

## Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

### Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

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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maybe Morris will be coming home soon. John was to go out west today to help with the broom corn. I guess he got tired of California. He never stays with one thing very long. We wish he would.

Gayle seems to like school OK. I just pronounced his spelling words to him.

You are really doing good with trading for cat-eyes. What do you trade the natives? We are having lovely fall weather now. It really is pleasant and nice.

Hope you are feeling fine. All here seem to be OK. Love and best wishes, Edna and All

**September 13, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan:

How are you? We are all fine here. Our girls have started to school so now I'll have to have dinner on time. Seems like I don't get much done but maybe I'll learn to manage better after a while. Murriel has to eat once between 9 and twelve so that takes some time.

Flies have been bad this morning. I've been swatting them. I've sprinkled my clothes down so have an ironing to do this afternoon. Also want to make me a new dress. John bought me a new piece of material for dress. Sure is nice. It is navy blue. He let me pick it out. He wanted to get it for me taking him around in car some. Sure nice of him I thought.

Murriel is beginning to roll now so I'm going to have to bring a bed in here to keep him from getting on floor. So far he's been staying on daybed in here with pillow to his side.

Delores says she just plays at school. I told her she'd better stay home and help me then. She says, "Oh no, it's fun, Mama." I'm glad she likes it. Evelyn likes her teacher. That means a whole lot to a kid.

I knew you wouldn't quit while quitting was good. Ha! You'd better stop before you get in the red again. Don't you think so?

You never said much about our picture. Weren't you surprised to see yourself in it? We are having some finished off without you in it as they said having to put your picture in made picture lose detail and wasn't quite so good. Schuyler wrote the other day to Ruth. He is in India. Don't know what part or anything only

he's there and OK. Tommy is still here. We sure hope he gets to stay here.

Say don't you write and tell Edna I told you about their coming event. Wait until she mentions it to you and then you must act surprised. She wants to surprise everybody. I told Mama, and Edna didn't much like it. Shoot, she is starting to wear maternity dresses, that is, just about. She's made her one so when she does that everyone will know. I suppose she thinks she can keep it a secret forever. Ha! She has done a good job of it. If you have commented on it to her in a letter already I don't care. I can tell her I told you.

It is cool here at nights. Sure is bright today though. It was 55 in here this morning. Had to build a fire.

I'd better mail this so I can get some dinner. Mother and Dad are both pretty good. Lots of love, Minnie and Family. Esther Smith has moved into Calvert Elliott's house so she will have Richard close to school.

**September 14, 1944:**

**Ivan to Parents and Family**

Somewhere in New Britain

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you getting along? I have two letters from you of August 30 and the 1st. I think I'll answer the one of the 30th and leave the one of Sept. 1st for next letter. I am very glad you got my shells. About dishing them out for necklaces for nieces, it is OK by me. The yellow ones will have to be passed out fairly sparingly because there are not many. Maybe give more brown ones. It shouldn't take over 12 or 18 of them. Give each about 6 yellow ones and enough of others to fill out necklace. Use your own judgment on it. Give Mrs Pollock some too for necklace or whatever she wants them for. Mom, you can have any cateye you want. I am glad you liked them. Mom you can have any of the other shells you want, too. I am glad money order arrived OK.

How did Virgil like his picnic in the park? I understand navy life agrees with him even though he would rather stay home. Has Dad quite a bit of feed to mow? Hope feed is good this year. Say Mom, what did Mrs. Johnson think of the place? What price do they set on it, if they do? I am glad Dad got to go to



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Los Angeles. John ought to of went with Dad. Yes, I believe you told me about Uncle Myron. Who is Pearl and Shirley Brown? I am not very good at knowing my relations if they are. Tom must have a nice wife. He is pretty lucky.

San Bernardino must of really changed since Dad was there. The houses sorta spoiled quail hunting. Your cool weather sounds pretty nice. I'd like a bit so I'd quit sweating so much in the daytime. I have trouble writing letters at night on account of hands sweating so much. How are your tomatoes? I'd sure like some fresh ones for a change. Do the shorthorn heifers give quite a bit of milk? What do you think of them? Mom I don't get tired of reading the things you write, ever. So tell me what and how things are getting along. Mom, my sisters probably would like some shells, so don't forget them either. Mom I am fine. Hope you and Dad are well and happy. Lots of love, Ivan.

### September 16, 1944: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas  
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.  
Dear Ivan,

Sorry to hear that you had bad luck, but after all it must be time to quit. Hope you feel that way too.

I sent 50 this week and am sending 100 today.

We are all fine here. I'm in the car writing on my knee.

It is raining here this morning and is quite pleasant after wind and dust yesterday.

Ruth had a letter from Schuyler yesterday. He is OK and has good eats. The rainy season must be beginning from the way he talks.

I'm going to get groceries and a bushel of peaches so expect I'd better hurry on and get this mailed.

Hope you are well and happy. All here are fine. Virgil is still at Great Lakes the last we heard. Love and best wishes, Edna and All

### September 16, 1944: Minnie to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas  
Dear Ivan:

Got an airmail letter yesterday from you so I'd better answer it. Sure glad to hear you're OK. We are all well here. It is raining here this

morning, I mean sprinkling. It hasn't wet the ground too good yet.

You wondered what to do about your picture, where to keep it. If you want to cut it up in smaller pieces it is OK as we will have another one here at home for you, it will be in a folder. That is one we got for you and Schuyler so it wouldn't hurt if you wanted to cut them down, into or whatever way it would make it convenient to keep them.

John is still in town. He has a bruised shin and it hasn't healed up according to him. He sure takes care of his scratches as usual. He tickles me sometimes. He's going to fool around until it will be too late to take in broom corn harvest.

Tommy was here yesterday afternoon. He'd been home to see the folks. He said they were pretty good. I have 10 quarts of tomatoes canned. I'd like to can a few more quarts. I've borrowed Esther Smith's baby buggy so I can push Murriel at the fair instead of carry him. Evelyn and Delores want to go and there hasn't been the polio epidemic this year like last so I think it will be OK, at least I'm hoping so. We'll be outside a lot of time, not like if we were cooped up in a building.

Fred has bought him a disc roller. So far he's not had any discs to roll. He will have as soon as some of farmers have a chance to tear down their discs. He paid \$113 for it. It is one almost like his Dad's.

How are the eats there at your place? Ruth said Schuyler said his eats were good in India. They are OK here if I just take time to cook. I sure miss Evelyn while she is in school.

Murriel turns over and almost crawls on bed now. Fred said he moved about six inches after his toy one evening. He sure works to move though as he can't raise up. Delores Ann crawls like Schuyler used to and on all 4's. Her knees don't touch the floor.

I've got to go to town for Fred, also iron my ironing I sprinkled down middle of week. Should have it done but I don't.

Kids like their teachers just fine. I think Evelyn is going to like school better than she did last year. She made 100 in her spelling on Thursday so she didn't have to take it Friday.

Say, let me know right away what kind of soap you need, laundry or toilet soap. I'm

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sending you a box today of soap and if you need laundry soap most let me know so I can mail it while we can. How are you on shaving supplies? Hankies or tooth paste? What about shoe polish or do you have to use so much there? Write and tell us what else you could use besides the candy and soap as we are going to send separate boxes this year. I'm mailing soap, and next week I'll try my luck with the candy. Please write as soon as you get this and give us some more ideas as to what you can use. Lots of love, Minnie and Family

### September 17, 1944: Ivan to Parents and Family

Somewhere in New Britain  
Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you doing? I am getting along OK. This is in answer to your letter of the 1st. Dad must of got up pretty early on 1st and you too if you wrote to me before breakfast. I have already answered your questions about the shells. The natives gather cateyes but Australians don't like the natives to trade with us because they can do better than working for Aussies. Then Aussies can't get any work out of them. There are quite a few natives around here because they bring them in to work building warehouses out of poles canvasses or roofs of grass. They also work in the supplies that come on island. They really save a poor old private lots of backbreaking work. There are several small native villages along the beach. I don't much care for their dances but it was something new.

Yes, I pay 6 cents postage on air mail letters. I don't know whether they weigh over 1/2 ounce or not. The shells seem to fade quite a bit but they are still pretty. Mom, what do you think of the cateyes? I found the 2 big ones on Memorial Day. Dad is probably pretty busy lately. I think he ought to sell off older cows. Maybe then he won't have to work so hard taking care of things. The weather tonight is clear and still a bit warm. It was pretty warm here till noon and in afternoon it sprinkled a bit and cooled things off. This is about last of this air mail paper so will write on tablet and use the envelopes. Well Mom and Dad hope you are well and happy. Lots of love, Ivan.

### September 20, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were glad to get your letter of September 3rd, it was a big letter with all the papers in it. Now you are a thoughtful son, and we appreciate all you are doing to make life easier for us. Last year, I forget the month, we had to sign some more papers. It was when the cows were doing well that our income was better than usual that our allotment was less than one half of our income so they cut it down to \$37.00. They check up ever once and a while to see if what you get is needed. Dad got some papers yesterday to check on his income, that he will have to fill out and send back. We have filled out papers like you sent us at first, so they have them on file now. I even had to get two affidavits signed to prove that I was Dad's wife. Sadie and Emma Hunt Taylor signed them for me.

We hope you are over your cold by now, Dad's hay fever is some better, he is still busy mowing hay and feed and shocking it up. We had more rain in August than we had had for years, but September has been nice to put up hay. The first half of September was real cool, but it was sure good old summer time yesterday but cool to sleep last night.

How did you like for us all to come to see you? And how did we look? We thought we should have looked better than we did. Yours was good, but the rest of us should have been better we thought. They picked the one where I was smiling the most, Minnie said it looked more natural of me. Carl looked thin and he was.

Before we started to town, all had gone except Carl, Dad and I. Saxon stayed and took care of Minnie's baby and Irene's children and Minnie's two girls. Just as we were ready to start, Walter was gone, so we all hunted a half hour for him. We were worried about him, because he had run off before, so we intended not go till he was found. He wanted to go with Irene when she went to town with Tommy. Evelyn and Carl found him standing in the lilacs, east of the well. Carl spanked him, then Walter held his breath, so Carl told Evelyn to pump water. She did and Carl put Walter's head under the pump. He sure stopped crying then, but



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started to run off when Carl put him down, so Carl spanked him again. Walter hasn't never run off from here again. Carl had such a head ache when it was all over, he took 3 aspirins before he started to town to have his picture taken. No wonder he looked peaked in the picture.

Did the baking powder can get mashed in sending? Well Ivan, I am slow as usual, but will hurry and take this to the box and write more later in the week. We hope you are well and OK. Goodbye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

**September 21, 1944:**  
**Ivan to Parents and Family**  
Somewhere in New Britain  
Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you? How do you like September weather at home? Did they have a fair this year? I received your letter of September 7 today and thought I'd better answer your letter this evening. It is nice that you have had cool weather. It ought to be alright. I'd like to help you eat the tomatoes before you put them in jars. How does Tom like to do his laundry? It ought to be OK doing it on a washing machine. I thought Thane Johnson was an aviator. I wonder if he is a Lt. Hope Uncle Tom's hearing device helps him out. I didn't know he was hard hearing. Hope John helps Dad out before he moves on again. Looks like he would settle down pretty soon. How was Clinton's hay that Dad help put up? Mom about the shells you can use your own judgment. I am glad they all like them.

I haven't been doing much lately. We go out in the field once in a while. The biggest problem is keeping clean. It is still pretty hot and when it is windy the dust and sweat keeps one dirty. This week I have seen two good shows. "Lady Lets Dance" was a musical. The leading Lady ice skated, etc. It looked pretty nice, the ice and everything. Quite a contrast to these Pacific islands. There may be a few places that are really nice here but they are very far and few between. I believe the tropics are worse for diseases of all kinds than any other clime.

I just returned from a show "The Sensations of 1945." Eleanor Powell played in it and it was nice. It was a musical and a lot of

dancing. The shows lately have been alright. The table in our tent has a tent center pole through center of it. The wind is blowing and it moves the table and creaks a lot. Mom the cateyes are like they come. The shiney surface is the outside of them and flat surface fits to bottom of the animal inside. They close up and it is one solid shell. They fit in brown shells I sent with them. Well hope all are well and happy at home. Lots of love, Ivan.

**September 23, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
Dear Ivan:

How are you? We are OK here only have colds. Guess we all have one but Fred. He had one several weeks ago. Delores has missed school all week. Well, Monday was Fair Day for kids. I took kids and went. Then Delores had cold and asthma bothering so she didn't go any rest of week. I took her to Dr. on Wednesday so she is taking sulfa drug for her cold. I think Delores being around sheep and farm animals made her wheeze as I think she is allergic to them. Of course we don't know for sure. We have doors closed here this morning. Kinda chilly outside. Guess I'll have to put Murriel's shoes on him. He sure likes to chew on them. I strung him some pretty belt buckles. He likes to play with them.

