

Tuesday, Sept. 9th 1941. 19-57-H

Dear William:

Your letter via regular mail or rather mailed in Jersey City, N.J. arrived last Friday and we were so glad to hear from you. We had been expecting to receive a letter for a week or more. The last one was written on July 29th just after your arrival in Lisbon.

I had wished to get a letter off to you last week but it is hard times to get the typewriter when I have the time to use it, so I have to take my chance. The book work is quite heavy with all the different reports ect. Owens Corning buy quite a bit from us and that all has to be invoiced every day as do several of the others. It is nice that you are having such a good time in Lisbon, it must be quite a change for you to get to an English speaking movie now and then.

We are all wondering where you will be sent or if you may not get to come home. I felt sure that the Dakar station would be out of the question. From this side the situation seems to be getting a little better for the allies. The Russians are holding out much better than was expected and seem to be causing much more trouble than the Germans expected. From the dispatches it would seem that there is much trouble in France. I do not know as yet what the American reaction to the sinking of the Seafarer will be. The President is to speak on Thursday night and is to have a very important message, hope you will be able to get it on your radio.

You never told us how much of your belongings you were able to take out with you and whether or not you ever received the supplies which you had expected before you left Italy. I hope that you were able to bring all of your books with you.

Late summer is with us now and while the weather has been quite hot we do have a few cool nights and the tinge of fall is in the air. The Jonathan apples are getting ripe and Penick picked over a hundred bushel of ours and took them to Cleveland along with others from his orchard. The first week or two in September they bring a fair price in Cleveland and these were very nice. The apple crop, on the whole, is large this year although this is the off year for us and we have no delicious or Grimes but plenty of Jonathan and Stayman. The grapes are just fair this year and we have started to harvest them this week. I am afraid that I have more sold than I can furnish. Will have a job hauling them in this next week or ten days. Sarah is teaching school now and it goes rather hard as the weather has been quite warm and Spanish is new.

We have been staying in the country at nights until this last week, the glads are still blooming and have had some very nice ones the past couple of weeks.

I do hope that Janie has written to you and you have received it by this time. I told her as soon as we heard from you and you should have had a letter by this time. She has a position with the Stern Company in the drapery department and works part time. She is looking for something better, but I am just afraid with the coming scarcity of all materials that the interior decorating will not be any too good. I do wish that she had taken up teaching of some kind for teachers are in demand and it would have been so much better. I did my best to get her to do it but to do avail. We had a letter from Lillian several weeks ago and they wanted to know all about you, Sarah wrote to them and gave them the news.

The scarcity of all materials in working a hardship on our business as well as all others. We are having trouble getting almost all goods in our line and as we do not have much defense work we can do nothing with priororaties. The Rugg Company can sell not rope expect that it goes in defense work and the jobbers can or do not sell more than two keg of nails of one kind at one time. We have had a car of nails ordered for about a month and I am doubtful if we get them. I can't understand how we are to pay the defense taxes if we cannot have merchandise to sell. Something will have to be done or we will be out of business within a year.

Grandpa is over in Columbus visiting Harold and we expect him back to Newark this week end. Did I tell you that Herman and Betty took a long trip through the Black Hills and some of the National Parks in the west. They had so much rainy weather that they could not enjoy it to the limit.

We are getting ready for the Community Chest drive and that will mean a lot of work for quite a few of us. We had a budget meeting last night and will have to have several more. All the agencies want more that it is possible to raise and they all have to be pared down and they do not like that.

Well dear boy, I hope we will hear from you real soon again and that when we do you will know your fate. We all wish that you will get to come home at least for a time. It really looks as thogh you would for it would seem that there are not many places left where you could be sent.

Miss Ball alawys asks about you and I think it would be nice if you would send her a card. Mrs E.C. Wright is still in the hospital and I doubt very much if you ever gets well, her recovery has been to slow and her age against her.

Next Sunday we are having the Ryders and Loring's over for dinner and trust that the weather will be nice. The last time they came it rained all day and not so enjoyable.

With all my love and very best wishes, I must close as there are too many interruptions to do much good writing. I think you were a better letter when you do the typing, you tell us more news.

Again with love and best wishes from all of us, I am,

Yours,

*Laddy.*