

## **Walter Gustafson Letters, 1943-1944**

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**V-MAIL (Censor's Stamp Blank) CORRESPONDENCE**

To  
MISS DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AVE  
CHICAGO ILL

From  
WALTER GUSTAFSON  
c/o KELLOGG – APO 824  
c/o POST MASTER NY  
MAY 2-1944

Dear Doris & the Gang,

Arrived in England O.K. and have been quite busy sight seeing. Things here are a lot different than in the States. Don't like their beer and hard drinks are impossible to get. The people here have gone through plenty and most everything is rationed so you can appreciate the things you are able to get & get in the station.

Expect to leave soon to continue our journey. Had my last two shots to day and am glad thats over. Send me some pictures of all of you. We won't get any mail until we reach our destination, but will be tickled pink to see a handful when I get there. Miss the folks at home a lot as this is no picnic. Get in touch with Irene as I write letters to her. Hope the censor isn't too hard on them. Try to spend a week end with her so she doesn't get too lonely. Say hello to everybody and kiss the kids for me. Will write as often as possible. With all my love to all of you.

Always,  
Wally

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Saturday May-13 -1943

Dear Pearl & the Gang-

Still on the go, getting used to laying around and enjoying it too. We have entered warmer waters now so its not so cool now. We are eating like kings and sleeping very well. Of coarse we have to sleep with our clouths on and where a life belt where ever we go, but we are

quite used to that to. We see land yesterday for the first time in over a week but this morning its all water again.

This is quite a trip and would be enjoyed a lot more in peace time. Am going to write to Ed Larson to-day as it won't be long until we will be near him. I can write to him and it won't have to go back to the states to reach him. Sure would like to run in to him over here. Hope to see Geo Manitaksis's uncles at Port Said. Sure am looking forward to it.

Well tomorrow is Mothers day and I hope all you Mothers are contented & Happy. Would like to be able to sit down in your parlor right now with a big cold glass of Fox De Lux. Expect to have finished our trip by the first part of June. Have seen many things I never expected to see a few months ago. Know my map a little better to as we have been trying to guess our coarse day by day. Tell alex and Primo I will write after I get to abadan as news is hard to give out.

Don't stop writing though as I'll take all you can give. Tell Harold I will write him to. Any pictures you want to send will be welcome. Hope every body is well and happy. Kiss the kids for me-I'll be seeing you.

All my Love to all of You.  
XXXXXXX Always  
Wally.

### **V-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE**

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
Passed by US BK A MINER BASE 1478 Army

To  
MISS DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. GUSTAFSON  
c/o M. W. KELLOgg APO 824  
c/o POST MASTER NY

MAY 24-1944

Dear Doris and all ÷

We are going out to see the sights and the Pyramids tomorrow so have taken time out to write a few letters.

Our trip from here will be hot and Dusty and I will try and write you from the land where the worlds best oranges grow. We eat a lot of them as they are about the cheapest thing we can buy here. I will be glad when this trip is over so I can get at some of that mail that I hope is waiting for me. We had quite a boat ride but enjoyed it on our second voyage. Hope everybody is in good health and happy. Tell the gang this letter is for all of them as our lights are so dim we can't rite at night and take in the sights in daylight hours.

All my Love to all of You.  
Wally

### CORRESPONDENCE

May – 27-1944

Dear Pearl and all,

Thought I would get one more letter off to you while I am here as I have so many to write to this can go to the whole gang as they all congregate ther anyway. Expect to reach our destination ~~whi~~ within the next 10 days and then I will probably have more time to write to all of them.

At first I was disappointed in this place but since I have traveled around to the better parts I like it better. Sight seeing is an expensive item and we have all spent plenty doing it, but after all we may never get the chance again. We have been to about every place here thats interesting and I have bought quite a few small things that have been made here.

We watched boys from 7 years up to 13 years old make jewlery from pure silver wire and it was very interesting. These Kids go blind after 4 or 5 years of it. At the Bazaar (that's like maxwell street only more of it) they make most everything they sell

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and believe me that's plenty - The purses that the girls talked about are pretty high I think but they would be something different. They run about 7 dollars for an all leather bag with Egyptian inscriptions on both sides but are only about 4 11 x 10 inches in size and not much room to carry anything. I'm pretty sure I can still get these bags when I finally settle and if they want them let me know. They are not made of alegater skin, though I may find some later on. Don't send any money as they can pay my "Honey" and I will draw if it from the job.

After I once get there, I can let you know what I can buy and how much and have plenty of time to do it. I intend to send the things I have already bought home when Ive settled down and then you can see them & know.

If inflation ever hit the states to the degree they have here, well I just hate to think about it. Get to gether with Irene on these letters as I don't want to write the same thing twice. One of the boys just

over

brought me 4 packages of cigaretts. Philip Morris – and oh boy are they a God send. I have been smoking English-turkish and Egyptian cigaretts and they are not so hot. I have cigaretts in my trunk but it has been sealed and sent ahead. I will be able to get my quota allowed in the next country I hit and these will last me until then. I can get American cigaretts and goods on my APO number at our destination but it don't do any good here.

Hope everybody is in good health and dosen't have writer's cramps as I'll be all set to get the news from home. Haven't got a letter yet or heard an American broadcast but we have a new radio with us and that thing will catch hell when we get it set up. Of coarse our evening broadcasts will be heard when we eat breakfast as we are 9 hours ahead of the states. This has been pretty soft – on vacation at \$100.<sup>00</sup> a week, so we have to over look the eats – flies – fleas & delays. Will close for now.

Love to All -  
Wally.

### **V-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE**

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
PASSED BY US EXAMINER  
BASE 2319 ARMY

Postmark  
JUN 8, 1944 APO 824  
VIA AIR MAIL

To  
Mrs. A. STEMMELIN  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO ILL

From  
W. GUSTAFSON  
c/o KELLOGG – APO 824  
c/o Post MASTER NY

June 7 – 1944  
VIA AIR MAIL

Dear Pearl and the Gang,

Arrived O.K. and am getting settled in new quarters. Have a single room and good American cooking and I think things are going to be OK from now on. Not too hot for me yet. Movies and swimming and a good radio and things look brighter.

Got 15 letters and 7 V mail. One from Doris, Ethel & June. The old saying "Like getting a letter from home" is true enough. Took me three hours to devour them. Our building has three showers, two wash basins and two stools in one end of a long hall with four rooms on each side. I have bed with netting, a <sup>nite</sup> table straight chair & easy chair, writing table, Ice Box, dresser and a seven by ten rug. Also clouths closet & ceiling fan. Pretty nice set up for this place. Will write a letter later when I have more to say that I can say. Hope every body is in good health & happy. Don't worry about me. I am in good shape.

