

**ROLAND CHAMPAGNE**

**MY COMBAT YEARS**

**PART 5**

**THE ROAD HOME**



Dear Roland,

I thoroughly enjoyed our time together at San Diego last year (2013). My wife and I miss you and wish you could be with us but even so your son represents you well in your absence.

In Comradship,

Bob Siefert  
& Company, 381<sup>st</sup> Inf

on behalf of A  
of



DEAR ROLAND,  
HAVING SERVED IN G.O.K  
WITH YOU ON LEXTE AND  
OKINAWA I CAN APPRECIATE  
THE HARDSHIPS AND  
SACRIFICES YOU ENDURED.

YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT  
TO BE VERY PROUD OF  
WHAT YOU DID TO  
ACCOMPLISH OUR  
MISSION.

THANK YOU

Edwin Wright



Dear Roland,  
I was with you on Ahimasa  
and went through some of the things  
you talk about in your book.  
I was in Co. D. 381st Inf.  
A dogface, and remembered most  
of the things you talked about!!  
Had the pleasure of meeting you  
son at my 1st 96<sup>th</sup> Reunion in  
Chicago - 2014!!  
Reading your story, mate, we feel  
that I knew you - Sincerely,  
Chuck DeBaha  
Co. D. 381st Inf.  
96<sup>th</sup>



Roland,

Thanks for serving as a  
Deadeye with my father,  
Nels Olsen. We are in  
awe of the bravery and  
resourcefulness you all showed.

Thank you - Dennis Olsen



On October 3, 1944 the Pacific Command received a directive to seize positions in the Ryuku Islands. This was to be the culmination of three long years of fighting since Pearl Harbor.

The Battle of Okinawa would be the largest amphibious assault in history and the last battle of World War Two.

This eighty-two day battle would also be the bloodiest of the war.

Americans

Killed in Action: 12,520

Wounded in Action 49,151

Japanese

Killed in Action: 110,071

Wounded in Action: 7,401

Civilian casualties: 142,058

I was wounded in action on May 22, 1945. I spent seventy-nine days in a Navy hospital on Guam before being transferred to Saipan, where I waited for my discharge.

I left Saipan on November 30, 1945.

Tuesday May 22, 1945

Wounded in action today. The damn lieutenant told me and a buddy to head out before breakfast on second patrol to locate a Jap with mortar.

I did locate it, right near my spine. Veteran Vern Nuns was hit in the leg. I was glad to get out of there. It happened near to Conical Hill and Dick Hill.

Two good buddies of mine were killed nearby. They were Dussliere and Luebbe.

Here is a copy of the morning report giving the official report of what happened.

Champagne, Roland JH  
Combat Infantry Pay  
Nuss, Vernon L.

Above named 2 EM (enlisted men) seriously wounded in action 600 yards NE of Shuri, Okinawa Island

Dy to SK Hospital unknown L.D. (living or dead)

SECRET MORNING REPORT		NUMBER	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
		22	12		5
ORGANIZATION (NO. CO. BATT. ETC.)		COMPONENT UNIT		ARM OR SERVICE	
K		382d Regt		Inf	
LOCATION OR LOCATION					
600 yds N.E. of SHURI, OKINAWA, IS.					
NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE	MOS	CODE	
Champagne, Roland J. M.	31362422	Pvt	521		
Dac Combat Infantry, Pay - SSN-521					
Nuss, Vernon L.	37535858	Pvt	745		
SSN-745					
Above named 2 EM, seriously wounded					
in action 600 yds N.E. of Shuri, Okinawa					
Is. by to SH HOSP Unknown A.D.					
RECORD OF EVENTS					
600 yds N.E. of Shuri, Okinawa Is -					
Patrol sent out 300 yds to front found					
no enemy but were fired on by					
enemy mortars. Wounded - 2 EM					

Record of Events  
 600 yards NE of Shuri, Okinawa Island  
 Patrol sent out 300 yards to front found no enemy  
 but were fired on by enemy mortars. Wounded 2  
 EM (enlisted men)



Though I do not remember it, I was probably sent to the back lines first by stretcher and then by a jeep ambulance.

On the next page is a map with an X on the spot where I was wounded.

You can see the advance of the different Armies further and further south.

The battle lasted 82 days. I was wounded on the 51st day. I was the last guy in my squad to be hit, after me they were all replacements.





Print the complete address in plain letters in the space below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: Mr. Mes. Gideon Champagne  
6 BUTLER ST  
LAWRENCE, MASS  
U S A

From: P. Champagne 31204722  
GK 382 of APD 96  
C/O PM 815  
May 30, 1945

See instruction No. 1

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Folks, Fleet Hospital 115 A Hospital  
GUMM

Here it is Memorial Day again. I wonder what the people back home are doing about it. I gave it great thought and prayer for my buddies and comrades who died in action. I'm taking it easy here. I'm still in bed. My back hurts when I try to walk. I guess I'm still weak. You know I didn't register shock when I was hit. I didn't lose any blood to speak of. I was pretty scared and excited that's all. The fragment went in the right side of the midline in my back. It stopped in front of my spinal chord just missing it. I saw x-rays of it. In pre-operative the doctor stitched me up while under local anesthetic. It felt funny while he was working on me. The doctor in the x-ray room is from Prospect Hill. He's a relative of Mrs Kelly 77 Butler. His name is Lieutenant Hirsch. I'll bet she'd be mighty glad to know he is alright and where he is. Hey Louis? Too bad I don't have Savore's and Kinsella's address now? Still in doubt as to my whereabouts?  
Y Roland

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

May 30, 1945

A Hospital

Dear Folks,

Here it is Memorial Day again. I wonder what the people back home are doing about it. I gave it great thought and prayed for my buddies and comrades who died in action.

I'm taking it easy here. I'm still in bed. My back hurts when I try to walk. I guess I'm still weak. You know I didn't register shock when I was hit. I didn't lose any blood to speak of. I was plenty scared and excited that's all.

The fragment went in the right side of the midline in my back. It stopped in front of my spinal chord just missing it. I saw x-rays of it. In preoperative the doctor stitched me up while under local anesthetic. It felt funny while he was working on me.

The doctor in the x-ray room is from Prospect Hill. He's a relative of Mrs. Kelly, 77 Butler. His name is Lieutenant Hirsch. I'll bet she'd be mighty glad to know he's alright and where he is.

Hey Louis? Too bad I don't have Savoie's and Kinsella's address now? Still in doubt as to my whereabouts?

Yours Roland

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(SENIOR'S STAMP)

To: Mr. Mrs. GIDEON CHAMPAGNE  
6 LUTHER ST.  
LAWRENCE, MASS  
15R

From: P.O. Champagne 271002  
Co. 380th AF 96  
C/O 01 SF  
June 1, 1945

See Instruction No. 8

(Sender's complete address shown)

Dear Mother,  
Somewhere in a hospital  
started my 24<sup>th</sup> month in the Army today.  
It was just a year ago that we moved to Camp  
Cainan outside of San Diego. Funny how I  
can recall past events, & still remember all the  
dates when I was transferred to other camps.  
The nurse in my ward is from Somerville.  
She's a cute little blonde - the excited type.  
She gave me some clothes and the correct size too.  
The hat & got hit, the "miserable" incident right  
in the middle of my back. I was glad to get out  
of those dripping, sopping wet, filthy clothes. Five  
minutes <sup>later</sup> my buddies and I were <sup>in</sup> about sleeping  
in our bunks that night. We had about 5 inches  
of water in it with the blankets on the bottom.  
Don't you think that beats an innerspring mattress?  
We have Kool-Aid glasses filled with ice and water.  
We have Coca Cola every afternoon. Fresh eggs,  
and meat, mostly corn meal. And chocolate cake.  
Right now I'm writing about common foods back  
home! It's a treat out here. Goodbye, times of Poland

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

June 1, 1945

Somewhere in a hospital

Dear Folks,

Started my 24th month in the Army today. It was just a year ago that we moved to Camp Callan outside of San Diego. Funny how I can recall past events. I still remember all the dates when I was transferred to other camps.

The nurse in my ward is from Somerville. She's a cute little blonde - the excited type.

They gave me some clothes and the correct size too. They say I got hit \_\_\_\_\_ right in the middle of my back. I was glad to get out of those dripping, sopping wet filthy clothes. Five minutes before my buddies and I were \_\_\_\_\_ about sleeping in our foxholes that night.

