

Apr 30, 1944

Dear Mrs. Chert,

I wrote to you last summer right after I received the addresses from the government. Soon after I received your letter. I didn't answer it as I thought you had received mine.

Today I got a letter from Billie, my sister-in-law and she enclosed your letter to her.

There certainly isn't much left to hope for after receiving all this news from Lannon and Kippe.

I had so much hope before I heard from them.

Bud went down to Billie's in Lyons, Kansas from Breunig, with my husband and me once. I think he enjoyed the trip I know Billie was so happy to meet one of Mike's crew members. We all thought quite a bit of Bud, Mike said over and over that he was the best engineer on the field.

Also when we were in Tucson he came over to the house with Mike a few times so I knew him better than most

the others.

I wish I had some better news than that which we've heard, but everyone seems to say the same thing.

I know Mike received the Air Medal and one oak Leaf Chester but I haven't received it yet.

If you hear anything more I hope you will write me and I will do the same.

Very sincerely yours,
Betty and Thome

July 04, 1944

Dear Mrs Chert,

My husband was the pilot of the B-24 on which your son Mark was engineer. I am especially anxious to know if you have heard anything about your son.

Thieme used to bring him home and we all were better acquainted than with the rest of the crew.

I have heard from Mrs Lannon mother of Cpl. Lannon, one of the gunners. She said one of the bombardier's friends was based 40 miles from where my husband was in Italy. He went over to their base to find out what he could. He was told that all the crew bailed out & all shuttles opened. One of the crew, S/sgt Ingmar A Hippel is a prisoner

of the Rumanian government.

I also heard from Fran Belcher, sister of John Belcher, the radioman, she said he had died of wounds received in action over the Rumanian ~~and~~ frontier. He died April 11. I hope the rest of the boys have better luck. If you hear anything about the crew I hope you will write me.

Sincerely,

Mrs Betty Ann Shime

Oct 1, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Chert:

I certainly was glad to hear from you. I'm sorry you have had no news from your boy. I have a feeling the boys are safe somewhere but in no position to let you know. They surely must have landed somewhere on ground. They were too far away from water. We since have received a letter from the Rumanian Red Cross that John died in the Roussé Hospital not from wounds, but acute peritonitis. What it was caused from they didn't say. I don't know how an earth he got separated from the other boys. They didn't tell us the location of the hospital only that it was on the Rumanian Frontier. If the Hippie boy could only get back maybe we could find out some

information. It looks like that's
the only way we ever will. John
was somewhere between the 4th and
the 11th but where. He must have
been in a prison camp. We had a
letter from a boy that lives here
in Toronto and he says he talked
to a boy who said he would swear
their plane was shot down and that
the boys bailed out. If they did
they surely would be some word
of them the same as John and the
Lippie boy. I just can't understand
how they could disappear so
completely.

The govt has sent us quite
a bit of information. They even
told us the plane was last seen
over the target area at 1:55 P.M.
If you hadn't had any letters
from the govt I can send you
and you can look them over.
They probably sent you the same

thing though.

We received the Purple Heart
for John and it's beautiful. So we
have no hopes what so ever that
John is living. It was hard to give
John up and it still hurts. He was
bothered with his appendix while he
was in the states and I begged
him to get them ^{out}. He wouldn't do
it and I imagine that is what
caused his trouble. He may have
been sick in the plane and forced
to bail out. I guess we won't
know until we hear from the
other boys. I feel sure they are
safe. Thanks for writing and
I hope I hear some good news
from you soon. I know your
boy was able to take care of
himself under any circumstances and
of the others if need be.

Sincerely
Ernest Belcher.

Aug 3.

Dear Mrs. Ebert:

I am T. S. John W. Belchers
sister and I have been writing
these letters for my Dad. I wrote to
you on July 18th and now I can
understand why I didn't get an
answer. I never thought of you
having a different address. We
received a telegram on April 23rd
telling us John went down on
the Lawth. We received several
letters from the war department
but they couldn't tell us
anything. We had the names
and addresses of his old crew
but he changed after he
reached Italy. He went over
on Feb. 3 1944 and reached
there Feb 12th. They flew over.
On July 3rd we received another

2) Telegram saying John had died of
wounds received in action on April
11th. I don't know how or where.
The telegram said the Rumanian
Frontier and said they could not
tell us more until after the war.
I have received letters from every
one else and only the Hippe boy
has been reported besides John.
He is a prisoner of war of Rumania.
He couldn't say much only that
he was lucky to get out alive.
That ended all our hopes that
John's death may have been a
mistake. I have hoped and prayed
that the other boys are safe
and hidden somewhere. I wouldn't
give up hope because you have
so much more to look forward
to than we. It looks like the
only way we will ever find
out anything from John will
be from the Hippe boy and

3) he said in his letter to his mother he hoped to be home by Xmas. John was radio man on the plane. One report we had from Italy said one of the boys saw their plane shot down but thought they all bailed out to safety. John must have had a chance for he lived for seven days. I hope you hear soon and I know these other people have written for I received my letters two weeks ago. Your mail has been misplaced. If I hear any more I will write right away and don't give up. Just keep praying and keep your chin up. I know how hard it's been for us and you have awe heartfelt sympathy in this awful waiting. Miss Fran Belcher

1600 Chestern Avenue
Topeka, Kansas
July 18, 1944

Dear Mrs. Cherp:

Perhaps I should first introduce myself. I am Margaret Lannan, wife of the aerial engineer, who was on the same plane as your son, Mark.

You probably received the same telegram on April 24th as we did, reporting Mark "missing in action". Since then we have heard nothing more. After communicating with the next of kin of the others in the plane, we've found out that just one has been heard from. He is Ingmar Hippie, belly gunner, and he is also a prisoner of the Rumanian Government. Lt. Beck's mother wrote me and said she knew a friend who was based 40 miles from the boys in Italy. Upon request of her he went to the boys' base and after interrogation of other crews found out that the plane was shot down,

and they were almost sure they
all bailed out.

Maybe you have also received
some good news. I hope so.

If not keep hope and I'm
sure you will in the near future.

I had the pleasure of meet-
ing your son at Fairbury, Nebraska
and became more acquainted
with him while he was at the
Air Base here in Topeka. I
think you have a grand son.

Mrs. Ebert I would appreciate
it very much if you would
write and tell me of any inform-
ation you have concerning the
boys, and I readily assure you
I'll communicate with you if
I hear anything.

I'm praying that Mark
gets back to you just as I'm
praying Allan gets back to us,
so keep your hopes Mrs. Ebert
and if God sees fit we'll win.
Hoping to hear from you soon,

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Lannan

Essex, Ind.
Jan. 8, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Ebert:

Mary Agnes let me read the letter you wrote her. I am so sorry about your telegram from the war kept. We still have not heard officially from them so am still hoping and praying. We have one other son a 1st Lt. in the Trainers over seas twenty mos. Now in the Hawaiian Islands. Mary a secretary for the army and two little girls. We are farmers, farming three hundred fifty acres. The oldest boy was a college graduate but Med. stayed on the farm

to help us until he enlisted.
He would have been 22 the
twenty fifth of July. I don't
think he was a regular member
of that crew. The name of his
plane was the "Sky bandit"
written in German. He too
was an engineer (I don't think I
think) some one said he was
taking another bay place,
on the 4th of April. Did
the Gov. give you any
details? It's all like a terrible
dream. I have never felt
like Meddie was dead but
my husband always has since
the first. Would rather
think him dead than
suffering. In sympathy
Mrs. Phil Brouette.