Love to all. Wally.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

June 26 –

Dear Pearl and all ÷

Recieved your ever welcome letter and seven others with it. Glad to hear every body is O.K. Hope al feels better now that his teeth are Out. I have been lonesome alright but not too lonesome where I would get down in the dumps as I have kept my self pretty busy on & off of the job. It's a funny thing – back in the states when we wanted some thing we just went to the store and bought it. But hear we just can't buy anything and it we do find something we want its so damed high that we have to pass it up. The brooms that are furnished in these bungalows are the kind they sweep the streets with in the states and they make more dirt than they pick up. I got two shoe brushes and made a piece of steel to hold them both to gether & welded a pipe coupling to it so I could screw a handle on, and so I have a good broom.

This dust is all over so it wasn't very long that I started work on a mop holder and I use the same handle off the broom. The big problem was what to use for cloth so after shopping

around I have settled for a potatoe sack. I have showed our house boy how to use it and I make him do it every day, so thing are pretty clean in Room # 6.

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Pearl this is a land of patches and I intend to take pictures so I can show all of you just how these natives live. Its not a pretty sight I will admit, but is something different and quite interesting at first. One patch over the other – regardless of color, and the last one hang-ing in rags with the first. They wear an awful lot of clouths in this heat, but it is said that it keeps the heat Out. They don't know the first thing about sanitation and don't seem to want to learn. When I get back and have a meal at your house and I wipe my dishes with a clean Hanky or the table cloth – think nothing of it as it will all be habit.

About that weekly Unity Paper Pearl I will be glad to have it as a little of that kind of read-ing never hurt anybody and besides reading matter is scarce as hens teeth. Some of the boys ordered the Daily news & the Herald American before they left home and haven't recieved one copy yet so you can see we have to share whatever we have to read. There is a library out at the Army P.X. but I really haven't had time for any books yet. My correspondence is about all I seem to be able to take care of in my spare time. When I get started on a letter I hate to quit – as like now its almost four oclock and time

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to go for a swim at the English Club. It really is a swell pool and we go every day from four to five. We come back with an appetite that's suprising in this heat. That's another thing that I can't quite figure out- I haven't missed a meal and I eat much more that I did at home – even at breakfast. Too bad Lottie has to be in the condition she is in as it is tough on Dad, but I guess that is the will to live. Im sure glad Irene had a chance to go away and I hope she will settle down now and be less nervous. I know that if she could do that she would feel better all around.

We could stand one of those 40<sup>0</sup> drops here and never even notice it. I wrote Bob a letter on the heat – Dust & mud & maybe you can get to read it.

Tell Alex & June – Primo & Daria and all the rest that I will write to one of them next and not to feel slighted as I figured your place was headquarters for all of them. Well Pearl I'm sending a picture taken on the Banks of the Tigras. Its not to good as it was a very bright day & the developing they do here is lousy. All for now and thanks a million for Unity – As always

Bro. Wally.

All my love to all of you-

**CORRESPONDENCE**

June 9<sup>th</sup>

Dear Doris & the Gang ÷

Well I'm here and recieved your letter telling me that you got my letter & saw the cable Irene recieved. Also got a letter from her when she was in Mpls and recieved 12 photos which has me sitting on a cloud. I have them all standing up on my writing table in front of me and believe me they sure look good. I am well satisfied with my room here and our eats are good.

Its plenty hot here and we usally have a brezze. The heat rises from the ground and its all around you like you were standing on a red hot plate. Can't leave any tools in the sun or we can't pick them up. A pail of water sitting in the sun for one hour gets so hot we can't stick our hand in. The humidity is low though and I don't feel as dragged out as I did on a hot day in the states. Of coarse it will get hotter here in the next

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few months. Will let you know how it goes then. I have a nice Ice box that will hold about 75 lbs of Ice with two doors on the front that I can keep all the beer I'll want to have on hand at any one time. We are allowed a case a month and I have traded my ~~be~~ whisky with a fellow, for his beer and I think 48 bottles will do me a mo. We get a quart of whisky & a bottle of wine besides the beer so that's going to be all right. To come home from work and have a nice shower and then a bottle of beer and a nap before we eat goes pretty good. Each room has a ceiling fan it helps to cool the room off when the windows are closed. We never open the windows until it is dark and the ground heat has subsided. Later on I am going to put my bed Out side and sleep there every nite. Right now roads are being built and a lot of camp construction being done and its a little to dusty. Sorry to hear you

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lost your pictures but I'll be waiting for them so don't delay to long. That's about all there is for me here to look at and I can't seem to look to long. So al has the golf bug again. More power to him, hope he breaks his record. Dave probably smokes two cigars at one time now that he is Grandpa again, tell him hello & that I send my regards. Sorry to hear Primo has to leave Doris & the baby. Sure would like to see him show up around here. Its hot here but its better than going the other direction. Wrote a letter to Beech Boren today - he one of the boys that used to work for Harry Hansen and he is station right near here. I was over to the show last night at the Army Camp and seen "Mae West" in S Pitchin in the Kitchen. I bought cigarettes & Matches & ink & gum at the P.X. We get a ration card like the soldiers do and we can buy most any thing but clouths. I am going back to nite to see & hear Lilly Pons in person. We have Buses that take us there



and back. All the buses on this island are free and it makes things easier & quicker. No standing and waiting for change – we just pile on and go. So June & Alex have a chance to go away for a rest & a little fun. Hope they have a good time. I got to write Lee & Geo another letter too – sent her a V-mail the other day. In fact I sent off fourteen of them so I ought to be caught up now. About all I have done is write and if all my letter got through the whole Gang will have plenty of reading. Wrote Ed a letter some time ago but haven't heard from him either. I recieved a V-mail from June - and four from Bro. Bob. A letter each from you & Effie & Irene Kuken all the rest were from home. Twelve letters and two V-mail. If you write send them air mail and then I won't get one letter ahead of the other. It makes things hard to understand when one letter passes the other up enroute.

Well dobuts (Doris) take care of yourself and ask the ? you want to as it will make it easier for me to write. All my Love to all of You

Bro. Wally.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

June – 11 – 1944

Dear Sis & all ÷

Recieved your letter telling me how happy you were to hear of telegram saying I had landed safe. First of all that telegram was sent while I was still seventeen days from my destination. Of coarse it took a week before you or rather Barbara got it so you can figure just about when I arrived here. Haven't had a letter from Pearl yet and none from Irene since she arrived at Mpls. Hope none of the mail has been lost.

That little slip you sent to me was sure enough correct as it was 145° here the other day. If ever I was in a turkish bath brother this is it. It cools off at about 11 P.M. and we are able to Pound Our ear. We get up about 4:15 AM and work till 10 A. M. when we got on a bus & go to dinner. We have good food and an hour to eat it in. Being this hot this early the old timers say is unusual. I take plenty of salt and I feel good.

What Ed says about mail from home is plenty true, but its his own dam fault for acting the way he did and not even writing to me. I stood in line for 15

minutes yesterday and didn't get any mail and about 20 minutes to-day and only got your letter. I don't know why I haven't got more letters from home. I wrote 14 V-mail letters and two 4 or 5 page letters last Wednesday and that's a lot for one person to write.