We had about 5 inches of water in it with the blankets on the bottom. \_\_\_\_\_ you think, that beats an \_\_\_\_\_ mattress \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ keep our glasses filled with ice and water.

We have Coca Cola every afternoon. Fresh eggs and meats mostly every meal. And chocolate cake.

\_\_\_\_\_ me writing about common foods back home! It's a treat out here. \_\_\_\_\_ times.

Yours, Roland

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: MR MRS GIDEON CHAMPAGNE  
6 BUTLER ST  
LAWRENCE, MASS  
USA

See Instruction No. 1

From: Pvt Roland Champagne 31811400  
G K 382 Inf APO 96  
4. PM S.F.  
June 4, 1945

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Folks,  
Sunday In a hospital  
Didn't go to Church today - I've been on my back ever since I've been wounded so last night I tried to get up and walk and I started wobbling and getting dizzy. My back feels tired when I sit up for awhile. I thought I was alright. I guess I write everyday just to do something. It's now 4 P.M. and I'm hungry and waiting for chow. The chow is fair. I can't gripe, it's better than eating a cold "meal" somewhere in combat. We had ice cream once so far. They have movies every night. Next Thursday they'll have "Here Come the Waves" with Bing Crosby. I sure miss seeing the good pictures coming out back home. Now that summer is here, the kids ought to have plenty of writing material telling all about their weekends. I wonder what little Roland will be doing on his weekends if he gets back in one piece. You'd know what I meant if you could see what war does to some of the Navy's little boys. I guess constant prayer has spared me of such horrendous misery. Thanks God. Y Roland J.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

June 4, 1945

Sunday In a hospital

Dear Folks,

Didn't go to church today - I've been on my back ever since I've been wounded so last night I tried to get up and walk and I started wobbling and getting dizzy. My back feels tired when I sit up for awhile. I thought I was alright.

I guess I write everyday just to do something. Its now 4 P.M. and I'm hungry and waiting for chow. The chow is fair. I can't gripe, its better than eating a cold "meal" somewhere in combat. We had ice cream once so far. They have movies every night. Next Thursday they'll have "Here Come the Waves" with Bing Crosby. I sure miss seeing the good pictures coming out back home.

Now that summer is here, the kids ought to have plenty of writing material telling me all about their weekends. I wonder what little Roland will be doing on his weekends if he gets back in one piece. You'd know what I meant if you could see what war does to some of the Mama's little boys.

I guess constant prayers has spared me of such horror and misery. Thank God.

Yours, Roland J.



FOR THE CONSUMER'S PROTECTION IN BUYING STAMPS OR POSTAGE BONDS, AND FOR THE POST OFFICE'S PROTECTION IN THE USE OF STAMPS AND BONDS, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS GIVEN: STAMPS SHOULD BE USED IN THE MANNER INDICATED ON THE FRONT OF THE STAMP. STAMPS SHOULD BE USED IN THE MANNER INDICATED ON THE FRONT OF THE STAMP. STAMPS SHOULD BE USED IN THE MANNER INDICATED ON THE FRONT OF THE STAMP.



To McMrs GIBERN CHAMPAGNE  
6 BUTLER ST  
LAWRENCE, MASS.  
U. S. A.

From  
AFC AF Champagne 75062422  
Co K 38th AF 10096  
C/O W.M. SF.  
June 6, 1945

See Instruction No. 9

(Sender's complete address shown)

Dear Folks, <sup>nurse Sabatini</sup> <sup>Somerville</sup> A Hospital  
Just a year ago today and the  
shores of Europe were ~~bleeding~~ by a D-DAY.  
I'm a bit late in writing today; its almost  
7 P.M. now. I haven't a thing to write about  
but I've got the urge to write. Not so lazy, huh?  
I wonder if C. B. Letourier will be coming out this  
way soon. I was in line for a party like his  
but I guess my hand wounded puts me out.  
That's the Infantry, combat sure had a lot to do  
with things. One encounter with the enemy  
and you're at the head of your squad.  
Just like some brand with his field commission  
there's a Madix in this hospital from Lawrence.  
His name is Roy Sheppard. I don't know him.  
I'm still in bed so I haven't done much looking  
around. I see the paymaster around. I hope I  
get paid. There's something to buy around here.  
I've got pay coming from Wash! at you.  
I'll be sending home another big check or five  
I get it all together plus that \$500 to the bank.  
Have you received any notice from the bank  
yet. Let me know when you do.  
Tadwa!

J. Roland J.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

June 6, 1945

Nurse Sabatini

A Hospital

Somerville

Dear Folks,

Just a year ago today and the shores of Europe were blitzed by a D-Day. I'm a bit late in writing today; its about 7 P.M. now. I haven't a thing to write. Not so lazy, huh?

I wonder if E.R. Letendre will be coming out this way soon. I was in line for a rating like his but I guess my being wounded puts me out. Thats the infantry, combat sure has a lot to do with ratings. One encounter with the enemy and you're at the head of your squad. Just like Henri Bernard with his field commission.

Theres a medic in this hospital from Lawrence. His name is Ray Sheppard. I don't know him. I'm still in bed so I haven't done much looking around. I seen the pay master here. I hope I get paid. Theres something to buy around here. I've got pay coming from March 1st on.

I'll be sending home another big check when I get it all together plus that 50 \_\_\_\_\_ to the bank.

Have you received any notice from the bank yet? Let me know when you do.

Thats all  
Yours Roland



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: MR MRS GIDEON CHAMPAGNE  
6 BUTLER ST  
LAWRENCE, MASS.  
USA

See Instruction No. 8

From:

FC Roland Champagne  
31862422 Co K 382 Inf  
APO 91 AM SF  
June 8, 1945

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Folks,

Fleet Hospital 115

I'm very tired as I might think. I've been up all day with still a movie tonight. Also will see new reels about Okinawa. Actual pictures which civilians never see. I wish I could tell you about other war pictures I've seen. They're restricted to service personnel.

Have you ever seen or read of the 382<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in the news or Post. I read about us in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Sheppard remember? I hope you talked to Roy's parents about me. You always want to know where I am. Now's your chance to find out. He's a Corporal or 'Medic' as we call him. He works here in one of the wards.

Some boy from Andover requested "Massachusetts" on the song parade. I attended Devotions last night. We recited the beads and also prayers. It made me feel good to go to Church again. I wish I could go every day. That's all.

J Roland Champagne

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY  
V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

June 8, 1945

Fleet Hospital 115

Dear Folks,

I'm very tired as I right this. I've been up all day with still a movie tonight. Also will see newsreels about Okinawa. Actual pictures which civilians never see. I wish I could tell you about other war pictures I've seen. They're restricted to service personnel.

Have you ever seen or read of the 382nd Infantry in the \_\_\_\_\_ or Post? I've read about us in the Honolulu Star - Bulletin. Sheppard remember.

I hope you talked to Ray's parents about me. You always want to know where I am. Nows your chance to find out. He's a corpsman or 'Medic' as we call him. He works here in one of the wards.

Some boy from Andover requested "Massachusetts" on the song parade.

I attended Devotions last night. We recited the beads and also prayers. It made me feel good to go to church again. I wish I could go everyday.

Thats all,  
Yours,  
Roland J.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photostating.



To Mr Mrs GIZON CHAMPAGNE <sup>From</sup> FFC 4812nd Inf. Champagne  
6 BUTLER ST. 3150 2422 CoK 38284  
LAWRENCE, MASS. RPO 76 PM SF-  
USA  
June 8, 1945

See Instruction No. 1

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear F & Mrs, P.S. Roy lives Fleet Hospital 115  
Here's my Latin column again.

I'll be around in a few more days.  
The soc. man wears the garment in line  
It'll feel kinda - sunn' - go awhile.  
I hope you noticed the address.  
I'm into the reading. Mr man still  
goes to the company. Don't forget.  
I'll send you my address home address.  
I hope you'll know what to do.  
His looks man, have a heavy head from  
him. You could look him up in  
the 'phone book. A friend, Al Silva,  
from Providence, may write to you.  
I hope I don't return to Okinawa.  
I've seen enough of it.

J Polak

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Fleet Hospital 115, Guam

June 8, 1945

Dear Folks,

P.S. Roy lives on Beacon Street. Okay.  
Here's my daily column again.

I'll be up and around in a few more days. The doc may leave the fragment in me. It'll feel kinda funny for awhile.

