

14 May 1945
Monday Evening

Dearest Folks,

this past week has been an momentous one for us all. VE Day has now come and the great job of rehabilitation has started in the European theater. It was hard for me or any one else out here to feel anything but thanksgiving when I heard the news. It has been too long and hard, and the ending came almost as expected; for any of us to be over joyous or wilsonian about the news. I imagine that those serving in that area are very happy now and I do hope they are given a chance to get at least a leave before many of them come out this way. The war is still too close out here for any other feeling but that another day toward the inevitable end of all this, has passed.

I have been busy this past week, more so than usual. It has been in some respects filled with pleasant surprises. I shall tell you about one of them.

one Monday last I had started to get into our truck to take the laundry down to the quartermaster laundry. As I climbed into the truck a voice said are you from Alberta, and as I turned around and said yes I noticed a soldier standing behind me. It was Ralph Knight.
J. H. Albertson.

we had gotten word from Dad that I was here
so he came down on his day off. It was good to
see him and altho I never did know him too good
personally still we have a lot in common. He
spent the rest of Monday with me here, leaving at
about 1600. He is part of the ground crew here at the
B 29 base. We spent the day remembering old names
and places. He told me a lot about people we both
knew in Denver and Wash park. I showed him
some of the pictures of the family and he showed me
a picture of his wife - formerly a King girl I
believe; also his 15 months old baby. On Thursday
no it was Friday evening I went up to his base
and had chow with him. After words we went to
the show there together. By the way the show
was pretty good. It was a stage show from the
state - all music and a comedy tap dance number.
Jackie Cooper, Dennis Day and a couple others were
part of it. It was good to spend the afternoon and
evening with Ralph and I plan on seeing
him again soon.

We have been having some trouble with our gear
this past week, I think the worst of it is over now
tho. It is stated that my plans for the future are
not to stay in this radio business ~~but~~ for I certainly
have been getting some good experience this
past month in particular. It is interesting tho and
I enjoy it.

Our basket ball team is still going, maybe not
strong, but still going. We played two games during
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the past week, and won both of them.

In the game we had on Thursday, coming back it was cool and I didn't have a jacket or anything. It was sweetly and hot, and I guess I cooled off too fast for I have a cold now. I have been trying to get rid of it and the "Doc" has been giving me some stuff for it.

Yesterday was Mother's Day. All of you were very much in my thoughts, especially you mom. I spent the day by going to chapel in the morning, and sleeping all afternoon. It is strange I have been standing these watches for almost eleven months now and yet I cannot get use to them as for the hours they make. I still dislike getting up at midnight or even 4 in the morning to go on watch. I am glad we are able to sleep some afternoons, for that helps compensate for the rest we miss in the afternoons.

The chapel service was good yesterday. The message the chaplain gave was good and timely and it did me a great deal of good. As I sat in chapel yesterday I thought how good it shall seem to be in a church, once more, and to participate in the service of one. things I miss most are like the choir and glee club, the flowers, hearing the organ play and mostly Lewis' dad's sermons. It shall not be too long tho I hope.

Lots of love

Jim

J.H. Albertson 1253/2