

11-12-1945

Letter #51 from Bob Jones to His Parents

Bob Jones

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/lca_bobjones

Recommended Citation

Jones, Bob, "Letter #51 from Bob Jones to His Parents" (1945). *Bob Jones Collection*. 3.
https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/lca_bobjones/3

This Letter is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield, with permission from the rights-holder(s). Your use of this Letter must comply with the [Terms of Use](#) for material posted in DigitalCommons@Linfield, or with other stated terms (such as a Creative Commons license) indicated in the record and/or on the work itself. For more information, or if you have questions about permitted uses, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.

November 12, 1945
Wiesbaden

Dear Mom and Dad,

I received your letters 44 and 45 in reverse order as quite often happens nowadays. I now have all through 45.

Yesterday Leo, my roommate, and I decided that it was getting a little too cold in our room and forthwith installed a stove. Actually, it has been too cold in here for some time but we've been expecting to go out in the field every other day and were of the opinion that it wouldn't be worth the trouble of carting it up from the cellar. But we had to draw the line somewhere and yesterday provided the place.

Today is a holiday for us as Armistice Day fell on a Sunday. I celebrated both days by sleeping till noon, a rare luxury hitherto.

claimed only on an occasional Sunday.

Last week in a raffle or drawing at the local PX I won the chance to buy a darned good camera. It's a brand new model, the newest Agfa out, the "Karat". It cost me 27 dollars but is worth easily over 100 dollars here and even more in the States. As a matter of fact, one of our officers, who also won a "Karat", was offered 150 bucks cash by a German camera dealer a couple of days ago. I'll soon be sending you snaps taken by myself with my camera instead of some one else's. Also I'll send you a picture of the camera. It's a beaut and I can consider myself very lucky.

The last five or six days have been very dreary and overcast. We've had some cold rains but no snow yet. Right now, 3:30 PM, it is almost

too dark here in my room to write in spite of the fact that we have a large west triple window. I can't have any light for another half hour as the electricity is off from 9 to 11 and 1 to 4 every day for fuel conservation. With every line I write, it seems to get darker as though the sun were setting a few hours early.

The shaving brush you gave me for Christmas has been put to use and is a damned good one. The one I had been using was kinda falling apart and never was very satisfactory anyway. I'm glad you didn't get the "lifetime" job as I think I'll probably want at least one more before I die, as you say.

The Toussaint's Christmas box came day before yesterday and was

-4-

promptly opened in line with my present policy of not waiting till Christmas. I'm opening everything and then putting aside a part of each box for use on the 25TH. I'm also saving a few items for Thanksgiving. Joe + Bees + Doris made up a very nice box with cookies, candies, candy and a couple of books. I've already read one of the books but you don't have to mention it 'cause the others on the team will want to read it, too. They sent a few packages (envelopes) of a seven-minute noodle soup which we tried out last night. It worked - and was delicious.

I got another Xmas package from Rae, too. She sent two books - "The Screwtape Letters" and Oscar Levant's "Smattering of Ignorance" both of which I'd started but not finished. After all the guys

read them I'll probably send them home for you to keep so's to reduce my baggage weight.

Nov. 13

I kinda got interrupted last night at the above point but I'll finish up now. Today your letters 46 and 47 came, at least I presume the second one is #47. Yes, you're right, there are two #41 but I'll bet you don't have a record of another (I'm calling it 41c!) which you wrote on the 17th. However, it doesn't make much difference, I have them all now, I guess.

There's a possibility I may get a three-day pass in Paris starting tomorrow. One of the fellows on my team won the pass in a drawing but doesn't want to go. So, if we can get the orders changed in the morning, I'll go in his place tomorrow afternoon. Leo Mahley, my roommate also is going. More details

later.

I was awfully sorry to hear about Mr. Smith's misfortune. It must be pretty tough for a man as active as he to be tied down - or laid up - for so long. Maybe he'll look at it as a rest, though. The greatest loss, though, will be to the Church. Many people in South Youlers will miss an important part of their "education" and enlightenment by his absence from the pulpit.