I hope you notice the address and also the heading. My mail still goes to the company. Don't forget.

I'll send you Roy Sheppard's home address. I hope you'll know what to do. His folks may have already heard from him. You could look him up in the phone book.

A friend, Al Silva, from Providence, may write to you.

I hope I don't return to Okinawa. I've seen enough of it.

Yours,  
Roland

See regulations on reverse side of this envelope. Do not write or print address for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: MR MRS GIDEON CHAMPAGNE  
6 BUTLER ST  
LAWRENCE, MASS.  
USA

From: PFC Roland J Champagne  
31862432 GK 33287  
APO 96 PM SF

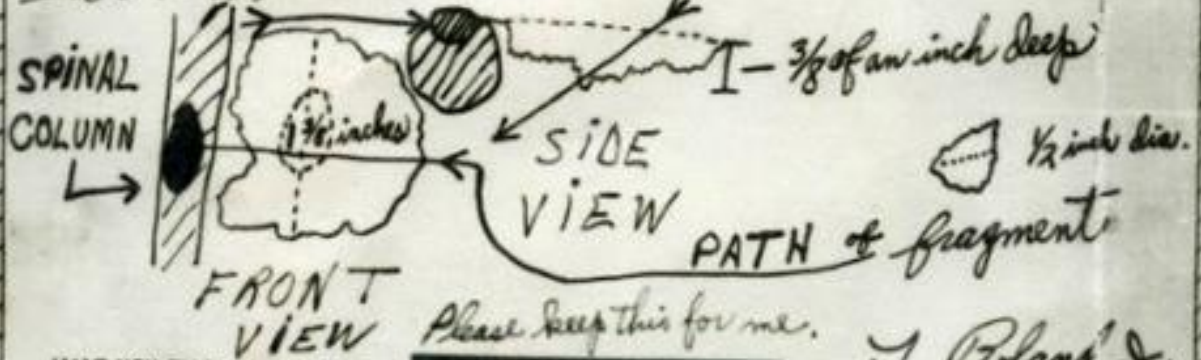
See instruction No. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Folks,

June 10, 1945

Well I finally attended Mass today. The last time I went was on May 6<sup>th</sup> - the day I returned to B Co. Two days later we were out to fight on the front lines again. 18 days later I was wounded in action. My wound was pretty itchy today. I guess its starting to heal up. I saw it last night with the aid of a mirror. It was worse than I expected and just think its 18 days after being wounded. Here's how it looked to me in the mirror + X-RAYS.



Please keep this for me.

Roland J. Champagne

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

June 10, 1945

Dear Folks,

Well I finally attended Mass today. The last time I went was on May 6th - the day I returned to K Co. Two days later we went out to fight on the front lines again.

16 days later I was wounded in action.

My wound was pretty itchy today. I guess its starting to heal up. I saw it last night with the aid of a mirror. It was worse than I expected and just think its 18 days after being wounded. Here's how it looked to me in the mirror .

Yours Roland J.

You can see the diagram I drew on the letter. I was so lucky that the fragments did not hit my spine. I still have the fragment in my back as it was too dangerous to operate.



# New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION

Bunny and warm today. Tomorrow fair and warm.

Telephone Numbers—Wk., 42, Wk., 42

Radio Wk., 42, Wk., 42, Wk., 42

Copyright, 1945, by The New York Times Company.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1945.

THREE CENTS

## OKINAWA IS OURS AFTER 82 DAYS; 45,029 U. S. CASUALTIES, FOE'S 94,401; GEN. STILWELL HEADS 10TH ARMY

### Okinawa Costliest Of Pacific Battles

By The Associated Press  
GUAM, Friday, June 22—The conquest of Okinawa was the longest and costliest of all the campaigns in the central and western Pacific.

With casualty figures still incomplete, the toll of enemy and American killed, captured and wounded all but equals the grand total of casualties in six major campaigns which led up to Okinawa.

The eighty-two days it took to break all organized resistance dwarfs the twenty-six days of Iwo Island. The latter, however, is less than eight square miles in area, and Okinawa is roughly 600 square miles.

The figures for Okinawa, which include Japanese casualties through June 21 and American casualties only through June 18, compares with those of six other campaigns follow:

	Area	Days	U.S. Killed	U.S. Wounded	U.S. Captured	Enemy Killed	Enemy Wounded	Enemy Captured
Okinawa	600 sq. mi.	82	11,200	33,829	1,000	94,401	112,000	10,000
Iwo	25 sq. mi.	26	1,500	6,800	10,000	16,000	28,000	10,000
Beiping	25 sq. mi.	22	1,200	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Guang	25 sq. mi.	22	1,200	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Peiping	25 sq. mi.	22	1,200	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Tientsin	25 sq. mi.	22	1,200	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Tientsin	25 sq. mi.	22	1,200	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

Note: Figures for American and Japanese wounded.

LONDON IS DIVIDED

### OKINAWA CONQUEST EXPANDS OUR ATTACKING RADIUS ISLE DECLARED WON



1,700 Japanese Troops Surrender Last Day of Bitter Battle

OTHERS JUMP INTO SEA

Great Base That Opens All of Japan to U. S. Attack Already in Operation

By WARREN HINCHCOFF

As Written in The New York Times

GUAM, Friday, June 22—The battle of Okinawa is officially at an end. In a special communique received at 10 o'clock last night, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, reported the end of organized resistance, and in a second one this morning he told of mop-up operations.

Today's communique revealed how costly has been the price for the island for which we battled for eighty-two days. United States casualties as far disclosed amount to 45,029, and they are sufficiently far behind to indicate that the island feature, four hundred miles from Tokyo, has been won.

The Battle of Okinawa lasted 82 days. It was so bloody and devastating that it was a major reason that Truman decided to drop the atomic bomb.

Invading Japan would have been too costly in lives and wounded.

I was lucky to get out the way I did. Though I was scared I could have been easily paralyzed, as the shrapnel was less than an inch from my spine.

It remains there to this day. It shows up as rectangular white space in x-rays of my abdomen. Doctors always ask what the heck it is. My son is proud to tell them.

Use dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: MRS GIDEON CHAMPAGNE  
6 BUTLER ST.  
LAWRENCE, MASS.  
USA

See instruction No. 8

From: PFC Roland Champagne  
31362422 G K 382 Inf  
APO 96 PM SF  
June 23, 1945

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Folks,

Fleet Hospital 115

This is a hurry up letter. I've been busy doing details and too lazy. I'm writing to let you know I'm still around. I was glad to hear the end of Okinawa. That appointment of General "China" Stilwell as commander of 10th Army, scares me. I wouldn't be surprised if he took us to China! I'll end my letters with an revoir so you'll know what's going on. I hope you won't forget it. That way you won't have to worry when I don't write. I may stay here 2 or 3 weeks. I guess!!! Still no letters, Oh well, they'll come eventually. "My Dreams are getting better all the time" was the latest #1 on the "Hit Parade". How's yours? I guess that's if I want to see.....  
"Bring my way" about time!

J Roland J.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

18

Fleet Hospital 115, Guam

June 23, 1945

Dear Folks,

This is a hurry up letter. I've been busy doing little details and too lazy.

I'm writing to let you know I'm still around. I was glad to hear the end of Okinawa.

That appointment of General "China" Stilwell as commander of 10th Army scares me. I wouldn't be surprised if he took us to China!

I'll end my letters with au revoir so you'll know what's going on. I hope you won't forget it. That way you won't have to worry when I don't write.

I may stay here two or three weeks. I guess!!!

Still no letters,; Oh well, they'll come eventually.

"My Dreams are getting better all the time" was the latest # 1 on the "my" Hit Parade. How's yours?

I guess that if I want to see .....  
"Going My Way"; about time!

Yours,  
Roland

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Pencil or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



[CENSOR'S STAMP]

To: MR EUGENE CHAMPAGNE  
6 BUTLER ST  
LAWRENCE, MASS  
USA

See Instruction No. 2

From:

PFC Champagne  
Branch 115 APO 26  
P/S R  
July 26 1945  
(Sender complete address above)

FX 115

Hello Gene, Received your letter dated July 12. Also received 2 packages sent during 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February. The ~~sock~~ will come in handy. Also the fruits, soup and nuts. Thanks a lot. Did you receive that WD telegram already. Haven't received the films yet. ~~Answered~~ I haven't said anything about going Stateside yet. I should be going and I'll keep trying. Terry Beaulieu sent me a few cards and a letter. Haven't heard from Aunt Marie Louise. Aunt Anna wrote me and she was plenty worried about me. That's all she talked about in her letter. Two years ago today I arrived at Keeler Field! I guess that's all P.S. Excuse the writing your brother, Roland  
This pen writes double notice!

