full. Carl is working there in Phoenix last they wrote. They call it hosteling or something like that. It is doing the engineering job in the yards there.

I got my washing all dried so now I must iron again.



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Steve Van Buren has been released from prison in Germany. I expect he will be home soon.

Kenneth Hutchinson, that is, Grace Stiggins' husband, is home now for 45 days. He's got a hand he will have to go back to hospital to get fixed up.

John went to Wilma's last night. He sure is one person that is hard to decide what he wants to do. One day he'll talk of going to Alaska and another of going to Missouri and trying to farm. I think he'd like to go the way of least resistance. It's sure a shame he's passing up a chance of getting ahead but you can't reason with him at all.

May 19th. I never got this done in time to mail it yesterday so I'll finish it now. Fred is going to town after a while to get some iron to make a big trailer for Clark Miller. Clark bought a self-propelled combine. He's supposed to go south and go north and do a lot of custom combining. He needs this trailer to haul the combine, also wants it by last of next week. Fred will have to hurry.

I went to a rummage sale this morning. I got Murriel a blue coat that he can wear for 50 cents and a push cart for \$1.50. He sure likes his cart. He's in it now and Delores is pushing him. Evelyn is mopping the north side of this room. Pretty soon I plan to get over to the machine and try to make me a new dress for tomorrow.

Lee's are coming up from Wichita tomorrow to get some baby chicks. We plan to eat dinner with his folks either at the park or the lunch room. We plan to have a wienie roast so we won't have to work all the time.

What kind of eats are you getting now? According to the paper the "40th" landed on Mindanao on May 10th. Did you go with them? From your letters you were still on Negros and never went to Masbate with them. You can tell me if you moved this time or not and we'll know where you are.

Evelyn isn't too good on the mopping but she is learning.

Dad was here today. He seemed pretty good. He was on his way to town with the eggs.

Guess I'd better say good-bye. Will be looking for a letter from you. Lots of Love, Minnie. I got letter you wrote May 7th. Sure

glad to get it. Calvert's arm is better, is same as healed up, he's just learning to use it.

**May 19, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of May 7th yesterday and another box of shells. Did I tell you we got a box of shells last week too? The box that came last week had two necklaces made of the shells, they sure are pretty. Did you get these last two boxes of shells in the Philippines? Did you make the necklaces? Tell us how, I'll bet even your nephews will want a necklace, don't you?

We have a nice day today. Dad has gone to feed the calves their milk, just feeds 4, then he is going to town to take the eggs, we get over 60 dozen eggs a week now. I intended to write last night but didn't get it done. We are just fine, my face is about well to look at it. Pimples are gone, some burning once in a while. Everyone tells me how well I look. It's sure a relief to not have your face to hurt. Hemstid hasn't said what it was but I'll ask him some day.

It was Dad's Grandfather that came from Alabama to Illinois on horseback. Dad's father was born in Illinois, Jefferson County, near Mount Vernon. Dad's mother was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, her father was a Methodist preacher and run a shoe shop, made shoes. In those days they didn't write letters like we do now so didn't keep track of their relation.

Well I've talked Dad into the notion of shaving before he starts to town, so I can write a little more. Our yellow roses are in bloom, I sure wish you could see them, they are so pretty. I am afraid you had to leave your growing corn, is the paper right, the 40th division is in Mindanao?

Well Ivan I'll stop and start Dad to town and write a better letter (I hope) soon. We hope you are well and OK and that God will speed the day all our boys may come home. Good bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

**May 22, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all pretty good.

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It was cold last night. Was some frost on car top. It didn't bother beans or tomatoes. It's a wonder though as they can't stand much.

Fred went to Windom last night. He looked at a ¾ ton truck with an electric welder and acetylene outfit on it. They want \$1250 for it. Fred thinks it is worth it. He would have to sell his ton and half truck though as one is all he needs.

Our lettuce is big enough to eat now. Evelyn is bringing Murriel in the house and he is scolding like everything. She has him in the push cart I bought. He started to cry when he knew she was bringing him in. As soon as she'd start back out he'd be still. He's nobody's dummy.

We had our picnic dinner at the park Sunday with Evans' and Krauters. Had a nice time only it was quite windy. Vi was there with her boy. He's three years old now. I asked Luella where Vi's ex-husband was at. She asked me to keep quiet about it but she said he was back in Larned. He'd been in Larned before Vi married him. I think she was a big sap then to marry him the second time. She's a gay young widow now the third time. She's had her third divorce for some time now. She is working at a cleaning plant in town.

I bought Evelyn a wool skirt and Delores a spring coat yesterday. The skirt had been 4.98 and I gave 2.50 for it. The coat had been \$6.00 and I gave \$3.00 for it. Guess I'm not hurt so badly. Everything is quite high even though they claim they have ceiling prices on things. Makes it awful hard on people that aren't making war wages to get along.

Marcelline told Evelyn her mama weighed 200 lbs. now. Lee weighs 230 lbs. so they've had plenty to eat. You should see Donald. He weighs close to 150. Just as fat as a pig. Marcelline and Gary haven't gotten any fatter. The baby is doing OK.

I saw Mama at Sunday School Sunday. She was going to Irene's for dinner. Her face sure is better. Mama said Dad got stuck when he went home Saturday evening through that south pasture. Guess only way we can get there is to wait until it freezes hard enough our cars can go on top. So hard on brakes to go through so much sand and water even though you could make it through, which you can't.