Mail doesn't come in here every day but when it does it should be worth while.

Hope Roy has a chance to get that furlough as he has been away a long time and as you say it will do Bob and Alma a lot of Good. This is the first time I have ever been away from home and I hope it will be the last. Next time I go away it will be with the family or I don't go. Went to the show to nite and saw Topper Returns. It was silly but funny and I enjoyed it. Something different is all we need as there isn't much of anything else here. Its to ~~hep~~ hot to play golf or tennis and swimming and the show is the only other two amusement places to take in. I write a lot and that helps. Well sis its after 11 P.M. and I want to take a shower yet so will close for now.

All my Love to all of You  
Good – nite  
Bro. Wally.

**V-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE**

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
JUN 19 1944  
APO 824

To  
DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO ILL

From  
W. GUSTAFSON  
c/o KELLOGG – APO 824  
c/o Post MASTER NY

June 18  
VIA AIR MAIL

Dear Doris & All ÷

Got your V-Mail telling me Effie & Irene got home the night before and incidentally the first letter in over a week. Irene must not of wrote while she was away as I only had one letter

saying she was in Mpls. Air mail & V-mail is the only way to write as boat mail takes too long. Irene wrote on the 17<sup>th</sup> & Barbara on the 18<sup>th</sup> so I haven't heard from home since then. Try to impress on them that when they start a letter to finish it and mail it via air mail. Tell them not to send any mail with a three cent stamp. Hope you enjoyed yourself at Berwyn. Give Frances my regards. Hope al is feeling better now that his teeth are out. I will write a letter later telling about this strange country and its people. Wednesday I will have been working three weeks and I like it fine. I will tell you more about that later too. I am in good shape and really have a good appetite at every meal. Using plenty of salt and drinking lots of water.

Love to all,  
Wally

### CORRESPONDENCE

June 21, 1944

Dear Dobuts (Doris) & all the Gang ÷

I promised to tell you something about this land and its people, so will try to do so in this letter. I've received a letter from Irene & Bro. Bob day before yesterday and was sure glad to get it. Mail doesn't come too fast and unless letters are written often they <sup>are</sup> few and far between. Neither you or Irene have mentioned any letters I wrote while I was enroute so I guess you haven't received them yet or probably never will. When you write let me know what letters you get and if you get that post card picture I had taken. I haven't heard from Pearl yet and a lot of the others I wrote to. We have had some pretty hot days here and it's hard to write as my hand sweats and the paper gets wet and I can't move my hand as I should. I tried a piece of wax paper over this and I was going fine until I reached the middle of the sheet. The wax came off and got on my pen and you can see how it looks trying to write on wax. I'm sitting here with only a pair of shorts on and the windows & the door is open with the ceiling fan going but I still sweat freely. I don't feel warm at

all – That's the way this place is, the water runs off us like it would a duck whether we feel hot or not. This would be a punk place for you James to be, cause I'm afraid you would finally settle for a skinny nose and a house dress. With the natives now it's a little different. They wear twice as much cloths as we do and I can't quite convince my self that they are cooler by doing so. They wear coolie pants & shirts (usually all rags and patches) with a long nite gown ~~of~~ over that and a street coat to if they own one. I have asked about it and was told that they keep the heat out that way. Well they can wear their get up but I still stick to our style of dress & take my salt reguarally. These people here don't know the first thing about sanitation they don't seem to want to learn either. They remind me of bathless groggins as they sure hate to take a

bath. We make them go and take a shower and put their clouths in the steam box every time we see them start to scratch while we are on the job.

They will sit right down and take off there shirt and send it most any place on the job and instead of killing the lice they just throw them off and of coarse they hop right back on them again. There religion comes in there some

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where as they believe they don't have the right to kill. The sun is still there God. They are a dumb bunch of people and have to be told the same thing day after day. A lot of them wear pants that has a seat that runs all the way down to there knees and usually looks like it is full of crap. There belief is that they are eligible to give birth to a new Christ and that any one of them could qualify. It sure looks funny to see them wearing them at the Bazzar where most of them live (the forty thieves are still there too) they have holes in the street with water running through to the river and they just squat down and do their business and don't give a dam who is looking. If they are hungry they just sit down in the middle of the side walk or any other dirty place, spread there food out and eat. They sleep during the day the same way just any old place. Flies crawl in & out of there mouth and all over them but that don't seem to bother them at all. We see kids on the streets, and the flies will park directly below their lower eye lash or crawl in to the cover of their eyes and stay there. Whether the flies go for the moisture there or the shade I don't know, but they don't appear

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to know it either. We have took special notice to this and have watched them to see if they would chase the flies away – but No.

There are an awful lot of blind people and those that haven't ruined there eyes when they were just kids making jewlery & other things that cause them to go blind in a few short years, then the flies have got the rest.

This race of people are very small and a boy of fifteen looks to be 8-9- or 10 years old. It takes five or six of them to lift any thing that two of most ~~of~~ <sup>^ other</sup> white races could. We are lucky if we get two hours work out of any of them in a day.

Well Doris I could go on like this for a long time but I want to save some of it to tell you when I come home and besides its getting late and I want to make up my bed outside so will close for now. Write often and I will answer – I'm feeling swell and eating good so Don't worry. Give this letter to Irene as I won't write this same thing to her. Wrote to Geo – as they want a cook here but whether he takes it or not I don't know.

All my Love to all of You  
Bro. Wally.

## CORRESPONDENCE

July – 3- 1944

Dear Doris – Pearl - & all ÷

Got yours & Pearls letters today at noon. Also both V-mail letters two days ago. I am on the job now and as I have time on my hands this afternoon that I would use it up to advantage & write to you. Went to the Army show nite before last and the English show last nite so I fell behind in my writing.

When we get through work at two P.M. we all rush to the mail window. Sometimes we wear a smile & sometimes we don't. We have our shower and a nap – get up shave and dress for supper – served from five to six thirty. After supper we usually go back to our room & peel off to our shorts cause that's the way we live while there. If there is a good picture showing at either of the shows we will take on of them in or stay home & write. I have kept my self quite busy fixing my room up as my letters to "My Honey" will read. We had two days last week that were "Corkers!" 160° sun temperature & 122 ½ ° shade. Of coarse that shade temperature is where I have set up temporary shop as the building where I will have most of my work hasn't any floor in yet. Your 95° is just a mere trifle to us. We had a few nites that was tough sleeping but our afternoon nap takes care of that very nicely.

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For news I will write to you about this land & its people. Most of the native buildings off & on this Island are made of adobe brick, formed \* dried in the sun as wood is very scarce all through the east. All along our route the buildings were crumby looking and would make a white man think more than once before going in. I never even made an effort. Some had roofs on & some didn't, no windows and only one door. I really don't know why they didn't have roofs but I suppose it was for light during the summer months cause they sure as hell don't have to worry about rain during this season. Two inches was the total fall last year so you can see my point. On this Island the native buildings (what I have seen) are build a little better as they all have roofs & windows.