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

my last →

Fleet Hospital 115 July 26, 1945

Hello Gene,

Received your letter dated July 12. Also received 2 packages sent during 3rd week of February. The sox will come in handy. Also the fruits, soup and nuts. Thanks a lot.

Did you receive that WU telegram already. Haven't received the films yet.

I haven't said anything about going stateside yet. I should be going and I'll keep trying.

Terry Beaulieu sent me a few cards and a letter. Haven't heard from Aunti Marie Louise. Aunt Anna wrote me and she was plenty worried about me. Thats all she talked about in her letter. Two years ago today I arrived at Keesler Field!

I guess thats all. Your brother, Roland

P.S. Excuse the writing this pen writes double! notice!

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: MRS EVA CHAMPAGNE  
6 BUTLER ST  
LAWRENCE, MASS  
USA

See instruction No. 2

From:

POC Roland Champagne  
Branch 115 NPO 246  
PM SF  
July 28, 1945

(Sender's complete address above)

F. H. 115

Dear Mom,  
Well I've been here 60 days  
The doctor had a talk with me.  
He could see I was feeling pretty low.  
I had some cheerful news for me. I  
only hope it comes true.  
I finally took the bandage off my wound  
yesterday. I've got a scar bigger than  
a quarter. There's still a small pin  
point to heal and then.....!  
I wish that camera would get here.  
I'm missing a lot of good snap shots.  
Those peace rumors sure sound good.  
It won't be long now.  
I guess I'll close if I want this mailed.  
— so long.

your son,  
J Roland

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

18

37-5880-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1945

Fleet Hospital 115, Guam

July 28, 1945

Dear Mom,

Well I've been here 60 days. The doctor had a talk with me. He could see I was feeling pretty low.

He had some cheerful news for me. I only hope it comes true.

I finally took the bandage off my wound yesterday. I've got a scar bigger than a quarter. There is still a small pin point to heal and then .....!

I wish that camera would get here. I'm missing a lot of good snap shots.

Those peace rumors sure sound good. It wont be long now.

I guess I'll close if I want this mailed.

So long.

Your son,  
Roland



Somewhere on Saipan  
Aug 11, 1945

Dear Mom,

I heard that surrender  
offer last night. Three cheers. Ha! Ha!

Here I am sweating it out waiting  
to go back to my Company.

One-one-five really was a wonderful place.

I'll miss all those niceties of life,  
which are so common to civilians!

Here I have a cot with three blankets.

I've always had two. They come in  
handy at night because it gets cold.

I should receive my mail in a  
week or so. I'm still dizzy

from that plane ride.

I read the bulletin board here and  
I can mention Saipan.

Somewhere on Saipan  
Aug 11, 1945

Dear Mom,

I heard that surrender offer last night. Three cheers.  
Ha!Ha!

Here I am sweating it out waiting to go back to my  
Company.

One-one-five really was a wonderful place. I'll miss  
all those niceties of life which are so common to  
civilians!

Here I have a cot with three blankets. I've always  
had two. They come in handy at night because it  
gets cold.

I should receive my mail in a week or so. I'm still  
dizzy from that plane ride.

I read the bulletin board here and I can mention  
Saipan.

Also that these B-29's really  
are a sight. They're worth every  
cent they cost. I've seen them close  
up and they're really big.

There's a good chance that I may be  
home before next June. Everybody likes  
the Infanteries now because they won't be needing  
them. I don't think I'll be around for  
the Army of Occupation. Those rookies  
like Ken and Charley could easily do that.  
I've seen quite a few buddies around  
here. One from Lake Forest.

My back still hurts. I wish  
they'd do something about it. I'm  
seeing the doctor this afternoon.

I'll write more later,

your son,  
J Roland

Also that these B-29's really are a sight. They're worth every cent they cost. I've seen them close up and they're really big.

There's a good chance that I may be home before next June. Everybody likes the Infantry now because they won't be needing them. I don't think I'll be around for the Army of Occupation. Those rookies like Ken and Charley could easily do that.

I've seen quite a few buddies around here. One from Lake Forest.

My back still hurts. I wish they'd do something about it. I'm seeing the doctor this afternoon.

I'll write more later,

Your son,  
Roland

Saipan  
Sept. 13, 1945

Dear Mom, thought I'd write  
you a letter in long hand instead  
of on the typewriter.

I'm loafing again with nothing  
to do. (that's what I say.)

I'll tell you again in case the  
money orders don't get there.

I sent \$135 home in my last  
letter. That's more than I  
expected because I won some of  
it in a big crap game.

I wish I was home so I could  
spend some of it for Christmas  
presents. Don't guess I need any

Saipan

September 13, 1945

**Dear Mom,**

Thought I'd write you a letter in long hand instead of on the typewriter.

I'm looking again with nothing to do. (that what I say)

I'll tell you again in case the money orders don't there. I sent \$350 home in my last letter. Thats more than I expected because I won some of it in a big crap game.

I wish I was home so I could spend some of it for Christmas presents.

Don't guess I need any presents out here unless you can send me some cute little woman.

2

presents out here unless you can  
send me some cute little woman!  
If we even had Wacs out here  
life wouldn't be so bad.  
I don't drink so I don't miss me  
liquor although we get a bottle  
of beer per day and also cokes.  
Wish I knew when I was going  
home. Then I could prepare my-  
self for that particular season.  
Oh well, what's eight more months  
or so when I have 40 or more  
years in which to live.  
The whistle just blew so I'll  
close here with all my love.

your son,  
Roland

Saipan

September 13, 1945

If we even had WACs out here life wouldn't be so bad.

I don't drink so I don't miss my liquor although we get a bottle of beer per day and also cokes.

Wish I knew when I was going home. Then I could prepare for that particular season.

Oh well, whats eight more months or so when I have 40 or more years in which to live.

The whistle just blew so I'll close here with all my love.

Your son,  
Roland



Saipan  
Sept. 21, 1945

Dear Lucille,  
Glancing at the calendar this morning, I noticed that Mom's and Pop's wedding anniversary (22<sup>nd</sup>) is coming up on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November which may or may not be Thanksgiving. I wish you'd do something about it as I'm not in a position! I'll be home for their 26<sup>th</sup> and I'll cook up something then. You could get them something - (my account is open!)

Saipan September 21, 1945

Dear Lucille,

Glancing at the calendar this morning, I noticed that Mom's and Pop's wedding anniversary (22nd) is coming up on the 29th of November which may or may not be Thanksgiving.

I wish you'd do something about it as I'm not in a position! I'll be home for their 25th and I'll cook up something then.

You could get them something - (my account is open!)

Let me know when you hear from  
the bank about my allotment of  
\$50 deposited there through the go-  
vernment. I should hit \$1,000  
by the end of this year.  
That averages up to about \$8  
a week in savings. Right now  
I'm only spending \$10 a month  
because there's nothing to buy  
around here besides cokes and beer.  
Everytime I gamble I win !!!  
I wish I'd of had all this mo-  
ney in civilian life !!!

No letters for the past three  
days. Somebody's holding up the  
mail. Keep sending film if  
you can get it.

That's all, your brother,  
P.S. - Excuse the writing J Roland

Let me know when you hear from the bank about my allotment of \$250 deposited there through the government.

I should hit \$1,000 by the end of this year. That averages up to about \$8 a week in savings.

Right now I'm only spending \$10 a month because there's nothing to buy around here besides cokes and beer.

Every time I gamble I win!!! I wish I'd have had all this money in civilian life!!!

No letters for the past three days. Somebody's holding up the mail. Keep sending film if you can get it.

Thats all, your brother, Roland

P.S. - Excuse the writing.

Saipan  
Sept. 22, 1945

Dear Mom, The whistle just  
blew so I'll scratch off a  
few lines. I received five letters  
yesterday - one from Sr. St. Pantalon!  
His letter was a little faded from  
water so I couldn't read it very  
well. She sent me a few  
"reliquaires" of Margaret Bourgeois.  
I heard the good news this morning  
about the point system. Now I'll  
be home at least two months sooner.  
We attended a military funeral  
yesterday of some boy in the

Saipan

September 22, 1945

Saipan  
Sept. 22, 1945

Dear Mom,

The whistle just blew so I'll scratch off a few lines.