7 fruit cakes are definitely not the least-cared-for food delicacy in this outfit. I hope you have sent one. As I told you I was saving Rae's for Christmas but if I hear that you're sending one too, I'll break out hers for Thanksgiving.

I'm very glad to hear that Aunt Carrie and you are sending "Time".

I'd debated asking for Time or Newsweek, but my Economics advisor recommends the former so I followed his say. I'll be looking forward to the first issue eagerly. Yes, Readers Digest is very acceptable though I haven't read a copy in months. Leo has been getting a subscription but it is expiring shortly. Thanks for sending the H.T. forum material. It hasn't come yet but will soon no doubt.

I hope you're sending me all the local election news you can get. The "Home News" comes pretty late and so won't have be of much help in alleviating my curiosity. I've heard of the election of O'Dwyer, Curley, in Boston, and Frankensteen's defeat in Detroit. But that's all so far so you can see how meagre our

news from the local points at home is.

The clipping on the German Occupation which you sent from the Statesman was very interesting and very similar to articles recently appearing in some GI publications over here. The Stars and Stripes, our daily newspaper, is running a series of articles on the War Criminals and their crimes ~~to~~ as a constant reminder to us of the reasons that we are here. Though not expressed, the impression - apparently attempted is that we must expect to occupy Germany for a long time - a time long enough to set up machinery of government of such a nature that these crimes may never again be committed. Yank Magazine, unfortunately due soon to go out of publication, is also printing similar articles. "Army Talks", an-

other Army magazine patterned on more serious lines than "Yank" recently devoted an entire issue to the War Criminals, their trials and their crimes. The articles retell many of the most horrible of the atrocity stories and some new ones besides. I believe, after reading these three publications, that someone in the Army is attempting in a serious and earnest, and certainly high pressure manner to give the soldier something to think about.

Someone knows what the war was fought for and is trying to keep that knowledge always before us.

But these publications can do only what they are doing - printing the truth. No one can make the GI read it. And believe me I know plenty of fellows who pass up

these articles when they run across them. Those men will have to be reached by some other method - I don't know how.

As for this fraternizing business, that is, of course, a personal problem in most cases, but of course because it is so prevalent and so potent in its political implications, everybody can see it as his problem too. Frankly again, I don't know what's to be done. The Army can't - as was proven - prohibit fraternization. Any G.I. can talk himself into it with the "C'est la guerre" or self pity attitude or any of a number of other arguments. Also there are a few good Germans - yes they are! and it's pretty hard for a good-natured fellow to pass up the opportunity of being friendly with them when he has it. I guess

the only answer is counter-propaganda such as the Stars + Stripes and Yank are helping to spread.

I sincerely hope the General Eisenhower isn't made Chief of Staff in Marshall's place because I believe Dim (Dwight) to be the most highly qualified man for the very difficult and important job of "occupying" Germany. He is the one, I believe, who can come closest to solving the problems I've been raving about on the too-many preceding pages. One of the strongest reasons I have for thinking this is that he is almost worshipped by the men here in the E.T.O. I have hardly ever heard anyone speak unwell of him. Last week at a football game in Frankfurt I saw the whole stadium full of G.I.'s rise and cheer him as he walked across the field.

Believe me, that indicates a pretty high state of morale when a superior officer is spontaneously cheered by his men. He would, I think, by this respect held for him by his subordinates, stand a good chance of enlightening the occupation troops on their very important job over here.

Don't know what got into me to spout off for so long but I guess I've wanted to say some of those things for a long time. Hope you can read it all. My poor penmanship isn't aided much by having to write on my knee.

Must close now. My next card may be from - Paris; who knows!

Love to you and Aunt Carrie & Tom & Jean. Tell them I plan and expect to write them soon.

Bob