I asked Mama Sunday when Dad was going to decide to sell off and start some place on smaller scale. She said Dad was waiting on you to come home so we are looking for you. How many points do you have? Does that mean anything to you boys in that area? Ruth said Schuyler had written that some of boys there were coming home.

Well, I'd better write to Tommy. Lots of Love, Minnie and Family

**May 23, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

This snapshot of Morris and Loren isn't so good of Morris, but it looks like Loren, and maybe you can get some idea how he looks. Several have told us we could use Virgil's baby pictures and wouldn't need to take any of Loren. He is getting to be more fun all the time, as he plays so much. Morris really has fun with him evenings.

Today is Gayle's last day of school and he will be home tomorrow and then go to Scout Camp Friday p.m. for a few days. I'm planning to paper the dining room and living room soon and I'm planning for Gayle to help me. Won't we have fun?

I'm painting the wood-work in the kitchen and have about 1/3 of it done. I hope to finish it today and do some ironing.

Did I tell you that Carl and Saxon phoned last week? They are fine and are taking care of two month old twins and are busy. The twins are boys, but they don't know whether they will be for adoption or not.

Hope we hear from you soon as to your points. Hope they will bring you home before long.

The folks are OK. Minnie's are fine.

It rained some this morning, but the sun is shining now, so expect we will have a nice day.

It is 8:15 so had better quit and mail this. There isn't much news it seems. Loren will be awake and ready for his bath soon now. Hope you are well and happy. Lots of Love, Edna and All

**May 24, 1945: Irene to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas



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Dear Ivan,

I got your letter written 7. How are you? As Roy's Mom says, we are still able to eat. *[Here begin a few words in blue pencil.]* About the chicken pox, the kids were exposed enough but it didn't take. I guess I was so scared they would get it I almost thought they had. The blue pencil was one the kid had at school. The lead busted and I tried to write with color but it wasn't so good.

Dad and Mom can get out with the car now through pasture. It is rather bumpy but better than hay rack.

We've some eggs setting of the fighting chickens but they haven't hatched yet. The kids don't believe the rooster is a fighting one as it never tries to fight them. We have 7 duck eggs setting and some 9 weanie (sp?) eggs setting too so we will have quite a lot of birds.

Clyde's hair is still as light as it was. Wilma seems to think the hair cutting has taken some of the curl out but Clyde doesn't like it curly at all so it would suit him fine if it were all straight. I think Charles' hair is a bit darker.

Well it is almost Decoration Day and I've been making crepe paper flowers, mostly roses. Our roses won't bloom in time this year. I'm afraid too much cold weather at wrong time.

From what Mary says she plans to come back the 7 of June as her ticket is up then and if she should stay she'd have to go to Navy hospital and Tom doesn't want her to. I think the baby is supposed to come sometime in August.

Carl and Saxon called Edna last week to talk to them to find out how we all were. They are taking care of twin boys now. Bet they are a handful.

I'm not sure but I think the gang plan to make ice cream at Edna's tonight. Frank Grooms, at least I think that's who Edna said, was here on a visit. He was Grandma Haller's half-brother I think. I don't know if I will go or not yet. It's a clear windy day for Kansas, a few clouds around.

John is at Wilma's now last I heard. He can't seem to stay on a job more than a few weeks, gets tired or some reason I don't know what. I reckon he should have married. If he had a family he'd have to stay on a job.

Well I'd better close and mail this as it's getting close to mail time. Well take good care of yourself. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

**May 25, 1945:**

**Lottie Jane and Will to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

How are you this nice warm day? I believe our winter is really over, it's so warm today. We've not had any rain right here for some time now, so the water is drying up a little. Dad listed his corn this week, isn't planting much as the corn borer is bad here. Wilma's finished their listing yesterday. We saw them last night at Edna's. Uncle Frank Grooms and wife were visiting her nephew in Hutchinson, so we got to see them. He was Mother's half-brother and lives in Madison, Kansas. Irene's, Wilma's and Minnie's went to Edna's and made ice cream. Dad and I went to Fred's and went to Edna's with them. It was 12:30 when we got home, rather late for old folks.

We have just had dinner and Dad is ready to go to Hutchinson. I told him he could write some to you, then he could mail your letter in town. We are all right and hope you are well and OK too. I had forgot it was so late in the week and no letters written to anyone. I was getting the garden cleaned up first of the week, it is growing good now. John is at Wilma's now, he expects to work in the harvest. Ivan I'll try and write again soon and I hope to hear from you soon. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

*In William David's handwriting:* Mom wanted me to write you a few lines so we could get this letter off today, as I am going to town this afternoon and we have no road for the carrier to come by the box so we go down to the south corner for our mail.

We are growing a nice crop of frogs here in the ponds. The chickens have a big time eating tadpoles and worms that they find along the shore. But we are having some nice weather here now and we sure enjoy it. But it is still cool here. John is over at Wilma's helping about the farming. I didn't think he feels too good at times from the way he acts. But he won't go see a doctor. So that is that. Everything in the farming

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line is late here. The wheat is only fair here in Reno County.

Uncle Frank Grooms and his wife have been visiting here in Hutchinson so we went up and seen them for a little while. We got Wilma's fiddle and Uncle Frank and Fred played for us at Edna's and we all enjoyed the music. Some of the tunes he played was the same that he [illegible] for me 50 years ago, old time music. We all had a good time. Uncle Frank said we sure had a fine family. They live in Madison, Kansas about 40 miles north of Eureka, Kansas. Alma Boydston has a broken hip and is in the hospital. She fell in Eureka and broke it. Well I will write more next time. So good-bye, May God bless you is our prayer. Mom and Dad

**May 25, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? How is the weather there now? Sure has been hot here today. Guess we'll notice it more than ever since we've had such cool weather.