I received five letters yesterday - one from Sr. St Pantaleon! Her letter was a little faded from water so I couldn't read it very well.

She sent me a few "reliquaire's" of Margaret Bourgeois.

I heard the good news this morning about the point system. Now I'll be home at least two months sooner.

We attended a military funeral yesterday of some boy in the

- 2 -

Company who died after an ulcer  
operation. He was buried in the  
27<sup>th</sup> Division Cemetery.

Haven't received the camera as  
yet. I hope it isn't lost.

Keep sending film if you  
can get it. I hope you're sen-  
ding pictures taken during the  
summer, at the beach or  
around home. I wonder how  
Maclene is. Tell her I'm sen-  
ding her a great big kiss!

I guess that's all if I want  
to eat.

your son  
Roland

P.S. How's  
peppy Pauline  
Legendre!

Company who died after an ulcer operation. He was buried in the 27th Division Cemetery.

Haven't received the camera as yet. I hope it isn't lost. Keep sending film if you can get it.

I hope you're sending pictures taken during the summer, at the beach or around home.

I wonder how Marlene is. Tell her I'm sending her a great big kiss!

I guess that's all I want to eat.

Your son,  
Roland

P.S. How's  
pesky Pauline  
Legendre!



Saipan  
Sept. 23, 1945

Dear Lucille,  
I received your letter  
a few days ago but didn't have  
time to answer.

I like my job here because  
it's what I want to do.  
I type out requisitions, records  
and issues. I take care of  
the stock records, vouchers and  
other minor details.

Ken's picture was alright. He  
reminded me of some guy I  
knew in Laurence.

I hope he knows he's got

Saipan September 23, 1945

Saipan  
Sept 23, 1945

Dear Lucille,

I received your letter a few days ago but didn't have time to answer.

I like my job here because its what I want to do.

I type out requisitions, records and issues.

I take care of the stock records, vouchers and other minor details.

Ken's picture was alright. He reminded me of some guy I knew in Lawrence.

I hope he knows he's got

- 2 -

18 or so more months in this  
Army. You need two years service  
now to get out. The whistle blew so....  
I haven't received Ken's letter as yet.  
Are you sure he wrote to me or was it a  
line he handed you? I wish I was going  
home in Dec or Jan? At this moment  
five guys in this barrack are leaving for  
the States. Are they happy?..... I ain't!  
I haven't received the camera as yet  
and I'm beginning to believe it's lost.  
Try again - this time it'll get  
through because packages are received  
in this Company in perfect condition.  
I guess that's all for awhile,  
so long,  
your brother,  
J Roland

Saipan September 23, 1945

18 or so more months in this Army. You need two years service now to get out.

The whistle blew so ...

I haven't received Ken's letter as yet. Are you sure he wrote to me or was it a line he handed you?

I wish I was going home in Dec or Jan? At this moment five guys in this barrack are leaving for the States. Are they happy?.... I aint!

I haven't received the cameras as yet and I'm beginning to believe its lost. Try again - this time it'll get through because packages are received in this Company in perfect condition.

I guess thats all for awhile,

so long,

your brother,

Roland

Saipan  
29 September 1945

Dear Luille,

I received your latest letter today so I'll answer it. I'll start off by saying that Ken hasn't written as yet. I'm holding out again about answering my mail. Have I got troubles with girls, girls and girls !!! Why must so many be interested in me. What have I got? I've got a half dozen letters to answer. Besides all those relatives and friends. And those "supposedly" good friends of mine like Rudy. I'm finally assigned to this Company. I'll try to decorate that "upper arm"! Okay.

Saipan

September 29, 1945

Dear Lucille,

I received your latest letter today so I'll answer it.

I'll start off by saying that Ken hasn't written as yet. I'm holding out again about answering my mail. Have I got troubles with girls, girls, and girls!!!

Why must so many be interested in me. What have I got?

I've got a half dozen letters to answer. Besides all those relatives and friends.

And those "supposedly" good friends of mine like Rudy.

I'm finally assigned to this Company. I'll try to decorate that "upper" arm! Okay.

I see you finally "wising up" and getting ready for homelife. Nice going.

The Visayas are a group of islands west of Leyte. Amand may be on Cebu or Panay. okay.

More guys leaving for the States and I'm still in doubt as to my future. Haven't received the camera as yet and now I'm sure its lost.

I hope you're sending me some film if not a camera. I don't know what you're sending me for Christmas. And I don't know what I could send you. They'll be other Christmas' and I'll make up for it then. okay.

Let me know when you hear from the bank about my allotment.

Don't know what to say to 'Janie' so I haven't written as yet.

Excuse the writing as the boys are in a playful mood. That's all.

Saipan

September 29, 1945

I see you're finally "wising up" and getting ready for homelife. Nice going.

The Visayas are a group of islands west of Leyte. Armand may be on Cebu or Panay. Okay.

More guys leaving for the States and I'm still in doubt as to my future. Haven't received the camera as yet and now I'm sure its lost.

I hope you're sending me some film if not a camera. I don't know what you're sending me for Christmas and I don't know what I could send you. They'll be other Christmas' and I'll make up for it then. Okay.

Let me know when you hear from the bank about my allotment.

Don't know what to say to 'Jaime' so I haven't written as yet.

Excuse the writing as the boys are in a playful mood.

Thats all,  
Roland



They treated me well but even so I was so glad to get out of that Navy hospital. I was there for 79 days! Though I was still far from home I had much more freedom on Saipan.



This is a bottle of Australian beer. On the next page is what I wrote on the back of the photo. Life was not bad on Saipan, thought we were all waiting for orders.

that's Australian

American BEER 3.2%

beer 12% - strong

we were given a quart  
bottle on Saturday just  
a get together - food  
every one had a hangover  
on Sunday Not sure it  
was nothing up at 8 AM really

Saipan  
6<sup>TH</sup> October 1945

Dear Mom,  
We're having bad weather  
around here lately. We had a small  
typhoon <sup>today</sup> and of course no work.  
I'm on duty for two hours because  
I work in the office. My luck.  
I received the films today, dated  
the 25<sup>TH</sup> of September. That's  
fast service and thanks a lot.  
Next time send me 116 or 616.  
The 127 takes too small a  
picture in a candid camera.  
The films are developed in Honolulu

Saipan

October 6, 1945

Saipan  
6th October 1945

Dear Mom,

We're having bad weather around here lately. We had a small typhoon today and of course no work.

I'm on duty for two hours because I work in the office. My luck.

I received the films today, dated the 25th of September. That's fast service and thanks a lot.

Next time send me 116 or 616.

The 127 takes too small a picture in a candid camera.

The films are developed in Honolulu.

so it'll take time.

The films arrived here a day after receiving your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> telling me about them.

Glad you paid Lillian off <sup>(5)</sup>. Thanks. Manila is the capital of Luzon and also of the Philippines.

Tony must've been there <sup>Manila</sup>. The last time I saw him was on Leyte.

I guess I've been <sup>(14 months)</sup> away from women too long. I'm surprised at what you said about Theresa Roy. I thought I was lucky to get somebody like her because I'm not deserving of any. Why God permitted me to go through combat is a mystery to me. The only reason I didn't want to get killed was to spare you the grief. Honest. I wasn't afraid to die because I would have seen God who'd taken me away from this <sup>minut</sup> life.

Saipan

October 6, 1945

so it'll take time.

The films arrived here a day after receiving your letter of the 19th telling me about them.

Glad you paid Lillian off (\$5). Thanks.

Manila is the capital of Luzon and also of the Philippines. Tony must have been there. The last time I saw him was on Leyte.

I guess I've been away (14 months) from women too long. I'm surprised at what you said about Theresa Roy. I thought I was lucky to get somebody like her because I'm not deserving of any.

Why God permitted me to go through combat is a mystery to me. The only reason I didn't want to get killed was to spare you the grief. Honest.

I wasn't afraid to die because I would have seen God who'd taken me away from this miserable life.

There I go again, sounding off.  
Well its true and I'm glad  
I said it. I haven't been happy.  
I'm a shy, disillusioned little boy.  
Worth Fighting For - is a phrase  
I've read over and over again.  
I'd like to know what I was fighting  
for. I just can't find a  
reason good enough.