Our quarters are made of adobe brick with cement floors throughout. All the walls inside are plastered and each room has two windows of french type. The roofs are made by laying logs length wise and then covering with a straw mat, made from a sort of swamp grass woven into a mat. Over that is placed three or four coats of this adobe mud, each coat baked in the sun and finally finished off to a semi

smooth finish. A thatched roof in appearance. Our house boy keeps the hall wet during the day with the doors & windows closed, so when we do come home and go inside out of the hot winds it feels quite cool. The wind has begun to blow to day and of coarse that means plenty of dust. We've had days here that the dust has been so heavy we couldn't see the sun, but we could still feel it. Dust storms are something like fog at home and I don't care a hell of a lot for them. How these natives are able to walk barefooted in this country I haven't been able to figure out yet. A few of our fellows have got blisters on their hands picking up a tool or a piece of steel. The dust on the roads inside the plant are six to eight inches deep and they can wade through it as if it was water.

The native women wear nose rings and ear rings – Some have their faces covered and some don't. If their faces look anything like their feet, I'm satisfied that they keep them covered. Some have blue tattoo marks like this: :: on their temples some have their whole lips tattooed or their chin.

A certain type of male native have three scratches on their cheeks that start even with the eye splits and end even with their lips. Reminds one of a claw. All these coolies

wear their clouths till they ~~blow~~ blow away in loose threads. Patch upon patch till none of it would make a good floor mop. And then I would hesitate to use it for that.

Their bread is made like a pancake and baked on one side – looks like a phonograph record with blisters. Looks like a mixture of coarse wheat & white flour. They take a hand full of paste & smear it ~~th~~ with their hand on the outside of an oven and when it drops off it is done. They break this up into small pieces, pack a cucumber and a handful of onion grass in to a large clouth hobo style & come to work looking very much like they were out all nite.

The barber in our camp is only sixteen years old and has a boy four years old. They start these kids working about as soon as they are able to walk & talk and the nation as a whole sure shows it. I haven't seen a big or fat native yet & boys from fifteen to twenty are not any bigger than Ronny & wally. I buy soap and make the coolies that work for me go and take a bath everyday as the company provides a shower right on the job and a delousing box for their clouths also. At first I had a hell of a time

to get them to go. Now they ask me if they can go so you can see they know a good thing when they see it. They all are lousy though and scratch themselves all the time. They will never kill a

fly or louse but will brush them away and that means that we scratch too. Its quite a job keeping oneself clear of their lice but we spray our rooms & beds and that takes care of it.

Well Doris I am going to take some pictures of our quarters and also of myself and send them home every now & then and I hope you all will get a clear picture of this land between that and my letters.

As long as I will be able to get mail from all of you I think things will go along O.K. with me here. I haven't been able to weigh myself here but by the way my clouths fit me I know I'm just about the same.

Sorry to hear Primo has to leave but that's the way with this world. One never knows whats in the future.

All for now with all my Love. Thanks for the pictures Sis that's a big help.

Bro. Wally

#### **V-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE**

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
JUL 11 1944  
APO 824

(Seal) PASSED BY EXAMINER  
BASE 2534 ARMY

To  
Mrs. A STEMMELIN  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO 28, ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. Gustafson  
c/o Kellogg – APO 824  
c/o Post Master NY

July – 10 – 1944

Dear Pearl & all,

Got seventeen letters yesterday and three today so I sitting on a cloud and trying to answer all of them. Three of them were from you - thanks a lot Sis they help a lot. My work has been kind of slow and I haven't had much to occupy my mind, so when I didn't get any mail my morale got pretty low. Sorry to hear Primo had to leave - wish I could have been there for the party. I could do with a big dish of ravioli right now & how. I know you have had your hands full and I appreciate your writing to me. I'll bet Dennis & Raymond will be quite the kids by the time I get home. So Doris is going to be beautiful from now on. Hey! Hey! Shes still one of my Pin up girls and of a few more here that has visited my room. These fellows really go for a pretty girl. Got a letter from her and I'm looking forward to the pictures she had taken. I hope my mug didn't spoil the picture as the one she had of me was awful. See next shot.

Love,  
Wally

Sheet #2 (same as above)

July - 10<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sis and all,

Wrote letters all afternoon - had supper and now I am going to write all evening. Glad to hear Al is able to sleep during the heat wave. To bad his arm still bothers him and he can't get those golf clubs agoing. My tan I had in beginning to disappear because of the dust haze. We can have a nice breeze alnite & earl morning but just as soon as the sun gets up the dust goes up with it. We can't see much of the sun but we can sure feel it. We will have these dust storms for the next month or so and then the weather will be pretty nice here. I received the Unity Prayer and I appreciate that a lot Pearl. I have just put it to use already as one of our fellows that has been drinking pretty heavy since he hit this side was in pretty bad shape mentally and I give it to him to read. The next day he went to see the Priest. They are going to send him home cause he can't drink like that and live very long here. It would take them to long to get him in shape even though he has tempered off. More coming.

Love Wally

Sheet #3 (same as above)

Dear Sis -

I think it did him a lot of good though as he has started to eat a little now and he was in my room tonite crying on my shoulder. He said I was the best friend he ever had. I spent a lot of time with him as he has the room next to mine. I got him to write two letters home to his wife. He worked four days and then fell off the wagon so the Co. decided to give him the gate. Tell Doris & June to read this letter as theres too and I will write to them the next letter. I want to write to Effie to as I know she doesn't get down to your place as much as the others do. I am trying to get my diary up to date and I don't seem to get the time to write in it. To bad Doris only got a day and a half out of the break down during the hot weather. I'll bet she had her hands full though when she went back to work. Hope Bro. Bobs hand is better by now - he sure gets the tough breaks. Haven't heard from Harold yet - I wrote him three times. Will close for now Sis - All my Love to all of you



Bro. Wally

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
JUL (unreadable) 1944  
APO 824

(Seal) PASSED BY EXAMINER  
BASE 2534 ARMY

To  
June Polak  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO 28, ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. Gustafson  
c/o Kellogg – APO 824  
c/o Post Master NY

July - 19 – 1944

Dear June & the Gang,

Your Uncle is ganging up on all of you but I have to do it to keep up with all of you. I don't have time to do much of anything but write. I appreciate all the letters I get so fire away. Now that Primo has left you all will have that much more writing to do. Keep him busy with lots of mail cause that helps like hell. I am still in good shape and not working too hard. I am trying to air condition my room so if you don't hear from me so often you will know ~~why~~ why. I will write a V-mail every chance I get and a good long letter soon. I will take time to write home as I know My Honey will keep in touch with you. How is your Dads arm – Better I hope. I'll bet Doris misses Primo. Its tough but I think things will break for the best within the next two mo. I want to write to Doris too & will do so at the first chance I get. Some days (like tonight) I'm not in the mood to write & other times I can write like hell. Give my regards to every body & kiss the kids for me. Has anybody heard from E. B. L. Write soon. All my Love to all of you –

