

Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

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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girlfriends now. Lots of love, Minnie

February 19, 1943:

Ivan to his Parents and Family

APO San Francisco

==V-MAIL==

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you all? I received your V-letter of the 6 on the 15th, it was pretty fast. I also got one from Tom and BM and Minnie the same day. I am glad you got my pictures OK and that you had a nice time at your birthday party. Are you still having cold weather at home now? We are having Kansas weather [wind?] but it has been clear and nice otherwise. Say Mom about the boots forget them I don't need them now. Yesterday I saw my first cotton plant up close and picked a bowl of cotton off it. The fiber was full of seeds and I can see now why it took so much labor to separate the seed from the cotton in the old days before the cotton gin. I don't think Henry's mother or father are living. He is one of the youngest children in the family. Well it looks like I will have to close and rite again next time or more. Well hope all are well. Love, Ivan

February 20, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

This is a nice warm Saturday morning, it didn't even freeze last night but we don't think it will last long this time of the year. I'll be making garden soon if it does. Dad started to clean out the corral yesterday. Tom was over all day Wednesday. Roy came in the evening and Dad helped them to put the halter on your animal and they put a ring in his nose too. He sure grew a lot and looks nice. Your cow and calf are doing fine. She is so nice and tame. I went to town with Minnie Thursday. I had my eyes tested and will get new glasses next week. Did you ever get the letter telling you that Schuyler has a hunting knife here that he would be glad to give to you if you wanted it? He gave \$8.00 for it and he said it was a good one. Wilma's children are getting over the flu and back in school again. Violet's boy was real sick with a cold and sore throat so they took him to the hospital Thursday afternoon. He must be

better as I haven't heard from them since.

Minnie was keeping Clarice. Grandma Emery looks good and is cheerful. She is in the hospital too. Her daughter Mary Fountain is in the hospital too, but she isn't expected to last very long. Well Ivan, it's mail time and if I hurry I might beat him to the box. We sure hope you are well and OK. Thane, Josie's boy, Kay's cousin, goes the 25th of this month. He is in the air corps. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

Saturday, February 20, 1943: Minnie to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How are you liking summer weather now? We've had some last two days. Sure is pretty. Dad has got 4 heifer calves out of five. He says he is starting a new herd of cows. Clarice is here with Delores today. They have nice times part of time. Both have ideas of their own. Other night Tommy took Beulah May along with his girl Wanda and Wanda's sister to Newton to skate. Wanda and BM are good friends. Carrier just went by I must scratch this off in a hurry. Fred works tomorrow. Mother got her eyes tested. She was needing her glasses. Am glad she got them tested. Karen is over here now, we'll have a grand time with all three girls. Come over and help me run this kindergarten, ha! I'd better close. Lots of love, Minnie

February 20, 1943: Tom to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

I'm still helping fire the boilers out at the base. We are on 12 hours and off 24 hours, not bad I think. Say, maybe you think I'm taking over your girlfriend but I'm not. I just call her up just to have someone to talk to. She still likes you very much. Me and my girlfriend and her sister and brother and B May went to Newton roller skating this week. We had 280 boys shipped in from Dallas, Texas, last week. Some are pretty good boys but they were about 25 of them that had been in the brig, they are 2 or 3 in the brig now. I went home this week and Roy E. and I put a ring in the bull's nose and a

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change in the ring. We also put the halter on him too. It sure is a nice day today the sun is shining and it is warm. You know Ralph Moss, he is on my shift. Mother had her eyes tested for new glasses and she is going to get them Tuesday so when she gets them she will be able to see better. Well I will write oftener. Your brother, Thomas F. Roberson

February 22, 1943:

Ivan to his Parents and Family

[Hawaii]

==V=MAIL==

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you? I am fine as usual and getting along fine. Got your letter of 10th last Friday. It really made a quick trip, don't you think? I am glad that brothers and sisters can get to come out and see you once in a while in spite of the gas rationing. Tom is really good to help too. Edna said she was going to buy a present for you and Dad for me. I hope she could get something nice. I also got letter v-mail from Edna the same day rote the same day. What is the postage on this v-mail cost anyway? Is Carl expecting to be called in the draft again? I advise all that could get in the navy to get there because I really believe it is a lot better than the army in ever way. Ash Fork must be a dry town if they have to haul a million gallons of water a day to it. I got a new pair of shoes today from supply sgt. I got 3 pair of good shoes now. For a long time I had only one pair. I am glad you liked the pictures of me and I'll try and get some more made here. Did you send BM some of them? How did she like them? I'll see what I can do about getting hunting knife of Schuyler and if I can't get it I want to thank him a lot anyway. Well end of page. Hope all are well. Love, Ivan

Tuesday February 23, 1943: Irene to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

It's been quite a while since I've written. I'm sorry but we've been rather busy. We killed one of our hogs and it took quite a while for me to get the meat worked up with everything else there is to do.

It's cold today, might snow. They're having a shower at the preacher's house for two

of the ladies at the church, someone I didn't know so well. So I don't think I'll go. Darn if I can remember their names. Mother will go with Minnie.

We went to church on the bus Sunday. Fred worked so Minnie was on bus too. It sure was a pretty day. The kids played out in their shirt sleeves, I mean without coats. I and the kids spent the day at Minnie's, fed Roy soup for dinner. I can't get away with that at home but Minnie did and he ate it. She made gingerbread. The raisins all went to the bottom but was good anyway.

Wilma's kids have been having flu or something anyway. One kid would get well and another would get sick. Marjie was sick last I heard, but they aren't sick so long.

We have two cows now, so we have our own milk and butter. We couldn't buy the stuff at 52 cents a pound so I guess it's a good thing we have the cows.

Your girl just about kidnapped my son when we saw her last. Minnie probably told you anyway. She thinks he looks like you anyway.

I reckon Violet and Clarence have their boy home from the hospital now. I just heard about it Sunday. He had pneumonia. Anyway he was there three or four days but he's better now I guess. Minnie took care of Clarice while Violet was at the hospital with him.

When you want all the news you should have Minnie write and tell you. I seldom find out much till I see her. I didn't know the big boomer plane had crashed in Clarence's pasture till I read it in the paper and it happened on Friday. There were 9 that were killed. They thought they were over Salina and there is a difference in altitude in Hutch and Salina. It was foggy here, and they thought they had more space than they had. Sure was a shame to be so near an airport and miss it. Sunday after the Army had removed what was left of it hundreds of people were out there seeing what they could. I'd rather not go.

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

Thursday February 25, 1943:

Ivan to his Parents and Family

[Hawaii]

==V-MAIL==

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Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

Got your letter of the 15th last Tuesday it really came fast don't you think? It is OK you only rote one letter last week but I sure like to hear from you though. Got two v-letters from Edna and Minnie today rote 15 and 16 too. Did you get the salt and pepper shakers yet Mom? You mentioned them in your letter but didn't say. I am glad you liked my pictures. What kind of milk cow did my heifer make? Is she pretty good size? How is Schuyler and Ruth getting along now? Schuyler must really like his work to stay with it as long as he has. What is the matter with Ruth that she has so many colds? She ought to take cod liver oil it looks like. Well how do you like my questions? Tell Tom I'll challenge him to a horse shoe game when I get home. I played the first games after supper since I have been on the island. I played until I couldn't see the pegs anymore and I put on two ringers, believe it or not. Mom in the ocean at nite the waves make lite from phosphorous in the water it sorta of looks funny, water making lite. Well must close. Love, Ivan

Sunday February 28, 1943:
Ivan to his Parents and Family
APO San Francisco [Hawaii]
==V-MAIL==

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you by now? By the time this reaches you the windy month has made its bow. I hope it's a good month for all of us and that things don't blow away at home. Mom I am about to get this printing business on V-mail about down pat, it sure is still a slow process though. I was on pass last Friday and had a good time. I bought some pretty handkerchiefs, one for BM and one for a telephone operator on the night shift, the one that is real fat, she seems to be making a collection of them and wanted one real bad. I then had a good dinner and then went to a show in the afternoon. I then came back to battery.

Today was a busy day. We worked in the morning. In the afternoon we went swimming and played horseshoe. In one game to 11 I pitched twice and won the game but that was just luck. I am learning to swim a bit too, both in fresh and salt water. Tonight we had a show which I just came from at our battery. Our

battery also has a phonograph besides a radio now and a lot of books to read. Not bad eh? I sorta like the V-Mail because I about get it filled with what I have to say. Well, hope all of you are well. Lots of love, Ivan

March 4, 1943: Ivan to his Parents and Family

==V-MAIL==

Dear Dad, Mom and Family,

How are you? I am fine. I got five letters so far this week. I got your V-letter and Minnie's mailed the 20 yesterday. The day before I got some ordinary mail, one from Beulah May, Irene and Naomi mailed the 9th, 6th, and 9th. They were plenty slow in reaching here don't you think? Mom I am glad you got some new glasses because if you can see good maybe it will help you to feel better. I believe Dad ought to get some too. I am sure he can use some to read with. Mom how come Dad to put the halter on the bull? I'll bet he is still a little mean and I hope he is careful with him. Say Minnie I would like to see Delores and Claris play together. I'll bet though that they fight as much as they play. I am glad that Tom takes Beulah May along with his girl friend but I would be a darn sight happier if I could go along with her myself. Hope Junior is out of hospital by now. Well there is not much to report from here. Everything is nice here. I usually try and swim about 3 or 4 times a week. I'll try and get a permit for the hunting knife to come through and I would like to have you go get me a cheap watch too if I get the permit. Well reckon I'll have to close for now. Hope all are well. Lots of love, Ivan

March 6, 1943: Minnie to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How are you making it? Must be fine according to the card "Lunch Time" you sent us. Some life you must be having, ha! Did you send BM a card like that? You should have part of our snow. Looks like from drifts around here that some of roads will be blocked. I washed Thursday afternoon at six. The sun was shining pretty. Friday morning it was snowing and blowing. Don't know what time it started.

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Warren S. is located in California. Don't know name of camp. Charles leaves the 11th. He wants to go, he says Phyllis S. has different ideas, though. Kinda serious at their house. Loreen phoned Warren at California shortly after he arrived. She talked 12 minutes and it cost her \$10.00. Kinda expensive conversation. Warren is an expecting father to be. Mrs. Snyder said she knew it would be that way. She wanted them to wait until he came home to be married. Boys at Strawberry told him that was the way, to have her wait for him. Haven't seen Mother and Dad since Sunday. Mother sure likes her glasses. She says a cloudy day looks as good through her glasses as a sunshiny day did without them. She should have had them before. Sun is shining now. Kinda cold out but I think it will warm up. Your card got here quick enough, got here March 3rd. Lots of love, Minnie

March 7, 1943: Ivan to Parents and Family
[Hawaii]

==V-MAIL==

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

I got 2 letters the last of this week. They were regular air mail letters 17 and 4th of February the 17th one got here first and also a V-letter from Tom. I also got Tom's pictures you sent me. They were good of him but from the looks of him the Navy must feed good. I haven't had any more pictures of myself taken since Xmas. Tell Tom that I don't think he is trying to take BM away from me and I don't care if he takes her along with him and his GF. I'll try and write to him. Too bad about Robert Baker getting wounded. I am glad Edna got the presents for you and Dad and am glad you like them. I would like to see my cow and calf they ought to be pretty. I went on pass today and had a nice time. I got a hair cut and went to two shows and fed my face the rest of day. I got back and showed and washed my head and put olive oil on it I bought today. Everything here is fine and hope it is same at home. Lots of love, Ivan

March 11, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

I was so glad to get so many letters from

you lately. One yesterday was written Feb. 28. I am glad they come so fast. February was your windy month, it looks like March is our winter month, we've had three snows and one sleet so far. Everything looked so beautiful when the sun came out yesterday. A heavy coat of ice covered everything and the sun made the trees look like they were made of crystal. This morning, the ground is covered with snow and it is still cloudy. Some of your nephews and nieces were glad they got a Valentine from Uncle Ivan, and some were wishing they had got one. Isn't it hard to take care of such a big family? I got your card too. Dad brought the mail from the box, and says here is a card from Ivan. I was almost afraid to look at it, I was afraid it was one that says, "I arrived safely at my destination." I was sure glad to get it. I intended to write earlier in the week, but have had the flu, not bad but couldn't write good. I feel fine this a.m. but a little weak yet, and the pen has almost forgot the way to go. Maybe you can guess at it. Sure wish you were here to eat fresh eggs with us. We've been getting over six dozen a day lately. Your cow and calf are just fine. The cow is as tall or taller than our old cows. Dad says she is real gentle, the calf looks like her. Clarence and Tom were home Sunday. Minnie's were here a few minutes last night. I'll write more soon, as Dad is leaving for a load of hay and I'll get him to put this in the box before he goes. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

March 12, 1943:
Ivan to his Parents and Family
[Hawaii]

==V-MAIL==

Dear Dad and Mom and Rest:

How are you? I am OK, getting along the same as usual. Got your v-letter rote the 27th. I also received a letter from Irene. It doesn't sound as though rationing has bothered you a great deal and I am glad it hasn't. Say I sure would like to have my cow here. I believe I could drink all the milk she gives for a couple of days. That is one product that is not over abundant over here. Where is Schuyler and Ruth live at now? I don't believe I can get permission to get the hunting knife so will have to do without. Tom is sure having a good deal

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in that he can stay at Edna's for so long. Mom please tell me whether you get a money order from Charles Hart in the next 30 days or not. It is for \$40 and Charles is collecting it for me, I hope. I just got through riting to BM and answered her letter. We are getting along fine, I hope. Well I am a little bit late answering your letter, but better late than never. Well reckon I'll have to close. Hoping all are well. Love, Ivan

March 13, 1943: Irene to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all OK, thanks goodness!