Fred is at shop. Work has slacked up but he still finds enough to do. He doesn't find time to fix things up here. I need a door fixed on my wash stand, some window panes fixed. Two of them. One he knocked out a year ago. Let ladder slip and broke it out of bedroom window. I kept it covered over with cardboard all last year but I don't want to this year. I also want some wiring in our bedroom. We still use a kerosene light in there.

Tommy is sure lucky. Still hasn't been told he has to leave. I hope he gets to stay here. I think John is going back to Jared Benson's to work. He doesn't want to leave here. Can't see why big wages wouldn't appeal to him. Does to most everyone. Cora Nye and baby have gone East again. As they got to Chicago they had a car wreck. They had to leave it and go on. Earnest was with them. They hadn't told particulars last I heard.

Edna said she'd be as bad as Ruth if she

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kept on as she doesn't feel very well. I think she thought Ruth and I both put on when we didn't feel well but she's finding out you can hurt a little. She went to fair Wednesday so I think she's doing OK with her going. I felt better at home.

Murriel has been pulling girls' noses. Dad went to fair Thursday. It was seven when he was here. Bet old cows wondered where he got to.

Wilma is teaching 1st grade at Prosperity. She has 12 pupils, teaches half day and gets \$2.50 a day. Not enough pay according to other teachers pay but she decided to do it. They had 40 some pupils in first 4 grades and teacher couldn't handle all of it. I'd better get to work. Lots of love, Minnie

**September 24, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
My Dear Son Ivan,

I was so glad to get two letters from you Thursday; if anything is better than one letter it's two or more. One letter was written the 5th and one the 10th of September. You sure are a good boy to write home, I don't believe there are any better. This was Fair week. Dad went Thursday alone. He had a pretty good time. When we came home from church today, Irene and children were here and before we got dinner ready Wilma and children came. We pealed some more potatoes, and soon had dinner ready. All the children are in school, you see Wilma is teaching the first grade at her school, so she takes Emilie along with her to school. Wilma teaches a half day, goes in the afternoon. She has 13 beginners and they pay her \$2.50 each half day. She says that will help her a lot, as everything is so high. Her ankle she run a guard in while mowing hay is almost well. She hurt it over two weeks ago, the horses started while she was on the wrong side of the mowing machine. I'll be glad when Charles can take over that kind of work for her. Howard has worked away a lot this summer. Emilie has gone to school 4 days and says she likes to go to school. She can read some now for she brought her book over and read for us today. Wilma Marie says she doesn't like school; she has to study too much. Tommy and Mary were home awhile yesterday. Mary has to work on Sundays, so is off on Saturdays.

It rained some Friday night and has been real cool ever since, it's almost cold enough to frost tonight. Delores and the baby have been sick with colds, so didn't come to church today, for the preacher didn't know whether he could get the church warm, as the furnace has to have some repairs. Delores has had asthma ever since she was at the fair Monday and watched the sheep being sheared. Zeph Fisher took 1st in shearing.

As usual I didn't finish this last night. It is nice and clear this a.m. It didn't get cold enough to frost last night. Our bombers are kept real busy in the air, the "bommers" I told you about are just bombers, ha ha. Maybe you'd think they were something new if I didn't tell you. Our calves were nice this year, there were 20 in all that lived. Well Dad has started to the barn with the milk wagon, so I'll put this in the box and go help milk. It's a short job, some are going dry. Well Ivan, we hope you are well and getting along OK. We are dreaming of the day you can come home again. Goodbye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God keep you in His loving care. Mom

**Sunday September 24, 1944:**  
**Ivan to Parents and Family**  
Somewhere in New Britain.

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you doing these days? I received your air mail letter of the 12th yesterday. I am glad my letters to you are coming through OK. Schuyler sure went a long ways when he did start. I sure hope he gets along OK over there. I don't suppose he will like it so very well. John must have itchy feet. I think it would of been nice if he would of stayed with Uncle John. Too bad they had sprinkles when they put up hay for Wilma. I'll bet Wilma's children have really grown. How is Charles' knees? Do they still bother him? He must of had some unusual trouble. I wonder how Delores, Clyde like school. Walter goes too. I'll bet he is ornery. Mom about allotment I thought I'd explained it thoroughly in other letter. I applied for chief support allotment and you have to get two disinterested parties to back up or fill out papers. Now I know you work too hard and if you get the additional money you ought to be able to take it easier. The idea is you



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may not be able to work so hard and I am sure you are eligible for the allotment. I didn't take the weekend hike. I had a cold and didn't think it would be such a good idea.

There are six men in our tent. How did you like to hold sycle while Dad ground it? The shells were pretty hard to clean. I let them rot for a day or two then took a small fine wire and raked out insides. You need a gas mask or clothespin then. Then it takes some time before they smell OK. I was on guard last night and got guard today again, or 24 hour part of guard was for 12 hours at night, I was unlucky. It is sprinkling out now and cloudy. It hasn't rained enough to settle dust yet. Well hope all are well and happy at home. Lots of love, Ivan.

**September 25, 1944: Doris Yeager to Ivan**  
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Well, finally I get around to write once again. I am working for Ratner and Allen. Yes, ex-Governor Payne Ratner and ex-[Kansas] Senator Donald C. Allen, which is really a wonderful man but I don't care so much for Ratner. This is the 3rd week and I like it pretty good. I stay next door to my uncle so it's really not so bad. I go home every week.

You might send your picture if it is possible, remember I have never received any at all. I don't have anything only larger ones like the small one you have but I'll see what I can do.

I am really dead tired, because I went home and I really don't get any rest at all over the weekend. But I wouldn't miss it for anything. Well I will see what I can do and hope to hear from you soon. Love, Doris, 317 South Oak, Wichita, KS.

**September 27, 1944: Edna to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Ivan,

How are you by now? Hope you are still doing OK. I guess from the papers that Harold T. has been busy. The 81st Division has been in combat near the Philippines and that is his division. We haven't heard from him in a while. I guess from what we'd heard that Schuyler is OK and in India. Minnie told me

yesterday that you had heard the secret. Minnie has really gotten a thrill out of telling folks. Well we have had lots of fun surprising people, even the folks were surprised. Virgil says to wire him as soon as the event happens as he has promised half of his Division cigars. He might run out of money if he doesn't look out. We're mailing three overseas packages today and hope you boys get them before Xmas. Minnie and Family were over last night and Delores and Murriel are feeling better. They have had colds. It is cool and rainy here today. Tom and Mary are fine. Had a letter from Carl and they are OK too. Hop you are fine. Love, "The Tuckers"

**September 27, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Ivan:

Murriel is asleep so I'll try and answer your letter I got day before yesterday. I've been slow with my letter writing as Murriel has been kinda fussy. He is getting better from his cold but he has taken up some time. Don't know if I ever wrote and told you Loreen told Fred that wasn't her, it was Rick Snyder's wife that used to live close to Wilma's. That she was separated from her husband. Mrs. Snyder told us too Loreen was working that night. I don't know and don't care a lot. I know Loreen wouldn't want any such thing known by others so of course could claim she was working, etc. Maybe Virgil misunderstood name and again maybe this other gal used Loreen's name. Makes no difference to us. Esther went to Texas and saw Art over weekend. She would have stayed longer only he was going on KP and a half hour each day would have been all she would have seen him. Jim Evans' wife has sued for a divorce. He's told some around Darlow he was going to get his boy and put him on the farm. Wonder if he knows Carl is in France. You can say what you want to Edna as most everyone has found out her secret. Sunday a bunch of the folks got up nerve to ask her about it. Floyd and Mildred Snyder are expecting about March. A slip yet they are thrilled about it. Darlene and Betty Jean are crazy about kids. How does Kay write to you? He uses strong language in my letters sometimes. Must close, Lots of love, Minnie

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**September 29, 1944:**

**Ivan to Parents and Family**

Somewhere in New Britain

Dear Mom and Dad:

How are you getting along? I am getting along fine but am a bit tired this evening. We had a bit of training and was up at 4:00 this morning. It was about the earliest I had been up for some time other than when I was on guard. I received a letter from Mrs. Moore this week and got to answer it pretty soon. I believe I have answered your letters you have sent so far, but I haven't had one from you so far this week. I also received a V-note from Alice Barnes and people in the church. Is Mr. Unruh still working at the telephone company? How does he like his job?

Mom, Minnie wrote and asked if or what I wanted for Xmas. Well I asked for soap but we are getting enough in now, so not much use in sending it. I could use a cheap watch fine and candy and things to eat. The soap if you have it bought can be used anyway at home. Mom, which of cateyes do you like the best? Believe it or not they are fairly good price but not very. They make nice rings. How do you like the black one I sent to you at first? I saw a nice soft ball game between our battery and HQ battery in our Bn. Maybe because it was so good is that our team won and first time HQ battery had been beat over here. We have two nice softball fields in our Bn area and they are kept pretty busy.

Mom, I told you about our swimming hole in a stream near our battery. Well, they put a dam across a stream and made a nice swimming hole. The spill way over the top makes a nice shower. It is high enough and plenty of water. Maybe too much later on. I am glad Schuyler is OK. Well, hope all are well and happy at home. Lots of love, Ivan.

**September 30, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

*In this letter Lottie Jane responds to a question Ivan asked in a letter dated September 14, 1944: "Yes, I believe you told me about Uncle Myron. Who is Pearl and Shirley Brown? I am not very good at knowing my relations..." The Uncle Myron referred to here was Myron Caldwell Roberson, William David Roberson's youngest*

*half-brother. They had the same father (Edward Caldwell Roberson) but different mothers. Myron was born in Linn County, Kansas, in 1858, and by 1900 was in California where he spent the rest of his life. He passed away there in 1939, leaving behind his widow Alice, their daughter Pearl and Pearl's daughter Shirley described here.*

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of September 14th Wednesday of this week. Thomas was here and read your letter too. He had come to help Dad stack hay, but it rained all day. He and Dad went to Buhler. Dad got feed and Thomas tried to get some shells for the gun, but they were out. It has been hard to get shells since the war. You have to sign a paper before you can buy them, and get one box about ever six months if they have them then. I hear they will have more for farmers as coyotes are getting so thick. I asked Tom if he had written to you, and he said last week, but he never knew what to write about. I told him I didn't know either, only I wrote anyway. Yes, Dad has quite a lot of feed to mow, lots more than he had last year.

Mrs. Johnson seemed to be pleased with the place, wanted us to stay for another year. This was her mother's place and she is buying her brother's share with the rent each year. I didn't ask her if it was for sale. I really didn't think of it. I imagine she will keep it as long as she lives. She is a frail little woman near 70 years.

Pearl Brown was Uncle Myron's only child. She was Uncle Abe's first wife, then she married Brown and Shirley is her only child. She divorced Brown because he drank. Pearl lives with her mother and works in a hospital.

We've had a cool cloudy week; fire feels good in the cook stove of a morning and evening. Dad went to town yesterday, had a good visit with Phil Finfrock. His wife isn't well and is doctoring with a faith doctor. Other doctors have failed to help her. Jim Evans' wife has left him and sued for divorce. Yes, we still have plenty of tomatoes, wish you had some too. The heifers have done better than we expected, they have gained in weight a lot this summer. We think they will be lots better next year, some gives more than others. I'll have Minnie help with the shells, the nieces will sure be proud of



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the shells. We will send Mrs. Pollock some, maybe Tom and Mary can take them to her. We must save some for you too.

Chores are almost done and mail will soon be here, so I'd better stop and let you rest, ha, ha. Ivan we sure appreciate all your letters. We are so glad to get them too. Be a good boy and take good care of Ivan. Goodbye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God bless and keep you in His loving care, Mom

**September 30, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan:

How are you? We are fine here. Kids over colds pretty good. Murriel is getting cranky but he is just hungry again. Seems like four hours fly by awful fast.

I am going to a funeral this afternoon. Perlin Wagoners that lived close to Violet's there on the corner lost their boy that was almost nine years old. He was allergic to something. He swelled on the inside and choked to death in night. His folks were awake but nothing they could do. He had been to school that day. Sure sad for parents. He has a brother Lyle that is 14 months old. Charles was in 8th grade.

We are having a surprise stork shower on Edna next Friday. Hope weather is good and large crowd comes as I want it to be a good surprise. It is cloudy and damp here today. I haven't got any washing done this week. Fred is busy at shop, don't know if he will get to go to funeral or not.

Do you have flies there? They get pretty thick here sometimes. Especially when I go to town and leave girls here with kids to play with them. I think they just hold door open.

Delores said teacher had her to draw a picture. Evelyn asked her if she did it good. She said yes I did it good enough for me. Delores likes school but she doesn't like to keep too busy.

