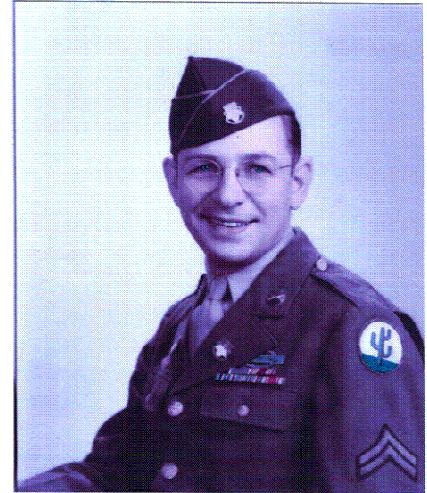


## JOHN CHARLES FARBER

John was born in Flint, MI on February 10, 1912. He was of German descent. John's father, Rudolf Farber, was born in Gowidlino, West Prussia, near Danzig (Gdansk). He lived in the Dusseldorf area, and immigrated to the United States in 1895 when he was 17 years old to join his older siblings and to avoid European wars. He died when John was 12 years old, and the family moved to the rural area of Fremont Twp., MI, near his mother's family, where John attended a one-room school house.

In 1927, after graduating the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at age 15, John worked to help support the family. He attended night school from 1930-1933 at Cass Tech High School in Detroit, MI to study mechanical drawing.

JOHN CHARLES FARBER



John's maternal grandfather was born in Groetzingen, Germany, a suburb of Karlsruhe, and came to the United States as a child. He later fought in the Civil War for the 21<sup>st</sup> Independent Battery, NY Light Artillery, and fought at the Battle of Gettysburg at Devil's Den. Pictured are John Farber as a child, John Wagner in his later years in his Civil War uniform, and his youngest son, Robert Wagner, a WW I veteran. Corporal Farber's mother was Mary Wagner and his sister was Lavina Farber.



At age 31, John entered the Army in Detroit, MI on May 14, 1943, one month after the birth of his first son. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, John was sent to Camp Wallace Anti-Aircraft Training Center near Galveston, Texas. He was later assigned to Fort Bliss, TX, outside of El Paso. After arriving at Fort Bliss, John was hospitalized in the Station Hospital for ten days in November, 1943 for a skin disease he had contracted. This was a few months prior to having his



John Wagner, Mary Ihrke, Flora,  
Ed & Mary Wagner

foot run over by a half-track in January, 1944 during maneuvers. As a result, he was hospitalized for three months. His wife Hazel, and son, traveled across country by train to join him at Fort Bliss. They were able to stay together from October 1943 to March 1944.

On May 25, 1944, as a Corporal, John was transferred to Camp Howze, TX (near Gainesville) to join the 103d Infantry Division (Cactus Division). He was assigned to Company B, 411<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, along with six other men from Headquarters, Anti-Aircraft Training Center, Fort Bliss, TX. On June 27, 1944 John took a train from Camp Howze to his home for a twelve day furlough. After his return to Camp Howze, training was wrapped up and on September 15, 1944 the final "pass in review" was held. The men were ready. Equipment was packed, trains loaded and the Division shipped out for Camp Shanks, New York to process for overseas replacement. Where, nobody knew.

The 103d Infantry Division departed the United States for Europe on October 6, 1944. Rumors flew and debate was hot. Are we going to Africa or Europe? It was not until the Southern coast of France was spotted did the men know; it was Europe. The ships arrived at Marseilles, France on October 20th. The 103d Infantry Division relieved the 3d Infantry Division at Chevry, Alsace on November 8th and attacked west of St. Die on November 16th. In its drive through the Vosges Mountains it met heavy resistance all the way. The 103d crossed the Lauter River into Germany December 15th, and assaulted the outer defenses of the Siegfried Line. On January 15, 1945 Brigadier General Anthony "Nuts" McAuliffe was redeployed from the Battle of the Bulge and given command.

According to the 411<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment report, on February 1, 1945, the 411<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment had its command post located in Bouxwiller, France. A review and inspections by Brig. Gen. McAuliffe was held on an improvised parade ground in the village square at Bouxwiller where two silver stars were presented. Gen. McAuliffe ordered the Regiment to prepare plans for a raid.