Always Your  
Uncle Wally

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
JUN 30 1944  
APO 824

(Seal) PASSED BY EXAMINER

BASE 2534 ARMY

To  
DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO 28, ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. Gustafson  
c/o Kellogg – APO 824  
c/o Post Master NY

June –29 – 1944

Dear Dobuts & the Gang –

Just finished supper and decided to go out to the Army P.X. to a show & thought I would dash off a line to you. Had noodle soup – Sweet potatoes, lima beans, veal cutlets, cubbed beats, two large glasses of milk three balls of Ice cream and a cup of Java. Hows that for putting it away. Its supprising how we can eat with all this heat but that's the way we eat at every meal. Sometimes the meat isn't cooked just right as our cooks are not so hot. It was one nineteen in the shade today and will be that and more from now on till sept as the old timers here say this summer is going to be a hot one as it has started earlier this year. Hope every body is well & Happy. I am in first class condition so don't worry. Love to all.

Bro – Wally

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
JUL 26 1944  
APO 824

(Seal) PASSED BY EXAMINER  
BASE 2534 ARMY

To  
DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO 28, ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. Gustafson  
c/o Kellogg – APO 824

c/o Post Master NY

July – 24

Dear Doris & the Gang

Received your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> & V- of the 11 and Pearls of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Pretty sticky here now and had to settle down & write. Don't be disappointed if my mail to you is slow for the next six weeks as this will be the hottest time of the year here. I will write every time I can. Glad you are getting my mail better now. You sure have been swell to me. This is something new to all of us to write so much but it means a lot on both ends. Hope Primo gets lots of mail as he will need plenty of it at first. I think I have most of your letters by now & I have gained a few lbs in weight – we don't have a scale but my cheeks seem to be quite full. Hope Al can play golf by now – and that his arm is in better shape. Give Ole my regards the next time you go – Have all the fun you can. Keep your chin up. I'll be seeing you. Love

to all. Wally

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
JUL 29 1944  
APO 824

(Seal) PASSED BY EXAMINER  
BASE 2534 ARMY

To  
DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO 28, ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. Gustafson  
c/o Kellogg – APO 824  
c/o Post Master NY

July 28 –

Dear Dobuts & the Gang ÷

I suppose you have had word by now that it won't be too long that I will be with you. I think that will please all of you as much as it has me. I don't know just when this will take <sup>^</sup>place but I hope soon. If I don't get a chance to write I am going to write Irene to stop writing, and you will know I am on my way. Hope to be at Lees <sup>^</sup>in the next six weeks. Can't answer your ?s

now but will give them to you over a glass of good old Fox de lux sometime soon. Does that please you? Got the pictures of Pearl and Denny and they sure look good to me. Glad to hear Al is feeling better. I'll be down for one of Pearls famous meals & some home made bread. All my Love to all of you . As ever

Bro. Wally

## CORRESPONDENCE

July – 22 – 1944

Dear Doris – Pearl & the Gang ÷

I'm writing this letter tonite under protest so if it sounds lousy you can blame it on the heat. Its pretty sticky tonite & has been all day. Just another Saturday nite & I write letters. Can you feature that. One of your poker games with a glass of beer in front of me would please me to no ends tonite. Jack Benny is playing at the English show to nite in "to be or not to be" and everybody says it is a bum show so I'm passing it up. I owe you a letter anyway and I want to at least get it started. I received four V-mail yesterday, one each from you – pearl, Bob & Irene K. – Had four or five swell letters from my "Honey" this past week so I'm well up on the news. Hope Bobs hand is in better shape by now – wish I was there to help him Out. He sure gets the bum breaks. I had a day off yesterday and it was one of those days that we all usually have, tried all day to write letters and ended up with one V-mail to home. I also sent out three picture post cards I had taken in Cairo to Mother – Edna - & Irene K. Barbara wrote & said she reviewed the picture post card

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I sent, but I have been wondering since if it was the one I sent. I had also sent one to Pearl & Bob. Let me know if you got it. To bad Fred Eichelburger died though I suppose he was better off in the condition he was in. Our last cook quit the other day and the meals are not so hot now but we get plenty of what we can eat. This whole gang is in an uproar about it & I don't know what they are going to do about it. I believe a good cook like Geo – with the experience he has had, could make a good job out of it cause they have plenty of coolie help in the kitchen. I believe I have been away from it to long to handle it. I may try it yet if things don't get any better. So far Ive kept my mouth shut – although several know I used to cook and have ask me to take the job. Im going to stay away from it as long as possible. I'm still sitting around in the ware house waiting for the control room to get ready so I can start to put in the panels & instruments. Nobody seems to give a dam if it gets ready or not and I get pretty hot about it sometimes as I want to get this thing done & get the hell out of here. If I was able to do

3

my work & keep my mind occupied I wouldn't have much chance to get lonesome. Its this sitting around waiting that gets me down. I'm supposed to get some action this next week – sure hope so.

Hope Doris & Primo don't get to lonesome for one another. A good thing they will both be kept pretty busy- Her with the baby & him with the Army. Keeping busy is half the battle. The latest news of trying to kill that paper hanger & the killing of all those officers sounds good to me. Hope they keep it up.

Those curtains you get such a kick out of I got quite a shock myself. I thought I asked my Honey for creaton curtains but when she wrote that she took these off the parlor windows & washed & stretched them & sent them to me, I had to read that twice. But whats the difference. It'll be the latest thing on this island and I can allways sell them when I get ready to leave. I sure will be classy.

I would like to have been with all of you when you went to Larson's. I'll bet you had a good time. We'll make up for it though. I just went in one of the boys rooms and heard the Fred Allen program. We get most all the popular programs

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from the army station at Awaz. All the programs are from records but just like at home.

How would you like to have a little nephew with a handle like these – Abud – Mohamid Abraham – Abdul – Usuf – Ahmad – Abas – Musa – Amin or Hossain. That's all the names of the choakers that work in Our gang. You know me trying to remember their names. I just say – Hey there you black bastard – and get good results. Choaker means boy in Persian. I have learned a few words and I'm able to make myself understood.

Your question about the flies & Mosquitoes & if there are many here. The flies here are the biggest pests of all cause we can't seem to chase them away. Very few get in Our rooms but we have a spray for that. Outside they drive us nuts. The natives don't seem to bother about them & they sit just below the lower eye lid for hours. How they can stand it I can't see. It must be the moisture they are after.

We'll sis this is a lousy letter but I'll do better next time. All my Love to all of you.

As always  
Bro. Walt.