Last week we had snow and bad weather. We have had some snow this week but yesterday it cleared off some and today it is nice and clear sun shining, and I think I can really get something done.

I don't know why but it is rather hard even to write or work on dark days and when it was cold I was busy keeping the fire going.

We didn't go to Sunday School last Sunday but plan to be there tomorrow. It was rather cold for kids to wade through the snow last Sunday.

I went to town with Minnie Monday to get Wilma Marie some shoes. Roy had already picked them out and paid for them but forgot stamp 17 [?] so he couldn't get them. They fit awfully nice. We got Walter a pair of overalls like his daddy's, cost us a \$1. From what they tell us they aren't making overalls for little boys now. Can get them for ages 10 & 12 on up. They are using the denim for soldiers and sailors so these little guys will have to wear other material. Won't hurt them a bit. Only what made Minnie a little regusted [?] was they still make ladies' girdles using rubber and she wanted to buy Fred some shorts, knit kind, and all the elastic in the tops were three or four inches. She figured the ladies don't need so much elastic to hold them together.

I didn't get to see Mother last week but I hope to tomorrow. If Roy doesn't work on roads we will probably go home and he and Dad will saw wood.

Our two cows are giving more milk now. Minnie and Fred get two quarts a day now since some of Dot Elliot cows are dry and we

still have all we need too.

If it keeps on being this nice I'll want to plant garden. Soon be time. I've 4 lbs of onion set already. I had the plants last years and they didn't do as good. I hope these are better.

I washed yesterday but the clothes are still damp yet so I'll have to hang them back out.

You remember how they used to say I'd call for Daddy when Mother would spank me? Well whenever I get after Beth she says, "I'll tell my daddy" or "I want my Daddy to come home." The other kids didn't do it that I remember of.

Wilma Marie talks of going to school all the time, wonders how many more days it will be. She starts in September. I don't think I'll like it because I'll have to get up then whether I want to or not.

The mail goes early these days so I'd better address your envelope so I won't miss him.

I hear a mocking bird outside the window. I'll bet there are lots of birds here in the summer as there are so many trees. It's hard telling if we will be here because Roy gets the urge to move sometimes. He wants some place where he can have a telephone and we can't here. We don't have lights either, only kerosene ones. I don't mind. But I reckon with his work he might need a phone.

Well I'd better close. Take care of yourself. Love, Roy, Irene and kids

PS: We got a letter from Roy's mother and Howard. Roy's youngest brother is in Africa. He says people don't wear many clothes where he is and they go barefooted and don't wash often. We were glad to know where he was. Well I'll write again soon. Love, Irene

PPS: I just thought of something else. It was a story the Sunday School teacher was telling her kids. She said, "And God caused Nebuchadnezzar to go out and eat grass like a cow," and a little girl piped up and asked, "Did he give milk?"

PPPS: I think that is enuf.

March 14, 1943:

Ivan to his Parents and Family

[Hawaii]

==V-MAIL==

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

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How are you all? I received your letter of the 24th yesterday and beings how this is my day to answer letters, I decided I would do just that. I am glad Steve Van Buren got his wings. He ought to make a very good pilot. Do you remember when his brother-in-law would come and lite his plane on their alfalfa field and take the boys riding? I believe Steve wanted to be a pilot because he was a mechanic in the air core before he got his wings. I sure hope he has a lot of good luck whenever he leaves. Naomi's address is 411 East 4th Street. It is right on your way into town. About the hunting knife, I don't believe I'll be able to get a permit for you to send it to me. I got Tom's pictures OK. I am sure glad you like your glasses and can see better. It ought to make you feel better too. How does Schuyler and Ruth like it at Lindsborg? I got a v-letter from Aunt Florence yesterday too. It is nice here today. The sun is nice and warm, the birds are singing, and it is a beautiful morning. Hope the weather is getting nice at home and that all are well. Love, Ivan

Friday March 19, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How are you now? We are all fine here but Wilma's kids, Howard and Charles, have been "fluing." In fact all have "flued" but Wilma. I saw Josephine T. the other night. She said you got tired climbing mountains. Do you have to climb many? Charles Snyder and Phyllis Smith got married Tuesday night. They chinarrried [?] them Wednesday, showered them last night and he leaves for the army this, I mean today. He was just 18 and Phyllis 17. They had a nice shower for them last night. It has been blowing some more and a few skiffs of snow. It is cold today. Will be glad when we can plow the garden. Don't think it would do much good now to have anything in the ground. Mother sure likes her glasses. Tuesday, she and Dad came by and I drove the coupe to Edna's. Edna then took Tommy's car and we went to Will Hayes' funeral. He and Maggie had lived together over 50 years, no quarrels the family said too. Good record, don't you think? I'm getting me 50 Rhode Island Red Chickens Monday. I hope they live. Fred is still at

Cessna's. Don't know when he will open shop for all day. As soon as weather is better, I suppose. Lots of love, Minnie

Saturday March 20, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were glad to get your card yesterday, the picture of the sugar cane growing. I'll bet it is pretty growing. Does it bloom? It is real cold this a.m., all the snow hasn't melted yet but I guess it will be warm someday. I guess I'll go to town with Dad today. They want some more papers signed about your allotment. We will go to the Red Cross and see what we have to do this time. Tom and John were here a little while yesterday. Tom was getting some old tires for Morris' car, till he can get new ones. Tom is working of a night this week. Charles Snyder left for camp yesterday. Tuesday he and Phyllis Smith were married. He was 18 and she 17. She is still in school. The animal is fine with his halter on and a ring in his nose and a chain in the ring. Dad wasn't afraid of him, but the kids was afraid he might hurt someone. Tom read your card yesterday but he hasn't learned to write letters. He is always anxious to read your letters and so are all the rest. I have a geranium in bloom, I think it is yours. Did you ever get Tom's two pictures? I sure hope they weren't lost. Well Ivan I better get ready to go to town with Dad or he'll go without me. We hope you are well and OK and we are so glad you are so good to write to us. Well here I am finishing this letter for [...] she is getting to go to town with me. We are glad of that you are well and enjoying good health which is the best blessing we can enjoy in this life as I can see it. We are having some winter out here in Kansas this spring. But it could be a lot worse. Well good-bye with love and the best of luck. Dad and Mom

March 21, 1943:

Ivan to his Parents and Family

[Hawaii]

==V-MAIL==

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

I hope this letter finds you well and all over your colds and also that warmer weather

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has come to stay. This morning about 6:10 I was up getting ready to go about my duties when I looked into the east and there was another moon bow. It was the second one that I have seen. The bow was nearly perfect because the conditions were just right. The moon was full and in the west and showers in the east. This morning we worked and in the afternoon went swimming. Yesterday I was on pass and got my hair cut to ½ inch. It was the first G.I. haircut I have had and it sure does make me look like a peeled onion. I then went to a show and saw a double feature. It was a good show. I then had some vegetable soup and went on back to battery and played horse shoes until dark. I then saw another show at the battery. It was a Charlie McCarthy show and it sure was a good show and full of laughs. Say Mom I was going to have my pictures taken but how can I with my pride and joy cut off to ½ inch? How would you like my picture with my hat or bald headed? I'll try and get it taken but it will take quite a while for me to get them. The weather here is OK and I am getting along fine. Hope you can read this. Well about out of space, so hoping you are all well and happy. Lots of love, Ivan

March 23, 1943: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

I just wrote you a V-mail, but decided I'd better send this Easter Greeting for it will be past Easter now before you get it. It's hard to remember how long it takes mail to go to where you are.

I just finished the chores and will do up my housework and sew today. I cut out two house dresses yesterday, one for Mother Roberson and one for myself and I want to finish both of them today. I made Mother 3 aprons for her birthday and hope to get some more sewing done for her. It's hard for Mother to sew as she has so much to do. Mother and Dad seem to be OK for them.

Violet and Clarice are feeling much better. Violet says she still gets tired easily and can't do very much. John is at Wilma's this week to help her. He planned to get a steady job, but so many jobs the men are forzen (sic) to them, so he thinks he doesn't want that so I don't know really what he wants.

Minnie is feeling OK for her, but expects to go to the hospital around April 1. Delores is going to stay with us. We will enjoy her a lot I know. She doesn't grow much, but is really a sweet girl. She still has her curls.

Frank Hart the manager of Hart Grocery here in South Hutchinson is in the service now. Henry Lewis who is a senior and lives out here is in too. There are a lot of the boys going. Roy Emery is just waiting for his number to come up. I hope that it won't be long until this terrible conflict is over, but it seems to me it will last quite awhile yet.

Everyone here is fine. Virgil's blood pressure is a little low so he has to have more rest, and leave out strenuous gym work for awhile. He has been overdoing, but nothing serious. Hope you are well and happy.

Don't forget that wherever you go, and whatever you do, that we are thinking of you and praying that God will give you courage to meet each new day, and that he will keep you from harm and danger. May God bless you and keep you is our prayer. Lots of love, "The Tuckers"

March 27, 1943: Irene to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all OK. It's Saturday again and I have to get the kids' things ready for Sunday School, and of course clean house. Roy says we may move soon. I don't know where yet he has two places in view. I wish he'd make up his mind so we could get a garden started. It's time a lot of it was in already.

Quite a bit has happened since I wrote last. Around the 16th of March Charles Snyder and Phyllis Smith were married. He was 18 and she 17. Quite young. They had three days together before he went to army. Mrs. Snyder didn't want him to but I guess he'd have eloped if she hadn't given her consent. His argument was if he was old enough to fight for his country, he was old enough to be married. They had a "Shiner-see" (anyway that's what it sounded like) on Wednesday and the next night a shower at school house. The next night he left for camp at 10 next evening. I don't know but with him so young I almost think it would be

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better if he'd waited.

Last Sunday the boys sawed wood for Wilma. The gang made ice cream while we were there. The gang was all there but Morris, I reckon he was working, and Violet and Clarence and their family. They were plowing gardens. Chet Tetters and Clarence were plowing together so they didn't come over.

At Sunday School they sing in the primary room a song, "Joy, Joy Down in my Heart," and another one, "Down in the Dumps I'll Never Go." All morning Wilma Marie has been singing, "Joy, Joy, Joy Down in the Dumps." Must be a little mixed up.

The sun shone yesterday. I washed but it is cloudy today and I still have some to dry yet. I reckon they will.

We went over to see Mrs. Rowland when we were at Wilma's. Her arm that she broke isn't a bit good. Her fingers are swelled so it is hard for her to bend her elbow and she hasn't done anything with it for so long. She said it was awful when she went to hospital. She was well but when she got out she was sick. She had to lay flat with her arm stretched out. Bill and Mary were there and their 4 month old baby girl sure is the sweetest thing. Black hair and dark eyes. She looks a lot like the older girl Evelyn. They call her Mary Jo.