We need some screen wire on our windows and west door. We put storm screen on last winter. That doesn't let in much air now since it is hot. We can open south door and window and one west window.

Uncle Frank and Aunt Georgia were here to visit her niece so they called me up. I went and walked in from corner north of Dad's and told them. We came back home, got dinner, then Dad and Mom came and we went in and got them. They went with us to Wilma's then out here. Dad and Mom went on home after six. I got supper for them. Uncle Frank is Grandma Haller's half-brother. Last night we all went to Edna's and made ice cream. They came over with Fred. They seemed to enjoy the evening. Uncle Frank played Wilma's violin and Fred seconded on piano for us. John is at Wilma's now. He's helping her now.

I'd better mail this. Will write more next time. Lots of Love, Minnie

**May 26, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Well, we have a '40 Chevie truck now and it has DC electric outfit on it and an

acetylene outfit. Fred sure is proud of it. We sold our Diamond T to Charlie Ragland.

Sure has been windy and somewhat hot here today. I wish it would rain but Dad and Mom don't need any rain at their place. Ducks were swimming in their tomato patch. I mean what used to be a tomato patch.

Fred is finishing on Clark Miller's truck tonight. He's been quite busy all day today.

I've made some roses to send to Myrtle McRae to put on Grandma and Grandpa Haller's graves. I got 32 of the roses in a box. They will make several bouquets.

Murriel has been asleep almost four hours. I expect he thinks it is time to eat.

Mother said she saw in the paper where Phyllis Smith got her divorce. She also heard from someone that Carl and Pearl were to be married while he was home. He's gone back to hospital and I haven't heard if they did get married or not.

Well I must get this in an envelope if I mail it with my package. Lots of Love, Minnie

**May 28, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are fine here.

It is cool and cloudy and yesterday we about melted. There wasn't any breeze and it was hot.

We were surprised yesterday evening. Who should drive in but Tommy and Mary. They'd just got in on the train. Tommy gets to stay here until next Sunday. Mary said he got an emergency leave to come home with her. Her doctor fixed up a paper stating it was necessary for Tommy to go home with her. Mary said she thought that wouldn't work but it did.

We organized a Junior society at the church last night. I had twelve little folks up to age of 12 years in my group. Irene went with us so she took care of Murriel.

Irene and children were here for dinner yesterday. Beth sure isn't as plump as she should be. Don't know if she gets all the milk she needs. They have plenty but getting these children to drink it is another story.

Tommy and Mary went to Mama's last night. I'm anxious to know how they got through.



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I sure have a big ironing to do. I just wonder how it would feel to be all done with one's work.

Mr. Locke's must have sold their place. They are moving up to Shimel's just west of brown wheel. I knew they had place for sale but didn't know it had sold until we saw them moving yesterday. We will have to find some other place to buy our milk now.

I guess I'll have to water our garden today. Seems like it got rained out early this spring. I mean all of our rains came then. Anyway my garden needs rain.

Mother and Dad plan to go with us Wednesday to the cemetery. Irene and I made flowers yesterday. Irene made more of them than I did as I was busy with other things around here.

Evelyn went to the young people's service last night. She seemed to enjoy it. Guess we'll have to go every Sunday night now. It will be good for all of us to go. Fred worked yesterday so he never got to go to Sunday School at all.

Well I'd better mail this. Carl Hysom has gone back to hospital and Pearl just wears her diamond so I guess she never got married. Write when you can. Lots of Love, Your Sis Minnie and Family

**May 31, 1945: Juanita to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dearest Uncle Ivan,

I have started to summer school. I started Monday. My school wasn't completely out. It was out the 29th but we didn't do anything so I started in. I am taking sociology where I am now. Then American History. I am taking Typing II. I have to be here by 8:00 and get out at 12:34. I get up about 6:00 and catch a bus about 7:00. I may have to quit work, I hope not. Alice came down about a week ago. She is going back today so she can take her exam tomorrow. She is coming back then tomorrow night. Then she will go back around the 8th or 9th. Say, why don't you tell us some of the things you tell the girls when you write? If I didn't read them I wouldn't know anything about the place you are. By the way why didn't you tell us that you heard from Alice? I was at

her place when she got your letter. Doris is not engaged anymore. They broke it. It is for the best I expect. I didn't tell you I am going to Cathedral summer school. It is OK except calling the teachers sisters all the time. Write soon and take care of yourself. Uncle Tommy is home will go back Sunday. Mother is going home before Sunday to see him. With Lots of Love, Juanita

**June 1, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Just a few lines this morning to tell you everyone here seems to be OK.

I expect you've heard Mary and Tom are here. Tom goes back Sunday PM. It was nice he could be here awhile. All of the Robersons and Mary and Tom went to the cemetery at Darlow Decoration Day. Afterwards we had a picnic lunch at our house. Ruth and Delores Ann came out a little while in the afternoon. It was nice to see them. Delores Ann doesn't see us much so is afraid of most everyone except her mother.

We are having our car worked on and it is still in the shop. It won't be done until the first of next week sometime as they had to wait on some work downtown on it. Roy Bush is doing the work. He has a shop at his house now and is kept busy most of the time.

I've painted the woodwork and the tiling in the bathroom and kitchen. We are planning to paper the living room and dining room. Minnie is coming in soon to help me. Won't we have fun?

Say, how are your points? We think you have plenty to come home. How do you figure them?