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
JUL 31 1944  
APO 824

(Seal) PASSED BY EXAMINER  
BASE 2534 ARMY

To  
DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO 28, ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. Gustafson  
c/o Kellogg – APO 824  
c/o Post Master NY

July --31

Dear Doris & all ÷

I'm writing this in a hurry as I have only a few moments to get it in the mail before it is taken to the Army post. I am well and in good spirits. Have finished work here and hope to leave soon. Whatever you write after you get this will probably be too late to ~~catch~~ catch me so I would suggest that all of you stop. I am just taking it easy now & taking pictures around camp. Will write till I leave. It won't be too long and I will have that glass of Fox De lux with you and the gang. Don't worry about me cause I'll be seeing you. Hope this finds every body in good shape.

Love to all  
Bro. Wally

(Seal) Censor's Stamp  
US ARMY POSTAL SERVICE  
AUG 9, 1944  
APO 824

(Seal) PASSED BY EXAMINER  
BASE 2534 ARMY

To  
DORIS GUSTAFSON  
10212 INDIANA AV  
CHICAGO 28, ILL  
VIA AIR MAIL

From  
W. Gustafson  
c/o Kellogg – APO 824  
c/o Post Master NY

August - 7 1944

Dear Doris & the Gang

Keep that Fox De lux cold kid cause I'll be down to collect soon. Have had a twenty four hour delay but I can take that very easy. Nothing to do here and plenty of it. Can't seem to find enough to write about lately. Hope you all understand. Tell "my Honey" that the day to remember is September 11. I intend to go swimming this a.m. Sent three more rolls of movie film home yesterday so will have plenty to show as well as tell you when we do get together. Hope this finds every one in good health & happy. Don't worry about me. I'll be seeing you. Love to all.

Bro. Wally

#### CORRESPONDENCE

July 16, 1944

Dear Big & Little Doris ÷  
June – Pearl – Ethel & all –

How's that for a heading. Im just going to have to send the mail to all of you to Pearls as I find I'm going stale here trying to keep up with all of your letters. Please don't feel slighted any of you and I just can't keep up letter for letter. I tried to keep up with all of you and I missed writing to my Honey for six days & didn't know it, and then I forgot to put a stamp on it and I got it back eight days later. Was I burned up – and that's bad in this heat – Hey! Hey! She will probably be quite a spell without any mail and I sure don't want that to happen as I know how I felt when I waited so long for a letter. You kids have been swell and you all really poured it to me. I got a letter from Edna also and have answered it. Im begining to run out of material to write about and I had better get out and see whats going on.

I took a trip yesterday on my day off to see a fellow from Harvey that has been stationed near here for nineteen months & Oh boy what a trip. Can you picture me thumbing a ride out on the desert with the sand blowing about 35 Miles Per hour

I caught one of these amphibious trucks that travel on land or water and did just that. It pulled right off the shore into the river and came out about two blocks further down. They sure are some truck and serve their purpose well. I had dinner with this fellow and I had to wait until two o'clock to get a ride back and then thumb a ride to our camp which landed me here at five thirty. Was I bushed & thirsty. I had supper and a good supper and then sat down to try & answer eight V-mail letters & I'm still doing it. You know we get through it two in the afternoon, but when we get home & have a shower we all take a nap until five o'clock. By the time I get back from supper it's near six and I try to go to bed around nine or nine thirty as four a.m. comes along pretty quick. If I go to a show that means no letter writing. I hope you can see the position I am in and don't feel bad if I send all the mail to Pearls. I know you all are there pretty often and I can keep up with all of you better that way. My hand perspires so much to night I have trouble moving it – so that's the reason for the bum writing. I got Doris's five V-mails and was very glad to get them, but I don't want you to go to a lot of expense sending the mail that way

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if you have very much to say. I found that out when I sent four to Irene – cost me twenty four cents. I will send V-mail when I haven't much to say – otherwise it will be a letter.

I got ~~A~~ Doris Mays letter and was sorry to hear Primo had to go. It's tough to be separated like that but I think it will be harder on him than it will her as she has the baby & all of you to kind of keep her busy. It will be so much sweeter when when we all get together again – That's what I am looking forward to.

Tell Doris I knew about the invasion alright but we are careful of what we write so that's why I never mentioned it.

I'm getting My Honeys letters better now and I'm sorry as hell I hurt her feelings as that's one thing I wouldn't want to do for all the world. She's forever helping some one with her good heartedness. It's something she has that nobody can take away. "God Bless her." I got the first funnies she sent but I won't get Irene K's book for sometime yet.

Sorry to hear Al had a cold but is feeling better now. I have been wondering about Bro Bob I don't know if he was ~~st~~ still in the hospital when you wrote or not. Hope he doesn't have to much trouble with his finger. He sure gets the tough breaks. And Irene selling gas

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I'd like to have a picture of that. But that's just like her. Always there in a pinch.

So Joe got a promotion. That's swell that he won't have to travel so far anymore. I suppose Effie will make a trip with him once in a while.



You say you have a lot of things to ask me and then when you write you can think of them. I carry a little note book and when I see or hear of something interesting I just jot it down. If I didn't I would be sitting here gazing out in to space.

My work is in and outside work and I arrange it so I do the outside work in the morning and stay in out of the sun in the afternoon. I haven't been doing much of anything yet, as my line of work is not quite ready for me. Its not hard work and I would rather be doing it than sitting around like I'm doing. I expect to get started this next week though as I have received a bunch of drawings and am studying them.

Well kids I'll have to close for now as the sand man is sneaking up on me. Tell Francis I'll be glad to hear from her. I will write again soon.

All my Love to all of you.

Always  
Bro & Uncle Wally.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

August – 9 – 1944

Dear Doris and the Gang ÷

Received your ever welcome letter this A. M. and since you request a letter for your book I will endeavor to write one now, altho I don't know as yet what it will be about.

First of all I can tell you I am waiting to be shipped Out of here and It can't come to soon to please me. I haven't really explained to any of the folks back home just why I have decieded to clear out of here. When I arrived here on June sixth there were a lot of fellows that had the diarrheas and had to go to the hospital. I was one of them and stayed there three nights and two days. I never mentioned it before because I did not want any unnecessary worrying done. I always felt all right since but I never once have had a solid bowel movement. I had a few jobs to do in the kitchen and after I seen the way the coolies worked and how dirty they were, it seemed I just couldn't eat. A lot times I would eat and then come

right home & lose it. It got to where I wasn't sleeping good from it and I began to get nervous, so I just went in to the supt. & told him how it was and that I thought it best that I get Out while the getting was good. I said I didn't want to run myself down to where I would be subjected to one of the fevers that hit you so sudden here. He didn't like it very well as I had been praised up by some of the boys that I had worked with back home and that were already here when I came. All the control rooms that they have had such lousy work done in them that he wanted

to show the ~~brit~~ british a nice neat job & I was supposed to do it. (I found all this out later.) Well to make a long story short he finally accepted my resignation and so I have been waiting for this boat home. It looks very much like it will be a Birthday present as that's the date I got now.