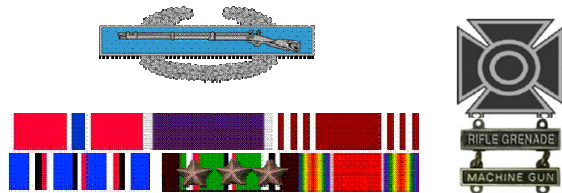
On the evening of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the 103d planned a raid on Rothbach, about nine miles NE from Bouxwiller. The raid seemed to have taken the enemy by complete surprise and it wasn't until 2110 hours that any enemy activity was noted. The town of Rothbach was lighted by flares when the fire fight broke out on the south edge of town. The raiders advanced, with sporadic fire, mainly from the enemy, using their knives and bayonets as they continued their advance. Companies A and B were leading and crossed the bridge into town with light firing until 2125 hours when the fire fight broke out. Company C was delayed when they became lost in the maze of roads leading into town and had taken the wrong road. By 2132 hours, the advance platoons from Companies A and B were in the town, entering houses on the south edge of Rothbach. Increased enemy activity was noted, with the hard-pressed Germans using colored flares to try and identify the raiders. Company D placed all roads leading into Rothbach under heavy mortar fire. At one point, it was reported that as many as 80 mortar

rounds were in the air at the same time. Corporal Farber's unit, Company B, came under heavy fire and he was wounded by shrapnel. On February 4th he was admitted to the 101<sup>st</sup> Field Hospital. The Division took a total of 81 casualties, either wounded, MIA or KIA during the battle of February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

The raid was successful, and twenty-four prisoners were taken and an estimated 60 enemy killed. Interrogation of the prisoners revealed that the German companies were of low strength and composed principally of middle-aged men with little Infantry training.

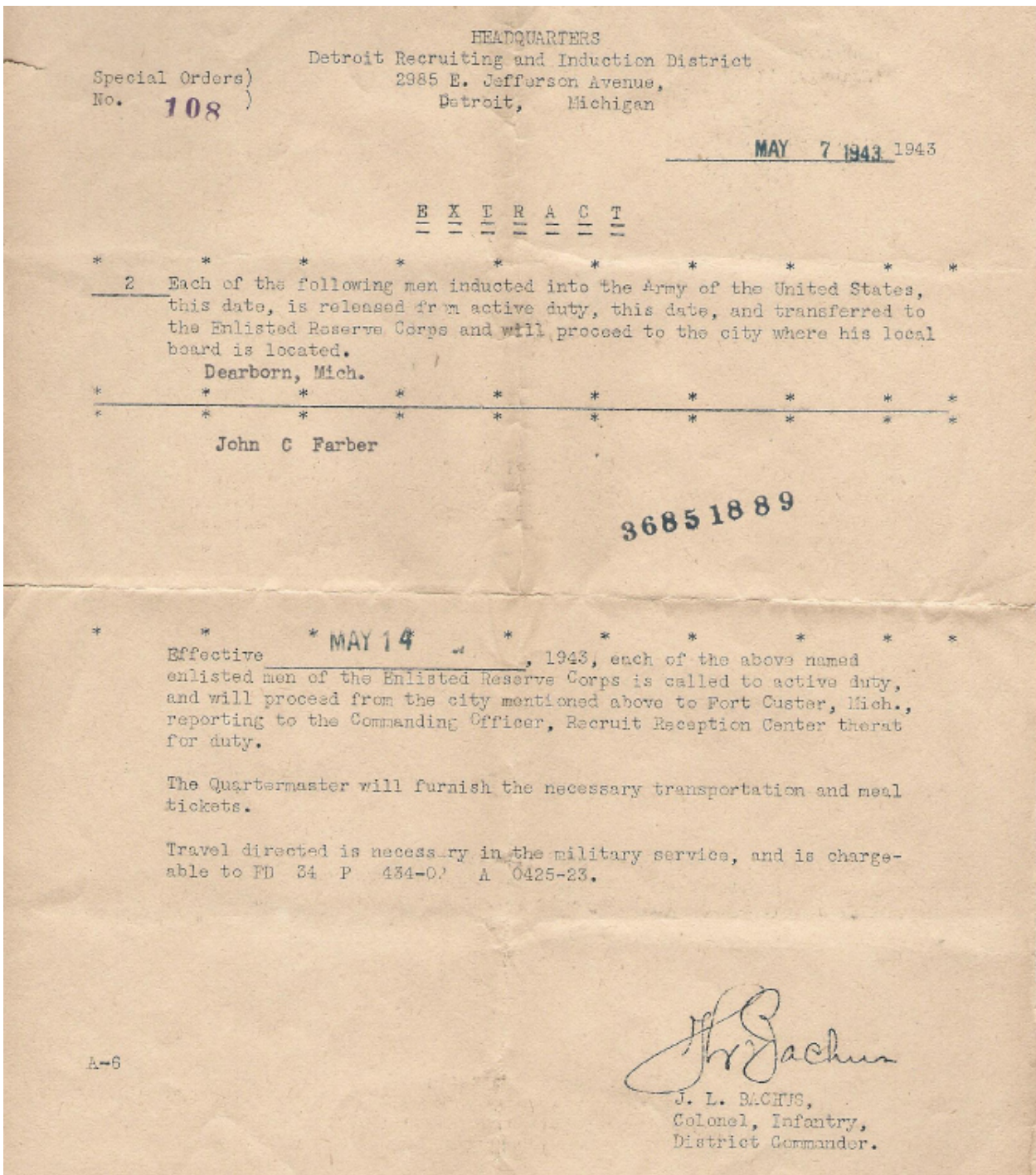
Corporal Farber was wounded on February 4, 1945 and transferred to the 101<sup>st</sup> Field Hospital in France. He remained there until the March 1, 1945 and was then transferred to the 68<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in England. After a month stay in the 68<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, he was shipped back stateside and hospitalized in the Station Hospital, Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for four days before his transfer and admittance to Gardiner General Hospital in Chicago. He remained at Gardiner General Hospital until his discharge. On July 10th he was given a 45 day furlough, returning home by train. He was home on leave on August 14, 1945, the day the Japanese surrendered unconditionally. Corporal Farber was Honorably Discharged from the military service of the United States of America on January 9, 1946 at Gardiner General Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