Gayle went to Winfield this week to Youth Fellowship Institute from our church. He will be home Saturday PM. It really seems lonesome around here with both our big boys gone. Hope you are well and happy. We are fine. Lots of Love, Edna and all

**June 2, 1945: Irene to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

If I hurry I may get this written before the mail goes.

## Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

Tom and Mary got home last Sunday. He has to go back this Sunday. I reckon we'll all have dinner at Edna's as Tom leaves on early train. We had dinner there Decoration Day. We were going to park, but the babies were asleep and Dad and Mom wanted to get home to the little chickens. Tom and Mary had supper with us Tuesday night. I didn't know they were coming till they got here. Roy had called them that morning so I didn't know but we made out OK.

Last night Roy and Tom went fishing all night. Roy got in at 7:00 this morning and Tom still had to go to town yet. Tom caught two fish and Roy none. Pretty good for all night's work. Roy slept from 7 to 9:30 this morning, then milked.

We have a pig now, a stray, a very small one. We penned it up and are feeding it. We also have 4 baby ducks, one baby guinea and about 8 or 9 of those fighting chickens. They are mostly gray in color.

The twins on that card Saxon are talking about are twin boys she's taking care of. Mary and Tom saw Saxon on way here but Carl was out on a run. Tom expects to see him on the way back as Carl will lay off so he can see him.

The kids are upstairs playing house. They would rather play house than most anything.

I and kids have been to Sunday School for 4 Sundays in a row. Don't you think we are doing good. I've got to wash out and iron some clothes today so they can go tomorrow. They like it. I think Walter is the one who wants to go more than the girls do sometimes.

John is back at Minnie's again. He was at Wilma's for a few weeks. I imagine he will help in harvest this year if he can find a place he likes well enough.

Clock says twelve o'clock so maybe I'd better mail this. Roy has gone to town already.

Our rose bush has started to boom already, pink roses. It's rather late but sure is pretty. We have some bachelor buttons too.

We'll take good care of yourself and I'll try to write sooner next time. It takes not quite two weeks for your letters to come. The last written May 20 I got May 31. So that's not so bad. Do ours get to you so quick? Well take care of yourself. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

**June 4, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

*Written across the top of the letter:* We want to know how many points you have, do you get the point? Ha!

Dear Ivan,

Guess you've had a rest from making out my scribbling. I think last letter I wrote was May 28. With Decoration Day, and picnic that day for Tommy, and helping Edna paper two days last week and fixing for dinner for Tommy for Sunday, I just kept on the run. Friday at quarter till twelve we put first strip of ceiling on at Edna's. We finished up that night after ten. We had sides and border to put on yet in dining room and border in front room. Saturday we started around eleven, had time out to eat and take care of babies. Anyway we got through about three on Saturday. Sure looked pretty Sunday.

We had dinner for Tommy Sunday at Edna's. We were all there but Ruth and Delores. Ruth has some side aches. Anyway she doesn't feel too hot.

Say, Edna heard on radio tonight that all of boys in Pacific that had enough points would be on their way home by last of July. You never have told us how many points you had. We'd sure be thrilled if you'd just write and tell us how many yours are. We're sure hoping.

Violet, Lottie, Junior and Clarice were here Saturday when I got home. John was here all night too. We have to be careful how we walk when we all get to bed. Lottie, Violet and Junior slept on day bed, Evelyn Clarice and Delores on floor, John in small bed and Fred, Murriel and I in our bed. Murriel usually sleeps alone but he's been so tired and cranky also cutting teeth that I just left him in bed with me after he went to sleep there.

Cousin Ola Carlile from Jetmore was at our place, I mean Edna's, for dinner Sunday. She was visiting her nephew here in town. She got to see all of us by happening in when she did. She had been to Fort Riley with Carmen. Carmen had had a baby about a month ago, and hadn't gotten along so well at first.

My garden needs hoeing. Come over and I'll give you a job. I hope it showers some so it will be easier to pull weeds.



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John worked for Strobergs a day and a half. I just wonder when he'll get something that really will last a while. Roy quit at elevator and is going to drive a truck at the alfalfa mill so close to Yaggy. I hope he likes it.

Cousin Ola saw Delores and said she just knew that was Fred Evans' girl. She'd seen Fred about ten years ago so she can sure make out facial resemblances and remember a long time. I'd better see that this gets mailed. Lots of Love, Minnie

### June 5, 1945: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

*Written across the top of the letter:* We think you have 106 points.

Dear Ivan,

We are still wondering about your points. Did we figure right? We think you have over 100 points, of course we aren't sure about your battle points, but the radio reported that 40th Division had majored in 6 battles so we suppose that means 5 points to a battle. Last night over the 6 o'clock broadcast they said that all the boys in the southwest Pacific would be on their way home by the last of July if they had their points. I called Minnie and told her so we are hoping that you will be one of them who will get to come. What about it – you aren't trying to surprise us are you? We are looking for you just the same. I told Morris I was going to write to you and tell you when we thought you'd get to come home.

We had quite a nice time Sunday as all the folks were here for dinner and Mrs. Geo. Carlile, a cousin of ours from Jetmore, Uncle Tom's daughter-in-law. Mary's sister and husband were here too. Cousin Ola had a nice visit with us all. I hadn't seen her for about 20 years. That is a long time too. She was so surprised about Loren as she didn't know we had a baby. Mother and Dad had such a nice visit too with her. Tom's train left about 4 p.m. and Ola's at 5:30. Of course most of us went to the train. Mary thought it looked like the nursery telling Tom good-bye. Ola told Tom just to stretch those kisses out one over each day, and he'd have kisses for a good many days. I expect he would, don't you think? There were 33 here for dinner here.