Well I'd better close be-  
fore I commit myself.  
I guess thats all;

Your son,  
J Roland.

P.S. The paper is a  
little damp, thats the  
cause of the blurs.

2<sup>nd</sup> P.S.

Any size film will do.

Gene -  
Roger out means  
I understand thats all

Saipan

October 6, 1945

There I go again, sounding off. Well its time and I'm glad I said it. I haven't been happy. I'm a shy, disillusioned little boy.

Worth fighting For - is a phrase I've read over and over again. I'd like to know what I was fighting for. I just can't find a reason good enough.

Well I better close before I commit myself. I guess thats all.

Your son,  
Roland

P.S. the paper was a little damp, thats the cause of the blurs.

2nd P.S. Any size film will do.





Life on Saipan  
was not so bad.

Though we had jobs to do there was still plenty of free time thanks to the very long days.





We developed these photos on Saipan. Of course we did not have an photo enlarger so they are small.

Still I am very glad to have these to give some sense of what life was like on Saipan.



Saipan  
30<sup>TH</sup> October 1945

Dear Lucille,  
Well I finally heard from  
Armand and Ken today. Both letters  
were mailed around July 16<sup>TH</sup>.  
Armand talked about you and you're  
wonderful perfume - Follow-Me -  
Are you scenting your letters these days?  
If so, send me one extra special, huh!  
Ken surprised me as not being on too  
high a level in his letter writing.  
His letter sounded like a sixteen  
year old's. I hope he doesn't talk  
like that all the time. I'm guessing  
he's around nineteen. (I forgot his age.)  
Mary Jane struck me as not being hep

Saipan

October 30, 1945

Saipan

30th October 1945

Dear Lucille,

Well I finally heard from Armand and Ken today. Both letters were mailed around July 16th.

Armand talked about you and you're wonderful perfume - Follow Me. Are you scenting your letters these days? If so, send me one extra special, huh!

Ken surprised me as not being on too high a level in his letter writing. His letter sounded like a sixteen year old's. I hope he doesn't talk like that all the time.

I'm guessing he's around nineteen. (I forgot his age.)

Mary Jane struck me as not being hep to things.

- 2 -

to things. You'd better wise her up or she'll end up an old maid. I've no interest in her so don't connect this with me.

Rumor has it that the 50 pointers (I'm one) will start moving out when you get this letter.

I hope so because I can feel the strain every once in awhile. I need some state-side

chow (fresh milk) and recreation (women.)

You can't imagine the feeling that runs through me everytime I think of going home.

Its too wonderful to describe.

I hope you'll keep this clipping for me.

I was glad she was picked because she's just the type - a bit homey and rough.

I guess I'll close for now.

your brother,

J. Roland.

Saipan

October 30, 1945

You'd better wise her up or she'll end up an old maid. I've no interest in her so don't connect this with me.

Rumor has it that the 50 pointers (I'm one.) will start moving out when you get this letter. I hope so because I can feel the strain every once in awhile.

I need some stateside chow (fresh milk) and recreation (women). You can't imagine the feeling that runs through me every time I think of going home. Its too wonderful to describe.

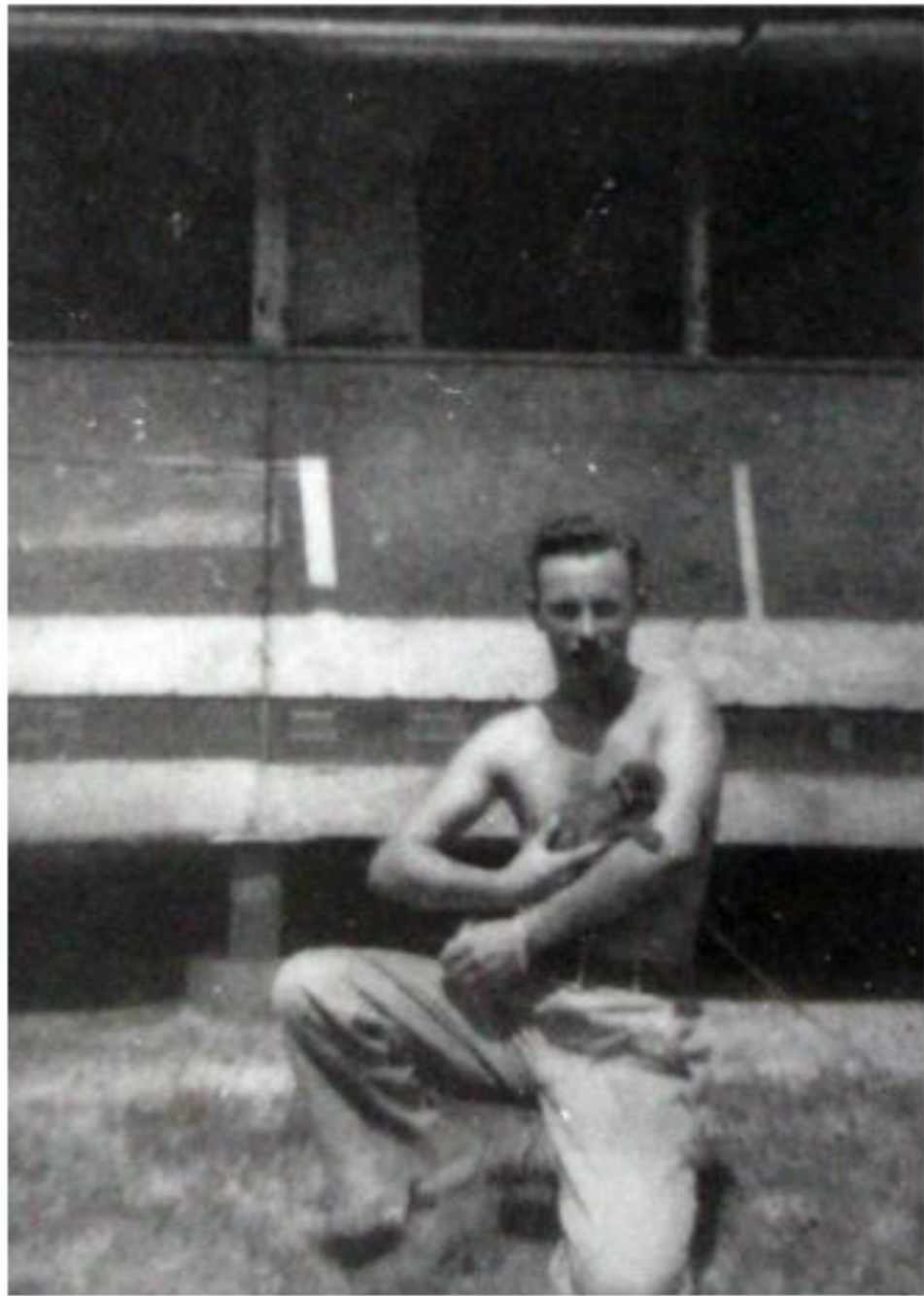
I hope you'll keep this clipping for me. I was glad she was picked because she's just the type - a bit homey and rough.

I guess I'll close for now.

Your brother,  
Roland

We were young, active and eating very little junk food. Most of use were in what would be the best shape of our lives.





There was even monkey on Saipan which we adopted. Here I am holding him.



Saipan  
16<sup>th</sup> November 1945

Dear Mom,

I received two packages  
yesterday. One had candy, soap and a  
baseball book. The other was marked  
"Wholesale Drug" and it contained  
2 films (127 and 116) and the roary  
beads with a scapular medal.  
I was glad to receive the medal as I  
didn't have one. Thanks a lot  
for everything.

Six thousand <sup>MEN</sup> shipped out for  
home and that leaves only 3 thousand  
men left after a previous high of 17  
thousand men. It's getting closer to me.

Saipan

16th November 1945

Dear Mom,

I received two packages yesterday. One had candy, soup and a baseball book. The other was marked "Wholesale Drug" and it contained 2 films (127 and 116) and the rosary beads with a scapular medal.

I was glad to receive the medal as I didn't have one. Thanks a lot for everything.

Six thousand men shipped out for ahome and that leaves only 3 thousand men left after a previous high of 17 thousand men. Its getting closer to me.

- 2 -

It's only 40 days to Christmas and still  
no word about going home. I'm  
fidgety and on edge.

This letter is scribbled because  
I'm leaving for school.

I wrote to thank you and also  
for my bi-weekly letter.

I'm studying - blueprint reading,  
geometry, business math, and algebra.