Its pretty hard to figure just when I'll arrive in N. Y. as it can take any where from four to six weeks. I have given "My Honey" a date and I hope I can come pretty close to it. Of coarse if I get

3

anything definate and I can send last minute V-mail I will do so. I am feeling fine and manage to get enough to eat so don't worry. Just keep that Fox De Lux cold for me. One of the things that's bad here is the dust storms and although the wind can be blowing all night at a pretty good rate the dust doesn't seem to start until the sun is well up and plenty hot. That's usually around nine or ten o'clock. The sun seems to draw the dust up in swirrells or like cones, like pictures you have seen of a cyclone. Then the wind will take it and presto we have a dust storm. We hadn't had one for about a week and just cause I had decieded to go swiming today, one came up.

I see by your letter that Pearl had a sore finger. Did you write before abut it? I have slowed up with all letters as I was just writing V mail cause I wanted to let you all know as soon as possible to stop writing. One of the fellows here that I traveled with is going to take care of all my mail & packages and if there is anything he thinks I should have he will

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send them on to me. I've lost so much interest in this place that I just can't right a decent letter. I will have plenty of time to write on board ship and I will see if I can't get a few done up & send them to you from N. Y. I have quite a few things to refer to in my little (Red) Books so I had ought to be able to end your book (as far as I'm concerned) in pretty good style. How's that.

The dates here now have taken on a yellowish color and everybody says they will be ripe a lot earlier this year – but not soon enough for me to bring some home. I would like to be able to stop where George's uncle lives on the way back and pick up a few more presents but if I don't – I'll just have to give all of you "me". The stuff I have sent I hope gets home alright – then everybody can at least have some perfume. Well dobut, I will have to cut this short as I'm starting to suck on the end of this pen.

Hope everybody is O.K. -- Don't worry about me as I'll be seeing you.

All my Love to all of you – as Ever

Bro. Wally.

## CORRESPONDENCE

August – 14 -1944

Dear Doris & All ÷

Cool enough this A. M. to be able to write as we have passed from the Gulf of Persia & through the Straits of Hormuz into the Arabian sea. We will have a few days of this cool weather and then we will be back into the frying pan again.

Yesterday the water temperature in the Gulf of Persia was 89° with little or no breeze. The Red sea ahead of us (probably means red hot sea) and about four days of that before we can settle down to enjoying our ride home. – 10,000 miles from home and traveling about eleven miles an hour. Take time out sometimes and figure that Out - I'm afraid too.

After seeing these wogs eat the swill from the galley including chicken heads, tails & guts – need I say more when I say I'm glad to be on my way home. It takes a pretty good man with a stout stomach to take the things I've seen and stay among them. A lot of the boys want to come home but can't because of the draft.

I took the heat O. K. but I will say I don't want any more of it as life is so short to pack one's self away in a

2

filthy country such as we were in. Some of the fellows breaking out with boils prickly heat that drives you nuts and half lousy all the time from being near these wogs. Not for this chicken. If patriotism came in to the picture at all I would have tried to stay, but the British took that out of us with their red tape and indifference to it – till we just give up.

Well its another day and quite a rough one at that. We are bucking a head wind and pretty rough seas which makes this freighter roll & pitch plenty. Not sea sick but plenty light headed. Eat three good square meals today and had a two hour nap. We are in dangerous waters so black out is in effect. I think I'll walk the deck tomorrow as I feel I need exercise.

This is tomorrow and I did walk the deck. We have strong head winds today and this old tub pitches & rolls like a cork. Every time the propeller leaves the water it feels like we hit something. We talk with the crew & fool around with a police dog the boys have on board. Was down & talked to the cook & spent about two hours with him. Found out he used to work on the Leviathan and I

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don't doubt it as he sure throws a mean skiddle. If we had food like we are getting here in Abadan I would still be there. The cook took me down & showed me the Ice boxes & all the supplies – some lay out. Meat – fish – chicken – turkeys – Eggs – Butter – Pork – its just like walking into a meat market. Other store rooms had can goods & juices – potatoes & onions – Enough food left for about two months. They bake bread & biscuits – cake & muffins so you can see we eat swell. I ought to put on some weight as I sure don't do anything to work it off.

This is Saturday A. M. – didn't write for a few days as there wasn't anything to write about. Was offered the job as galley boy by the steward but the captain says to wait until we hit Aden to see if there are any stranded seaman there. Hope not as I could sure use the \$175 <sup>00</sup> I'd make by the time we dock. We changed our course yesterday and instead of a lot of pitching we did a lot of rolling. Once in a while I got a funny feeling in my stomach but I get Out in the air and it goes away. Haven't been sea sick yet. Saw a lot of phosphorous in the water last night. A better way to describe it is to say – Like so many hundreds of fine flies ~~flies~~ in the water. It sure is a sight to see.

Our trip from Abadan to Aden figures about 1954 miles and we have the best part of it put away. Warm winds are blowing this A. M. so that means we are in for more hot weather soon. If you will look on the map you will see that I will circle Arabia completely by the time I hit Port said again. We will pass the hottest place on earth when we pass the piece called Hadhramant – near Aden.

We had a submarine scare Saturday in the Arabian sea so we were forced to change our course and go quite a ways out so we will arrive at Aden later than we would of otherwise.

Tied up at Aden for five hours and took on a sailor that had been in the hospital there as galley boy so my job blew up. This port of Aden is a pretty good sized town – strictly limey – a large rock sticking up out of the water with all the buildings set on its slope. No food is raised on this island so it all has to come across the desert by camel – 100 miles away. Goats & fish are the chief meats. We seen some of the boats that went by us pretty well loaded with fish – red suckers – shark.

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and what have you.

Sunday morning and we are tied up at Aden. Didn't sleep very good last nite as we had to black out and also put the screen in the port hole – not much air when thats in. Most of us has prickly heat and it itches like hell. It kept me awake most of last nite.

Pulled anchor at two P.M. so we are on our way again. Most of the boys dread this trip through the red sea as it was the hottest place they ever sailed through.

Hot as hell last nite so was on deck when we went through the straits into the Red sea.

Monday morning and a slight head breeze is keeping the heat down a little. The water in this Red sea tests at 93° so it looks like we are in for about four days of real heat. If we can keep a breeze everything will be O.K. We passed a formation of rocks late this afternoon. One looked as if it was a volcano, as it had the round cone shape and a flat crater top. Sides looked as if hot ore had rolled over its surface at some time in the past. This land we are near now was where the Egyptians & Moses~~+~~ had there day.

Well here it is Tuesday A.M and we have a dust storm to contend with. Dust is like fog and it gets in hair & throat to add to the misery of this heat. Heavy winds and a rough sea doesn't make it any better either. Sighted a few ships on horizons when this dust storm abated this early evening. Calm & still & hot as hell since wind went down.