Well I reckon I'd better close and mail this. Oh yes, I was going to tell you I saw a picture of you and Henry that Josephine Tuba had. The one where you wished you were back in Kansas where the ground was flat. It was good pictures but you look like you needed to rest a little. Well take care of yourself. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

March 30, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

I missed writing last week. Maybe if I try and write two letters this week you will forgive me. We are all just fine out here. Mother is pretty good. Violet's, Irene's, Wilma's and us were home Sunday. John, Tommy, and Virgil were there too. First Wilma's had been there for quite a while as her kids had had sore throat, flu, etc. John got his notice yesterday to appear in Kansas City

tomorrow morning. He is quite thrilled. He about gave up them calling him. We are all going to Edna's for supper. Maybe he will think we all like him. I asked him this morning what his lady friend would do. He said she could jump in the lake for all of him. We are sure having wind now. I must go out and plant some more onions and peas. I don't want to in this wind but they must be in. I have 49 chickens a week old. Lost one but rest are fine. Rationing of foods hasn't bothered us any, don't think it will either. Gas rationing has made us think before we start the car. It's a good thing I guess. We took it all for granted so much and ran the car too much. Elliot's are back from California. Odeta and Lucy were at church Sunday. Odeta didn't go in her class as Tommy was there. Am out of space so bye, bye. Lots of love, Minnie

March 31, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Written on a "Easter Prayer for a Soldier" card:

Dear Ivan,

March came in like a lion, it is going out the same way. Last two days we've had dust storms from the south. Now it has turned to north and is blowing plenty good. We all had supper at Edna's last night and went to train to see John off. I'll bet no other bachelor had as many kisses in one evening as he did. Even to Charles kissed him 5 or 6 times. Train took on a lot of baggage so he had a long wait after it arrived. Wilma went by Glen Ely's last night and told them she'd teach the primary room there, at Prosperity. The school board came and asked her last Saturday if she would take it at \$120 a month. Mrs. Bruce May, used to be Miss Weymeire (sp?), at Haven has twin girls born Sunday. She already had one youngster. Welty's are quitting Broadacres in August I think it is. Am afraid I wouldn't have stayed so long as they did. Morris is off work this week. His vacation week I guess. Lots of Love, Minnie

Saturday April 3, 1943: Irene to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan, old pal, old scout, old thing,

How are you (and yours)? Beg pardon I forgot I had all the kids and you didn't - anyway bet your first will be twins when you do get

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them or at least triplets. Our family increases by rates and bounds. We have a drake and three ducks now and before summer is over I'll bet we have some ducklings unless the kids squeeze them to death. (I shouldn't count my ducks before they are hatched or as I should say, before the duck eggs are laid yet.)

Well anyway it is good garden weather and Mom and all the girls have some in but me. We have a sack of seed potatoes on kitchen floor not even cut yet. The thing is we are going to move next week in the big square house across from Kent School. Then I'll really work in the garden to make up for lost time. We won't be so crowded there. The house has 8 rooms and a pump inside. As I tell Minnie I won't have to put boxes under the bed there. I can put them upstairs and I won't have to worry about school for Wilma Marie either with it just across the road.

We have been eating a few fish this week. Gerald Macklin has been doing some fishing in Brandy Lake. Roy has been bringing home some catfish, hardly no bones. Roy and kids sure like them.

I didn't get to see John off for the navy. He went to West Virginia. Kids had a cold and I was tired out. We had had some real Kansas wind that day around 60 per and sand and dirt with it and it just wears me out. And Roy had already made his plans. We were all home Sunday but Edna's so I got to see him then, and as Walter coughed most of the evening maybe it was just as well I stayed home.

Sunday school again tomorrow and I'll be taking the kids again. I haven't told the preacher yet but I draw pictures all the time he preaches. It is the only way I have of keeping Beth still. Walter is pretty good. Wilma Marie has taken a fancy to Pearl N. so she sits by her most of the time.

Well it's most mail time so I'd better sign off. Well take good care of yourself soldier boy - we're boosting for you! Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

Post marked April 6, 1942: Minnie to Ivan
==POST CARD==

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all pretty well here but mother has a bad cold. Clarice is

broken out with measles and Junior has fever. I guess he will be next. Evelyn has three more weeks of school. It is sprinkling here. Irene and I made mother's garden Friday afternoon as she was at Wilma's. I'll write a letter soon and tell you about Vincent's sickness. Doctor got report he had cancer. Love, Minnie

Wednesday Afternoon, April 7, 1943:
Ivan to his Parents and Family

[Hawaii]

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you all doing this fine April afternoon? I am getting along fine and keeping busy. I haven't your two letters I have got but will try and finish this tonight. I have just rote to BM and ran out of ink and so the pencil. I got a v-letter from Tom yesterday and air mail from BM, and one from Irene. Tom tells me Mom and Pop that you are working pretty hard and thinks you are overdoing it. Now I'll put in my 2 cents worth. I don't want you working so hard and take life easier. You know you will both feel better. This summer if they are too many cows to milk, let the calves run on them and if you don't have enough calves, why use the money I have in the bank to buy some if you think they are not too high priced to come out OK on them. I imagine that Tom might be able to help a bit planting the crops if he can but he probably will be busy.

This morning I saw some little pheasants. They were about the size of doves. I am pretty sure they were pheasants because they flew and lit with a pheasant hen. I have seen little quail before but no little pheasants. Tom's v-letter I could hardly read it because it was so faint. He ought to rite with black ink because it shows up on photo better. I'll rite more this evening when I get your letters.

I thought I had more letters of yours to answer but I either answered them Saturday nite or misplaced them but I do have a v-letter mailed the 27 to answer. I must of answered your other letters because all I can find have "answered" on them.

So Mom you and Dad are planting garden just like you did 40 years ago. I'll bet it makes you feel good to be planting the garden again. Mom do you remember when we visited Edna and Morris at Topeka and one of the

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officers' wives said you looked like Edna's sister?

I am glad that rationing doesn't bother you and don't think I am being slighted because there isn't much milk to drink. We get plenty to eat and I am still plenty fat as you probably can see by my pictures. We don't have as many song birds as you do back home and as pretty ones. We do have owls though and I see them pretty often. Henry's still in our battery and getting along fine. He is a TSgt now in radio. I am not in his section anymore but in instrument section of the battery. I like the work a lot better and it is far more interesting to me than wire.

It is a good deal that Schuyler and Ruth are getting along better. Tell them hello for me.

About the wrist watch, if you can find one or one around home that has a good case you can send it to me. I would like a second hand on it though. The Elgin of Schuyler's might serve the purpose if it had a good case. I don't believe it was so hot. Now if that can't be arranged buy a cheap service man's watch with second hand on it and send it to me. If you can get a case for Elgin just as cheap I would like to have it.

Well I am about out of words so will close. Hope all are well and that Irene likes her new place to live. Love, Ivan

PS: Tom I don't believe you are trying to steal my Girl and if you have room and going places you would like for her to go and she with you and GF, I hope you take her along. She is going to Denver when school is out.

April 9, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

Don't you think I'm learning to print? Takes longer to fix the address than it does to write. How are you? We are fine only some cold that Delores has. Just a head cold. It is damp here now for a change, had some rain yesterday. It is cloudy yet. Made garden look so pretty the rain washed all the dirt off the little plants and made them stand out so nice. Today is school meeting. Guess I'll go and see what happens. Irene and Roy are moving to across the road from Kent School. They will have 8 rooms there. Guess I'll go over with some of

my junk and store it. Wouldn't she like that. Morris is thrilled. He is on regular at the post office now. He gets Saturday afternoon and Sunday off now. He's put in a long time getting up at three or four in the morning and working until late at night. Ray Cannon's mother, Mrs. Webb, is getting married Tuesday. We went to a shower on her at Cannons last night. She is marrying a man she dated when she was 15 and he was 18. She is now 60 years old. Quite a romance, ha! Both lost their mates so now they are going to try it together. My 49 chickens are still alive. They are sure growing. Edna has ordered her a 100 chicks, for last of month. I know she'll enjoy raising them. Must close. Lots of love, Minnie

April 21, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are fine here only Mother got sliver under her fingernail last night. Fred tried to get it out but didn't so we took her into Grace Hospital. Miss Fritzman got it out. We are going to take her to Dr. Hempsted this p.m. to see if it all came out and get tetanus shot. It had begun to get easier when we got home. She got it in out of barn door. Fred is working at his shop full time now. Clarence E. had 6 teeth pulled last Saturday. He plans to get them all out. C. B. Hargadine's baby got burned real bad. Maybe mother sent clipping. It was week ago Sunday it was burned. Miss Fritzman said last night it sure was pitiful case. Burns around face so bad, burns crusted so baby refuses to take bottle. She says it will be something if baby can fight off infection. C. B.'s hands were all bandaged, he burned them getting baby out of crib. Short in electric pad caused fire and burned babies clothing and bedding when they found her. Baby was 6 months old. Other day I put salts in some jars. Delores wanted to know if it was good. I didn't say. She took a pinch of it, put it in her mouth. She sure spit. She says you can't suck her thumb. She sure likes to yet. Lots of love, Minnie

Thursday (about April 21, 1943):

Violet to Ivan

Dear Ivan,

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I'm sorry I've not written sooner only something is always happening. If it isn't sick youngsters it's something else to keep a person busy.

Tuesday we had a cow to freshen(?). The calf was small and terribly weak. C.D. didn't think it would live. He gave it to me. I've been taking care of it and it's sure been taking time. However it's lots better and can almost eat without help. However last night it was the mother that was wobbly on her feet and I called Dr. McClure and he said it was milk fever. I've been up all night seeing she didn't get too bad before morning. They put a pinch of medicine in the jugger (sp) vein for milk fever and Dr was afraid it might be hard to see to do it at night but if she got too bad he said they'd need to risk it. However she's got through the night and I'm ready to go to the neighbors to call him, to see how soon he can come out. Of course it's not quite light yet but it won't be so long now. She's pretty sick.

C.D. had 6 teeth pulled last Saturday and sure doesn't feel well. He needed his sleep so when he came from work I got him to go to bed.

Clarence and Chet Teters have their potatoes out together and they harrowed them yesterday so C.D. was extra tired last night.

Norma and Mutt have another baby boy. She came from the hospital last Saturday night.

It's 6:30 now so think I'll look at my cow again and then go call the doctor. He ought to be up hadn't he? I've stayed at the barn most of the night to save walking back and forth.

Meda Teters and I planted some cauliflower and celery seed last evening. We want to see them grow. Our gardens look fine.

Write to us and don't work too hard,
Love, Violet

April 27, 1943: Irene to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

It's been quite a while since I've written you. But I've been thinking of you just the same. We've moved again and it's such a job getting things straightened again so you can go on living. We've a big house this time, 8 rooms, upstairs, down and a basement. We have lights, a bathtub, pump and sink. There is quite a bit of

ground here too.

I've been a little slow planting my garden as it hasn't rained for a while and the ground is[n't] very moist. I hate to carry water but I guess I can...

Wilma Marie was sick Sunday so we missed the Easter services. The whole gang was home to Mother and Dad's and we about missed that too. Wilma Marie felt better in the afternoon so we went over then, got there in time for dinner and ice cream.

Dad was just here to get the saw we had borrowed. He was going over to Wilma's to help build a brooder house. Seems every one is raising chickens this year. It is surprising the old hen can lay enough eggs to supply them all. Edna is going to raise some. They plan to build a brooder house and hen house too.

Clarence had 6 teeth out over a week ago and has been living on soup almost ever since. I reckon he will have to have them all pulled but then he may feel a lot better.

Our white rabbit has 4 or 5 baby rabbits awful tiny and red, hardly any fuzz on them. Our ducks have been laying eggs so we may have some little ducklings someday.

Tommy has been coming out lately to Gerald Macklin's to fish in Brandy Lake. Last night he had only got a quarter of a mile from our place and he broke an axle so he and Roy spent the rest of the evening getting the car fixed. He has caught quite a few fish since he started fishing anyway. Edna says she doesn't mind cleaning them if they have their heads off or are dead first but to have cut their heads off while they kick their tails around is too much.

The lilacs were sure pretty at Mother's this year but they soon will be gone. I wish they lasted longer than they do.

It will soon be dinner time so I'd better close and start something cooking. I want to plant garden this afternoon if the wind doesn't blow all the seed away. Well take care of yourself. Write when you can. We will always read Mother's letters anyway. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

PS: John is a Seabee at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia. He has to walk a mile and a half to chow and Edna thinks he may slim down a bit.