During his service he was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal and Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge.



After the war, John returned to his job at Michigan Bell Telephone Company, who provided subsidy support for he and his family during his time in the service. John married Hazel Webster, May 1, 1940. John and Hazel had a son, Jerry, who was an infant when John went into the Army. John and Hazel had a total of four children. Jerry, the oldest, is now a commercial photographer and owns his own business. He was awarded a Clio award. Ron, born after the war, became a Doctor. Marilyn and Carolyn worked together at the 3d Judicial Circuit Court, where Carolyn was a supervisor. One of Corporal Farber's grandsons, Paul, served in the Marines during the Gulf War in Jabuddi, Africa. John and Hazel had several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. John, worked at U.S. Rubber Company, J.L. Hudson Store, and Differential Wheel before joining Michigan Bell where he retired from at age 62. His last job at Michigan Bell was that of Cable Router, where he was responsible for the design of telephone networks.

The following are John's induction papers and subsequent one week deferment to get his personal affairs in order prior to entry in the Army.



HEADQUARTERS  
Detroit Recruiting and Induction District  
2985 East Jefferson Ave.,  
Detroit, Michigan

I N S T R U C T I O N S

Group Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Local Board # \_\_\_\_\_  
56 1009 S. Lison Dearborn, Michigan

T/R No. WQ \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Tickets # \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
8008217  
none

Par # \_\_\_\_\_ Special Orders # \_\_\_\_\_ Date May 7, 1943  
2 100

Report to your local board at \_\_\_\_\_ On May 14, 1943  
8:00AM

At your request, you have been released from active service and transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corps (ERC), Special Order number shown above, a copy of which is attached to this letter. Carry this letter and copy of the special order on your person at all times until you arrive at the recruit reception center.

You will be returned at government expense to the city in which your local board is located, in a group, under the command of your leader who is charged with maintaining order enroute, and who has full authority of a non-commissioned officer. He has been furnished necessary transportation and meal tickets for your group.

You are recalled to active duty on the date shown in your special order and must report promptly at the place, at the time and on the date shown above, from which point you will be sent with your group to the reception center at government expense.

While on an inactive status as a member of the enlisted reserve corps, you are not entitled to pay and allowances. Any medical attention or hospitalization after your arrival at the city in which your local board is located and until you begin the journey to the reception center will be at your own expense. Should you, through sickness or for some other reason, become separated from your group notify your local board at once for further instructions. Your local board must be kept informed of your address at all times.