Clear – Hot and Calm seas this A.M. but we have a fair breeze which gives us a bit of relief from this heat. We sure have been getting the breaks from this breeze as its hot as hell when it stops. I have been reading “All the Trumpets sounded” as we went through the red sea. It's all about Moses & the red sea and mount siani right where we are now. We watched the Porpoise race with our boat and end up at the bow and go in & out of the water with great speed. They sure can travel

Entered the Gulf of suez this Thursday afternoon and have land on both sides of us. Mostly rock hills & ridges. We sat on the bow of the boat and watched the flying fish. They come out of the water & skim through the air in a long glide that takes them well ahead of the ship. A beautiful sunset to end this day in color. The mountains for a back

## 7

ground the sun set in a ball of Gold. The reflected colors changing to a soft brown & finally to a pale pink. I look for the sunsets daily as it's the only thing that seems to quite the nerves on this cattle boat. I will say I have never seen so many stars as seem to shine in this country. Of course out here on the water we have a clear view of the whole horizon and the stars seem to go down to the horizon too. The Milky way is as clear as a crystal and predominant. Here as in Abadan it seems as if a star falls about every ten or fifteen minutes. Many a night when I was sleeping Out side and lying flat on my back under my netting I have counted as high as twenty falling stars.

Well we are in the bay of suez and anchored waiting for orders. No shore leave as suez has black plange and not a healthy place to be. Its hot & sticky here with very little breeze. Suez has quite a few two & three story brick buildings and is a welcome sight from where we are parked. Many of the natives have come out in their sail boats to try & sell us souvenirs, but the prices they asked is terrible. To say no to these

## 8

wogs means nothing. I hate to see them come near cause when they are around the flies will be with them. How so many flies can get this far from shore I'll never know but I do know we are lousy with them again and they just about drive us nuts. Prospects of getting rid of these flies are slim as we can look forward to more of them at the next port as we have to stop there to form the convoy. This is a limy port so we don't expect much action towards getting out of here. Anytime the limys have there finger in the pie, we look for delays – and get them.

Well we are riding through the desert on a boat – via the suez canal. We left early this morning and we have land on both sides of us – if I can call it land. Sand & more sand – wogs & more wogs.

Well sis I have set a date to meet my Honey in New York and if we can only keep going now I think I will make it.

Well its three oclock & we have anchored again. Half of the crew got shore leave but the passenger passes never came so we will just have to stay aboard. We got notice to take our passports ashore to the U.S.

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counsel to be stamped so we will surley get passes to-morrow.

It cooled off late last night so we got a good nites sleep as we didn't have to put the screen in the port hole as there is no black out here any more. Quite a difference to see this place lit up at night. When we were here before it was dark as hell by nine oclock and it was every easy to get lost.

We didn't get any passes so we went ashore on our refinery pass. It's a lucky thing we did as our passports were not in order & it would mean plenty delay in N.Y. if they were not fixed here. I visited with Geo's uncle again and he was sure glad to see me. I couldn't find an interpreter so had a hard time trying to talk to him.

Went ashore again today and took Nick Patti with me as Geo's uncle can speak five or six languages – Italian being one of them. We had quite a talk then. He called up Geo's cousin to see if he could come here but he has been sick and has gone to Kantara to rest up. He is in the Greek navy. Sent a V-mail to my honey & had four or five ~~dis~~ drinks of cognac

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with the uncle. Played cards in the evening and then sat out on deck & looked at the moon. It is almost full & bright as hell.

No more shore leave so that means we will probally pull out of here tomorrow. Washed & ironed my clothes & pressed pants. Laid around & read – played hearts in evening.

Hot this A.M. Sure will be glad for a cool Mediterranean breeze. Hot cakes & bacon & coffee for breakfast.

On the go once again – thank the Lord. Lots of sights here that the war has left. Another day and we are going slow off the coast of Alexander. Took a sun bath today and burned my rear end to try & get rid of prickly heat. Most of the boys have it & it itches like hell. The moon came up this P.M. in a ball of fire and changed to a bright orange – turning or paleing to silver. Sure beautiful – wish you and my Honey could see this.

Labor day – all cleaned up & no place to go. Turkey for dinner but it was to much for me. One of those the Indians missed. Took a sun bath today & by now I am pretty well done – dam near burn't to a cinder. We are beginning

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to see rock ridges & mountains which means the African coast. A fog or mist usualy hangs over the top but we are able to get a good view. After our ride through the Arabian & the Red seas its good to be able to ride along and see land near by.

Clear & hot to day & this Med. is calm & quite as a swiming pool. Not much we can do on board – so we walk the deck or go to the bow & watch the porpoise race the boat. A lot of flying fish here too.

Another beautiful sunset this evening. The sun set in the usual ball of fire and sprayed its colors on the wind swept clouds – Orange Orange-red-purple-pink with a blue sky for a back ground. These are some of the things I will always remember. Played cards & hit the sack at mid-nite.

Clear & warm this A.M. and I'm getting awfully tired of eating hot cakes. The eggs could peep if they would set them in the sun awhile & I can't eat cereals with caned milk. Salt Mackeral & Finin Haddi just about turns me inside out so I guess it will just have to be Hot cakes. We have sausages once in a while – but once was enough of that too. They are ready to bark also.

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We had some excitement at noon today. We were headed straight for a mine and the boys seen it just in time to miss it. One of the escort came in and circled it till we all were out of danger and then he pulled off & began shooting at it. The seventh shot did the trick & it blew up with an orange flash & a colum of water high in the air. It makes me think back to when we were up at the bow and watching the porpoise. If we should have hit one of them it would have been to bad.

Our American escort joined us today and believe me you its sure good to see. Had a sudden squall that broke our barrage balloon so we all got a sovineer from it. First rain I have seen since May. Plenty of wind with it too. Rough seas & cool.

Cloudy & cool this A.M. Slept good in spite of the rolling & pitching.

Cleaned up this afternoon so I had my sun bath. Another beautiful sunset. I don't wonder that artists can't match these colors and blend them like I have seen tonite.

Missed writing for three or four days as there wasn't much to write about but we are nearing the Rock of Gibraltar so I will try to

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give you a picture of it.

We have formed four columes to go thru the straits so there is ships as far a the eye can see. I have been up on the captains bridge all morning helping him paint the name plates. I broke my pen but have fixed it with glue & tape. The Rock of Gib is high & long & the pictures you have seen of it are the other end of what we are passing now. On the sides are two concret slabs that catch the rain water and runs it to tanks down be low. That's the way the people there get there drinking water. Many buildings can be seen at the base & on the slopes of the other side.

The last sight of land was the Spanish Morroco coast at 8.P.M.

Well we have been in the Atlantic for five or six days and we have had sub warnings & rain squalls & sunsets but we are on the last lap so nothing worrys me.

In the Gulf stream now and its quite warm again so I have had a series of sun baths.

Well Kid I hope I will be able to send this to you for your letter book and when you get it you will know I have arrived & will see you in a about a week. Love to all.

Bro. Wally