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April 30, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son,

We were so glad to get your v-letter written the 15th of April. I got it the 28th. No, your \$40.00 hasn't come yet. I'll let you know soon as it gets here. Dad went to Wilma's this a.m. He is helping to build a brooder house for Wilma. They expect to finish today. It is cold today so they will have to work fast to keep warm. Now don't you worry about us working too much, we are thankful we feel like working, it's lots of fun. Dad let Wilma take Old Roanie to milk then he expects to sell her in the fall. We are milking ten cows now and we have 15 little calves. The calves do some of the milking for us. I feel lots better than I did last spring and so does Dad. He isn't troubled but a little with his skin trouble now. I want him to take some more treatments before hot weather. I have some tomato plants to set out, but will wait till it's warmer. Our April showers have been scarce but there is plenty of moisture below the dust. Carl's are raising some little chicks, so they can have fried chicken this summer. The yellow roses are starting to bloom. I wish you could see them. Our potatoes are up good. Well Ivan I hope you don't have to work too hard and that you are well and OK. We sure appreciate your good letters and are so glad to get them. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

May 1, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are all well here now. Irene's two, Walter and Wilma, have had stomach flu few days but they are OK now. It is 9:10 and my girls are still in bed. Guess I'll have to pull them out so I can get some dishes washed. Evelyn is a good dish washer when she wants to be. Delores says she doesn't want to suck her thumb, but her tongue wants to suck it. She sure sucks if we don't put hot stuff on it. Fred is busy in shop. Has had a lot of work to do. Evelyn's school was out a week ago. Wilma's school was out yesterday. Why is BM going to Colorado? How long will she be there? I haven't seen her for quite a while. Guess I'll

go see her one of these days. Dad has been helping Wilma on a brooder house. Sure going to be a nice big one. We have been using radishes and onions from our garden. Gardens are slow this year. It has been too cool for them. I put out 75 tomato plants Wednesday night. They look fine. Hope they don't get frosted. It seems cold out today. Bye, bye, Lots of love, Minnie

May 5, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

I received your v-letter of 19th Monday. We were so glad to get it too. Monday Howard R. and Mr. King came by with the truck and took Dad to the Navy base to get a load of scrap lumber. As you had written some to Wilma in your letter I sent it home with Howard for Wilma to read. I intended to mail your news yesterday but we got up too late. Minnie and girls came over to get my washing and eggs just as we finished milking. Then Clarence came to help Dad put down a well in the pasture we rented for the 12 yearlings, it's two miles north, part of Epps pasture. Phillips rented it last year and this year he didn't need it. Dad got the 40 acres for \$25.00. We will look after it and keep water pumped. Nyborg raised on his rent \$9.00 a season for the yearlings. The wind is blowing hard, so maybe we will get rain soon. Everything is fine, only dry. I would love to see your flowers and I wish you could hear our birds singing this a.m. I don't suppose it ever gets dry where you are at. Do you ever fish any? Schuyler fishes ever chance he gets. Got a letter from them yesterday, they were OK. Your \$40.00 hasn't come yet. Tom was home Sunday, so was Irene's and Wilma's and Evelyn. He said "he must write to Ivan." Everyone is OK and we hope you are too. I'll try and write a little oftener. It must take quite a while for air mail to get to you. We have radishes and onions out of our garden, the peas are starting to bloom, the green bugs aren't in ours yet. Hens are still laying well. Have you been to church anymore? I hope you can get to go some. We had a good crowd at church Sunday. I'll bet I've written more lines than you can on this, ha ha! Does it make it too small to read good? We are looking

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for those pictures. Lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

May 5, 1943: Violet to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Brother,

It is trying to rain this morning. Don't know if it will make it or not as it's tried to for some time.

Clarence and the youngsters have gone to Wilma's to help her on the brooder house. The youngsters will play while he works. They have it almost finished. We have lettuce, radishes and onions to use out of our garden now. I sent Wilma a mess of lettuce this morning. I stayed home to get dinner, fix C.D.'s lunch, tend to our baby chickens, etc. We bought 100 baby chicks almost two weeks ago.

Lottie Grace took her music lesson last night. Joyce Cannon, Evelyn and L.G. all take theirs the same evening. We are going to take turns hauling them. It is my turn to haul next time.

Clarence plans to put me down a well here by the house to save us carrying water from the barn. C.D. helped Dad put Dad's well down yesterday on the pasture Dad had rented. With lots of love, Clarence, Violet and family.

May 6, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are fine here only Dad has pleurisy. He was milking late Tuesday morning when I was there. Mother said he hadn't got to sleep until late in morning so had slept little later. He didn't eat any breakfast. Ivan, we girls think you'd better be real nice and suggest to Dad and Mother that they farm on smaller scale after this year. Dad says when you come back you'll have a farm there to farm if they stick it out. They talk like you want to farm, is that right? He said you had your cow, calf, etc., I don't know what. They are both working too hard. Mother told Irene she'd have to keep going because if she couldn't get things done we'd girls insist on them selling off. We don't want them to leave a farm entirely but you know they are working too hard milking ten cows, feeding those calves and everything. Use

your influence best you can. This fall would be a good time to sell a lot of it, I think. Delores walked outside barefooted. She stepped so easy. I asked her if her feet hurt, she says "no, the rocks hurt." She was disgusted with me. I must close, Lots of love, Minnie

May 10, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

I was so glad to get your v-letter the 8th you wrote 23rd of April. And I want to thank you for your beautiful Mother's Day card. You couldn't have found one that I liked better. I believe we think a lot alike in many things, too bad for you, isn't it? All the kids liked the card so much. It was so nice of you to take time to think of sending cards. It was raining right down when we are ready to start to Sunday school yesterday. Car was too wet to go, so we came back into the house. In a few minutes Tom came to see what was wrong. Dad was out of the notion of going, but I was glad to go if late. There were 4 mothers at church that had sons in Service. Preacher had us to come to the front to receive a small picture in honor of our boys. A new woman was among us and when the preacher asked where her son was, she said, "missing." We all felt so sorry for her. Tom is working of nights this week. They are getting your wrist watch fixed but it will be a month before it will be done. Tom is getting a new case for it too. Everyone is slow getting their work done, watch work. All the girls were home at some time yesterday. Every one is just fine and are glad to read your letters. We've had a nice rain, it's cold and cloudy today so I'll stay close to the stove, it feels good. Ivan I hope you are well and OK. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom. We pray that God will hasten the day that all our boys may come home again.

May 11, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How be's you? We are all well here only Dad. He has shingles and not the kind you put on the roof. He went to Dr. Hempsted's last

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Saturday so he was feeling better Sunday. He was just here on his way to town. He brought our old mattress. We are getting it renovated so we can use it. Sure is a beautiful day today. As soon as I finish this I'm going outside to work. Too pretty to stay in here. Mother put out 50 tomato plants yesterday. She has a box and a half yet to put out. Some she raised in the house. I have 70 tomato plants that are doing fine in the garden. Three of them have blooms on them. I haven't fixed my flower beds but plan to do that today. We got Grandma's little bed last night. Evelyn and Delores will sleep on it this summer. I want to get some cleaning and sewing done so I must get busy and do something. We saw "Cabin in the Sky" Saturday night. Pretty fair show. Do you get to attend any shows there? What kind are they, talkies? Fred has plenty work to do in shop. Mother and all of us are glad to hear from you. Lots of love, Minnie

May 15, 1943: Minnie to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas
Dear Ivan:

How are you making it? Just read your five page letter you wrote to mother. She got it yesterday. Sure was interesting.

Sun is trying to shine today. We've had four days of rain and cold weather. Was afraid it would frost. It was down to 40 degrees one night. We went to Mother's yesterday to see what John had written. He wrote and told me he was in naval hospital. That they were asking about his skull fracture and Forrest sickness. I expect he's about got a nervous breakdown. He doesn't say, only that he is all right but "they don't think so." He said officers [said] that he'd be of more use on farm. He doesn't think he'll be in there very long. He was kinda disappointed but I'm sure Seabees life would be more "nerve wracking" than just working at the navy base as he did at Yoder and he got awfully nervous there at Edna's. Maybe if he is released he can go back to California as he did like his job there and the climate so much more than here.

Delores still sucks that thumb, but I've got her fixed right now so she can't. I've used gauze bandage, wrapped it around all her fingers and thumb and tied it to wrist then poured

turpentine on it. It really works pretty well. She doesn't like turpentine. I was using hot stuff. It didn't stay hot too long and then last time I put it on, it had evaporated enough that she fussed a while. It left her fingers red like she'd steamed them a little. I sure hope this new idea of mine will break her of habit. Seems like she was getting worse instead of better. She'd eat some at table and call time out for a suck on her thumb. I asked her if she liked salts. She says "no, I hate it."

Tommy and Fred are taking motor out of Wilma's truck this morning. They are getting a rebuilt job from Rayl's. Just like Roy put in his, I think.

My lettuce is big enough to use now. Green bugs are taking my peas and working on onions, too. My cucumbers are up but are growing so slow. I suppose if it warms up they will do better. Phyllis Smith Snyder went to Texas to see Charles last weekend. Wilma Jean went with her. Wilma Jean is a little "slipper" [?] I think. She doesn't care what she says at times according to Mrs. Cannon.

I see the carrier so I'll sign off and write more next time. Lots of love, Minnie

May 11, 1943: Evelyn to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

[Included with letter from Minnie to Ivan dated May 15, 1943]

Dear Uncle Ivan,

How are you? I am just fine. Delores and I are going to make a garden in front of the playhouse. We are going to plant flowers and radishes. Delores does not want to write to you. School was out the 23 of April. Mother is writing a letter to Uncle John and you. When you take a picture send one of them to me. I have nothing to say only write when you can. Your niece, Evelyn Evans

May 18, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

I want to answer your long letter but I can't do it justice on this so I'll let sisters all help me. I ought to have the paper today, but this will go faster. I hope and I wanted to tell you how much we enjoyed your good letter and

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that yesterday your pillow case came. It was so nice and I sure thank you for it. It is so nice to have something that come so far away and see how things look where our soldier boy lives. Minnie's and Violet's came home with us from church Sunday so I had someone to get dinner for me. Wilma's were here a few minutes in the evening, they were all OK. It's cold and cloudy today, rained some early this morning. Dad sure is anxious to get into the field to list. He sowed the calf pasture with soudan Saturday. Oh, my finger got well in a hurry and my eyes feel better all the time. I didn't think new glasses would help so much. Well I've missed carrier but if Dad goes to town today I'll send this with him. Minnie and girls were here yesterday a little while. Came after eggs. Delores says she will quit sucking her thumb before Uncle Ivan comes home. She is trying to quit. Well Ivan we hope you are well and OK and I'll write again soon. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom. May 19 - I missed the carrier.

May 24, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

Well this is Monday morning. It's a little cool and cloudy but everything looks fine. The birds are singing so loud and the hens are cackling away. We were all at Violet's yesterday for dinner. We all had a nice time and of course we were good as the preacher and family were there too. I forgot Roy wasn't there. Clarence had his car stolen from the sale last week, but found it yesterday, so they were happy. Tom will come home tomorrow to stay a week. Dad is ready to list corn today, lots of the early corn has to be listed over. Herbert Emery got his arm caught in a belt and it was broken in three places. He is in the Grace hospital. Your \$40.00 hasn't come here yet. I want to thank you again for your beautiful pillow cover. It's so nice to get things so far away from home. Ester Smith thought the pin I was wearing was so pretty. Yesterday I told her Ivan sent it to me, then she had to look at it some more. I am so proud of it. Dad is feeling better, is about over the shingles. Now Ivan don't worry a bit about us, for it's better to wear out than to rust out, so Dad says. But Tom will help a lot, then Dad

will take it easier and watch things grow. We hope you are well and OK and that the day will soon come so all our boys can come home. Lots of love, Pop and Mom

May 25, 1943: Violet to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

We're sure glad to read the letters you send the folks and know that you are well and OK.

Did anyone write you that we had our car stolen last Thursday? Clarence works at the horse sale and when he quit there to go to work at Cessna the car was gone. It had the cream can, coal oil can and his dinner in his dinner bucket, also some of the ration books. We have extra good tires on our car. Fred said he'd rather have those tires than a set of brand new ones now. Anyway the car was gone till Sunday.

Medas(?) Teters came over Sunday a.m. and said CD's mother had called and said Herb was in the hospital with his arm broken in several places and no telling what other injuries. Clarence caught a ride with Wagoners and went to the hospital.

We were expecting the folks here for dinner. Anyway the youngsters and I went to Church on the bus. Phyllis Smith or rather Snyder said "you got your car back didn't you?" I said, "not that I know of." She said, "it said in the morning paper they'd found it." I could hardly believe it. We lacked \$10 of having it paid for. Anyway the car was OK and nothing bothered. It had been driven 450 miles was all.