After your arrival at the reception center you will be required to send your civilian clothing home or make other disposition of it. You will be furnished a complete set of toilet articles, including shaving equipment, soap, toothbrush, and comb, and on the following morning all necessary items of clothing will be issued. It is essential that you refrain from taking extra civilian clothing, hand luggage, trunks, radios, etc., to the reception center due to the limited facilities for checking and safeguarding them. Co-operate by taking with you only small articles which can be carried in your pockets.

Failure to report at the time, place and date indicated will constitute a very serious offense. The 61st Article of War covering absence without leave, and the 58th Article of War covering Desertion, have been read and explained to you. Failure to report to your local board as directed will subject you to trial and punishment under these Articles of War.

Extensions of period of inactive status, or furlough for additional time after reporting to the reception center, will be granted only in extreme emergencies. Should such an extreme emergency occur, such as serious injury or serious illness, you are directed to contact the Commanding Officer of the Recruit Reception Center in advance or to present your request after arrival at the Reception Center. The Reception Center Commander is the only one authorized to grant such a request.

Keep in mind the fact that you are now a soldier in the Army of the United States, and as such, the manner in which you conduct yourself will not only reflect upon the Army, your community, and your family, but it will also affect your entire military career.

While enroute to the reception center, obey the laws and regulations pertaining to railroad or bus passengers, respect their employees and promptly comply with their instructions and those issued by your group leader.

Do not leave the bus or car to which you are assigned without specific authority to do so.

Do not use obscene or profane language; especially where it may be overheard by civilians.

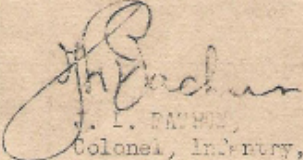
Do not partake of intoxicants in any form during the trip or prior to completion of your processing at the reception center. Upon your arrival at the recruit reception center you will be given classification and aptitude tests to assist in determining your qualifications for training and assignment. The results you attain will vitally affect your future in the Army. Therefore it is highly important that your mind be clear and alert and unaffected by alcohol.

Incl:

Copy of special order

Distribution:

Each enlisted reservist concerned  
Local board concerned (with itinerary)  
Reception center concerned.

  
J. L. DUMAS,  
Colonel, Infantry,  
District Commander.

T-2

An integral part of reporting to Active Duty after induction was an admonishment from the Army to maintain one's health. Each soldier was given the following pamphlet of instruction:



**OFF TO A GOOD START**

16-32247-1

You're in the Army now. Naturally you want to get off to a good start. If you begin right, the Army will be a grand experience, but if you start wrong, it may be hard for you.

One of the surest ways to start wrong is to show up sick the first few days. If you couldn't help it, no one will hold it against you, but if you went looking for the disease, you won't get much sympathy.

You're now going home for a few days before beginning training. These days were given to let you finish your business affairs and say goodbye to your family and friends. The Army hopes you have a good time while home but expects you back as healthy as you went. When the doctors went over you they

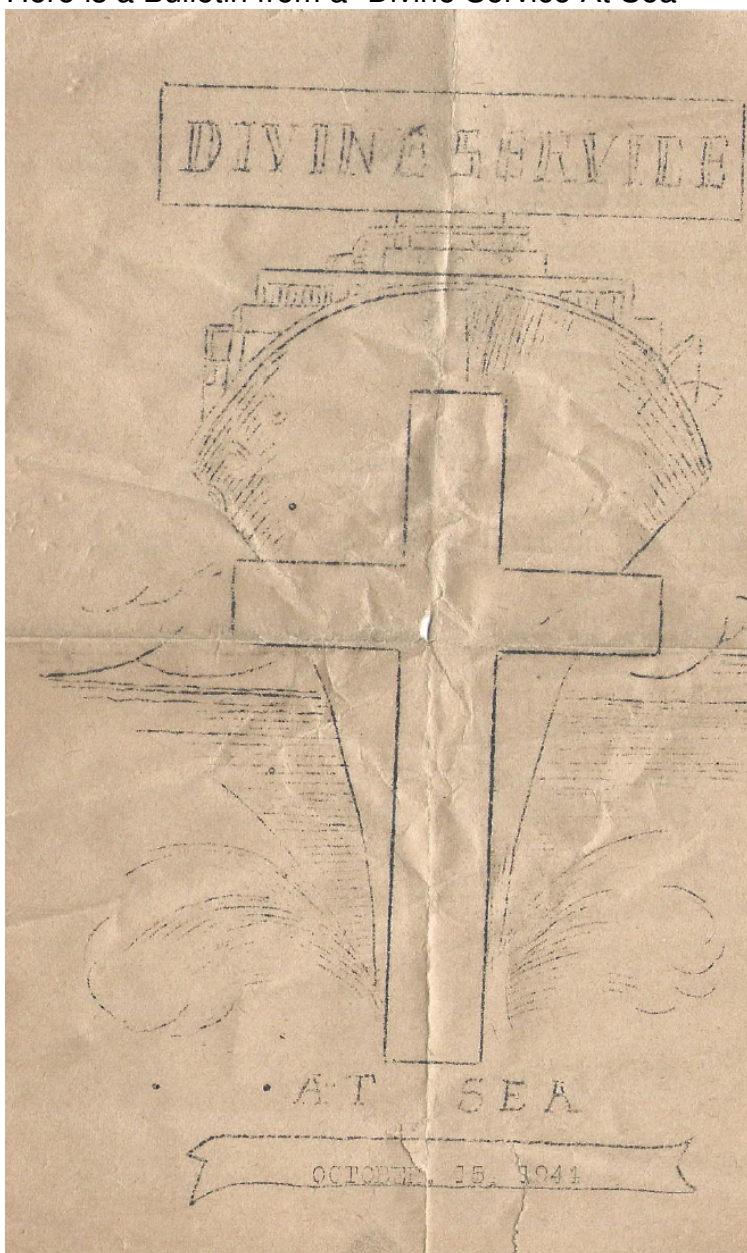
looked for venereal disease. If you come back with either gonorrhoea or syphilis they'll know you caught it since your examination.