Minnie and I finished papering the living room and dining room Friday and Saturday. It was a lot of fun, and a little work too, but it looks nice and clean. It's two weeks since we heard from Virgil. Loren and Gayle are fine. Love, Edna and All

### June 5, 1945: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Well, come over and you wouldn't be lonesome at all. Junior, Clarice and Delores sure keep talking all the time. Then Murriel jabbars along with them so it isn't quiet a minute. Last night we fixed two beds on the floor. We got along OK. At least I guess everyone had enough covers. It has been chilly last few nights.

Junior has been playing with our train. It is one you wind up. They are having a grand time with it. Junior just loves a train. He asked me this morning if I'd sell the train.

Violet was sure tired last night. She has such a dirty house to clean up. The man that lived there even spit on the floor.

Dad and John just got here. They are going to check and see how many rods are busted up in it. Dad doesn't hear too well so he doesn't think the rods are causing trouble. John, Tommy and Fred all say it is rod trouble.

It has been raining some this morning. I would like a nice shower on the garden. I helped paper when I should have been hoeing and plowing it so it has gotten kinda dry.

Dad and John brought some milk, eggs and cream for us. With such a family I need something to help feed them. It takes almost a dozen eggs for one meal.

Dad said they had heard again from you and you never mentioned your points. Don't you know anything about the point system there where you are? Please let us know how many you have. We are so anxious to know if there is a chance of you being discharged.

Evelyn is doing the dishes. Maybe if she hurries we'll have something to eat out of at noon.

Well I'd better get to work and put some things away. Mrs. Duffy our minister's wife said she was coming to see me. I haven't called on her and should have. Doesn't seem like I have time to do all I should.

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When you write again tell me your number of points or I'm coming over and ask you about it myself. So if you don't want visitors just send the information in your next letter. Lots of Love, Minnie and Family

**June 6, 1945: Tom to Ivan**

U.S. Navy  
San Diego, California  
Dear Ivan,

I got your letter today. I don't know how long it has been here, but I will try and answer it. I got a leave to take Mary home. They gave me a week at home. I guess I shouldn't complain. Say don't you have a 100 points that is what Edna said you had over a 100. I hope you get to come back to the States soon if you don't get out.

I got to see Carl and Saxon on the way back. Carl had to lay off but I guess it won't hurt him. They have a house of their own now. Saxon's father helped build it and he built one next door to Carl. Carl has a 1933 Ford V8 coupe. He said it isn't very good. I still have my car and I hope you can drive it soon. Virgil drove it and now the radio don't work and he run it low on oil. I guess the radio would of went bad if I had of drove it too. I think you would take better care of it than Virgil. I guess he is seeing soon action now. Yes I get \$66.00 and third class P as the same as a Sgt's pay, but I won't get third class for a long time I don't think.

No I ain't a very good ping pong player. I have played a little but not too much. My watch is running fine. I think it is a pretty good one for \$20.00. Roy E. wants me to buy him one but they don't have one like mine anymore. About the baby, it will probably be twins she has already gained 27 lbs. and she isn't supposed to gain only 20 lbs. and she has 3 months to go. But I still think it will be a boy just to be different.

Old Mexico is quite a place to go. They have a lot of sandals for women and different kinds of trinkets but most of the sailors go down to get them a girl, the one that will lay down so they can talk to them, if you know what that means. They have them all over, that is what they tell me. I don't think you missed anything not going.

I think I saw the dam you guarded. It is pretty close to Old Mexico. Doesn't a train go pretty close to the dam? The boat I worked on was L.C.V.P. and I have worked on some other types, some that doesn't have any ramp in front and some that has a little ramp just for troops to climb out of. About my knife, it has a 7 inch blade but it isn't hollow ground like yours is, and I have a good sheath. I made it at the U.S.O. Right now I'm working on motors. They tear them down and rebuild them and that is what I'm doing since I got back off leave.

Carl wants me to get him some smokes but now they are rationed, six packs a week so he will have to wait till I get some for Mary's brother-in-law, then I will send him some. You had better watch them monkeys they will bite your ears off.

Well I guess I have answered your questions. Mother and Dad are well, but they sure have a lot of water around their place. I had to go through the pasture to get there. Well I have another air mail stamp so I will send it air mail so you can get it sooner. When I was home I got to read your letters you sent to Mother. Well I will close and write to me wife, it sure seems different since she isn't around. Your brother, Tom

**June 6, 1945: Will and Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Son Ivan,

I am writing to you in the place of Mama. She is not sick but is not feeling too good this morning so I will try and write and take it up when I take the cream up to the south corner where we get our mail, for the road is closed yet and we have to go there to get our mail. We hope the road will soon get all right. We had a picnic on Tommy and Mary last Sunday for he had to go back to the navy. He goes by the way of the Rock Island R.R. We hope that this war will soon come to the END. I think the whole World has seen enough of War!

We had a nice time at Edna's. Ollie Carlile or George's wife was there and we had a good visit with her. She has a nephew in the navy station at Yoder base, she stop off to see him on her way home from Ft. Riley where she had been taking care of her girl Carmine. She has a baby girl at their home. They could not get



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any help so she went down and took care of her. They have no one at home now. All the children are gone, they have four boys and one girl, none of the boys are in Service, could not pass the Ex.