We had 37 here for dinner Sunday besides Wilma's Edna's, Irene's, Minnie's, the Folks, Tommy, etc. we had Chet Teters and Rev. Sparks here too. Well must close. With love, Clarence Violet and Family

May 27, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan:

I am late writing. Maybe you will overlook it this time. Seems like I'm so slow I can't get caught up. I plan to work on children's day program, can some lambs quarter and clean up my house besides make flowers, work in garden and patch. Do you suppose I'll keep

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busy? Tommy is home this week. They got the Fordson [tractor] started yesterday. Tommy disced [?] some with it. Lucille Webb married Fred Ott a couple of weeks ago. She'd gone with him 15 years, Elaine said. He is in the army. Guess Lucille was waiting for her mother to get married. Lucy Barnes is expecting, big bird in August she said. Odetta is marrying somebody right away. Don't know his name. She has her wedding dress bought. Elsie is working at the strawboard. Joyce takes care of Earl and Karen if you want to call it that. Wilma and children are all fine. We are getting a marker for Doris' grave for Decoration. Wilma and us are getting some later for Vernon and Forrest. I'll write later and explain. Don't tell mother. Be good, and write often. Lots of love, Minnie

June 1, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan:

I've got it in for you! Remember us girls wanted you to tell Mother that they should cut down on their work? She brought your letter over here to me and she says we girls shouldn't worry you. There you said you'd heard from Edna, Minnie and Irene, so Mother knew about where you got your information. Fact is you almost quoted what I said. You should have more tact! Ha! We girls never did tell Mama just which of us wrote and told you about them working so much. We told her one of the three must be guilty. Oh...about those markers. Wilma said she owed Dad \$33 on the hogs he raised for her and she paid Tommy, I guess just Fred, \$10 for work on truck. She gave money to Fred. Tommy helped him. Anyway, they are putting the \$10 and what Wilma owes Dad and getting the two markers. We haven't said anything to Mother. She will be surprised. Fred just took two mattresses in to get one good one made out of them. I will have to be the blacksmith now while he is gone. Tommy has gone back to work. We are practicing on Children's Days' program this afternoon. My garden and chickens are doing fine. Lots of love, Fred, Minnie and Girls

June 2, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

Your air mail letter written May 23rd arrived here 29th. Wasn't that fast? I got a v-one of May 18th May 31st, that wasn't bad, was it? Tom went back to Edna's Monday evening. It was sure nice to have him home. He helped Dad a lot, I think he feels better too. Sunday was Decoration Day, we went home with Fred's after church, then after dinner Dad and I went with them to Darlow. Tom went to Edna's and slept. He brought us home from Edna's and Fred's took Edna's to Arlington. Morris had had a flat going to Darlow and had put a gunny sack in his tire for a boot. So Fred was afraid for him to go so far with his tire that way. Decoration Day was a nice day and the cemetery looked nice. We had a big rain about 8 o'clock that night, we was glad to get it. Mr. Unruh has the job you had at the telephone company. He said he spoke of Ivan while there and they asked if he knew Ivan. He told them yes. They said, "Ivan is a fine boy." The watch is fixed and I told Edna to send it to you as soon as she could and the knife too. I sure hope it will be OK. If you can go to Sunday school you can get lots of good out of it if you can study your lesson. It's almost 10 o'clock so I must hurry. You don't know how glad we are to get your letters, just keep them coming. Good-bye with lots of love and may God bless you and keep you in his loving care. Do you get the church papers? Pop, Tom and Mom

June 9, 1943: Irene to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

I just received your pillow case you sent me. Sure is a pretty one! Thanks an awful lot. Violet and Minnie got theirs too.

How have you been lately? We been OK here, kinda slow on writing though. You know on Kate Smith's Hour she always signs off with "if you don't write, you're wrong." So I guess I've been wrong for a while...

Last week Roy brought some chickens home, over 100 and as the weather was damp I had to keep them in the house. Didn't do them a bit of good, about 20 of them died. Then we

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finally got them out in coop Roy fixed with a small brooder with lite bulb in it. Then we turned them out for first time and darned if the pup we had didn't kill 17 chickens and 2 little ducks. Well Roy took the pup for a ride and he says he won't kill any more chickens. Well anyway I'm about sick of chickens.

Our rabbits are growing fine. We had seven but one died. The rest look all right.

You rather got promoted, didn't you? Are they just finding out what a good guy you are? But I guess if it weren't for the private, they wouldn't have much of a army.

I saw Mom in Sunday School last Sunday but had to go home before church. Mrs. Macklin took us and she had to go home so we went too.

We had rain last night and night before and pretty soon we will wish for it not to rain anymore. It is hard on those who want to get their hay in. Swell for the ducks, though.

Minnie picked strawberries yesterday for half, the rest 20 cents a quart. Violet picked too, but I guess Violet has picked more than Minnie did. It is rather back-breaking work and she about got sun burned.

We are having Children's Day Sunday and all the little ones are going to speak piece. Walter and Wilma haven't spoke any before so it hard telling what they will do.

Saw Pearl N. at Minnie's last night and she says Walter still looks a lot like you. They were having 4H at school house so she came over for a little while before it started. Minnie said Mother has 200 baby chickens now. If the weather stays nice they won't be so much bother.

Well I reckon I'd better sign off and get to work. I've worked in the garden last two days and I need to work some in the house now.

Well I won't wait so long before I send you another letter. So take good care of yourself. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

June 9, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

First I want to thank you for Dad's Father's Day card, which came yesterday. He was glad that you remembered him. He liked

the flowers on it, and said, ask Ivan if there are any wild roses where he is at? Dad brought me a bouquet of wild roses Sunday that he had picked by the side of the road. Violet's and Minnie's were home Sunday and they read your letters. They had your package (watch and knife) ready to mail but Tom had forgot to take your letter asking for them, so they couldn't mail them then. Minnie took your letter so I think they sure will get started this week. Now Ivan, if there is anything else you'd like to have, just let us know and we'll try and get it for you before the mailing orders are changed again. I was so glad to get your air mail letter Monday. Dad said he thought like you, that most of the calves could take the milk now. We have a new calf, he will run with his mother. Dad don't want any more cows to milk. I'll tell Tom what you said about his horse. He sure doesn't have any manners to kick so much. Dad is feeling lots better than he did a month ago. Now Ivan don't you worry about us working too hard. We are doing fine for us. Odeta Slaughter is to be married the 13th to a Burrton boy. We hope you are well and OK and will still keep the letters coming. You are the best boy I have to write to us. Lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

Saturday June 12, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

I wish someone that knew how to print would print those addresses. Sure is a job. How are you making it? We are fine here, only busy. I must pick peas. My beets are about ready to can. My beans will be ready to can next week. Ivan, why doesn't B.M. teach next year? Doesn't she like it? Odeta is getting married Sunday to some guy. Tommy has been going pretty steady with a girl called Mary Berry. I don't know how it will all turn out. Fred bought a 34 Studebaker for \$75. Sure is a nice car on the inside. It was Walter Pierce's car. He wanted to cut it down for a truck. Now since he drove it a little he has about decided to use it for a family car. It doesn't make but about 14 miles per gallon, that isn't so good with gas rationing. I picked strawberries two days this week. I have 31 quarts of berries and a good sunburn on my arms. My girls are still in bed. Dad was here

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yesterday. His arm isn't very good yet. We went home Wednesday and made ice cream. It was folks' wedding anniversary. Must get to work. Lots of love, Minnie

Saturday June 26, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas
My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter written June 10th, the 23rd. I hadn't heard for over a week from you, so Minnie's drove over around ten o'clock Wednesday in the evening to see if we had heard from Ivan. See how important your letters are to us all? We are all OK and hoping it will rain soon, here in the sand not on people that are harvesting their wheat. Don't worry about having tact telling Dad and I about work. We are doing OK now. John is still with us, but will soon be gone to a job somewhere. We have a nice breeze blowing and it's still cool in the house this morning. The little chicks are growing fine, just one has died with disease so far. I sure wish you can be home to eat fried chicken this fall with us. Don't you think I can make the best wishes? Yes, they have a U.S.O. in Hutchinson now. I'll have to see that Tom writes to you more often, I'm afraid Edna doesn't get after him enough about writing to you. I think the knife is mailed to you now. Now Ivan, if there is anything you would like to have us send you, just tell us and we would be glad to do it for you. It was a good thing you asked so much about watch and knife, so if some letters were lost, they could find another. I paid your insurance at Wichita this month. They said, your policy was OK if it had been in force five years before you went into the army. Well it was 5 years in the spring and you went in in October. Was it OK to pay it? You hadn't said anything about it for a long time to me. I must mail this right away or miss carrier. Your geranium is in bloom now, wish you could see it. I feel better than last week. We hope you are well and OK. We sure appreciate all the letters you send us. Good-bye, with lots of love, Pop, Tom, John and Mom

July 9, 1943: Edna to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas
==V-MAIL==
Dear Ivan,

We are having nice summer weather here now. We could use a rain as it is rather dry.

Thomas is out at the base most of the time now as he is on K.P. He says it is OK but his hours are much longer and he doesn't come in town so often. He says he is more tired doing this work.

I have ironed today and went to town this afternoon.

Gayle went swimming today. He is taking lessons in swimming from the Red Cross. He really does like it. Virgil swims a lot. He has a season ticket at the pool and uses it often.

We read your letter of Mother's with the pretty flower in it. That really was nice. I expect there are many lovely flowers there where it is so warm. All the folks here are OK. Schuyler is moving back to Hutchinson soon. His work is finished at Russell so will work here. Hope you are well and happy. Love, The Tuckers

July 9, 1942: Tom to Ivan
Seligman, Arizona
Dear Ivan,

I'm glad to get your letter and I feel OK too. I have eaten my dinner and ready for bed. I worked three hours 45 minutes overtime this morning. Amounts to \$11.02 for the day not bad. The other day I was called 7:15pm and made \$17.76, how is that? Last month I made \$210.68. I lost eight days going home. The last pay I sent home \$68.00 to put in the bank. I hope to send home about \$100 if I get that much after I pay all my bills up. I have already got \$55.00 in the Buhler Bank. The end of the month I will have my watch paid for. Pay day is not very far off, it is July 21.

Say, if you want a girl friend I will give you Odeta with my regards, ha, ha! I got a card yesterday and today but nothing much in them. I got a letter from Minnie and a card from Mother yesterday too. Say, about Pearl N. I got a letter from her July 6 and she said that she was sorry for not writing sooner. She said that she would do better next time if I would forgive this time and I did of course. I like Pearl all right I always did like her but she didn't seem to care much for me and I didn't go around her on that account. The last night I was home I went to see Odeta and left about 10:00pm that night and

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called up Pearl to go home to eat ice cream but she wasn't home. She told Minnie that she wish that she would have been home. How does that sound? She told me she got the Devil for going with me but she would do it again if she had the chance. I told Odeta that I went with Pearl and she said she quit boys for less than that but she hasn't quit me yet. I hope she does. Say you can write to Pearl if you want to she will write to you I bet, but don't try to beat my time, ha ha! It is hot here too and dry it has rained a good rain since I have been here.

Say, about me joining some other branch of the service. I would loose a lot of money by doing it. They think I will be called the last of August or later my number is way down the list.

Say, which girl are you going to write to anyway? Some back home or where you have been? I bought Pearl a coin purse in Albuquerque and she said that she wanted one and really liked it very much. I should get a letter from her Monday I hope. She writes letters like I would have girl to write. I write to Odeta and ask her questions about someone at Church and she wouldn't tell me, feed me a lot of mushy stuff and let it go at that. Pearl told Minnie that she didn't think I liked Odeta very good. She sure is a good mind reader. I liked her all right till I came out here. She told Fred that she wanted a ring to put in my nose to lead me around with, she did a good job but it didn't go far enough. I told her about it, but I haven't got an answer yet. The girls are funny people don't you know it. Pearl might be writing just to have someone to write to. I don't know if she likes me very good or not.

Well I got to go to sleep so I won't sleep on the job. I don't get mad as you would call it. I just don't like his attitude sometimes that is all. He is all right those like him pretty good now.

Well write when you have time. And tell me what you think I should go wait or join up now. I would like to make all the money I can and if I didn't get back the folks could have it and if I got back I would have a little to go on. Well be good and don't do anything I wouldn't do.

I haven't written to Carl or he hasn't came up to see me yet. I had better write someday I think. When I was home the first

night my car wasn't working very good and I didn't ask Carl but he knew I would like to of used his car and he didn't offer to let me use it. He would of but Saxon wouldn't. If I ever get a good car he or she won't get to drive it any place. He let me take it to Church; I think Saxon didn't like that very good. When I was staying with them one afternoon I went to the show. I had to take the bus and I walked home about two miles. Carl said to call him up but I didn't want to bother him. Saxon let her father take it anyplace and he brings it back with no gas in it. That is the reason I haven't written. When we were going home we got in Kansas Carl asked Saxon if I could drive and she said that she would drive I would have rather come back on the bus than with them they were smoking all the time. When we were going home they smoked a carton and a half of cigarettes. Carl told Minnie that he was out about \$100.00 on me getting me a job. He gave me one dollar and took me to Winslow that is 260 miles and I stayed there six days. They bought me \$5.00 worth of clothes and done my washing.

I will write a little more this morning. They sent four train loads of soldiers through here last night. One was going east and the rest were going west. There is a cavalry train over here now. They are taking their morning exercise now, they went down the highway. Write when you can. I didn't get only five minutes overtime this morning. I hear them cavalry men coming back now. I hear them counting. Well be good. Your brother, Thomas F. Roberson

Wednesday Evening, July 21, 1943:

Ivan to his Parents and Family

[Hawaii]

Dear Dad, Mom, and Family:

How are you doing? I am doing alright. Last night I received 4 V-letters, one from you Mom 12, one from Juanita the 7, one from Minnie the 11th, and one from Edna mailed the 9th. I also got a letter from you air mail, mailed the 26th. Well maybe you can tell by now that I have made a little move. The move was uneventful except it was a bit of inconvenience.