Haven't seen Mother this week but Tommy was home and said they were pretty good. I've got a dirty house here to clean up so I suppose I'd better hurry up. So far the booster pump hasn't come so I don't know what they will do at school for heat if it turns any colder.

Hazel Barnes' husband, Bowlinger has been wounded, his back is in a cast. He is on his

way to States they think.

I've got to wash my head, the girls and see that we all get cleaned up so I'd better say by, by, Lots of love, Minnie

**October 1, 1944: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you doing by now? Fine we hope. Ella Thomas and Mary Brooks from Wichita and Eureka and their daughters spent last night with us. They are Morris' cousins. They came to Halstead to see their sister-in-law Mrs. Wesley Tucker and came to Hutchinson to spend the night with Mother Tucker. They got to Mother's just a few minutes too late as she spent the weekend at Stiggins'. Ella was lost so phoned us and we went up town and brought them out here. We had a nice visit as it had been a long time since they had been at our house. They left as we went to Sunday School this morning. We had a good attendance at church this morning and a good offering.

Gayle has gone to Youth Fellowship and Morris has just finished writing a letter to Virgil. He is thinking about going to bed as he is to be at work at 6:45 in the morning, and of course we visited until quite late last night. Virgil is getting along fine and likes his school work.

We went down home after dinner today. Wilma and family, Irene and children, Minnie and family and Thomas were there. Mary had to work so didn't come out. She works at the Bond bakery now. Clarence's stopped on their way to Wichita in the afternoon. Clarence and the girls went on home and Violet and Junior stayed here as he is to have a slight operation in the morning. He is to be circumcised in the morning at 9:00. Violet is staying in Hutchinson this week with him and Clarence will be back Saturday.

Ruth heard from Schuyler this week. He is OK.

We saw those shells that you sent home. They really were nice. It must have taken hours of work to find them, and clean and polish them. They are really lovely. I think that is a nice past time, don't you?

Carl T. I think has gone to sea for we haven't heard from him for quite a while and was expecting to go out anytime. Harold is still

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in action near the Philippines as he's in the 81st Division. We hope to hear from him soon.

It has been cool and drizzly all day today. A fire feels good. I guess Fall has really come. Is it still hot there? Hope it has cooled off some, but maybe it just doesn't...what about it? Hope you are well. We are fine. Love, The Tuckers

**Sept. Oct. 2, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

I can't keep my months straight let alone the days so I'm in a bad way, don't you think? How are you? Are you still indulging in your "old pastime" or have you found a better one?

We are planning a surprise "stork shower" for Edna Friday afternoon. I don't know all particulars yet as to how we'll get it done but we are inviting about all of South Hutchinson. I sure hope we surprise her.

Fred and children have gone to bed so I'll have to hurry or Fred will be telling me to put out the light.

It has rained here most of day. I hope it clears tomorrow as I never did general washing last week and here this week is starting same way. I'll have to dry some things in house pretty soon if it doesn't clear up. We were home Sunday. Mother seemed to be pretty good for the rainy days we've been having. Wilma, Edna's, Irene's and us were home.

Violet and Clarence were a little while. Clarence left Violet and Junior here as they plan to have him circumcised. He started to need it and they wanted Dr. Paine to do it. We took Violet and Junior into Mrs. Emery's last night. They took care of him this morning. He didn't like the ether or hospital. They had had him to hospital in Wichita and interneers had worked on him, finally had to clip it and Junior never liked such treatment. He stayed at hospital tonight. He'll go to Mrs. Emery's tomorrow. He could have gone today but it was raining too much.

Violet and Clarence came up to Charlie Wagoner's funeral. He choked up in night and died. Seems as though he was allergic to something and his lungs swelled on the inside. He'd eaten a good supper when he went to bed but died about 4:30. They had his funeral Saturday. The lived across the road from

Violet's and Meda Teter's there on the corner. They had moved a mile north of us and east about a half mile on the north side of the road where Ed Rome owned. They bought that of him and run their dairy there.

Mrs. Emery said Helen Rowland and Leland Robinson's boy Buster was kicked by a horse and was in the hospital, same room as Junior. He's doing OK, only he's got to be quiet as he has stitches in his face, etc. Seems as though it has been bleeding quite a bit.

Ruth heard from Schuyler again Saturday. She never gets around to seeing any of us. She wanted to know if I were going to take Murriel to the shower on Edna. I told her sure as I took him anyplace I wanted to unless he was sick. He will be six months old Sunday. Doesn't seem possible. He is a big eater too. I've been giving him some out of bottle too as it didn't seem like he was getting all he wanted.

Furnace in school is supposed to be fixed tomorrow. Hope so as I kept Delores home from school again today so she wouldn't take cold. It was rainy and 60 degrees in school room was just too cold. Stevens' are supposed to come out and fix it, I'm hoping as I hate to have her miss. Evelyn can stand cold better. I let her go to school.

Fred put new grates in store Sunday. I guess it is about time we got ready for winter as it feels like it is just around the corner.

How are your eats there? Do you have much canned meat or is it all that [illegible]? How close are you to the [illegible]? Do they have hospital on that island?

I'd better close, good night and lots of love, Minnie

**October 4, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

*Written on a Christmas Card*

Dear Ivan:

How are you? I think we must be having some of your weather as it just rains. I've waited all week for a pretty wash day, only thing I can see is to hang it in house. It sure is pouring down this morning. Junior had some fever yesterday from his circumcision so he didn't get to go home from hospital. I've about got another box ready to mail. I sent you one with soap in it. Please write and tell us when



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you get them as we are anxious to know how long it takes and if you can use what is sent, hope so. Murriel is here in buggy, fussing some. I suppose as usual he wants to eat some more or again. He does like his eats. Fred's stomach is off this morning. Wonder what's wrong, sympathizing with Edna maybe. Well I'd better say Merry Christmas. Lots of love, Minnie, Fred, Evelyn, Delores and Murriel Dee.

**October 5, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were glad to get your letters of the 21st and the 24th, and here is your letter of the 17th that I don't believe I've answered. It's so good to read you letters, we hardly think you are so far away when your letters can come so quick. I've been slow writing this week. It's been cold and rainy all week except today; it was some fun getting chores done. Then we would sleep late of a morning too. Dad's stomach was on the bum so he slept a lot during the day, but he was better yesterday and is eating good again today. Fred felt the same way yesterday, he said he guessed it was the weather, he was working today. Thomas was here today, he said when he went home from here Sunday he saw some pheasants between here and the highway. He shot three so he had some wild game to eat. Ralph Ford is being sent to Norfolk, Virginia. He was married some time ago to a Hutchinson girl. Mary said he and wife spent \$15.00 one evening at the fair. Mary thought she could have found better places for \$15.00. We have a new draft board No. 3 and they are reclassifying the men that have been deferred in order to raise the percentage of men inducted from Board Three. Zeph Fisher's name heads the list in 1-A and Everett Leroy May of Haven is next. They have 1,000 men to reclassify. Wilma and children were home Sunday. I think Charles' knees are getting better. Emilie's birthday was October 1st; she was 5 years old. She likes school fine. Walter isn't in school this year, his birthday is in February. Clarence and family came to Hutchinson Saturday to a funeral, so came and stayed all night with us. Lottie Grace and Clarice stayed at Minnie's. It's nice to see them once and a while. Lottie Grace had her face

poisoned, and it was swelled up till she didn't look natural. She was under the Dr.'s care and improving. I am glad the natives can help with the work if it saves you soldier boys. You told us about the cat eyes, and still we are dumb. Tom was trying to see how they would go, but gave up today. If you ever send any more, wrap one the way they go. Fred thought they were sawed apart. I know you pay 6 cents postage on your letters, but is mine too heavy, do you have to pay any more postage to get them? Hope not. John is working for Jared Benson of Castleton. I haven't seen him since he thought he would go harvest broom corn. Well this is Friday Morning. I begin morning with a capital because the sun is shining so bright. Dad's finishing breakfast so is ready to go milk. This afternoon there is to be a shower on Edna. It's a surprise too. Well she sure has surprised all of us, so I guess we can surprise her. Dad will take me to Minnie's and I'll go with her, then she will bring me home. Irene will go with us too. We hope you are well and OK and I'll write again soon. Goodbye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care. Mom

**October 7, 1944: Irene to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Well it has been a long time and no write -- not you, I mean me -- and I'm ashamed too. I think you have written since I have. Well here goes.

Yesterday the ladies at Edna's church had a Stork (that long legged bird that's supposed to bring babies) Shower for her and was it a surprise. The ladies gathered at the church, then Mom, Minnie, and I went over to Edna's. She thought we just stopped in to see her while we were in town. Then Florence came over and told Edna she had left some books in the basement [of the church] and would she please come and help her find them. Florence sure had to talk fast for a few minutes there. Then Edna went in, changed her dress and put on some socks. When she got to the church she saw the cars but thought it was some kind of a meeting. She didn't know until she got half way down the basement stairs what was going on. She sure was surprised. There was a little

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over 50 ladies there and the presents I've never seen so many. The pretty baby clothes. That was the largest shower I've been to but you see Edna and Morris have been there so long and done so much in the church I reckon the people thought they owed them that much. Looks like to me they will have to have another one (baby) to wear out the baby clothes. I reckon the Shower was a surprise to Morris too as no one had told him about it. Well Edna and Morris sure surprised us so I guess we can do a little surprising too.

Well we've had three clear days in a row now after a week and a half of rainy weather and we sure enjoy it. Tomorrow is Sunday so I'll have to get busy and clean the house and get the kids things ready for Sunday School.

Roy is out on the grader today. The roads are pretty bad since the rains we've had.

Last week I made three dresses for Emilie since Wilma has started her in the first grade too she needed some more dresses. Wilma has 13 first graders she just teaches in the afternoon.

Well I'd better close and mail this and write some next time. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

### October 10, 1944: Edna to Ivan

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

It is cool and nice here this morning. It was down to 38 this morning not far from freezing so it won't be long until winter will be here. I wish you could [have] some of our grand weather. I'm planning to make some candy to send in yours, Schuyler's and Harold's boxes. I sent some boxes a while back, but wanted to make these this week.

No one has heard from Harold for quite a while. The last letter he had written was the last of August. I expect he has been quite busy. Maybe I told you he was with the 81st Division and they have been in action near the Philippines.

I surely had a big surprise last Friday p.m. The people of the church and I think all the people I ever knew had a shower for us at the church basement. It was a complete surprise to me, but we had a grand time and so many lovely gifts. I never saw so many things in my life. I

think I unwrapped packages for almost an hour. There were 93 names on gifts, but all weren't there. There were 65 grownups there besides some children. They said I had it coming as I surprised them so much. We got enough things for twins. We got a \$10.00 bathinette, about \$10.00 worth of blankets, a satin gown and bed jacket, gowns 9, shirts 3, sweaters 4, coat 1, caps and 4 dozen diapers. That is just part of the things. Morris was as surprised as I was. He gets a big thrill out of showing the things to folks that come in. Everyone here seem to be fine.

Violet and Junior are at Mother's. I expect you have heard that Junior has Scarlet Fever. He is quarantined out there and will be for two weeks. He is feeling fine now. Minnie was over home yesterday and Mom is pretty good too.

Thought I'd send you some snap shots of the boys taken while Virgil was home on leave. Virgil is studying hard, but likes it fine. He is going to school 8 hours during the day and also to night school. That will keep him out of mischief don't you think? He is a little homesick I think, but otherwise fine.

I must stop and write a little to Schuyler before the mail comes. Love and best wishes, Edna and All

### October 11, 1944: Ivan to Parents and Family

Dear Dad, Mom and Family:

How are you doing? I received your letter of September 25 about Monday and also another of 30th Tuesday. I'll answer one of 25th now and other last of week. I am glad my letters reach you OK even though they do come in bunches at times. I'll bet Dad had a good time at the Fair. I sure would like to see one again. I didn't know Wilma had hurt her ankle. I hope it is OK by now. I think the half day at school will do her good even though not much pay. Emily must learn pretty fast. Wilma Marie must be pretty independent. Is Zeph Fisher still around? He must of had plenty of suction to keep out of the army.

I am glad that the calf crop was good this year. When does Dad plan on selling bull and some of older stock? I think it a good idea and he won't have so many to take care of this winter. Mom, the girl I was writing to is



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working for Ratner and Allen in Wichita. She would like a picture of me but I don't know whether she wants one very bad. Most of girls back home seem to be too busy with their own affairs to write very much. There will be plenty of them if and when I get back anyway. I saw a nice show last night at our show. It was "Two Girls And A Sailor." It was a good musical and not much on flag waving style. I went over to see a show across the way tonight but the projector was haywire. I went over about 5 o'clock and about 7:15 we got news there was no show. Maybe a good thing because I might of not got this letter wrote. I received a letter from young people in Sunday School too last week, wrote the 27th. Say Mom, who is this Eleymae Lang anyway? I know most of them that signed letter but her. How are the Phillips' children making out? I am getting along fine but still belching up dehydrated onions I had with fried liver this evening. They tasted good though. Well I hope you are getting along fine. Lots of love, Ivan.