Well we are having nice cool weather here now. Mama has a fire in the front room to warm up her chickens. We got the red kind this time. She like the reds the best. Wilma's family are all well and are growing fast. She soon will have plenty of help. Charles milks 4 cows his self. They are milking 12 cows this summer, make plenty of work. Clarence and Violet are up here cleaning up their house. They expect to move back here this fall in time for school. Clarence don't like it down there.

My Dear Son Ivan,

Dad just about got a letter written while I was getting breakfast. I have 5 letters of yours to answer, but I will write more soon as I don't have much time this a.m. Dad is taking the cream to the corner as soon as he eats, so we will take this to the mail box then. We are OK, we have had misty weather since Saturday, so my rheumatism bothers worse. I'll just order some sunshine, ha, ha! We hope you are well and not working too hard. I am sorry I didn't get a letter written last week. I got 300 little chicks first of the week and so that took extra time, then Tom and Mary were here some too. We were so glad to see Tom, sure was surprised when he came. My little chicks are just fine, but I have to keep fire to keep them warm. I intended to write last night but was too sleepy. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God keep you in His loving care. Mom

**June 7, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get two letters from you this week. It seems like you aren't so far away when we hear often from you. It's five o'clock. I got up to see if the chickens were warm, so thought I'd stay up and write letters. See my new stationery? Some Ruth gave me for Mother's Day.

It is cloudy but we really need a little rain. The water is going down some. We never had any mud at all hardly when we had so much rain. See our sand doesn't get muddy. Dad has been cleaning up around the cattle shed and feed

rack. He plans on planting watermelons north of the cattle shed. He raised good ones there last year, that ground didn't have the wilt last year. He is planting some for you, so you had better hurry home, see. He has planted a little corn and it is up nice. He will sow feed on the rest of the land.

The bearings wore out in one wheel of the tractor. Tom helped him fix it while he was home. He has part of the ground plowed. We had a new calf yesterday. Dad hunted over most of the pasture till he found it.

Well the roosters are crowing and the birds are singing, even the frogs are wakening up. We have 300 little road Island red chickens. They will be two weeks old Sunday and are growing like weeds. Edna sent me your letter yesterday telling how many points you had. We are sure glad you have so many, hope you may be sent home sometime soon. Dad talks about you getting to come home most every day. He can't hardly wait till you come.

Did you ever go fishing where you are? Schuyler says the water is too dirty to fish in where he is at, so he mends watches in his spare time. I guess the girls have told you all the news this week and I don't know any no way. All I can write about is what Dad and I do and I don't do much. Tommy milked your cow Bess while here. He said you had to milk a big bucket nearly full before she begin to milk easy. He was surprised to think she was my cow to milk. We get more skim milk than the chickens can drink nearly. The little chicks sure like it. Well Ivan you know I am slow now. Dad didn't get the letters mailed last week, so I'll try and finish this and send it today if I can. He went to Minnie's after church yesterday. Violet's and Wilma's were there too. Everyone seemed to be OK. We came home early to see about the little chickens and we went to church in the evening, first time for us to go at night in a long time. Rev. Gordon, the [illegible] that held meetings here in '38 preached for us. He will be here all week.

Well Ivan, Dad is about ready to start to town, so I'll stop and send this along with him. We hope you are well and not working too hard. We had a nice shower of rain yesterday and everything looks nice. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care, is our prayer. Mom

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**July 13, 1945: Irene to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? From your letter you said you were taking it easy. That's fine, best news we've heard for a while.

I wasn't at Sunday School Sunday. Roy worked and I didn't get up in time to walk. Then Roy got home about eleven o'clock and took us to Mom's. We walked in but in evening Roy went over road Dad has been using in pasture. It's not so bad. I'm going to try to get the kids to Sunday School this Sunday, they enjoy it so much.

It's raining today. I was going to wash but not now.

Did I tell you I have been milking the cows? I don't do so bad at it. Some nights Roy is home late so I milk. Will only be milking one cow pretty soon as he is drying two up.

I'm going to have a few tomatoes this year if I can keep the cows out. We have a red cow. I tell the kids she must be the one that jumped over the moon. If the fence isn't high enough she jumps it. I fixed the garden fence better and I hope she stays out now.

John is harvesting now or was the last I heard Sunday. I reckon there will be plowing to do when harvest is over so he may keep busy.

Walter just about got in trouble last night. We have one of Gerald Mackin's tractors over here, an old one Roy uses to pump water with. Well yesterday afternoon Walter decided to find out what makes it go. I don't know what he did. Beth said he oiled quite a bit of it. When Roy started to start it to pump water, he had an awful time before it would finally go. Had to do a bit of fixing. I think Walter will leave it alone now, you just can't tell what one of them will do next. I reckon they will have to play upstairs today if it doesn't clear off.

Minnie says Violet and Clarence are going to move back here July 30 so it won't be so long before we will see them a bit oftener than we do now.

It would sure be swell if you could come home as soon as you thought you could. It's been a long time.

We'll take good care of yourself, have as much fun as you can. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

**June 26, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Morris brought home your letter post-marked June 19 last evening. We were so glad to hear from you and to know you are OK. We hope that you will get to come home before too long, but I expect you aren't planning too much on it for you may be disappointed. I expect you have something there.

Roy Bush just has a shop of his own there at his place and that is all he does. He is kept plenty busy I guess.

Loren is asleep. He took his bottle at 6:30 and has a good nap before he takes his bath. Sunday morning at Sunday School he saw his Daddy up in front and he really made a lot of noise. I turned him so he couldn't see his Daddy and then he was more quiet. He and his Daddy really have a lot of fun together and every time he sees him he lets him know about it.

