

Mon. Nite
July 12, 1943

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Landolt;

I've been working so terribly hard that I haven't had the chance to write to you thanking the Church for the much appreciated gift box that they sent. I've tried day after day to write the letter but my work keeps me so busy that I have very little time for my correspondence. Please forgive me, because I'm really sorry that I haven't written sooner. Please thank the members of the Church for me and tell them of my appreciation of their thoughtfulness to the fellows in the Service.

I've had very little practice on the typewriter since leaving college so please forgive the many mistakes that will most likely follow.

By the way I think the pamphlets and the paper the church is now publishing is very good. Its so nice to know where your friends that you grew up with are now located during the critical period we are now undergoing. I want to write to so many of them and will when I get the time and with the help of the addresses in the paper I can keep in touch with so many of them.

I'm getting along fine with my work although it has been hard ever since we arrived in Calif. I'm unable to tell you what I'm doing but I know you will understand. Its so very nice out here, in fact the climate is unbelievable. We have hot days and such cool nites, in fact we sleep under two blankets which I know is very much the other way around in Morehead. Mom says its terribly hot back home and that it does'nt seem to let up one bit. Guess I'm pretty lucky at that and I have to thank the army for me being in Calif. I doubt very much if I would ever get here any other way.

I've been up in the Redwood District several times and its like a picture. You can hardly believe the trees grow as large as they are here. The scenry is almost to beautiful to be true, but its all here and honest its something everyone should see if it is at all possible. I've also been down to San Francisco several times and have seen so many interesting places. Its pretty heavily guarded now and big guns pointing skyward are very common.

Petaluma is a very nice place, a little larger than Morehead, but I don't think as lively. There are several army camps close by and over the weekend its pretty crowded. and there is so very little to do. A movie is about all they have worth seeing, but the people seem awfully friendly to the boys. They have built a very nice USO and all are welcome.

I think I may be home the last of August on furlough at least I'm trying to. Its going to be pretty hard for any of our crew to get off now so I'm keeping my fingers crossed that it goes through. Nothing like trying is my motto.

We have quite a number of boys from Kentucky here, in fact there are five in the barracks I'm in. One happens to be from Lexington and he is such a nice fellow. We have many interesting talks about home and we always share our papers we get from home.

How are all the Sailors getting along in Morehead? I imagine they are about all of the boys that are left in town arn't they? How many do you all have at Young Peoples?

Well I must close for now so when you all get a little extra time drop me a line please. I will answer as soon as I possibly can. Tell all hello and that I hope to be home soon.

Sincerely -

Jack Helwig Jr.

MUST WASH MY
HANDS A LITTLE
BETTER FROM NOW
ON, I SEE. AHEM!!
DISGUSTING, ISN'T IT?? HA!!



Pfc Jack Helwig Jr

Sun. Afternoon

Dear Mrs. Battson

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the gifts you sent me. I think they are wonderful and I appreciate them so much. The people back home have been so nice about sending me presents and they have made Army life so much easier for me.

I know how the women of the church are sending gifts to the boys in the service and I think its one of the nicest things ever done.

I like the Signal corp. just fine and my work is very interesting. Its going to help me so much when I return to ~~the~~ civilian life.

Experience like this will always be a big help to a man. It looks as though I may be here for a long time but you can't plan too much on what the army says. You may be transferred any day. but I'm hoping I stay here in old Va.

The people are swell to us. They try to make us feel at home. I was down to see my girl friend at Newport last week. I had a 3 day pass so I went down. I get off 1 day a week and 3 days every 5 weeks.

Well I must close now but I will write you a longer letter soon. Thanks again for the presents Mrs. Battson and I appreciate them so much. Tell all hello and also please note my new address on the envelope.

Jack Helwig Jr.