**October 12, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan:

Come over and help settle two girls. We're trying to get them to bed and nothing suits either one of them. I think ten o'clock is just too late for any little girl but you tell me how to get everything done, their lessons learned and to bed by nine o'clock.

Virgil has big ideas. He wrote to his Mama how he'd have an interest in this war when "the kid" got here. He'd have him to fight for, but when this is all over he's going to come home, settle down and have them by the dozens. Some idea for a seventeen year old kid. He must be going to have a harem.

I brought my three geraniums in last night. We had our first light frost. Don't think it did any damage but it at least makes you think winter is around the corner.

I washed today. The starched clothes are on the line yet. I still have my ironing from last week to do and it was a two weeks' wash so I guess it figures up to a three weeks' ironing. Don't you want a job? I have a bushel of it sprinkled down. Sure is heaped a plenty.

Murriel has been kinda hostile today when I've been outside hanging clothes. I'd come in and find him exercising his lungs a plenty. I don't know whether you'd call it spoiled or what. I think his tummy has hurt him some. I've had to give him more bottle feedings last few days and I don't think it agrees with him too well. He just wasn't getting enough to fill him up without it though. He weighs 19 lbs. 2 ozs with his clothes on. Delores weighed 19 lbs and 5 ozs at one year so you see there is a difference in their size.

Evelyn made 100 in spelling today. Now she won't have to take it tomorrow. She was quite tickled. She made 100's last month every Friday and in her test. I think she's doing OK with it. Hope she has such good luck all year.

Sure tickles Delores when she gets an OK in her work book. I've been helping her some at home. I think she is taking more interest. She missed out all of second week so she's had a hard time of it. I sure hope she won't have to miss any more.

Fred has been sharpening ensilage knives. He sharpened 20 of them yesterday and some more of them today. He manages to keep quite busy at that.

I've been after him to get up some clothes line poles so I can have more line room. He was going to do that before the baby got here. He is six months old. I hung clothes on Mrs Elliott's line today and on Violet and Ralph's line. It will save me running all over neighborhood if I can have a line of my own.

I washed our curtains today. They are so faded, I'd like to get some dye and dye them before I put them up. Sure costs to buy new ones and these aren't so worn as yet. Sun fades them so much.

Guess you know by now Junior has scarlet fever. He and Violet are at Mom's in front bedroom. Makes a nice apartment. I'd better go to bed as rest are in bed. Lots of love, Minnie

**October 18, 1944: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you doing by now? We are fine here. I guess Violet and Junior are on their last week of being quarantined at Mom's. I haven't

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been out, but Minnie says they are getting along fine now. The folks seem to be pretty good for them. Wilma is getting along fine with her new work.

Virgil talked to us by phone Sunday. It was really nice to talk to him. It has been cold up there. They wear their pea coats and gloves all the time. He passed two tests in typing last week. One was for S1/C and Petty Officer 3/C so he is doing OK. He has another study hour now. He always has studying to do, but says it is worth it.

We had an airmail last Friday from Harold. He is fine and is located in some island where they built their own table, chairs and thatched houses to live in. He might not be so far from you, but we don't know. He is back from the mission now probably resting, but couldn't tell us much.

A trailer house in Hefling's yard caught fire yesterday evening so we had quite a lot of excitement. Most of the things in the trailer were ruined but it happened they had some of their belongings in the basement where they were living. The children were playing in the trailer house and the little girl said she lit a match. Morris went over and so did Gayle. They used garden hose and buckets of water and kept it down some until the fire Dept. came. The baby girl was playing in the trailer too and her mother rushed in and got her out just in time as the smoke was so thick she could hardly find her. I guess they were fortunate the children were out even if the loss was quite a little in dollars and cents.

Tom's wife had a nose operation Monday morning. She had her nose broken when just a girl and couldn't breathe out of one side so the Dr. took out bone and cartilage so it will be OK when it gets well. She couldn't take anything but local so it wasn't very pleasant. It took almost an hour to do it. We went to see her last night and she is better, but uncomfortable because of packing in her nose. She will be in bed several more days. I'm going to town today so had better quit. Hope you are well and happy. Love, "The Tuckers"

**October 20, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
My Dear Son Ivan,

We were glad to get your letter of the 4th this week. I planned on answering it sooner but didn't get it done. You see I've not written any letters all week as yours always come first. We are all pretty good. Junior is feeling better and is peeling off now. He still is in bed.

I was ready to write to you Wednesday night, when Minnie and Edna came. Fred was putting a new spring in Morris' car so the girls come over here while they were doing it. They stayed so long that the boys came after them, it was eleven o'clock. Delores brought her tablet with her so she could show us how well she could make her numbers, then she went to sleep on the lounge and forgot her tablet.

Mary was doing OK after having her nose fixed. She said she wouldn't have had it done if she would have known how bad it would be. It took about an hour to get it done.

Yes, it has been a long time since you started on your one year training. I guess it's a good thing that we can't see into the future, or we might be discouraged more than we are. I think God intended us to live one day at a time, and He will give us strength and courage to live that day if we will only ask Him.

The chores are all about done and Dad is getting the team out of the pasture. Don't you hear him call them? He is putting Clinton's feed up on the halves. He shocked some yesterday afternoon. All feed on this place is cut now. We've had nice weather for some time now.

I hear Junior talking, so Violet is getting their breakfast and I must take them their milk and cream. Yes Ivan, we knew you were at Guadalcanal, for we asked Mrs. Pollock and she told us. Too bad you couldn't catch the little pig you saw in the grass. Carl said they intended to send you a wrist watch. I hope they have sent it by now.

I'll stop and mail this and try and do better in the future. We sure love to get your letters and are so thankful you are so good to write to us. I haven't heard from Schuyler yet, Ruth said he said tell us all Hello. Ivan we hope you are well and OK, so good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

**October 21, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
Dear Ivan:



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How are you? We are all just fine. Only Evelyn. She is kinda put out. We are getting ready to go to town and Evelyn wants her Daddy to take her to a show and he says not tonight. It's been about two years or more since we've been to one and Fox theatre have given kids a card that lets them in every Saturday by just paying the state and federal tax on it. Fred is tired. He told her maybe we could go next Saturday. Murriel is asleep. I bathed and fed him and I think he's asleep for the night.

I went to town this morning. While parked in front of Nelson top and body shop someone came up to car and spoke. It was Dan. As soon as he inquired about my folks and I about his, and he said he was attending school learning about national registers, I left. Evelyn asked who he was. I told her. She was quite put out. The idea of me talking to a guy I used to go with. She said when she got married she wouldn't speak to someone she used to go with. Also she thought I'd not used very good choice by going with him. She said he even had freckles on his arms. I sure laughed at her. He was thinner than he used to be I think, otherwise he looked about like he did.

My girls are ready to change their dresses but I have to have a bath. I guess I'll have to hurry. We had a school program last night. It was fair. I'm on committee for the next one. Mrs. Ralph Griffith died Thursday night. Her funeral is Monday.

I got your letter today the 21st that you wrote the 10th. You wrote it on Wilma's birthday and I got it on Irene's. I'd better say good-bye. Everybody are just fine around here. Lots of love, Minnie

**October 24, 1944: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you doing by now? We went down home awhile Sunday and had a nice visit. Minnie and Fred and family were home. We visited with Violet and Junior as they are still in quarantine. They are to get out Wednesday and I know they will be glad. They are getting along OK.

Clarence and family came up Saturday and went back Sunday. Junior was really tickled to see his Dad. He is his Dad's boy anyway.

Mom and Dad are pretty good for them. Dad's been working hard with his feed. He doesn't seem happy unless he is working hard it seems.

Minnie brought Mom and Dad to town yesterday to Mrs. Griffith's funeral and they stopped to see Ruth and Baby. They seem to be getting along just fine. The Baby is over a year old now.

Virgil went out for boxing at the University, but is out now so he intends to try out for a choir there composed of radio boys. Hope he can get in for he really enjoys that.

Harold is in Caroline Islands as far as we know. He was on a ship 47 days and watched combat from ship with field glasses. He said he was in the reserve and they didn't him. I'm thinking he was glad they didn't.

Mary R. is feeling pretty good again after her operation on her nose. It made her rather weak, but she is to go back to work sometime this week.

I took Mom those Vitamin pills Sunday. She hadn't taken all the others. Hope she does better on these for they can't do any good unless she takes them. Gayle made the chorus at Sherman this year. Lots of love, "The Tuckers"

**October 24, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of the 15th today. It sure made good time. I also got two letters at once last Saturday. I sure love to get letters from my boy, and should have written last week another letter to you, but I was too slow. Junior is doing nicely; he has a little cold now. They are supposed to get out of quarantine tomorrow but the Doctor hasn't been out yet. He wanted to see Junior before he got out, so he said. Violet washed her windows, woodwork and floor today, so is about ready to come over and see us.

Yesterday Dad and I went with Minnie to town to a funeral, Mrs. Griffiths. She was three days younger than I am, and was in my Sunday school class as long as she was able to come. She had asthma and heart trouble. She was buried in East Side cemetery.

We went to see Ruth and baby while in town. Baby is looking better than when I last

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saw her. She has large full lips like Schuyler's and a pug nose. Her eyes are like Ruth's and what hair she has is white. She was one year old the 16th of October. That was my Grandmother's birthday. Evelyn and Delores came home with us from church Sunday; then rest of the family came in time for dinner. Edna and Morris came later. Clarence and the girls came up Saturday and stayed till Sunday afternoon. Clarence was the only one that stayed all night with us. He plans to come up next Saturday and help Dad dehorn the cattle, then take Violet and Junior home.

Hello Ivan, I didn't finish last night and it's after ten o'clock and mail has come. Dad's going to town so I will send this by him to mail, hope he doesn't forget it and bring it back. Dad will have to find out from the Dr. today if Violet can get out. Dad did sell 6 steers he had pasturing on Clinton's. The price was low. He had around \$250.00 left after all expenses were taken out, so we have the rent paid and pasture bill. Counting all calves and cattle, yours too, we have 51 head most all young stuff.

Well I must stop now and get Dad started to town. We hope you are well and OK and I'll answer your two other letters next time. Don't worry about these girls not having time to write, lots of them are too busy having a good time, even some of the war wives.

Goodbye Ivan and may God bless you and keep you in his loving care. Lots of love, Pop and Mom

**October 26, 1944: Edna to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

We got your letter a day or two ago wanting that money. Well, I thought Morris would get home in time last night so we could see about it, but he didn't, so I kept the car this morning and will try to get it for you. Say, you want to be careful about needing money for I may not be so I can get it for you sometimes, and I guess Morris couldn't. We're hoping you won't need any more for your pastime.

Junior and Violet were to get out of quarantine yesterday, but didn't as Junior is still peeling, so he must have really had Scarlet Fever.

Dad hurt himself putting up hay.

Something bit him in the groin and he was really uncomfortable from it. Minnie went over last night to help milk.

Virgil is fine. He made the radio boys chorus and quartet and is glad for he enjoys music so much. He says his grades are among the top in the class. He had 95 and 98 in Theory and Procedure.

Hope you are fine. We are here. Harold is fine too. Love, Edna and All

**October 27, 1944: Alice Barnes to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Here is a little present from the young people that we hope you will like. We think of you often and wonder how you are getting along. The folks here are all well. We had a wiener roast last night, apples and popcorn too. We had a hayrack ride and played games.

I was going to send you Warren and Lorene's wedding picture but they have mislaid it. Maybe I can send it later. The parsonage picture was taken when we first moved it here. It is north of Obee School. The women folks did most of the shingling. Pearl, Wilma Jean, Mrs. Sparks, Mrs. Lowe, Esther and I all had a hand in it. The next thing to do now is plaster it and we can't help much with that. I think we can fix it up pretty nice.

We are planning to print a little paper with all the community news in and send to all the boys away from home. Luella Unruh is taking nurse's training at Nampa, Idaho. We will send her the bulletin, too, and also Tuba's.

Unruh's moved to town. Mr. Unruh and Melvin are working at Crook Furniture Store and Mrs. Unruh at Grace Hospital. They have changed quite a bit I think. Truesdell's and Franklin's moved too. Brother Sparks is living in the old church building until the parsonage is ready. Some families are living in deserted filling stations.

Have you been getting the church papers that the publishing house sends out? There are supposed to be three of them, the Herald of Holiness, Young People's Journal, and Young People's Standard. I sent your address to them but will write about it again if you are not receiving the papers.



## Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

May the Lord bless you, Ivan, and keep you. Sincerely, Alice Barnes

**October 30, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

How are you getting along by now? We are doing better.

Junior and Violet are still peeling skin off his hands and feet, but they don't think the germs are carried in the scales anymore, so the Doctor said. Clarence was sure glad they could go home, he said, the girls were about to break him. They were more expensive in the cooking than Violet was.

Clarence came Saturday and he and Morris and Dad dehorned 30 calves and cows together in the afternoon. I was glad it was dark when we went to milk, for the cows looked awful. I didn't hardly know some of them without their horns either. Martha and Bess were the worst to bleed. Dad wrapped their heads up and they were OK. He took the cloth off Martha this morning and her head didn't bleed anymore, took Bess' bandage off tonight and it started up again so she is bandaged again and the bleeding stopped. Dad went out to the barn before he went to bed to see how she was, and she was all right.

Minnie's were over last night awhile and Tom and Mary were here awhile tonight. Tom had his picture taken alone for Mary and gave us one small one, then Mary had two large ones in colors made and gave us one tonight. It was a pleasant surprise, we knew she was having a big picture made for herself but that was all.

I am glad you heard from the young people in your class. The Langs have been coming to our church for two years now. They are farmers from the west part of Reno County. They are nice people, have one son in the service. Philips' moved near Burrton this fall, but still come to our church. The family have improved a lot in appearance since they joined our church, and hardly miss a service. The girls are growing some and are good girls to work. I think the two oldest are in high school this year.

Well Ivan this is October 31st, chores are all done except to feed chickens. Dad is going to rake and shock feed today. I received a letter from Schuyler the 28th I think, it was

written Sept 15th and sent free. Sure seemed a long time coming. He was OK, he said. Did you get your watch fixed, or has Carl sent you one yet? It's most mail time so I'll stop and take this to the box. I expect I'll miss him though, I hope not. Well Ivan we are glad you can go to shows and do they have church services where you are now? Every Sunday morning our preacher prays for our boys and girls in service. Good bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

**October 30, 1944: Schuyler to his Parents**

Somewhere in India

*(American Red Cross Stationery)*

Dearest Mother and Dad,

Here I am again. I bet you thought I had forgot. Well I haven't and they will have to be worse places than here to make me forget my loved ones. Sometimes I don't write as often as I should. But that kinda runs in the family just a little bit don't you think so?

I got your letter, the one you mailed September 30. It must have got lost someplace. I have a new A.P.O. 465. Mother there is nothing to worry about. Where I am we are as safe here as we were in Sutton. We have to be good when we go to town and I can do that.

Have you heard from Ivan lately? I sure hope he is alright. He should be coming soon if they do like they are supposed to. But they make it sound good and are going to do a lot of things to make the G.I feel good and that is as far as it goes. Well I guess they have to make them happy.

India is a rotten place. The people here are brown or black and mostly black. They use some trucks here but do most of the hauling by ox carts or carts and they pull and push them. They have 2 wheels and balance in the middle.

I have rode in a rickshaw. They are like a cart and one man pulls them and they run with them. I have rode four miles in one for one rupee, about 30 cents, and a street car cost one anna which is two cents. That is the front car. The back one is 3 paise, about one and a half cents in real American money.

The lower cast here don't wear any shoes and they sleep anyplace and likewise someplace. Well I would like to tell you more only they would probably cut some of it out. So don't work too hard and hope this finds

## Roberson family correspondence during and after World War II

everyone alright and hope you can read this.  
Your Loving Son, Schuyler

PS: Sorry I am slow about writing but will try and do better.

**October 31, 1944: Tom to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Hello Ivan!

Well I bet you will be surprised when you get this letter. Well I have been transferred to a different department and now I have to work 6 days and get off Sunday. I have duty every fourth night too. I have four hours. It isn't bad I guess.

I went hunting Sunday with my wife's brother in law and we got 8 ducks. He took 4 and I took 4 too. I have one to Mother and one to my other Mother and one to Edna. I cleaned the last one. I also killed a pheasant, one of them long tail birds. I have only three shells left now, but Morris says he can get me some more.

Mary had her nose operated on, one side she couldn't breathe but now it is about well. Mary said to tell you she sent you a box for Christmas so I hope you get it all right. I'm supposed to get another tire in a couple of days now and then I will have four new ones. Then all I need is shells to go hunting then.

How are you and them black girls getting along over there? I bet they are nice to look at all the time and now white girls to look at.

It is a pretty day today and I'm going home to eat duck tonight. I wish you could come over and eat duck too. I'm writing this letter out at the base. I'm making some signs to put around Dad's place to keep the other people out. That pond out in the pasture was full of ducks Sunday, so we are going to try and keep them for ourselves. Well I guess I have run out of something to say so be good and don't do anything I couldn't do. Your brother, Tom. My wife got me a wedding ring so now I have to be good.

**November 1, 1944: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you coming by now? Hope you've gotten the money OK and that you are letting your past time rest for awhile.

We are still having grand weather here, just cool enough to be nice and comfortable. It was 58 degrees outside this morning.

Harold T. is fine and could tell where he is. He is on Palau Islands close to the Guam island. He says it is quite warm there too.

Virgil is fine now. He was eliminated from boxing when a heavy-weight who took the championship cracked his breast bone. He says he is about OK now. He likes his singing in the chorus and the quartet a lot. He says it seems like old times.

Morris and Clarence helped Dad dehorn his cattle Saturday PM. I guess they dehorned about 30 head. Dad sure hated to see it done, but had made up his mind it was the thing to do. Dad was feeling better after he had gotten hurt in his groin.

Violet and Junior got out of quarantine and went to Wichita Sunday. They were really glad to get out.

Schuyler is fair I guess. Ruth says he doesn't feel too well there but works every day. Maybe it's the hot damp climate. Ruth and Baby are fine. All here are OK. Must mail this as it is time. Love, "The Tuckers"

**November 2, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan:

Got your letter of the 24th today. Sure glad to hear from you and that you are OK. We are all fine here. Our good weather is about to change. It is getting cloudy and cooler. A year ago we'd had a skiff of snow by the 11th of November. I hope we don't this year.

Evelyn made another 100 in spelling today. She's made 100 in all of her Friday's work so far and in both month's tests. Delores likes her work pretty good.

Murriel has a tooth through. The tip is just through the gum. I think he's doing OK. Delores Ann just got her first tooth last Sunday. She had the two come through at the same time. She began to walk, too, so she is doing OK.

Delores had her first one at 8 months 2 days while Murriel got his at 6 months and 3 weeks.

We got a playpen for the baby. It is about 4 feet square and has floor in it. You can fold it up too. Sure is dandy to keep him off the



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floor and where he's clean and not a chance to get hurt.

We have to go after ice right away. Fred has just shaved so I'd better hurry if I want to mail this.

Carl Hysom wrote to Pearl 8 days after wounded. He is in hospital in England. He never mentioned his injury so we don't know what it was.

Mr. Roscoe Wells' wife died Tuesday evening of a heart attack. Her funeral is tomorrow afternoon. Fred is going to shut shop up and go with me. Roscoe Wells lived a half mile south of us on west side of road. He was Aunt Minnie's brother. I plan to take a cake and fruit salad over for their dinner tomorrow.

Arthur Tucker's have a large baby boy, got here last night. Fern Russell is looking for one in near future. Did I tell you Floyd Snyder's are too? Must say good-bye, Lots of love, Minnie

**November 7, 1944: The Moores to Ivan**  
Haven, Kansas  
Dear Ivan,

We received your nice letter a while back, glad to hear from you. Today is Election Day, and it seems to be a pretty close race. Whichever way it goes, I hope it will be for the best.

Steve Van Buren came home on furlough last night and Glen is missing in action since September 8th. He was a gunner from a plane. He was over Yugoslavia. I doubt if that is the way to spell it, but I think you will know what I mean. Phil Meier has been home but is gone again.

The country sure looks pretty. The wheat is so pretty and green. We have had so much rain that the wheat has made such a rank growth.

We sure have had a lovely fall. Haven't had enough frost to hurt anything and that sure has been a blessing as there has been so much late feed. We had some and felt a bit worried about it along about the 1st of September but it is going to be OK. Haven't seen your folks for quite a while.

Anna received word last Thursday that her brother John Merryfield had been slightly wounded. That's all we've heard so far. He was

hurt October 21 on Glenda Ruth's 1st birthday. She is getting to be quite a girl. November 3 was John's birthday and believe it or not we had roasting ears fresh from the field and watermelon, also had roast duck.

I don't believe I would like to live where you are if it's hot and windy and dusty. That sure is some grass. Do they have cows there? And do they like that grass? Sure would be some pasture, wouldn't it? Are there any monkeys there? Howard Lee used to live here where you did, wrote us from close to where you are, and spoke of some of the boys having monkeys. I guess they must be quite entertaining.

Well I must close for now, hoping you are well and OK. Write when you can, we are always glad to hear from you. With best wishes for you always, The Moores

**Wednesday November 8, 1944:**

**Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of October 24th, the 3rd I think it was. I had just mailed a letter to you and I intended to answer it Monday night, but didn't get it done. We missed church Sunday and after Sunday School we went with Fred's to see Clarence's.

For over two years I've had an itching nose and pimples on it part of the time. It was getting on the rest of my face, so the children decided to take me to the skin doctor that helped Dad so much. He examined my face and gave me an x-ray treatment and wants to treat it every week for a while and I am to use medicine on it too. Fred's are going to take me back next Sunday; it's going to make it bad on the children to see if I get there to be treated.

We had a nice visit with Violet and family and expect to go to see them next Sunday, and Fred's want to visit at Lee's too. It don't seem right to me to skip our Sunday School, we will go with Violet to her Sunday school but I guess I've got into the habit of going to our own. It's hard to break a habit, ha, ha.

We went and voted yesterday at Hunt school house, and in the evening Dad said, let's hurry and get the chores done and go to Fred's

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to hear the election returns. We went and Dad and Fred went on to town and played pool. It was about midnight when they got back. Dad thinks Roosevelt has been in long enough, he voted him in, but can't get him out. I expected him to win, and I am most sure he will. Did you vote?

John has been helping farmers put up feed and hadn't been home for some time, he was here in bed when we got home last night. He and Dad are still asleep, it's 7 o'clock and breakfast is ready. Dad will wake up soon I think. It will be time to do chores soon. All the cattle are better with their sore heads. Bess is coming along fine.

I got a letter from Schuyler written October 30th yesterday. He was all right, he said he hoped you would get to come to the States soon, but was thinking the rules they made was just made to make one feel good. We are OK and hope you are well and getting along all right. We are having beautiful fall weather. We haven't had a killing frost here yet, but some of the trees have lost their leaves. Ivan I expect you are tired of trying to read this, so I'd better stop. We are always so glad to get your letters. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care. Goodbye with love, Pop and Mom

**Friday November 10, 1944:**

**Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

*This letter was written on the back of a two-page letter Schuyler had sent his parents from India, dated October 30, 1944.*

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letters, three one day this week and one the last of last week. I am sending you Schuyler's to read, so this is really two in one, isn't it? You have quite a time getting cat eyes, don't you? Are all the Japs off your island now, or are you allowed to tell? What do the natives have for food anyway? I think I understand about the cat eyes now. Guess you think I am dumb, ha ha.

Tom made some signs, No Hunting, and is going to put them up on the place. Hunters come over from Mill's place, or pasture rather, on a pond on us, and beats Tom to the ducks. Mary and Tom were here the other night. They were OK but Mary had a cold. She is still

working. Our cattle are all better and begin to look like they should. John came home Tuesday night; he plans to get up wood to saw for winter. It will sure help Dad a lot.

Yes, Dad's been fine all fall, only he hurt himself being knocked off backward off the rake, by a lever slipping some way. He lost over a week of time, till he was over bruised places, but is busy as ever now. We received a letter from Uncle Tom yesterday. He was well. Did you ever send him a letter? He would be glad to get one from so far away.

Well Ivan this is Saturday morning, before breakfast. Breakfast is ready and I am just waiting for Dad to wake up, to eat it. We are still having beautiful weather. Claude Van Hoozen died and was buried this week. He lived in Castleton and had three boys in service, two in England and one on his way home on leave. He didn't know his father was sick, but happened to get here in time for the funeral. Thane Johnson is still near London, but was expecting a move soon. Robert Nyborg is supposed to go soon to service. We think Zeph Fisher should have gone long time ago too, he has gone now.

Well Ivan, we hope you are well and OK and that you will keep the letters coming, for they make us feel good. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care. Goodbye with lots of love, Pop and Mom. Saturday 11, Edna's birthday. She is 41 years old.

**Saturday November 11, 1944: Irene to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

I'll bet you have thought I've forgotten you. I've been thinking about you a lot, but just thinking doesn't get a letter written. I keep saying I'll write it tomorrow – you know, keep putting it off. That's a heck of a way for me to do.