Hey, Gene and Louis how's that  
for spare time recreation?

How's your regular studies?

Get on the ball because I'll soon be  
there and I'll see you through!

This letter is kinda bad.

Send it back if it's too

bad. I understand!!!

J. Kolent

November 16, 1945

Its only 40 days to Christmas and still no word about going home. I'm jittery and on edge.

This letter is scribbled because I'm leaving for school. I wrote to thank you and also for my bi-weekly letter.

I'm studying - blueprint reading, geometry, business math, and algebra. Hey Gene and Louis hows that for spare time recreation?

Hows your regular studies? Get on the ball because I'll soon be there and I'll see you through!

This letter is kinda bad. Send it back if its too bad. I understand!

Yours,  
Roland

Saipan  
17<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Lucille,

This is a short letter as  
Larry's letter is a little bulky.

Don't mind the envelope as I didn't  
want to throw it away, and also  
I didn't want to throw away (spend)  
66¢ for postage. Enuf!

Starting my 30<sup>th</sup> month in  
this army today. Hope to be  
home after completion of 30 months  
and one week of service (December 24<sup>th</sup>)

I guess that's all,

PS Excuse  
the  
letter!

your brother,  
J Roland

Saipan

November 17, 1945

Saipan  
17th November

Dear Lucille,

This is a short letter so  
Larry's letter is a little bulky.

Don't mind the envelope as I didn't want to  
throw it away and also I didn't want to  
throw away (spend) .06 cents for postage.  
enuf!

Starting my 30th month in this army  
today. Hope to be home after completion  
of 30 months and one week of service  
(December 24th).

I guess that all,  
your brother,  
Roland

PS Excuse the letter!

- 2 -

he is. I hope you'll send me  
his address. I guess my letters  
to Bob and Red Dine are lost.  
I know some of my mail is lost.  
We sent a letter to a guy in This barracks  
3 days ago and he hasn't received it  
yet. That's how our mail service is.  
I guess I'll close now if  
I want to see the movie.  
- I Love a Bandleader -  
That's all,

your son,  
(J) Roland

Saipan

November 17, 1945

he is. I hope you'll send me his address.

I guess my letters to Bob and Red Pare are lost. I know some of my mail is lost.

We sent a letter to a guy in this barracks 3 days ago and he hasn't received it yet. That's how our mail service is.

I guess I'll close now if I want to see the movie. - I Love a Bandleader -

That's all,

Your son,

Roland



I was in pretty good shape back then.  
Not like now, haha.





These are two of my buddies. One from Oklahoma and one from Texas.

Western Pacific }  
Base Command }  
Personnel Center } WPBC - PCCD  
Casual Depot }  
Saipan  
26<sup>TH</sup> November  
1945

Hello Louis + Gene,

Don't mind

the paper because that's all  
I have right now.

I'm in this camp and  
expect to be on my  
way home before you  
get this. I should  
be in the States the  
second week of December.  
They're rushing us

November 26, 1945

Saipan

Western Pacific  
Base Command  
Personnel Center  
Casual Depot

Saipan  
WPBC - PCCD  
26th November  
1945

Hello Louis and Gene,

Don't mind the  
paper because thats all I have right now.

I'm this camp and expect to be on my way  
home before you get this.

I should be in the States the second week  
of December.

They're rushing us out so we can make  
that ship tomorrow.

out so we can make that  
ship tomorrow. Oh yeah!  
Too bad I can't see  
Aunt Anna. We  
may fly to the east coast  
from Cal. that'll  
save many days.

I should be a civilian  
by the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.  
Straighten "Lam" Lamontagne  
- for me, eh!  
I guess that's all;

your  
brother,  
Roland

November 26, 1945

Saipan

They're rushing us out so we can  
make that ship tomorrow. Oh yeah!

Too bad I can't see Aunt Anna. We  
may fly to the east coast from Cal.  
That'll save many days.

I should be a civilian by the 21st of  
December. Straighten "Lam"  
Lamontagne for me, eh!

I guess thats all,

Your brother,

Roland

11-26-45  
(Date)

CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

NAME Champagne, Roland ASH 31362422  
DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ BLOOD TYPE \_\_\_\_\_  
RACE \_\_\_\_\_

1. This man returned from an overseas theatre without an immunization register and is assumed to have met all initial immunization requirements for service in the command from which he is returning. (Ref.: Par. 17, PRI, WD, AG 370.5 (10 Aug 44) OB-S-SPMOT-M, dtd 16 Aug 44.)

2. Additional immunization given at this station to fulfill immunization requirements of any land areas to be traversed while enroute to US are as follows:

	Date	MC Initial
A. Smallpox	<u>10-9-44</u>	
B. Typhoid Stin.	<u>3-7-45</u>	
C. Tetanus Stin.	<u>12-1-44</u>	
D. <u>Flu</u>	<u>10-22-45</u>	

Depot Surgeon, WPEC  
PC & CD, APO 244

(Insert added by WPEC Personnel Center and Casual Depot, APO 244.)

These shots I was happy to receive! I was getting everything done to be shipping out and going home!



Saipan

28<sup>th</sup> November

10:30 P.M.

Dearest sister Lucille,

If this letter looks a bit shaky you can blame this mess hall table and also the fact that I am now working in the Personnel Records Branch. Something in the order of Ken's work. Yes I brownnosed myself into this job so I wouldn't have to pull details. I was paged over the camp public address system for this job because I am a typist. The Army has finally realized that I can type good enough to hold a job. Orders (also rumors) are that we leave Friday and that we arrive in the U.S. the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. If I'm flown to the east coast (70% of planes now fly troops) I

Saipan

November 28, 1945

Saipan

28th November

1945

Dearest Sister Lucille,

10:30 AM

If this letter looks a bit shaky you can blame this mess hall table and also the fact that I am now working in the Personnel Records Branch. Something in the order of Ken's work.

Yep, I brown nosed myself into this job so I wouldn't have to pull details. I was paged over the camp public address system for this job because I am a typist.

The Army has finally realized that I can type good enough to hold a job.

Orders (also rumors) are that we leave Friday and that we arrive in the U.S. the 14th of December. If I'm flown to the east coast (70% of planes now fly troops) I

That gives me enough time to formulate my plans for the coming holidays and holidays. This year I won't have the gang (Dick, Bob, Sam) to "guide" me as I will be alone? to choose my company. I've a feeling the fair sex will dominate my festivities. Ah, it's a wonderful feeling to know I'll be ready, willing and able to pick my own kind. I've got them all lined up in my dreams, now all I need is some practical dating.....

As I told Gene - 19 to 29 is my range the older the better up to a certain age. yep, I like em a little older than me because they are more understanding!! Emuf said.....

We, all from Divans, are grouped in the same battalion to facilitate movements. It's good to be with Yankees - those rebels were getting on my nerves. At the present I am one of the first on the list to be shipped out. (first 100 out of 474 in camp.)

should

That gives me enough time to formulate my plans for the coming holidays and holydays.

This year I wont have the gang (Dick, Bob, Lam) to "guide" me as I will be alone? to choose my company.

I've a feeling the fair sex will dominate my festivities. Ah, its a wonderful feeling to know I'll be ready, willing and able to pick my own kind. I've got them all lined up in my dreams, now all I need is some practical dating ...

As I told Gene - 19 to 29 is my range the older the better up to a certain age. Yep, I like them a little older than me because they are more understanding!!! Enuf said .....

We, all from Devens are grouped in the same battalion to facilitate movements.



Just me showing off my muscles. What a tan I had there.

We had a lot of fun on this scooter and could reach speeds of sixty mile per hour.



RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
WESTERN PACIFIC BASE COMMAND  
PERSONNEL CENTER & CASUAL DEPOT  
APO 244

3429

"CORRECTED AS OF EMBARKATION"  
File: 300.4

27, November 1945

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT ORDERS, SEPARATION CENTER GPS REE 1580-25 to  
40 Incl & 42 to 50 Incl  
TO : See Distribution.

1. The indivs listed in atchd pers roster are reld fr atchd unassgd this Hq and atchd unassgd to a US PD. They are assgd for movement to subj Separation Center Gps as indicated therein. EDCMR 14, December 1945.

2. Gp Ldr (and custodian of Records) is indicated by asterisk (\*) placed before name on atchd pers roster. Gp Ldrs will be responsible for proper control, discipline and conduct of all per of their respective gps until properly reld by the CO of a Separation Center.