In your letter of the 26th sounded OK. I wish I could be home to eat fried chicken. I suppose Hutch is as military as any other town.

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I am also glad that my life insurance is still in effect. I am glad it is taken care of because I want to keep it in effect. That must be really a good one to bloom so often. I didn't send you a letter the middle of last week because I couldn't send it out and figured it wouldn't make much difference.

Well I received knife finally and was I surprised that it was so nice. Schuyler sure showed good taste when he bought it. I don't believe I could of got a knife I like better. Thanks a lot for it. The watch is still running good too.

I am glad you got the flowers in the letter OK. I thought they were really pretty too. Tom must be really busy now days with his duties. Is Schuyler still working for the same outfit? Well sure hope John likes it better when he moves.

Juanita I'll bet you are really doing OK on your job. I don't know Uncle Tom's address or I would send him a birthday card. I don't have much chance to get them anymore. I got some Kodak pictures Edna sent but don't know which ones you are referring to.

Well I sorta of like it here. We have a new C.O. and he seems to be a fine man. When we get a pass we can at least go some place that has a few more signs of civilization than other place.

We still see the ocean ever day and I like to look at it even though it is between the ones I love. Well I reckon I'll sign off. Hope all are well and happy. Lots of love, Ivan

July 25, 1943: Ivan to Parents and Family
Saturday night

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you by now. I'll bet you probably think that your little boy Ivan has forgot to write to you. Well he hasn't. I couldn't write for a while and when I did write I wrote a V letter and when the censor got through with it there wasn't much left of it but Hello and Goodbye so I tore it up. I wish Edwin had not moved so that I could see him. I would have some place to go on pass.

I received a letter from Irene telling about her kids riding on neighbor's pony. I'll bet they had a grand time of it too.

I am on a 36 hour pass now. It is the

first one I have had since I have come to the islands. There isn't much to do on it either. I went to a small town around here and am going to sleep in a bed at the USO tonight. They haven't mosquito nets but then I can cover up my head with a sheet on the bed.

The room of the USO I am writing this to you in is furnished up to suit a sailor more than a soldier. It has several models of ships on stands, sailor knots, a big wheel to steer the ships, a big compass-like affair, also a weather barometer. Anyway it is a nicely furnished room. Looking around I believe the Boy Scouts furnished the room. This afternoon they had a program here. It consisted of an orchestra of about 25 accordions and the players were all children of about 8 to 14 I would judge. They had Hula dances, tap dance, also a girl that sung some of the songs that were played. After that I went to the show here. The show could have been better but was OK. I then took a walk with a Sergeant from the air corps, then back to USO to scratch out a few lines. I am now about to go to bed and call it a day. I have to be in camp about 7 tomorrow night so will send out letter then and write more in it if I can find anything to write. This is Sunday night. The rest of pass has passed and I am back at battery safe and sound. So hope all are well and happy. Love, Ivan.

August 13, 1943: Irene to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are still able to eat, which is what Roy's mother says when she means she is well. The kids are all OK here. It is hot and sultry today, cloudy like it is going to rain. I spent Wednesday with Ruth, Schuyler's wife, and done some shopping for school. The kids enjoyed being with her too. Schuyler and Ruth have a nice home in town. She bought some curtains for the house. They still have quite a bit of furniture to buy yet. Ruth says Schuyler gets out in the yard in the evening and mows the yard, hoes around the flowers and waters things. I guess he really likes to do it too. They have a basement and coal furnace, a good sized yard. It's a neat looking place. Well I have a couple of weeks left to sew for Wilma

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Marie so I'm going to have to work fast. Ruth cut my hair for me nice and short, sure is cool. When you go to the barber they cost 40 or 50 cents. I can get a lot of things for that much money. Well take care of yourself and I'll try to write more often. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

August 14, 1943: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

Thomas was home yesterday. He is still on KP. He is off every fourth day. He goes home then. Mother and Dad are really glad to see him. He is fine. Everyone here seems to be OK. Wilma may have had the mumps. She wasn't very sick, didn't go to bed. She will know for sure about it if the others take it.

I wrote a letter to Aunt Florence and John this morning. Minnie just called and they are OK. We have an epidemic of infantile paralysis here in Hutchinson now. We have had two deaths from it. One a boy 18 and 9. The swimming pool is closed and also shows. All children are to be kept at home as close as possible. Virgil and Morris are at work. Gayle is getting his own breakfast. He did most of his chores before breakfast this morning.

I canned 18 quarts of tomato juice yesterday. I'm canning some prunes this A.M. Harold Tucker left for the army Thursday night. He is going into the air corps. He weights 120 lbs and is 18 but seems much younger than that. Hope you are well and happy. We are all just fine. Love, "The Tuckers"

Monday August 16, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letters, the latest was August 4 (Minnie's birthday). You don't know how glad we were to get them. I'm so glad too that we know about where you are. We didn't have church or Sunday school on account of infantile paralysis. There has been several deaths last week of it, so everyone is keeping their children home. Irene and children were here all day. Fred's and Morris' were here in afternoon. Edna got corn to can while here. Isn't it funny that you and I think alike about

Christmas presents. Wouldn't it be so nice for you to be home by Christmas. Minnie wonders if they would give you a furlough so you could come home. Tom talked to B.M. last week. She said she'd keep your pictures a while longer and that she would write to you. Tom says he believes she likes you pretty good. You know letters can sound different from what we really intended them to be. It depends lots on how we feel too sometimes. Of course you didn't know B.M. too well before you left, did you? Pearl Nyborg told Tom she had her engagement ring nearly a week before she decided to wear it. Well it's ten o'clock and I've missed carrier for today but I'll promise to write another letter this week to make up for being so slow. Dad has gone to pump water at pasture. It is so nice and cool this a.m. We hope you are well and OK and that you don't have to work too hard. Wish you had one of my cats to get your mice. Good bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

August 24, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

Have you heard from B.M.? I heard she was going to write to you. Schuyler left yesterday morning for his examination. He'll be back tonight I guess. Edna and I went in yesterday afternoon and washed woodwork and windows and put up new curtains in the dining room, front bedroom and front room for Ruth. She doesn't feel like doing anything, I guess. Delores told me the other day she'd be glad when she got married. I asked her why and she said then she would be boss to herself. She must not like the "bossing" she gets. About the next day she said something else about being married so I asked her who she'd marry. She thought a minute then asked me why I married that guy. I asked her who, she said Fred. She said she'd marry him and go to Colorado, then Daddy wouldn't have to work in the shop anymore. She and her Daddy have lots of fun kidding me about Colorado. Delores says I won't let them go to Colorado. Fred wanted to go pick peaches but I told him we couldn't afford such a trip this year, our tires are getting thin too. Joe Smith and his brother went to pick peaches. They aren't back that I know of. Elsie heard from

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Lela though, she said it had rained a lot so hadn't got to pick many as yet. I'll close this note and get to my washing. Lots of love, Minnie and all

August 28, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were glad to get your letter Monday, written the 11th. I also got one from Carl that day too. Carl had got something in his eye and had laid off a week but was better and going back to work. Schuyler passed his physical examination and will leave in three weeks for Louisiana, is that the way to spell it? Maybe I'd better said La. It is so nice and cool this a.m. We've had a week of warm weather and sure enjoy a cool day. I am glad you know how to swim, it might help a lot sometime. I have a service flag with 3 stars on it. I thought I wouldn't need it anymore after John came home, but Schuyler told me yesterday, "Mom, you can put your flag with three stars on it back in the window." He would like to stay home till after October, but I guess he can't. Dad is weaning some calves, and I wish you could hear them bawl. Carl Hysom is still out of the army. He is a farmer, see. Is there any way you could find Ralph Barnes? Schuyler was over yesterday, he said at the Fort they fed 4,000 soldiers, so I guess they are busy getting all the soldiers they can. John has written once since he left, he doesn't like to write anyway. Are you near where Edwin did live? The planes are busy this a.m. Tom was home a little while Monday evening to read your letter. Well Ivan I hope you are well and OK and that we will hear from you again soon. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

August 28, 1943: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

I just came home from Irene's so I'll have to hurry to get this mailed. I hadn't seen her for almost two weeks so I just left my work and went over. She and youngsters are pretty good. Irene's sides have been hurting some otherwise she is OK. Schuyler was here

yesterday for a little bit. He isn't working any his days before he goes. He is to report for duty the 15th of September. Evelyn and Delores have gone after milk at Lock's. Leland Robinson has rented Dressler's farm for \$100 a month. Don't see how he can make that off it. Jay is moving into town. Don't know what Claude is doing, heard he and wife were separating. Juanita went to Ruth's Thursday morning to help her wax floors. We were in town last night so took her home with us. I man we took her to her home as we came home. Edna and I pickled a bushel of grapes apiece at Albert Sidebottom's yesterday morning. Was nice picking as it had sprinkled. Was cloudy most of time we picked. Carl is seeing about engine tender in Seabees as he's afraid he can't be deferred much longer. Be good! Lots of love, Fred, Minnie and Girls

August 29, 1943: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

(Tomorrow we will be married 20 years)

Dear Ivan ,

We received your V-Mail Friday 27, and was glad to get it. It really came in a hurry. Glad you got your money OK and hope you can enjoy yourself in spending it. After all it is yours and I certainly don't blame you for using it, as we know that probably sometimes it helps to make life a little happier to use it for some sort of a good time. As to B. M., I was hoping for the best, for both of you, but maybe things are as you say.

Everyone here is OK. Schuyler went to Leavenworth Monday and came back Thursday. He will be home three weeks, and then to Louisiana for six weeks of training in the engineers division of the army. Carl is reclassified and if he doesn't get a deferment will be called soon. He wants in the Sea Bees as water tender and will be here six weeks if he gets that and then shipped out.

I canned a bushel of peaches Saturday morning, 5.29 a bushel. I'm canning a bushel of grapes tomorrow and washing. Mother T. spent the weekend with us. Harold Tucker was drafted and is in the air corps. Hope you are well. We are all fine. Lots of love, "The Tuckers"

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September 17, 1943: Minnie to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas
Dear Ivan,

Tommy said Mother heard from you yesterday. I'm glad she can so often, now I'll have a letter to read when I get home. How are you? We are all pretty good here. I'm doing pretty well for me. Not loosing too many meals, can't with food rationed. Ha! Tommy Knappenberger has infantile paralysis. They've postponed school one more week. Won't start until 27th. Do they have any infantile paralysis on the islands? We saw Schuyler off on train Wednesday morning. Glen Olson left too. He is married, has two months old baby. Sure was hard on her. Virgil has bought a 1934 Chevie and Howard got Lorene Snyder's car. Wonder how they will get along with their "new buggies." Charles Snyder doesn't have to wear glasses now. They say he eats lots of carrots and potatoes with peelings on. Do you get your potatoes that way? Charles Lemen doesn't wear his glasses either. Buhler High School has started. Rumors are that Wallace Tracy and wife are planning to separate. I thought they were a congenial pair. I got me a bushel of peaches to can yesterday. They are pretty green to can yet though. I'd better start my washing. Lots of love, Minnie

Saturday September 18, 1943: Minnie to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas
== V-MAIL ==
My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of September 2nd first of week, Tuesday to be exact. I've intended to answer it ever since, but I am slow you see. Schuyler left the 15th. He was feeling fine and looked good. Glenn Olson left on the same train with him. He leaves a wife and baby. Dad has been pretty good this summer, his skin trouble bothered some, but then he would begin to take his medicine, then he would feel better. I don't know what Dad plans on doing but if you have any suggestions tell us and maybe they would suit Dad. I don't believe he will ever leave the farm till he isn't able to work. Now would be a poor time to sell as the ceiling is not so good on cattle. Maybe it will be changed as cattle men are making so much fuss about it. Your friend Mr. Hart sent

\$20.00 for you this week, and hopes to get the rest next pay day. He sent a fine letter too about what a fine boy you were. Would you like to read it? I've missed the carrier again and it's twenty till ten. I should have written last night. We got a card from Schuyler today. He is still at Fort Leavenworth. He has his clothes and taken his shots and would like to hear from us. We got a V- from you today too, of 7th. I am glad you could tell us how far you were from where Edwin lived. I'll get you Ralph's address. Yes we got the pictures, yours was just fine and the little Jap girl was cute. We sure thank you for them. We hope you are well and OK. We are having nice cool weather. Good bye with lots of love and good wishes, Pop, Tom and Mom

September 20, 1943: Florence to Ivan
2900 Seminary Avenue
Oakland, California
== V-MAIL ==
Dear Ivan,

Haven't heard from you for so long thought I would let you know that Uncle Abe and I are thinking about you and also your friend Henry. Sent you a couple of pictures of me and Edwin's baby last spring but didn't hear if you received them. John is back here and has a good job in San Leandro but he doesn't like batching much. Was here last evening and had supper with us. We are back on Seminary and are glad to be to ourselves again. My folks are about the same as usual. Uncle Abe has a long day - he leaves home about 6:15 and doesn't get back until 6:30. He's had all his teeth pulled and looks more like grandma than ever. Won't be long till he'll have his new ones. Edwin and family are living in San Francisco now. Just bought a home there a couple of weeks ago. Their little boy is so sweet - of course all grandmas think that. His red hair is what attracts me, and he is so affectionate. I hear through your folks that you are OK, but would like to get a few lines from you direct. Tell Henry hello, and best wishes. Just know that Uncle Abe and I are always thinking of you and we are putting all we can in bonds. With much love, Aunt Florence

September 22, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

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My Dear Son Ivan,

I was so glad to get your v-letter of September 11th yesterday, and to know you were OK. I'll try and send you a letter this time just for a change. Mine have been v-'s so long, are they hard to read? Yours is just fine and easy to read. I wrote to Charles Hart this week and told him I had received your money OK and thanked him for it. He said, "maybe you'd get the rest next pay day." I wrote to you Saturday but the carrier beat me to the box as usual, so I sent it first of week, but it will seem like it's been on the road a long time by its date.