Well it's Edna's birthday today. She may be at Mother's tomorrow so we can celebrate then. But you can't tell she may have other things to do. I and kids went to Wilma's last Sunday. While we were there Wilma went to Edna's. Minnie had left some of her old school things there and Wilma wanted to use some for her first graders. When we got back to Wilma's, Roy was waiting for us to go home.



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Minnie and Fred took Mom and Dad to Wichita Sunday to see Violet and Clarence. I haven't seen any of them since they were there.

I'm going to have to get the kids things ready for Sunday school today as tomorrow is Sunday school again. In Walter and Beth's class they have the picture cards of the Ark. Each Sunday they get to paste on an animal going into the Ark. Well Walter thinks it's wonderful and each day he asks what day is it. I guess he wishes each day was Sunday.

Well we got our feed cut yesterday so Roy has a job of shocking it now. Did I tell you our Jersey cow had twin calves? Roy is milking three cows now, has a young one that the calf sucks. She doesn't give much. We have a different separator now – the separating goes twice as fast now.

Our mother cat had 4 kittens and 2 died and Wilma brought up one just now so I guess something happened to the other one. It's just as well. We have enough cats anyway.

Wilma Marie is doing fair in school. It's spelling and reading that she has trouble with. She doesn't do so bad though.

You were wondering if we girls didn't like it cause you didn't answer every letter. We are so used to going to Mom's and reading all your letters we don't mind. As long as you write to Mother why should we object? It's not that we don't enjoy your letters but we understand that you don't have time to answer so many. So you just keep writing to Mom – we'll go home to read them.

I still have marigolds in bloom and are they the prettiest, all red and gold. You would think almost the middle of November that everything would be frozen by now. We've had some frost but they were light ones. We have not had a freeze yet. Well my dishes separator and everything else is waiting for me so maybe I'd better quit for now and write early next week after I know a little more news to write you. Well take good care of yourself. Love, Roy, Irene and Kids

PS: Last week on Friday night Minnie and Fred ate supper with us. Minnie and Fred had taken Mom and Dad to a funeral and I took care of the kids. Minnie and Fred were late coming for them and our supper was over so I warmed over what we had left. Afterward Roy

showed them his cows and calves. So I guess Roy is over being mad at Fred. For a long time Roy was sore about something. Well I've a lot to be thankful for.

PSS: I'll write sooner next time.

**November 14, 1944: Tom to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan!

How are you and your hunting getting along? I had duty last night from 4:00 to 8:00 a.m. in the morning. It isn't bad though. I stay in the barracks and answer the telephone. Well I got another tire for my car now I have four new tires now. I went out home Sunday and went to church too. Mother went to Wichita with Fred and Minnie. I saw Pearl at church she said that Carl H. has been wounded and is going to get to come to the United States. I had my radiator fixed and I carried it 15 blocks to take it to the shop. Some of these days I will have a pretty good car don't you think so?

Say you had better answer this letter or I might stop writing. I guess you think you wouldn't miss many letters, would you? Well I will try to write more often. You would know how it is if you were here in my place at home and all the time going someplace. Robert Nyborg is in 1A now; he is waiting to be called. I saw Wilma Green Snyder one night when we were getting a hamburger. She sure looks plenty tough now. Well how are the Islands getting along by now? They are sending them out pretty fast so I will be moving soon. I have been trying to get some shot gun shells but I haven't been able to find any yet. I have plenty of rifle shells. Mary said she is going to write to you some of these days. She has a cold now and doesn't feel very good. I have been sleeping most all morning so I feel fine.

Say have you got many girlfriends now? How is your pass time getting along? I heard it was not so good for a while. What was the matter didn't your luck hold out? There is supposed to be a storm here now but they call it a storm when a high wind comes up and we have to bring in all the cans and things that are not fixed down. I have to clean up the toilet or the shit bowls and the sinks. Not a bad job if you like it.

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Well write and tell me all the news. I will try and write you more often. John is at home now and all he is good for is making more work for Mother and Dad. Mother wishes he would get him a job some place but he don't want a job that last very long. Dad has most all his feed up and feels pretty good now, but they have too much work to do out there. I only get off once a week and that is on Sunday so I can't help them any. Well I hope things work out for the best so be good. You know I have to be good. Your brother, Tom

**November 15, 1944: Edna and Morris to Ivan Hutchinson, Kansas**

*Written on the inside of a Christmas card.*

Dear Ivan,

Thought it was time to send a Xmas greeting to you so you would be sure to have it by Xmas. We sent three boxes to you during the Xmas mailing period, two for Xmas and one for your birthday. Don't know when you will get them, but don't wait until Xmas to open all of them anyway. One was sent about two weeks before the other two so do as you want to about them.

It is cool and nice here today. I started a fire in the base-burner this morning and it really feels good.

Minnie and Fred took Mom and Dad to Wichita again Sunday as Mom is taking treatments from a skin specialist for a rash on her face. They took her a week ago too. She will get to wait two weeks this time. They had dinner with C.D. Emerys and all were fine.

Next Sunday is Dad's birthday and I guess most of us are going home.

Virgil called us Saturday and we were quite surprised. It was my birthday and I did appreciate his thoughtfulness so much. He is just fine.

Gayle went to a hobo party at the church last night. He wore his Dad's old overalls, shirt and hat and really looked his part. He had a good time. I've spent most of the morning writing letters so maybe I'd better call a halt for now.

We are all OK here. I'm planning to sew some today. Hope you are OK and feeling good. Nice of you to remember my birthday. Lots of love, "The Tuckers"

*This short note from Morris was with the Christmas card:*

Hello Ivan, Xmas greetings. I'll be busy soon, so I better send you a note now. I saw some shells made into a necklace and boy were they pretty. A lady's husband made them for her. He was offered \$25.00 for them. It surely took a lot of work though.

Ivan I don't know where to get any books on Civil Service. There are some schools that train people for Civil Service examinations. If you want some of that, I'll see what I can do. If you use an arithmetic and English that will be your best help. Typing helps also. Good luck and lots of love, M.J. Tucker

**November 15, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan:

How are you? We are fine here, only for colds. The 3 youngsters all have some. Maybe they will get over it after a while. Do you have many colds there?

Fred is putting some kind of stuff on a couple of screens to keep out north and west winds. Will have to fix house as warm we can for our boy.

We took Mama to Wichita Sunday. She got another treatment but not such a long one as Sunday before her face had burned and itched a lot all week so we think he'd put a little too much of it on. He changed the lotion for her to use too.

I'm still working on program we are to have Friday night. Kids haven't learned their parts too good and this is Wednesday. I hope they studied last night.

We saw Lee's Sunday. They were all OK. Luella plans to go to hospital about the first. Just wonder which will get there first, Edna or her.

Sam Williams has baby girl. They were married in March last spring. Edna thinks he hurried a little bit. I wonder? Carl Hysom is getting along OK according to report to his folks by government. Seems as though Carl has never heard from anyone here in States since he went across. They get his mail but he doesn't get theirs.

You'd ought to see the ironing I've got piled up here. Will take me a week to get it all



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done. I'll be one glad person when it is all done, mended and hung up.

Lorene Snyder is working in Wichita. She is staying with one of Warren's sisters there. Has anyone told you Kenneth Chitwoods have moved close to Denver? He's sold his home here to Carl Russell and Fern and her husband are living there. Fern is to be Mama before too many months. Jerry Teters are looking for one about time Floyd Snyders are. Looks like things are picking up around here.

Sunday is Dad's birthday. We kids all plan to go home.

We saw the show "Irish Eyes are Shining" Saturday night. Wilma and her family went too. You see merchants in town have giving cards to school children in rural districts. These cards let them in to Fox every Saturday by them just paying the tax. Wilma has one too as she is teaching. Just Fred, I and Howard had to pay. The show was good. Clyde sat by me. Every once in a while I'd look at him to see if he was awake. I looked at him once and he barely looked up and said, "I'm still asleep!" I told him that was what I thought. That was first show Clyde, Emilie or Murriel had seen. Murriel slept through most of it so was no trouble. He's on my lap now so if you can't read it just blame him for it. I'd better write to Virgil. Lots of love, Minnie and Family

### **Around November 15, 1944: Violet to Ivan**

2647 S. Fees  
Wichita, Kansas

*This letter has no date. Since Junior had scarlet fever in October 1944, this letter was written in November, probably around the 15th.*

== V-MAIL ==

Dear Brother Ivan,

I suppose you think we've forgotten you. We haven't, only with Junior having Scarlet Fever and us gone 4 weeks and coming home with everything to be caught up on. We've really been behind on everything.

My gang have colds. Do you have colds on your islands? It's so hard to get them over their colds.

Juanita has seen your shells and really likes them. She will write soon. You really had them nice and shiny. Everyone is crazy about them. I had no idea there was shells like them.

Clarence has tickets to take the children to the circus. He plans to lay off work at the ice plant this p.m. to take them. They've never seen one before. Dick, Sue and Eddie are going with us. I hate for them to miss school but everyone should see a circus. We'd sooner they were over their colds but hope it won't make them worse

I've been making some blue taffeta skirts for the girls L.G. and Clarice for Xmas. We must get material for the white silk blouses this p.m.

We are ironing today. The smoke from so many coal fires make it hard to get clothes dry without soot getting on them. If left out too long they have to be rewashed. Some of the folks have had to. I've been lucky so far. Write to us and we will do better after this in answering, I hope. Take good care of yourself. I sent your Xmas box while I was gone. It was from all of us. Love, Emerys

### **About November 17, 1944:**

#### **Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

*This letter has no date. But internal evidence suggests it was written between November 15 and 19, 1944.*

== V-MAIL ==

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of November 6th the 14th. It made a quick trip, don't you think? I intended to answer it last night, but didn't. We've been without a mantle for the lamp for about a week and I can't see so well even with two of the other lamps. We sure think lots of our Aladdin lamp and think often of the one that bought it for us too. Fred's took me back to the Dr. Sunday. My face had burned all week. He said the medicine was too severe for my face and changed it. It's feeling cooler now. I don't have to go back for two weeks. We went to Violet's for dinner. They were all well. Dad didn't want to go with us. Thomas took him to church and Sunday school. It didn't seem right for me to miss Sunday school. We stopped at a church in Wichita for Sunday school but it was just over. Fred's visited at his brother Lee's in the evening as we were coming home. We saw Vis [?] while there. She looks lots older than her sister. She has a nice little boy two years old. Mr. Edd Givens that used to live in Castleton

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was buried today, he was 81 years old. Dad went to the funeral, it was at Johnson's. John is still with us but expects to get a job soon. Tom and Mary were here this evening. Edna sent me another bottle of vitamins out by them. I surely thank you for them. I have enough to last quite a while now. Mrs. Barnes was in a car wreck over a week ago. She is in the Catholic hospital. I don't know just how bad she was hurt. I heard her jaw was broken. Well it's nice you boys can make coffee in your tent, it helps to pass the time away. I am glad you can have shows to go to. Well the 19th is Dad's birthday and I expect some of the children will be home. Irene and children were home Sunday but I didn't get to see them, so I'll try and be home Sunday. Well Ivan, it's dark and cloudy this a.m., and feels like snow. Water hasn't froze in the chicken trough yet this fall. Cows are all pretty good and give more milk than they did, when their horns came off. We hope you are well and getting along OK. We are all better, Dad's well of his hurt now. May God keep you in His loving care. Goodbye with lots of love. Pop and Mom

**November 20, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
Dear Ivan:

How are you? We are fine only for colds. Maybe we'll get used to them sometime. Delores and Murriel haven't had but about one degree of fever but seems like the colds just hang on and they feel kinda disagreeable. In time their Mama gets that way too, which I can't understand. We get along pretty well together for us.

Read your letter at Mama's yesterday, was glad to hear from you. We were all home yesterday I guess but Mary. She works on Sundays at the bakery. Roy was busy too so wasn't there but Fred and Morris went and got Irene. She'd had to get dinner there for some men but she came on and spent afternoon with us.

John is helping Wilma shock corn, then he plans to get other corn shucking. Ivan if you'd like for us to send you something there why don't you write and request it? We can send up to 5 lbs. of anything if you request it. I saw a lady in at Woolworth's when I was getting peanuts for your Christmas boxes, and she said it

took about seven weeks for a box to go to her husband in England and just ever so often she sent peanut candy, etc., as he'd request it. Of course that depends on how things are when they reach you. You let me know after you get your boxes and then if you want something else don't be bashful.