3. Shpmt, consisting of gps listed in subj, above, WP by FAGWaterT and will move o/a& 30, November 1945 fr this sta to a Separation Center in US to be named by ind to this order by Port Comdr at which shpmt is debarked for the purpose of Separation fr the service under current RR's and Directives.

4. Stencil #2, for reproduction of movement directives and pers rosters, will be in custody of Gp Ldrs for delivery to proper auth at US PD.

5. Shpmt will be under the control of the CG, ASF, fr time of departure fr this sta until released by proper auth in US.

6. Pers in this movement will notify emergency addressee, all correspondents and publishers to discontinue mailing ltrs and publications until further advised, using WD AGO Form 971-1 for this purpose.

7. Per diem is atzd (AR 35-4820)(AR 35-4810) indiv within alws stated by law while traveling only and will not be paid for time spent at ports, separation centers or casual depots.

8. TDN PCS 67-000 P 431-01-02-03-04-05-07-08, 212/60425.  
Auth: WD RR 1-1 & 1-5 & Radio MidPac RJ 73207.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL MCFADDEN:

*R E L Warner*  
R E L WARNER  
1st Lt AGD  
Ass't Adj

DISTRIBUTION: "H"

39 (W/39 sets of R) Dep Dist No 2	1 CG, Pers Dist Comd, Louisville Ky
2 (W/25 sets of R) Vessel Comdr	
2 (W/21 Sets of R) PE	1 CG, USASTAF, APO 234
2 (W/#2 stencil) Gp Ldr	1 WPBC AG, APO 244
1 (W/#1 stencil) PD (AM)	1 Per indiv to Gp Ldr
10100th MRU, APO 244	

Here are the orders to board a ship for home!

I was working as a company typist during this time, haha. I had a Tech 5 rank at this time. That is the equivalent of a Gunnery Sergeant.

I did not care what I was anymore. I just wanted to get back home.



**R E S T R I C T E D**

HQ, WPBC PC & CD, APO 244, 27 November 1945. 3429-25

File: 300.4

PERSONNEL ROSTER  
GROUP 1580-25

Separation Center No. 25, Ft Devens, Mass  
US Army Personnel for Separation

"CORRECTED AS OF EMBARKATION"

NAME & GRADE &  
PREVIOUS UNIT ----- ASN ----- SERVICE -- NOS/ASR -- ADDRESS --

SECTION I

*1	HUGHES, IRVIN A 3241 Ord Dep Co APO 244	11100110	M/Sgt Ord	835/58	Groton, Conn
2	MELLO, HERMAN 405 Ord Bn APO 244	11089627	1st Sgt Ord	502/58	Fall River, Mass
3	CURRAN, JOHN E 405 Ord Bn APO 244	31398695	T/Sgt Ord	965/58	Portland, Maine
4	DONOHUE, JAMES J 3241 Ord D Co APO 244	11089549	T/Sgt Ord	835/58	Springfield, Mass
5	RUKAS, FRANK W 3241 Ord D Co APO 244	11089342	T/Sgt Ord	252/58	Gardner, Mass
6	TEMPLB, REGINALD E 3241 Ord D Co APO 244	11098768	T/Sgt Ord	055/58	Springfield, Mass
7	CONNOR, KENNETH W 3241 Ord Dep Co APO 244	11098896	S/Sgt Ord	348/58	Springfield, Mass
8	GANS, SYDNEY C 3241 Ord D Co APO 244	11089415	S/Sgt Ord	348/58	Boston, Mass
9	JEWETT, VERNON L 3241 Ord D Co APO 244	11087693	S/Sgt Ord	348/58	Boston, Mass
10	TIBBETTS, LAWRENCE B 405 Ord M Co APO 244	31351914	S/Sgt Ord	965/58	Skowhegan, Maine
11	FRECHETTE, HARLAND L 3605 Ord Co APO 244	31372062	Tec 4 Ord	965/57	Woburn, Mass
12	VYTEL, ALBERT 973 Ord AMM Rem Co APO 244	31123463	Cpl Ord	835/57	Hartford, Conn
13	CHAMPAGNE, ROLAND J H 3605 Ord Co APO 244	31362422	Tec 5 Ord	405/55	Lawrence, Mass
14	KEARNAN, ARTHUR 3241 Ord D Co APO 244	31231603	Tec 5 Ord	931/58	Milford, Mass
15	STURGEON, HAROLD R 283 Ord M Co AA APO 244	35591858	Tec 5 Ord	965/57	Cambridge, Ohio
16	PHILLIPS, WILLIE E (N) 80 Sig Bn APO 244	34079944	Pvt Sig C	590/61	Boston, Mass

SECTION II - - AAF PERSONNEL

17	CAMERON, ROBERT	11114000	S/Sgt	260/58	Manchester,
----	-----------------	----------	-------	--------	-------------

Here is my name on the list of soldiers to be shipped out! Lucky number 13, haha!

Below is my medical clearance dated Nov. 30, 1945! Just a simple small slip of paper. Can you imagine? This was worth gold to me!

FORM 600-2

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL CLEARANCE

DATE NOV 30 1945 <sup>30 MK</sup>

TIME 1300

This is to certify that 1/5 Roland J. Champagne  
(Name and Rank)

does comply with WD Circular No. 276, 1 November 1943 and AAF Regulations 61-3, 9 August 1944. (free from vermin and communicable diseases and meets the war or Navy Department immunization requirements).

NOTE: Transportation on ATO Aircraft is contingent upon the rendition and submission of this certificate.

Doc R. Abbott  
CAPT AIRBORNE INFANTRY PG 3-69

**CLASS OF SERVICE**  
 This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
 PRESIDENT

1301

SYMBOLS	
DL	Day Letter
NL	Night Letter
LC	Deferred Cable
NLT	Cable Night Letter
	Ship Radiogram

**.BW47 10 TOUR=S LOSANGELES CALIF DEC 20 NFT** IT IS STANDARD TIME at point of destination  
**MR & MRS GIDEON CHAMPANGE=** **1945 DEC 21 AM 7 35**  
**6 BUTLER ST RD=**

**STATESIDE AND STRANDED. NO TRAINS, WILL TELEPHONE -**  
**WROTE AUNTY LOVE=**  
**ROLAND.**

**CHAMPANGE.**

TELEPHONE No. *28905*  
 TELEPHONES TO *Area*  
 TIME *8:50*  
 BY *[Signature]* TO BE *[Signature]*  
 ATTEMPTED  
 DELIVERED

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

At least I was in the US for Christmas although still not back home. You cannot imagine how happy I was to be back. Here is the telegram I sent home. All the trains were full!

Cpl Roland Champagne 31762022  
3605 Ord H.A.M. Co  
APO 244 PM SF

Left Saipan on ~~boat~~ / 1945  
Nov 30  
on an old ship speeding along  
at 7 knots; strong sea only 5 K.  
Sea sickness all the way from diesel  
exhaust, so thick it pours out of a  
glass - really! Left California on  
Christmas day at 2:30 AM - yes.  
Discharged at 3 PM New Year  
Day -  
CCHS 30 days were there from  
Lawrence - address at the club.



Mr. Eugene Champagne  
6 Butler St  
Lawrence, Mass

I am not sure when I wrote these notes on this envelope. It had to have been sometime after my return home. It is the only record I have of my voyage home.

Left Saipan on November 30, 1945 on an old ship speeding along at 7 knots; strong sea only 5 K.

Sea sickness all the way from diesel exhaust, so thick it pours out of a glass - really!

Left California on Christmas day at 2:30 AM - yes.



This photo was taken January 18, 1946. I had been discharged from the Army on January 1, 1946. This is my first photo as a civilian again!

It was all quite an experience beginning just days after my high school graduation. I was one of the lucky ones to make it back, the true heroes never did. I always remember them.



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HAS AWARDED THE

## PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON  
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782

TO

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROLAND J.H. CHAMPAGNE  
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED

IN ACTION

ON 22 MAY 1945 ON OKINAWA

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 2ND DAY OF OCTOBER 2012

  
THE ASSISTANT GENERAL  
For General Orders #70, 7 July 1961  
Headquarters, 5th Infantry Division  
APO 94



  
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

RM 4960-10-WT, JAN 2000

**Roland Champagne**

**Military Order of the Purple Heart**

**Battle of Okinawa**

**May 22, 1945**