We had quite a nice shower here last night and this morning. It is nice on the gardens, but not so good for the wheat. It is almost time for harvest I guess.

John is at Minnie's waiting for the harvest. When harvest is over I'm thinking he will be ready to lay around until the next harvest. Isn't that mean to talk that way.

Our chickens are a week old today. They are doing fine. We haven't lost any yet.

Mary is at her sister's but expects to come out here sometime this week.

Had a letter from Tom yesterday. He is fine but misses someone to write his letters for him. Mary did it all when she was out there.

I'm writing to Mom today and sending her your letter, Tom's and one we had gotten from Aunt Florence. We told you Aunt Florence's Father passed away June 3. If you have time I'm sure she'd appreciate hearing from you.

It's almost mail time so I'll close for now. May 15 was the day Virgil wrote his last letter and we are getting anxious for a letter now. We know he was in action then, and we hope he is OK and that we hear from him soon. Love, Edna and All

**June 27, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas



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My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your last two letters written June 15th and 17th. I received the 17th one yesterday. My letters are about like yours, I write them, then it's several days sometimes before they are mailed. Dad gets the mail lots of times of an evening when he brings the cows to be milked. We are letting the cows run in the pasture south of us. It's better pasture than ours. We heard in the spring that that place was sold, but no one has done anything to the place so Dad is pasturing it. We hope that it isn't sold. It helps out a lot.

Dad has some feed sowed, he has a little corn. The corn borer is bad on this place, so he didn't plant much. We had a rain yesterday morning, we don't lack for moisture yet. I believe we are about like some of your islands, we can see so much water around us. Dad planted water melons and musk melons last week and they are up now. Our potatoes are nice, but some are starting to rot, too much moisture in spots.

Dad fixed the little chicken house near the barn for our little chickens and bought poultry wire and made a pen around it. So we have moved the little chickens out there. We still had 303 little chickens when we moved them, and they are growing fast. We are teaching them to roost on the roost poles like big chickens do. Well this is cream morning, Dad takes the cream to the corner for the cream man to pick up. I'll send this along so maybe it can start today. I'll count some of the shells soon and tell you about how many there is of them. I'll say there is a lot of them.

We are both just fine for us. Dad just wakened up, so he is about ready to start to take the cream. We sure appreciate your letters and they are so interesting too. I am glad you are getting pretty good food on the islands. Tom sent Dad a box of Hershey's 24 - 5 cent bars of milk chocolates. He knew Dad still had a sweet tooth.

Ivan wouldn't it be fine if you are lucky and did get to come home this fall on your points. It sounds almost too good to be true. I'll try and write again soon. We hope you are well and not working too hard, so good-bye with lots of love. Pop and Mom. May God keep you in His loving care is our prayer. Pop and Mom

**June 30, 1945: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of June 17th this week, and to know you were all right then. Your letters come pretty fast and we are glad too. We are all pretty good, my knees get tired pretty quick, but I've done pretty good with so much damp weather this spring. Well I've about forgot how to write, this is July 7th. I really did start a letter to you last week, but didn't stay at it long enough, see? I am sorry I didn't write sooner this week, time went so fast it was Saturday again before I knew it.

We are both O.K. and been real busy for us. We harvested our potato crop, it was good for the chance it had, chickens scratched some up. We didn't plant 100 lbs and we've had 9 bushel of potatoes or more. I canned 6 quarts of dew berries yesterday that Dad had picked. There is a good crop of dew berries this year. Minnie was over yesterday and picked some, she couldn't stay long, just till Fred got a job of work done on a farm south of us.

Dinner is over and Dad's putting eggs in the case while I write, he will go to Buhler right away. He wrote some while I finished getting dinner. We all were so glad to get your last letter, where you told us you might get to start home in August or September. You don't know how glad it made us. Minnie wanted to know what I thought about it. I told her I was almost afraid to think about it. We are glad you got to visit with the Roberson family again. We hope you are well and getting along all right, and I really will try and write oftener. The chickens are growing fine, hurry home and we will have fried chicken.

Dad's got eggs in the car, so I must stop. Good bye with lots of love, Pop & Mom

**June 30, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you doing? We are pretty good only Murriel is cutting teeth, has tonsillitis again and his stomach isn't just right. Yeah, he's a mess. Ha! Does seem like he's always got a cold or something.

They reported a storm hit Arlington and Castleton this morning. Don't know how bad.

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We have been having a few wind and hail storms around us. I sure hope one doesn't hit my garden as my beans and tomatoes are sure doing fine. Best tomatoes I've ever had.

Fred went and welded again last night. I expect I'll wish someday he never bought a truck as it sure makes long days for him to work so many hours at night. I hope he gets to rest Sunday.

I have my garden pretty well cleaned out so today I must put clothes away, iron and work on Fred's books. Murriel is sitting here in his push cart. He sure likes to ride in it and sometimes he'll sit there an hour at a time. Delores gave him a dish with some sugar in it. He's putting his finger in it and licking it off. He sure looks happy about it. I don't want him to have too much of it though.

Art Smith is at Denver now. Esther looks for him to get to come home on sick leave soon. She was in hopes he'd be sent to Topeka but he wasn't.

Have you heard any more about whether you can come home or not? We sure are hoping you do and you'd better not keep us in suspense and not tell us all you know about the matter as we are just as anxious as you are.

I trimmed our cottonwoods the other night. Makes place look different. There is a bunch of peach trees coming up from seeds I threw out last summer.

Carl Hysom is coming home for harvest, at least I heard he was.

Mary is at Edna's now. She is trying to get some sewing done.