Murriel is getting where he likes his Mama pretty well. Other night at the program they had to keep him out of my sight; as soon as he'd see me he'd start fussing and trying to get to me. Our program was good but the young kids just raised Fred. They milled around through the hall, talked, etc., two girls went outside and had a fight, couple of them laid down on top of desks during the program and bunch of school kids were outside smoking and necking. Some were 8th graders and freshmen and sophomores at high school. Honestly I was ashamed of the whole outfit. I really don't care if I do another thing over there when no one seems to have any control over the children. Guess it shouldn't bother me but I'm still disgusted. Guess I'll just have to forget it. Fred is on the program committee for January but he says he won't do it after such actions this last Friday. It is too bad to work on something and then have it so noisy no one can understand.

I still have my ironing to do but I'm going to get caught up this week on it. Thursday is Thanksgiving. Guess we kids will go home. Clarence's plan to come up. Wilma's girls are going home with them and then come back when Mother gets a treatment Sunday. Mother thought her face was easier Sunday. Her first treatment was just too severe.

Edna was at Mother's yesterday. She's still going. She plans to go to Tucker's for Thanksgiving.

Ruth is talking some of going to Washington where her sister and aunt lives but I don't think she will. She is wondering about the heat for this winter but now they have released gas for heating so she can have a gas burner put in her furnace. Don't know what it will cost her though. She buys so many expensive things for the baby her \$80 doesn't go too far. She got the very best of baby beds, and mattress, playpen, nursery chair, high chair, etc., She has just bought a dandy snow suit which cost about ten dollars. I know I can't feel right spending so



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much. I make some things which she can do if she'd just try. But then her baby has to have best, as there's none other like her. She told Edna even the baby's soiled breeches were sweet to her. Ha, ha! That was when the baby was tiny. We sure had to laugh as everything was sweet about her girl. How she happened to say that was, she said how she hated to help her sister and others she'd worked for wash soiled breeches but her babies were different to her. Some idea.

Murriel can patty-cake now at seven months. He hasn't started waving bye as I want him to. He just does move his hand. He'll break loose one of these days and do it right, maybe.

Aren't any boys from your group getting any furloughs at all? You'd better tell your commanding officer we all think it is time you had one. Don't they give those kind of Christmas presents to any of the boys? What do they tell you about furlough? Won't you get one until this is all over? I'm not griping but somehow we'd love to see you and think it's about time they let us, don't you?

Murriel's hair is growing but he sure is bald yet. His hair is kinda sandy. Maybe it will be curly. Too short to tell much yet.

I haven't washed breakfast dishes yet. I'll have to get them done so I can feed Delores. She gets home here 20 till 12. They start serving their hot lunches then.

Fairy Stiggins is going to make a Grandma out of Florence in March. She's doing all right. She will be just seventeen shortly before baby comes. Florence believes in marrying them young. Grace feels badly cause she can't get that way. Some ideas!

I'd better close this or you'll need glasses before you get through with it. Have you gotten any of your Christmas boxes yet? Write then you can as we sure look forward to reading letters from you. Lots of love and best wishes, Your Loving Sis Minnie, Fred and Children

**November 21, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
My Dear Son Ivan,

I am sorry I am still out of envelopes, so I am sending another v-note. But I guess it will be better than waiting so long. Maybe I'll get paper tomorrow if Dad goes to town. We were

glad to get your letter where it was "5 in one." Most all the children were home Sunday to surprise Dad on his birthday, so read your letter. Clarence's didn't come, but will be here Thursday and can read it then. Thursday is Thanksgiving and Clarence gets off work I think. Dad enjoyed his Birthday a lot. Clyde carried his Birthday cake in the front room to Dad, and while the candles burned the grandchildren gathered around and sang "Happy Birthday." Then they told Dad to make a wish and if he could blow all the candles out at once, it would come true. He blew them all out at once, then they wanted to know what his wish was. You couldn't guess, so I'll tell you. He wished "Ivan would be home within six months." I couldn't have thought of a better wish myself. John is at Wilma's to shuck her corn. It's been cool today, froze ice last night, the first this fall. Tom was here a little while tonight, he had to go back to the Base and guard till 12 o'clock. I aimed to tell you what was the trouble with Mary's nose. She couldn't breathe good out of one side. Dr. said it must have been broken, so bone grewed out of shape, and in time might make her deaf. Her nose is well now I think. Your box of shells and old letters haven't got here yet. I wonder if you are getting ready to move again. We hope you are well and OK. We are just fine for us, my face is easier this week. We went to our own church Sunday and it seemed good to be back. I hope you can go to services on Sunday too. Dad is in bed asleep and I can't think of any news to write so I had better quit I guess. Tommy asked me tonight if I had heard from Ivan this week. He is always anxious to read your letters. We are thankful you are so good to write to us. May God keep you in his loving care. Goodbye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

**November 23, 1944: Edna to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

*Written on a greeting card, "A Prayer for You in the Service."*

Dear Ivan,

Just received your air-mail today and were glad to get it. Glad you are OK and that you didn't need the \$50.00. I know the folks will more than appreciate some things they need and can use for Xmas. We're thinking of a 100%

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wool blanket for them, a nice bed spread, and some more things that the girls will decide on tomorrow. The blanket will be about \$10 to \$12 and the bed spread around \$5.00 maybe. If we go to town this p.m. we'll see about the blanket and spread. Morris has a few days' vacation so we are getting our Xmas shopping pretty well finished up. I want everything done so Morris won't have to finish it as he is usually really busy during December.

Minnie just called and asked if I had noticed the change of address. Well I'm sorry I hadn't but I think it is grand you've had a promotion. Schuyler is a cpl. too, so we're glad to have two Cpl's in the family.

Virgil is fine and is singing in the chorus and quartet up there. He hopes to come home when his school is finished. He is really anxious about the "big event." Really you aren't kidding when you think it takes the stork a long time to get here, and he was well on his way before anyone knew about it.

Harold is on the Ulithi Islands and he has seen some action. He says he's killed a jap or two and there are some snipers there. They must be cleaning up the place. They are having typhoons there, and they aren't so nice. Hope you have a nice time on Thanksgiving. We will go to Mother T. tomorrow. We went to Mom's Sunday as it was Dad's birthday. We had a find time. Love, Edna and All

**November 24, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
== V-MAIL ==

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of November 12 Wednesday and today I got one from you of November 3rd, it must have been lost for a while. Anyway we are always so glad to get them, no difference when they were written. Your shells haven't come yet. I'll write and tell you soon as they get here. I think it nice to like to gather sea shells and I think the cat eyes are pretty too and the others were so nice too. Minnie will have to help parcel them out. Soon we will send Mrs. Pollock some of all them, and I think it would be nice to send some, so the telephone people could see them. Did you have a good Thanksgiving? We hope you did. The children were here for dinner, except

Edna's, and Tom's. Tommy went hunting in the evening and drove by to see us. And Edna's came after we had the chores done, so our day was as complete as it could be under the circumstances. Tom was at the Base, but expects to be off Sunday and will take me to Wichita to the Dr. My face is better than it was. Yesterday was a fine day, the children played out of doors all day, but it has rained this afternoon and evening and is getting colder. Why didn't you tell us that you were a corporal, (how do you spell it?) Minnie was the one that noticed it first. We are glad for you, anyway. Mary had some bone and gristle cut out of her nose so she could breathe out of that side. I'll write and ask Carl if he has sent the watch. I hope he has, it's too bad to wait so long when they could send it sooner. Well it's still cloudy, misty and windy this morning. Breakfast is over and Dad has gone to milk. He says for me to stay in the house as I have a little cold, first I've had this winter. Most of the cows are about dry, so we don't get much milk anyway. Clarence helped Dad dehorn 8 more calves, including Morris' heifer, Thursday. So the job is all done. Well, Ivan we hope you are well and OK. Do you have a Chaplain where you are at, and do you attend the services? Can the natives understand your language? Don't you worry about Christmas cards. For my part I'd rather have a letter from you anyway. I am still out of envelopes only some real heavy ones, but I'll try and get some soon, before you get too tired of these. Good-bye with lots of love, Pop and Mom

**November 24, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas  
Dear Ivan:

How are you? We are fine here. It is somewhat cloudy here today. I plan to wash too. Do you suppose I'll have any luck drying them? If not I'll have to do it here in the house.

I suppose I or Mother one [sic] told you a car ran into taxi that Mrs. Barnes was riding in. She got her face battered up awful, her pelvic bone cracked and several ribs. Also heard her collar bone was cracked. They say she is getting along fine. We haven't been in to see her so I guess we'll have to one of these days.

We've got Murriel in the walker. He doesn't go very fast yet but he kinda likes it. He



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scoots it a little from one place to another but he's not learned too well as to how to move it.

We aren't having school today. We've already missed a lot of school but our school board seems to think as long as teachers hit high places and cover course of study it is all right not to teach or make up days lost. Billingsley says they are supposed to make up all lost time. I'd rather take his word for it than to take A. R. King's word. He's just another politician.

Ruth came home with us yesterday. Marjorie and Charles went to Violet's as Tommy is taking Mother to Wichita for a treatment Sunday and he can bring them back. Walter went home with Clyde. Irene hadn't planned for Walter to go. I asked him if he wanted to just as Wilma's were ready to leave and he said yes. I told him to tell his mother good-bye. He did but Irene thought he was kidding. He got in the car and away he went as Howard was raring to go. We went to Wilma's last night then, to tell her that Walter sometimes has accidents so she could prepare the bed for it.

Roy ate ice cream yesterday afternoon with us. Do you ever have ice cream on the island where you are? What did you have for your menu yesterday? We had chicken, and it was real good. Clarence's, Irene's, Wilma's and us were home yesterday. Ruth didn't come. I asked her but I'm sure she's afraid for Delores to be close to our kids. Edna went to Tucker's and Tommy went to the base. He had to work. Mary went to her folks for dinner then.

I have a bushel of ironing sprinkled down and my wash water heating. I'm going to let Ruth and Evelyn do most of the playing with Murriel and washing dishes. Maybe I can get part of it done.

Fred has a cattle guard to make and several other fair jobs he wants to get done today and tomorrow. He's going to have to hurry.

I got your letter the 22nd that you wrote the 12th. Pretty good. Say when was your rank changed? I just happened to notice it. I'm sure glad for you. How much change does that make in your pay overseas? I called Edna and told her, she hadn't noticed it, then Dad stopped in on way from town so he went home and told Mother. I'd better get this mailed. Lots of love, Your Sis, Minnie and Family. Kids' colds are

better. Mother and Dad were both pretty good yesterday.

**November 25, 1944: Jo Tuba to Ivan**

Pontiac, Michigan

*Written on a Christmas card signed Jo Tuba.*

Dear Rat,

I really shouldn't send a note – since you ignore me so completely – but anyway I hope you are OK. And are you looking after Henry for me? No use saying drop me a line because you won't so nuts to you till next Christmas. Yours Truly, Josephine

**November 26, 1944: Doris Yeager to Ivan**

Wichita, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Well, how is the world treating you? I haven't heard from you for ages. Have you been working hard? I was working until Saturday and both of us quit. Bertha's husband was coming home and we neither one liked it very well. I suppose I will go to work someplace else now.

I think I will have my picture taken this week and if I send you one will you send one of yourself? That is the important part. As for snapshots I don't know as I have any good enough to send but maybe I could get some.

I saw Phyllis' mother about a week ago. Phyllis is working too. But Charles is in France I think she said. I haven't been in Hutch for a long time. I wonder if it is still the same town it used to be?

Well, I guess I better close and don't forget to write but, you got to send your picture if I send mine...

It's getting cold now I mean really cold. It's supposed to snow but hasn't yet. Well write soon and be good. Love, Doris Yeager

**November 26, 1944: Edna to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

*Written across the top of the letter:* Virgil is getting along fine. It is really cold up there. They've had sleet and snow.

Dear Ivan,

Thought I'd write letters today instead of the middle of the week. We are just fine here.

We spent Thanksgiving with Mother Tucker. We had a nice time. About 7:30 in the evening we went down home. All the folks had

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gone home, but we had a nice visit with Mom and Dad. They both seemed to be feeling good after the big day. Violet and family came from Wichita and spent the day too. All of them were there for dinner except us. Christmas is our day at home, but we aren't planning much on that this year. I expect other things will enter in and we will probably be at home.

We had a nice letter from Aunt Florence Saturday. She was glad to get your letter. They are both pretty well. Her arthritis is much better, she says. She is taking Vitamin D too. That is what Mom is taking but we don't think she takes enough of them. We hope she gives them a fair trial and takes them as she should.

Thomas took Mom to Wichita to that skin specialist for a treatment for her face today. It seems to be much better after two treatments. She will have taken three treatments after today.

It froze ice here last night, so guess we are going to have some winter now. We had rain yesterday and there has been snow over parts of Kansas today.