Dad is busy working in the hay. I washed yesterday, don't you think I am doing fine? Wilma and children were home Sunday. They are all OK. Marjorie said to tell Uncle Ivan, "she wanted a picture of him." And for you to be sure and send her one. They were all here a few minutes last night to bring Snowball's calf home. He is a pretty roan calf and Dad has put him on Red, so he don't have her to milk. This is Fair week but I don't expect there will be many children there.

It is cloudy tonight and the wind is blowing from the north. It's ten o'clock, I am sitting here by the table, in your place, in the kitchen writing and Dad's in the front room listening to the war news before he goes to bed. No, Schuyler didn't get the tractor together, but Tom and Dad put it together Monday, but he didn't get it to start. He said he would let Fred see if he got it all together OK. It would be nice if you could see Ralph Barnes. Alice thinks he is in the Islands somewhere. I've not heard any more from Schuyler, hope he writes pretty soon. I feel like I know where you are now, but how will I know when you move? I'll tell Tom what you want him to tell B. M., when he comes over again.

Dad and I went to church Sunday, maybe we will have Sunday school next Sunday. The preacher has hay fever so he can't hardly talk. Dad has a little touch of it, first since he has had his skin trouble. The Dr. said they didn't have hay fever hardly ever, when they had the skin trouble bad. Guess Dad's better of it.

Well Ivan we are real late this a.m. (September 23rd). It was raining at 7 o'clock. Dad looked for the cows for some time and they beat him to the barn. He changed his wet

clothes and it sure made us late with our chores, but if he goes to town anywhere I'll mail this. We hope you are well and OK and will keep letters coming, for you don't know how well I love to hear from you. Good bye with lots of love, Dad, Mom and Tom

September 26, 1943:

Ivan to Parents and Family

Sunday afternoon

Dear Dad, Mom and Family,

How are you this nice sunny day? I suppose by now that the weather is getting cooler back there and soon the trees will put on their fall colors. I sure would like to be there to see them, and I'll bet you too would like to see all the vegetation here. I just got through writing a letter to Ralph. He seems to be getting along fine anyway.

I got two letters one an air mail letter from Edna wrote the 16th. I also have v-letter from Minnie wrote the 17th. I hope the infantile paralysis is over by now. We haven't had much of it here only a few cases.

Say how does Virgil like his car? I'll bet he hauls plenty of girls around in it. Did Howard Rowland get a car? Say Minnie, does Delores still remember me?

Edna, that was a nice card you sent me and the poem was a good one. How does the porch look? You ought to screen it in. How is Tom and girl getting along?

Yesterday I fixed the pocket knife Fred sent me. It had a big blade out of it. I put another pin and blade back in it. The blade had been out for about 7 months. I think I'll send some pictures of myself to you in this letter. One of the pictures of myself sure has a lot of frowns on it. I must have been facing the sun when it was took. The other pictures show a bit of scenery of other island.

Well think I'll sign off. I'll have to think of something to write about, but I let you know I am alright when I write. Well, hope all are well and happy. Lots of love, Ivan. PS: Did you get the \$20 money order from Charles Hart? Ivan.

October 1, 1943: Juanita to Ivan

This letter has no envelope and no date at all. However, Juanita mentions Clarice getting sick

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on Wednesday, September 29th, which means it was written around October 1, 1943.

Dear Uncle Ivan,

I thought I would write and let you know I still think of you even if I haven't written for a long time. I am taking in school:

Public Speaking 1st Period
Biology 2nd Period
Study Hall 3rd Period
Eat Dinner
Study Hall 5th Period
English Literature 6th Period
Typing 7th Period

I will have missed 9 days all together from school. I have some sort of stuff on my face missed 3 days went to Doctor he said I was allergic to cold cream or face powder gave me medicine and it is about well.

Missed one day because of gland trouble and now a week to see if I get the scarlet fever.

Well I had better close so Grandma can get this letter off today. Clarice took sick last Wednesday night (Sept. 29). We didn't know what the matter was till Friday.

Well will close but I want to tell you those pictures certainly look like my Uncle specially those with your cap off. With Lots of Love, Your Niece, Juanita. Excuse the writing as I want to get this off.

Sunday October 3, 1943:
Ivan to his Parents and Tom
Hawaii

Dear Dad, Mom and Tom,

How are you doing? The radio just got through playing part of "Rock-a-bye-Baby," the first time I have heard it for some time. It is playing Hawaiian music just now. We hear quite a bit of it over here of course.

I visited Honolulu last Friday. I went and saw the Royal Hawaiian Hotel also beach in front of it known as Waikiki. It is a pretty place and the Hotel is really beautiful. I have some picture post cards I'll try and send you of the place. We stayed at the YMCA overnight. I was with Dee Hatch while on the pass. About all I did on pass was to look over the town and stores.

I got some shots or a shot for typhoid

this morning and don't feel so hot. You might ask Schuyler how he likes them. It makes one feel like a pin cushion after a while.

I received your air mail letter of September 22 with the picture of our church and Rev. Sparks. From your letter it sounds as though it is getting cold or winter is just around the corner. I'd like to see Snowball's calf; you did fine by putting him on Red. I don't know what I'll do about pictures. I suppose I'll have to get some made. I reckon now that one person won't want pictures of me. I think she probably is getting along a lot better without me bothering her. Well it is as good a time as any to find out about it.

Minnie and Edna got ready to write a v-letter to me about the same time September 22. I hope Velma Couch's trouble won't be so bad as it seems. It was nice Tom got to attend the Fair. Did you get to see Charles when he was home?

Well I don't have a lot to say lately. This place is surely dead. The boys were out boxing a little this evening but I don't believe I could fight my way out of a paper bag.

Well hope all are getting along OK. Lots of love, Ivan. Say Mom I can read your v-letters fine but I still like your air mail letters too.

October 8, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas
My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your v-letter of September 25th and to know that you were OK then. I've not written as I should, but I'll always promise to do better. I hope I do.

Friday evening Juanita, Lottie Grace and Junior came to stay a week with us, to see if they would take the scarlet fever. Clarice has it, but is better now. Violet takes care of her and Clarence stays at his mother's. I don't believe these kids will take it now. All have had colds and Junior had the croup, but was OK last night. Minnie has been over most every day to see how we were. She hasn't been feeling too good this week.

I was so glad to get a letter and three pictures in it today from you. Thanks so much for the pictures. They sure look good to me. Looks just like the little boy that left us, nearly two years ago. As you see, I didn't get this

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finished before the carrier left me another letter and your pictures.

Well the day is over and my children are all in bed and so is Dad, so maybe I can think straight. I am used to writing when I am all alone, and it's hard to think when so many are around. I see I am getting old and set in my ways, took me a long time to find out what you all knew, didn't it?

The children can go to school next week if they aren't sick. So they will go to Minnie's then to go to school. I am so glad you got you a new watch. We had just decided to buy you a new one, when you said you liked a wrist watch the best. Your other watch was washed too many times I guess. Tom left it in his pocket when he took it to Edna's to be fixed, and she run it through the washing machine, so they had to get every bit of rust off it, besides fixing it.

Do the mosquitoes stay with you through the winter months? How could Ralph B. tell you where he was at? Are you far from him? I saw Josie Tuba at church Sunday, she was leaving the next day for her home in Washington. She said, "you owed her two letters." Maybe you can get Henry to answer them for you. How do you like to iron? Morris used to iron some for Edna when she couldn't. Wonder if he learned how in World War No. 1? Knowing how might come in handy sometime.

Tom said to me not long ago, "guess I'll get married, Mom." I didn't know what to say for a minute, then I said, "the war isn't over yet, you promised to wait till it was over." He said, "I could break my promise couldn't I?" I said, "yes, but I don't believe you ever have." That was all that was said. But I hope he does wait. Maybe I am selfish to think as I do. But Tom don't know how long he will be here at this Naval Base.

Charles Snyder is in California now, so they told me Sunday, Cora Nye and baby is at her mother's now, so is Oliver's wife and baby. Tom was home Sunday afternoon, he and Dad went fishing, caught five fish, two real nice ones, then he was here Monday afternoon and helped Dad in the hay a little while.

Do you still get the church papers? Do you take time to read them? God will seem nearer to us if we will read his word and talk to Him each day and we will have a quiet peace

within our souls, that we never knew before.

Mrs. Sparks, the preacher's wife, is sick in the hospital. She has yellow jaundice anemia and low blood pressure. She has suffered a lot to be so young. Kay Siron's cousin Thane Johnson wants to be a flyer. You saw him at Uncle Tom's, the time you hurt your foot. He was a little boy then.

Well Ivan, I'll be you are tired of reading this rambling letter so I'd better stop and go to bed. You surely didn't get my letter written the second week of September, telling you that Charles Hart sent \$20.00 and we put it in the bank for you. He wrote a nice letter too, telling what a fine son I had. I was glad to hear from someone that had seen you since I had. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

October 13, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to hear from you Monday, air mail written Oct. 3rd. It sure didn't loose any time on the road or air rather. It's nice and cool, almost cold today. Dad is starting to mow the feed today before frost gets it. I sent your letter to Minnie yesterday to read, so I may forget your questions if you had any. Clarice is doing nicely and the girls are in school this week, staying with Minnie. Junior is at Edna's. The house here is real quiet.

We are having meetings at church this week. Rev. Finch, the district superintendent, is in charge. We went last night. Dad says he is the best talker we ever had here.

Tom was home and read your letter you wrote to him. He said he'd do what you said. Don't worry about the girls, "there is just as good fish in the sea as was ever caught out." Some of the girls that are married and have babies are running around while their husbands are away. Oliver Nyes' wife would leave her baby for her Dad to take care of, while she was out most of night. He told her he wouldn't take care of the baby while she was doing what she hadn't ought to do, so she came back to live at Mr. Nye's.

Irene and children were home Sunday. Minnie, Fred and Clarence came in the evening after the children. Tom was home all day and took us to church and Sunday school. He came

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home Saturday night. He is staying a lot of his off time at Edna's. I heard from Carl's, he has been reclassified but not called yet. Saxon is taking care of two boys, one 8 months old and the other 1 and a half years old. She says she is so busy she doesn't know whether she is coming or going. Schuyler has been sent to North Carolina, but I've not heard from him since he moved. He is good to write to Ruth, though, so I got his address yesterday and will write to him this week. I am so glad Aunt Florence wrote to you.

The wind is blowing hard from the west but the sun is shining, it was cloudy part of yesterday. I have about a bushel of tomatoes to can. I don't need them, but Irene does. Tomatoes have been high this year, but we didn't raise any to sell. The chickens are still in the hen house, so I'd better let them out, they have feed and water in there so are OK.

We were so glad of your pictures and all the rest want one of you. Well Ivan, I hope you are feeling better over your shots now. And I'd better stop and I'll try and write again this week. Seemed like I couldn't get started to write while the kids were here. We are always so glad to get your letters, and I don't believe any one has a better boy to write to them than I do. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

October 19, 1943: Ivan to his Parents and Family

Hawaii, Tuesday night

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you doing these days? I'll bet you think I am plenty slow in writing? Well I am sorry but it couldn't be helped. A bit of training came up and I couldn't write. I was hoping that you wouldn't think I wasn't writing because I hadn't got your letters.