Well I don't guess I'd better ramble along any longer. I must write to Schuyler. Lots of Love, Minnie

**July 2, 1945: Violet to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

Dear Brother Ivan,

Here it is the 2nd of July. I have 2 children here to tend today. My children are asleep yet except Juanita. She's getting ready for work.

I've just fed Sherrill and Ronnie. They live next door. They did waken up when their folks went to work but I dressed them and brought them over here and fed them. She (their mother) started to work at a beauty parlor today.

It's the first day she's worked since they moved here.

I may have 2 more children if their father's gone back to camp. I took care of them Saturday. It's the first time I've taken care of children steady at any time. Don't even know for sure what I'll get but I might as well make what I can until we move. The other children their mother works but while the father's here he takes care of them.

In Junior Church attendance is down. There's so many have moved. L.G.'s Sunday School teacher has asked me to use the flannel board Sunday in a lesson for her class. So I plan to have 2 lessons ready for Sunday. We are having a party for Junior Church this coming Sunday p.m. I've got a lot to do before we move. I'd promised a party to them so need to make good.

Had a Brush party here last Thursday night. Had a nice crowd. It's a brush demonstration. I furnish eats (refreshments). The lady shows her things. I got an extra prize as there was over \$20 ordered as the result of her demonstration. I'd gone to one I was invited to at Mrs. Woods the week before. I get a prize for having the party – a chemical dust mop and split duster – something everyone needs. Then I'll get another prize when one of the ladies has her party as the result of mine.

My 3 youngest are up now and I need to feed them.

I plan to iron today. I washed Saturday. We planned to go to Hutch after Church Sunday morning and come back Monday p.m. as C.D. changed to second shift today. I knew I couldn't wash if we weren't home so done my washing ahead of time. Then we didn't go to Hutch as it rained and C.D. was supposed to work at the ice plant. We plan to go some other weekend. We need to paint the woodwork in the kitchen and dampen wall paper in kitchen with ammonia water as it's grease spotted. We've torn off a lot and plan to tear off all we can.

I hope we hear that you're coming home soon. I heard over the radio they may cut down number of points necessary to be released. I hear you've got more than you need. As Douglas Faulke said, though, if they don't want to release you they just call you essential. They just couldn't get along without you – so there you



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are. He's a aeroplane mechanic. He spent one evening here on his last leave here to see Uncle Miny. He's wanted to get across but having only one eye he hasn't got there. Says he can't see why, if he can fix aeroplanes here, he can't there.

I was so glad to get your last letter. I hope you aren't too busy and are getting along OK. Juanita typed some songs for me for Junior Church yesterday p.m. Must send this off so will close for now. Lots of love, Clarence, Violet and family

**July 5, 1945: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Glad you are getting a rest. I'm sure that you need it for I expect you've been busy a long time.

Yesterday was the Fourth and it didn't seem like it. Not a fire-cracker was heard all day. Well, I never cared much for them anyway, so it was a good miss. Morris was off so we had a vacation. We slept late and that was nice as it was so cool in the morning. We did some ironing before noon and after dinner we went to the Fox and saw "Tom Sawyer." That was a good show. Tom was a typical boy. He even carried toads in his hat, and that was his most prized possession. Mother T. went with us. We brought her home with us to eat supper and then took her home about 9:30. We had a wind storm last night, but only a sprinkle of rain.

Murriel hasn't been feeling good the last few days, a cold again it seems. He has quite a time feeling badly. He is feeling some better, but Dr. gave him that "sulpha" drug again.

I've canned 47 quarts of beans from our patch. Our garden really has been nice. I've canned 14 quarts of beets and 14 quarts of Swiss chard. We still will have more beans to can and plenty of beets.

Loren is asleep and should be awake for his bath soon now. He weighed 20 lbs. and 7 oz. when six and a half months old. He's quite a big fellow. He weighs as much as Gayle did when a year old and more than Delores did when a year old.

Our lights went off this morning about 5:30 so we have fun heating water, etc. My dish water is about hot now so will close as there

isn't much news. The folks were pretty good Sunday, but working too hard. Their excuse is they want to stay where they are until you come home, so we hope things will be different then. Love and best wishes, Edna and All

**July 5, 1945: Florence to Ivan**

Oakland, California

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Ivan,

Heard from Edna last week and she said you had received the box we sent OK. Glad of that. Your letter must have gone astray for we haven't heard from you since you wrote last November. Oh yes, we did get your Christmas greeting since but I wrote to you since then.

I am sorry to tell you that my father passed away the 3rd of June, the day after his birthday. We are glad you got to meet him and although he was 78 he didn't seem that old to us and we sure miss him but will just have to make the best of it and be glad we had him as long as we did. Mama is just pretty well. We went over to Edwin's yesterday and she always enjoys seem them. They have a little girl 10 months old today.

Uncle Abe is well as usual and working ten hours a day. He gets two weeks' vacation next month but thinks he will only take a week off, they are so busy and they would like the men to work if possible. Well Ivan, Edna said you had enough points to be coming home and we sure hope we will get to see you if you come through here. Drop us a line sometime so we'll know what's doing. Is Simpson still where you are? If so give him our regards. Love, Aunt Florence

**July 5, 1945: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

The planes are sure flying low over our house this morning. They sound like it wouldn't have to be much lower to hit our chimney. They are such big ones compared with the small trainers that used to fly over.

Murriel is feeling better. I took him to the doctor Monday morning. He started him on sulpha drug again. Sure is helping him. Evelyn turned too many cart wheels I guess. She's pulled some vertebrae out of line or something.