Morris is milking and Gayle is reading. Schuyler is OK as far as we know. He doesn't have time to write to us but he does write to his wife. We hear from him through her, but we write once a week. Hope you are well and happy. Love, "Tuckers"

**November 27, 1944: Irene to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

How are you? We are OK only kids have colds. A little doting should fix them up fine. You say you are a bit slow in answering letters. Personally I don't think so. Haven't you already answered some you haven't got yet. Seems lately I've been more than I've written. We don't expect you to answer them all. We think you have done a swell job lately answering and you probably want a rest anyway. With we girls we always read Mom's anyway so anything we ask you, you can put in her letters. We read all hers anyway.

As I told Minnie there are some that write to you you probably have to answer so they will write again. We don't wait for an answer before writing. I bet it seems like it to you at times though. Each day I'll say I'd better write some letters and each day I'll say I'll do it

first thing tomorrow, etc. You know how it is, it is one heck of a way to do. I have to do the letter writing in our family anyway. I write to Roy's sisters too. I like to write but why is it so darn easy to put it off. I don't know.

We went to Mom's for Thanksgiving.

Got there at 7:30 in the morning. Roy was going hunting with Mark Rowland at 8:00. So we had to get ready early. The rest of the gang, Minnie, Wilma's, Edna's and Violet's got there around noon. We had chicken and trimmings this year. It was good. Charles and Marjorie went home with Violet and Clarence to visit them, and Ruth went to Minnie's. Ruth had a cold and Wilma was a bit afraid for her to go so far from home.

Just as Wilma and her family were ready to leave we were out seeing them off. I was standing back a ways and Minnie asked Walter if he wanted to go with them. He said sure, got in, and said, "goodbye, Mamma." I thought they were just playing, but the car started. Howard said later while he had him he was going to keep him, about a mile from Morris. Walter started to cry but got over it OK. So he stayed all night at Wilma's and Roy brought him home on the grader next day. Walter sure had a good time while he was there. But I was sure glad to see him.

Saturday afternoon Roy took I and kids to Minnie's so we could go to the show that night with them. The kids sure had a time at Minnie's before we went. I gave Murriel his bath and dressed him, and is he a bouncer. I could hardly get his clothes on. He sure is a strong baby. We saw "Hail the Conquering Hero." It was good. We met Wilma's in front of Fox. John has been shucking corn for her so he was along too. Quite a gang of us.

We got home a little before 12:00 but boy the next day my kids were worse than bears. They were in each other's hair most of the day. I think the next time I go I'd better stay home, the kids would be better off. All the school kids this year got cards that entitled them to go to the Fox on Saturdays from October 21 to December 25. Wilma Marie wanted to go of course so we went now. Wilma was lucky. Her and all the kids got tickets but Howard. He was going to town school so he didn't. All she pays is the 2 cent tax to take the kids. Sure is nice.



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

*Written across the top of page 2: PS: Are you a PFC or a cpl and how come?*

**November 28, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan,

Which day is supposed to be the one you eat your Thanksgiving Day dinner? We had last Thursday. I guess Kansas observed the 23rd while some states are the 30th.

What kind of weather are you having now? It sleeted some this morning. It is quite dark now, need the lights on. I suppose it will snow; as yet we've had no snow.

Mother's face is getting better I guess, as Missildine thought maybe she wouldn't have to go back anymore. Sure be swell if it does clear up with no more treatments. Edna is doing all right I guess. Was in for checkup yesterday and doctor I mean nurse said everything was OK. Edna thinks it will come early as her boys did. I'm just anxious to know. Guess time will tell us.

Evelyn missed 2 words in her monthly test last week. First words she'd missed the whole year.

Murriel is on the floor. I'll bet he'll be pretty when I pick him up. He was in the rocking chair. He doesn't like to be tied in it so I held him but couldn't write with his help so I just set him on the floor. He's pretty well pleased.

We went to a show Saturday night and Murriel lost his shoe. I suppose somebody picked it up along street. Don't know what good one shoe would do anyone. If they'd leave things alone like that people might find what they lost sometimes. He untied it I suppose and it got knocked off while carrying him. I hunted for it but never found it. We saw "Hail the Conquering Hero Comes." It was a comedy.

I see carrier going north so I'll hurry and put this in box as I want to get it mailed. Lots of love, Minnie and Family

**November 30, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**

Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of the 17th first of the week. It was the one you wrote on both sides of the paper. I think that is lots better and saves paper too. Guess I am Scotch.

It has been cold here for several days but we haven't had any snow, but just a few flakes that melted as fast as they fell yesterday morning. It was ten above zero this morning. The cream man said, "old man winter is here." I told him I guessed so, as the pump was froze up this morning.

Sunday Tom and Mary took me to the Dr. at Wichita for another treatment. He thinks I won't need to come back, my face was so much better. It would be nice if I didn't, as I'd save \$5.00. It's that much for each x-ray treatment. Evelyn and Ruth went with us and we went to Violet's for dinner. Marjory and Charles came home with us. A sailor boy that Tom knew rode with us as far as Newton to see his girlfriend. I will sure be glad if I don't have to miss Sunday school anymore.

Yesterday we went to town and made out some more allotment papers. Minnie went with us, and helped with the papers. Mr. Bert Berry signed them as a witness.

Minnie bought Murriel Dee a new pair of shoes. He had lost one Saturday night when they went to the show Saturday night (I must be getting sleepy) so they didn't go to Sunday school Sunday. Dad was the only one of our family there and he had to get ready and go alone.

The shells and letters haven't come yet. You ought to have more Christmas boxes by now, more candy and you are tired of candy. I wanted to send you fruit cake, but the girls talked me out of it. Someone had sent some and got word back that it was moulded when they got it. I wish you would tell me what you want for your birthday so I could mail it to you.

Dad shucked corn at Clinton's this afternoon. He feels better than he did and weighs 150 lbs. now. I should have finished this last night as I don't have time to say more and get this off on this mail. It's nice that you can fix cots with new canvasses, makes better sleeping. Ivan we hope you are well and OK and that we will hear again soon from you. Goodbye with lots of love. Pop and Mom

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**December 1, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan:

How are you doing? We are all OK here. I went in town with Mother and Dad Wednesday and helped them fix up those allotment papers. I helped them figure out their living expenses but they hadn't figured their income for the month. I'll see them anyhow by Sunday and see if they have it finished up. They signed the papers and had Mr. Berry to witness their signatures.

You should have seen Murriel this morning. He was sure determined to ride his walker right up to the oilstone and get one of those fires. Sure made him hostile for me to tell him no and push him back. I've put him in his playpen now. It is only really safe place for him now while I have fire in oilstone. Guess I could put some chairs in front of it.

We were at Edna's last night. She told how they had 3 men and their wives from the post office out to see their baby things. One of the guys told Morris that since everything was given to them he thought all Morris had in the deal was 15 minutes of pleasure. Then he commented on Edna's red face. Some guys don't care what they say.

Don't know whether you could help Wilma Jean any or not. Did you know she had a part of her teeth pulled? Maybe she's had all of them by now. I wouldn't say. Has anyone told you Odeta has a baby boy? Lucy told Edna Odeta was going to have twins but it was just one big one. Lucy can sure tell big ones.

Mrs. Barnes is getting along OK. I haven't been to see her and should go. She is in St. Elizabeth's hospital and is kinda out of our way. I don't go to town too much as Murriel is a load to carry weighing at seven months and some before he was seven months what Delores did at a year. Makes a difference. Delores weighed 19 lbs. 5 oz. at one year. He weighed 19 lbs. 4 oz. at 6 and a half months. He's just a good big strong boy.

I'm going to wash pretty soon. I mean I will as soon as ice thaws out of my machine. Water drips in it, then when it freezes I have to wait for it to thaw as we're afraid to put hot water in it as could crack the enamel.

How many Christmas boxes have you received and who from? Did you get a box of soap yet?

Mother had a cold Wednesday but she thinks she feels better. Her nerve medicine is helping her aches, too.

Carl Evans wrote he is in Paris now in hospital with arthritis. I guess he was in too much wet and cold weather. He said it was cold and raining in almost every letter he wrote since he was in Germany Sept. 17. By November 17th he was in hospital. Said it was in his hips and legs. Never said how bad he was.

Well I must write a letter to Schuyler too. Lots of love, Minnie and Family

**December 4, 1944: Saxon to Ivan**  
Phoenix, Arizona

*This letter was post marked in Phoenix in December but the exact date is missing. Both of the dates below are at the top of the letter itself; the December date seems to be correct.*

October 24, 1944

December 4, 1944

Dear Ivan,

Just received a note from Mother reminding us about the watch. Sorry we have just neglected to send it to you. I'll get it fixed to send today, so you should get it soon. Let us know when you receive watch please. We're just three months late. That's pretty good for us. Excuse pencil; the ink fades so perhaps this is better.

Just baked a Devil's food cake for Carl's birthday. He's 30 today. Have candles and everything but no present as yet. Will get that in town today. I sure hate to go to town at Xmas time. Everything is so crowded you get worn out fighting the crowds. Dad sent Carl a dollar.

We're having much cooler weather now than the last time we wrote. Fire all day long.

Just re-read what I wrote. See have made several errors as usual – still can't spell soldier, or is that right?

Well Ivan I must frost that cake, wish you were here to help us eat it.

Tom sure married a cute girl and just full of fun. Irene also wrote. Haven't heard from Minnie or Edna. Just can't wait until Edna's baby gets here. Hope it's a girl. Minnie's boy is



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sure sweet. I expect he's grown the last 4 months until I wouldn't know him.

Well Ivan we wish you a Merry Christmas. Do you keep Christmas gifts until Christmas, or open them when you get them? Love, Saxon and Carl. We're both well. Carl weighs 150lbs - I'm fatter than that.

**December 5, 1944: Minnie to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Ivan:

How are you? We are all fine here only I do think I have a spoiled boy. I get him asleep and start to put him down. He just rolls over, looks around and starts fussing. I do wish he'd sleep longer.

Well, we have snow and slush on the ground. It rained Saturday, and some Sunday and some more Monday then Monday afternoon it snowed. Sure is wet underfoot. Water was rushing along road on our side so fast at noon Monday, Delores came back and wanted me to help her get across it. She was afraid of it I think. It wasn't but about three feet wide but it was traveling. Fred is working on Obie's truck. Putting in new rings and bearings I think.

John got him a room up town and is going to batch. I hope he likes it as it is hard for him to stay with any of us any length of time. When he's at home he doesn't want to help Dad and it sure gripes Dad to have him laying around. I don't blame Dad a bit either.

We were home Sunday. Dad and Mother are both pretty good. Mother says her nerve medicine is helping her feel better too.

We saw Wilma's Sunday evening. She had a cold and several of kids did but otherwise they were fine.

Evelyn came home from school at noon, put out again. She said she hadn't whispered any but a girl that was taking down names of those who did said she did so she had to write her spelling words ten times apiece as soon as she got back. She wanted to stay home until one but I told her she'd better get over there and get busy. I hope she has them done by four. Sure kinda gripes me for kids to have to take over teacher's job. They are paid so much for being at the school house it looks like. Anyway I was fooled if it wasn't teacher's job to discipline the children instead of children doing it. Wonder

they don't have one to do the teaching too. Oh well, guess I shouldn't be bothered but I do like for teachers to be fair.

I am sending you a clipping about New Britain. Dad wonders if you have planted any corn yet. Do you know the fellow that wrote this article?

I plan to get Mrs. Pollock's shells to her this evening and some is put on display at the office. I hope she is home as we plan to go in with them if Fred is through work in time. He says he's going alone but I think I'll go with him. Ha!

I see by paper Jim Evans' wife has returned to him and he gave her 320 acres of land in Kingman County. Paper said some say it with flowers but he said it with land. I must go take Murriel as he wants me. Lots of love, Minnie and Family

**December 6, 1944: Juanita to Ivan**  
Wichita, Kansas

== V-MAIL ==

I have been planning on writing for I don't know how long. Well this is the 13th and I started this the 6th. Well I will try and get it off today. We have been having colds and have missed a lot of school. We are better now but I still don't feel like going to school. Did you ever get that package if so did you find the pictures? There's a girl that works up at Garvies and she says she will write. She had even started a letter but she said she hadn't got around to finishing it. Her name is Belva (Billie) Reese. I hope you write to Alice. Do you still have her address? Hope so. I addressed your letter to P.F.C. without thinking. I know it is Cpl and am I proud of my Uncle. I am going to try and write oftener. We are going to Grandma R for Xmas. I think almost all of them are planning to be there. I got Uncle Morris' name. With lots of love, Write soon, Your niece, Juanita

**December 6, 1944: Lottie Jane to Ivan**  
Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear Son Ivan,

We were so glad to get your letter of November 24th today. We are glad you had a good dinner on Thanksgiving. I think if anyone deserves good meals, it's the boys in Service. And maybe I should have said girls too. I almost