I have a v-letter of 29 and an air mail of Oct. 8. I am glad Tom can help Dad with the hay. I am glad you got the old letters from me from Stoneman. Some I'll probably want returned in time. I finally received word about \$20. I must of not got your letter telling me of it first time. I'd like to of been with you and help Tom on the fried chicken.

Mom, did your family increase? I'll bet you were glad for the company. Maybe you are not so lonesome. Maybe you will get over your

set ways as you say but I don't believe you will ever get set in your ways. I am glad you like the pictures. One had plenty of frowns I'll bet. The mosquitoes in Hawaii consider it a paradise because they thrive the year around. The only difference is that in the winter time they have more water to breed in.

Mom, Ralph B. can tell me all about his outfit and island because it is inter-island mail and one can write most anything. Mom you knew where I was at and you ought to know where I am now so get a map of islands somewhere and you can tell for yourself. Have someone to get you a map. I'll have to have Henry to answer Josie's letters for me, I guess I don't know how very well.

I don't know Tom's girl but if he would want to get married and girl is OK I sorta believe it should be up to them. I don't want no sides on subject however.

I don't like to iron so good. I reckon I don't do such a good job. Mom I am afraid I don't read church newspapers. I don't read at all much.

If you see Mrs. Sparks tell her hello for me. I sure hope she gets well quickly.

What relation to me is Thane Johnson? You tell me he was a little boy at Uncle Tom's but then I wasn't so big either. These little boys really grow up fast. I am glad Juanita is getting along OK and I was glad to hear from her.

I also have two v-letters from Minnie here, one Sept 29 and the other no date. Say Minnie, can't you afford a calendar?

I reckon Delores and Emilie know how to get by? How does Charles S. like the army by now? Is Phyllis going to California? Say Minnie, if Phyllis is home phone her up and ask her what her cousin's name was by the name of Yeager from Norwich? What's her first name and address is that came to visit her. I might as well write to someone if she is still around.

Well I got to wash out some socks and shorts this evening so I'd better close. I'll write again soon. Hope this finds you all well and happy. Love, Ivan

October 19, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear little Soldier boy,

We were so glad to get your letter

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written 8th of October. I think it came the 15th, I know it came fast. And we were wondering if you were still on the island you were? I expect you have been told the news, Ruth has a baby girl born October 16th. I've not seen her yet, have had a sore throat since Saturday. But I did go to Sunday school, I didn't feel like teaching my class so got Mr. Reeser to teach it.

Irene and children were here when we got home, so she got dinner for us. The children are growing like weeds. I am lots better today and intend to work some. Maybe Dad will be glad. Tom was here last night. If you got as many letters from him as times he has promised to write to you, you'd get a lot. He is always glad to read your letters, asks if I've heard from Ivan? about the second thing he says to me.

Minnie and Delores were here yesterday morning, she was some better than last week. Clintons are having a sale tomorrow, they could not get help on the farm so are selling their cattle.

Wilma had her new windmill put up Sunday. Fred, Clarence and Tom and a windmill man put it up. Dad didn't go as they asked him to come Sunday morning, and I told them Dad couldn't go in the morning as he had to go to Sunday school. Dad didn't want to miss Sunday school either.

I don't believe John enjoys batching, he should have got married a long time ago I believe. Schuyler likes it better in North Carolina than he did in Louisiana. How far are you now from where Edwin did live? Do you hear from Ralph Barnes? I hear the doctors were mistaken, so the stork will not visit Ralph and Lucy this fall.

What does FDC stand for? I am always asking questions, but you know what you can answer. It's about mail time Ivan so I'll try and send this and hope to send another this week. I am sorry you've missed my v-notes, but I always aim to do better, if I don't. I hope you are well and feeling OK. So good-bye for this time, with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

October 20, 1943: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

I expect you have heard about

Schuyler's and Ruth's new Baby Girl. She was born October 16 and weighed a little over 8 lbs and her name is Delores Ann. She looks like Schuyler and really is sweet. She is very fair, has a round face, pug nose and is bald-headed. What hair she has is so light it looks like fuzz. Ruth and Baby are fine. Ruth is so proud of the Baby. She says it is too good to be true. We are all happy for them. Claryce is getting along fine. We still have Junior and Minnie has the other girls. Wilma and family are OK. She is kept plenty busy with her family.

We had a rain last night and plenty of wind. Hope you are well and happy. Thomas was here for a few minutes last night. He is OK. It's almost mail time so had better quit. Did you get the money? Love, "The Tuckers"

October 23, 1943: Lottie Grace to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Uncle Ivan,

How are you? I am fine. Delores has the scarlet fever. Evelyn and J.E. and me is at grandma's. Daddy has to stay at grandma Emery. Aunt Ruth has a baby girl, its name is Delores Ann. They say it has a pug nose and bald headed. We play on your old car. Uncle Tom is going to get married at 8 o'clock tonight. J.E. said he would be a married women and she changed to her mine. I will have to quit to get my letter off. Love, Lottie Grace

PS: Clarice will soon well I we will get to go home. Write soon, looking for a letter and your picture. Love, Lottie Grace

October 23, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

How are you this nice rainy morning? We are all pretty good, I have a family again now. Delores isn't very sick, but she has Scarlet fever and I have Fred, Evelyn, Juanita and Lottie Grace for a week. Clarice is well now and so Violet is out of quarantine, but the girls can't even leave here for a week, but I don't think they will take it. Dad's milking, the rest are up and eat their breakfast and Fred's started to the shop.

Well Ivan tonight Tom and Mary Berry will be married at 8 o'clock at the parsonage of the Church of God. Tom wants Dad and I to be

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there, so we will try to go. I hope it's all for the best, but time will tell. Guess you are all the boy I've left now. How soon will some girl be getting you? Not too soon I hope. I am getting selfish I guess.

I haven't seen Ruth's baby yet, but I won't go see her now till my family is out of quarantine. Edna says baby's cute, round face, pug nose, and bald headed and looks like Schuyler.

I've missed getting a letter from you this week. Maybe the carrier will be good to me and bring me one today. I know you will miss Minnie's letters, for she writes such good letters, the rest of us ought to write enough so to make up in numbers, but I couldn't write as interesting letter as hers are.

Ivan is there anything you need that we could send you? Just tell me if there is. Have you filled your Diary yet? Want another? Charles has to keep his foot off the floor another week. It was a bone tumor he had and his toe was taken off at the first joint. He hasn't been able to start to school yet. It's past mail time as he comes 9:30 o'clock now days, maybe the rain has made travel slower today. If I miss him I'll take it to town tonight. We hope you are well and OK. Good-bye with oceans of love, Pop, Tom and Mom

November 2, 1943: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

==V-MAIL==

Dear Ivan,

I'm sorry I missed last week in writing to you, but I'll try to make up for last time. Ruth and her Baby spent most of the week with us and we had Junior Emery too so it seemed I didn't get everything done.

Ruth and Baby are fine. Surely wish Schuyler could see the Baby as she really is sweet. She looks like her Daddy, has a pug nose and is bald-headed, weighed a little over 8 lbs. Emery's are out of quarantine and all feeling fine. You knew Delores had it too. Well she wasn't very sick at all and they will be out in 11 days.

Thomas has been married a week last Saturday. We hope they get along fine. They decided to get married Wednesday and Saturday they were married. That really is quick, isn't it?

They both looked so nice.

We had a heavy frost last night and it is really cool today. All here are OK. Hope you are well and happy. Love, The Tuckers

November 2, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your welcome letters, one last week and one Monday, the one written October 22nd. I was real busy last week, as my family left Wednesday morning and went to live with Violet. Delores is scaling off a lot and feels fine. She said yesterday, we stopped a minute as we came from town, they had just 9 more days to stay in quarantine. Then Minnie can write to you.

Mr. Hunt was found dead in bed Wednesday night. They thought he had been since Tuesday night. He lived alone in his home and Sammy saw him every day, so about ten Wednesday night he said, as his Dad hadn't been over that day, he would go over and see him. He was in bed and the covers weren't disturbed. His funeral was Saturday morning and they took him to Linn County and was buried in the cemetery Mother was buried in. His wife and oldest son is buried there too. Ben and Sadie came from Denver. Ben got a 15 day furlough. Emma Hunt Taylor lives in Hutchinson. Dad and I, Edna and Violet went to the funeral.

We went to see the new baby Saturday. She is one of the prettiest babies I ever saw. Edna said I'd want to take her home with me, as she looked like my babies did. Her head is covered with white down, it looks like. Betty Martin says she needs a wig. Her name is Delores Ann, and she can suck her thumb too, if she happens to get it in her mouth.

Clarence's, Fred and Evelyn, Irene and children, Tommy and wife were here Sunday. Dad slipped and fell on a log and hurt about three ribs Saturday. Makes him go a little slow, but we get along OK. I was sorry about Mrs. Hollinger too. I think she couldn't have been nicer.

What do I want for Christmas? Nothing pleases me more than a letter from my boy, if he only has time to say he is OK. I don't mind if they are short or long, just so they are from my little boy. Dad says, if you'd like that watch, it's

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a pocket seven jewel, he will send it to you. It is fixed now.

The sun is shining nicely this a.m. but it must of froze ice last night as it was so cold. We hope you are well and OK and don't have to work too hard. What are you studying now? Military secret? Well Ivan I'll tell you good bye with lots of love, Dad and Mom

Do you attend the Chaplain's services now? I hope your work is so you can. Love, Mamma

November 6, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were glad to get your letter of October 24th this week, and to know that you were OK. We also got the one you wrote October 22nd on Tuesday. We got up too late to write to you this a.m. before mail time. Dad said he would go somewhere to mail a letter if I got it written. Well I forgot about writing till a while ago.

Tom came this afternoon and he and Dad went hunting a little while. They didn't get anything but Tom saw three ducks. Tom and Dad are getting the potatoes out of the hay mongh[?] and going to put them in the cellar. It has been cool and cloudy today and we are looking for cold weather. Dad feels some better than when I wrote last. Dr. said one rib was cracked and several bruised. He has gone real slow this week, but he did help the Clinton boys saw wood yesterday. Help is so hard to get, he didn't like to refuse them when they asked him. We have 15 bushels of potatoes now.

Well Ivan we all think alike, we still think of you a lot and a lot of you too. How much you'll never know. We are glad when you do ask questions so we will know what to write about. I haven't heard any more from your friend Hart yet. Tom was off today but Mary worked, he will mail this as he goes home. Hope he doesn't forget it. Delores is fine and her and Minnie expect to be out of quarantine the 11th. It's Edna's birthday too. I saw Violet, Clarice and Junior at Missionary meeting Thursday. Mrs. Phillips came by and took me. It was at Clarence Willison's and they live 1 mile north and one mile east and $\frac{3}{4}$ north of Carter Spurr. It was a long ride anyway. I told

Mrs. Sparks you said hello. She was pleased that you thought of her. She said she had a brother that would soon sail they thought. He had sent for his hunting knife. How does yours do by now?

Dad said he would try and begin to write letters next week, so I'll tell him to write one to you first one. We hope you are well and OK. Thane Johnson is the same relation to you that Kay Siron is. Josie Carlile Johnson is your cousin so he is your second cousin.

This is Saturday night 6 o'clock. Dad is bringing in the cows now. Don't you hear him, and Watch barking? Cows don't give much now, so milking is a short job. Well Ivan don't work too hard and don't forget we love to hear from you. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop, Tom and Mom. Tom said tell you he would try and write to you someday.

November 10, 1943: Lottie Jane to Ivan
Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of October 28, the 8th. It came pretty fast. I washed today and Dad went to town, he is in bed asleep now, and I've been waiting for Minnie and Fred to come and stay all night with us, as they intended to fumigate the house tonight. But it's so late I expect they are staying at Violet's.

We've had cool weather since Saturday, some snow Sunday morning, but it soon melted. Today has been nice and warm. Dad is feeling a little better, and I am sure glad. Irene's were home all day Sunday and Wilma's came in the afternoon. Charles' toe is almost well, the rest of the children are well. Wilma is sure glad she has a windmill to pump water for them. Howard is growing tall and wears 11 and a half shoes, so he has a good understanding. He doesn't like High School. I guess he is a real farmer boy, for he has been good to work and help Wilma.

Did you like the FDC work? Or do you like what you are in better? Is Ralph Barnes still on the Islands? You told me once to get map and look up where you were. I've had a map or maps for a long time, I've about worn one out, seeing where you live. I know where you walked the two miles to the show. Censor didn't cut it out and I was so glad.

Tomorrow is Edna's birthday and Dad is