Just remember that you can't tell what girl is diseased. If she lets you use her, the chances are she's letting someone else also, and if there have been enough "someone elses" she's sure to have been infected. If you fall for such a girl you're taking an awful chance of getting off to a bad start when you report for duty.

So have a good time during these few days, but not so good that you have to pay for it the rest of your life. The Army's a grand place to be, your country needs you, but **DON'T GET OFF TO A BAD START.**

16-32247-1 GPO

Here is a Bulletin from a "Divine Service At Sea"





OFFICIATING

Chaplain Arthur C. Woodruff  
Chaplain Logan L. Kuhns  
Chaplain Ellis S. Bullins

\*\*\*

QUARTET

Harold Fields - First Tenor -  
Roy C. Lawson - Second Tenor  
Norm C. Blackie - Baritone  
Chaplain Woodruff - Bass

\*\*\*\*\*

TRUMPET TRIO

John Eickhorn  
Jack Diefenbacher  
Michael Spalaris

\*\*\*\*

ORGANIST

Raymond Haggh

\*\*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude....."Andante".....Mozart  
 Doxology.....Page  
 Call To Worship  
 Selection....."Beneath the Cross of Jesus.  
                                   The Quartet  
 Hymn....."Lead Kindly Light....No. 12  
 Invocation.....Chaplain Bullin  
 Trumpet Trio....."The Old Refrain  
 Responsive Reading.....No. 34.....Chaplain Kuhr  
 Vocal Selection..."O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee.  
                                   The Quartet  
 Scripture Reading.....PFC. Norm Blacki  
 Hymn....."What A Friend We Have In Jesus".....No. 9  
 Sermon.....Chaplain Woodruff  
 Benediction.....In Unison

"May the Lord watch between me and thee  
 while we are absent, one from another...."

## CHRIST ON THE SEA

The voice that stilled the tempests' roar,  
That night on Galilee;  
Is heard again in quiet calm  
By Soldiers on the sea.

The stars hung in the heavens far,  
Beam out his message free,  
And each star is a little prayer  
For Soldiers on the sea.

Hold high the Cross, the blazing sign  
Of Life's eternity,  
And know the loving Christ is near  
To Soldiers on the sea.

-Cpl. Roy C. Lawson

Christmas time was a lonely time for the GI away from home. But the Army tried to make it as comfortable as possible with a great Christmas Dinner. John sent this menu home showing what was served for Christmas Dinner at Fort Bliss, Texas on December 25, 1943:

CHRISTMAS --- DECEMBER 25, 1943

\*\*\* M-E-N-U \*\*\*

Roast Young Turkey

Sage Dressing

Cranberry Sauce

Snowflake Potatoes

Creamed Corn

Buttered Peas

Candied Yams

Stuffed Celery

Sweet Pickles - plum Pudding & Sauce - Pumpk

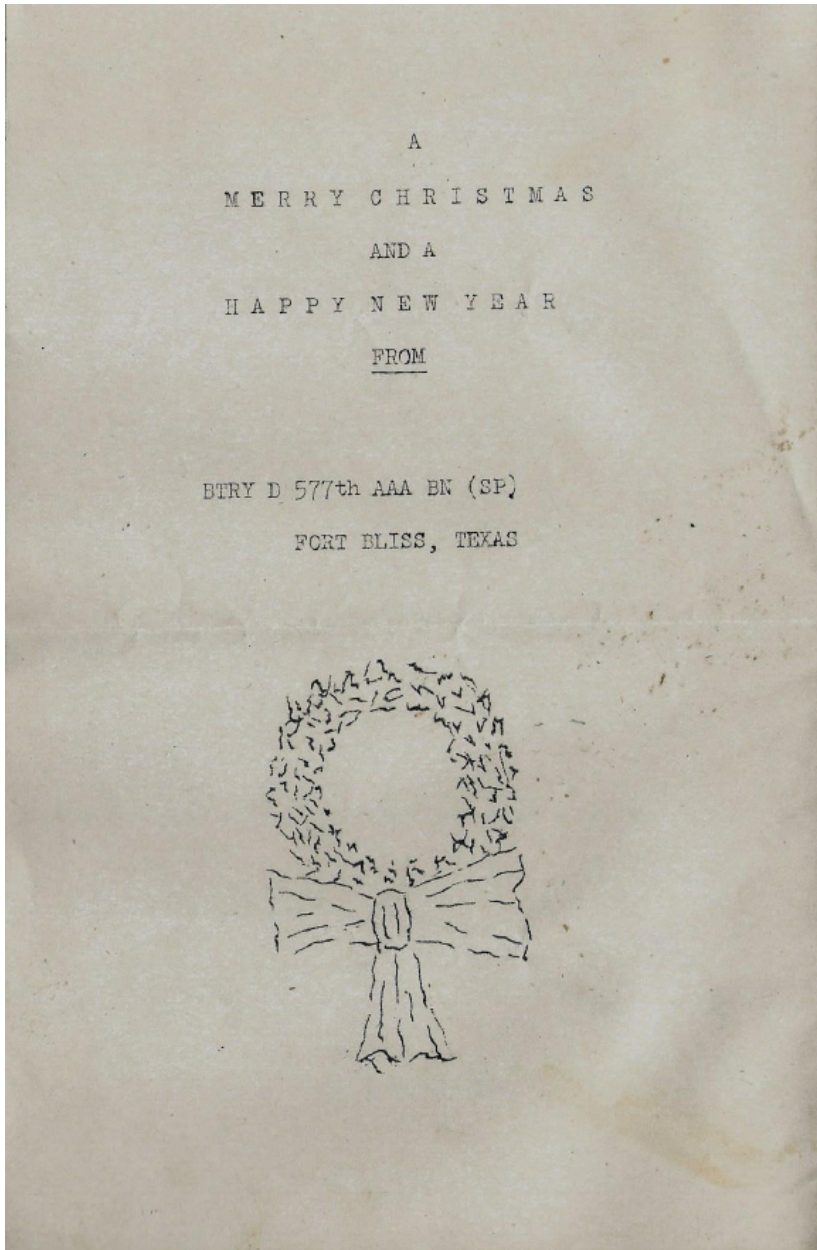
Ice Cream - Mixed Nuts - Candies

Assorted Fruits - Fruit Punch

Parker House Rolls

Butter

Coffee --- Milk --- Sugar



A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM

BTRY D 577th AAA BN (SP)  
FORT BLISS, TEXAS

While in the hospital, John Farber did not lose his sense of humor. He picked up this cartoon and indicated on it that it was "me" in the bed and the nurses sure were "cuties."

# CUTIES •• By E. Simms Campbell

Registered U. S. Patent Office



King Features Syndicate, Inc.  
World rights reserved

Just ONE more thing, Nurse. Please get the Company bugler and the Sergeant to come in and see me. Then I'll KNOW it's heaven!"



While in the hospital, after his being wounded in February, 1945, John drew the following map:



What follows are a collection of photos from his time prior to, during, and after the war:







Rudolph Farber & Mary Wagner

During his time in service, John wrote many letters home. Following are several of those letters:

Dear John & Lucille

I dropped some of the folders a card the other day but somebody walked off with my remaining cards so I am going to make you a little letter.

I am now in Camp Wallace Texas. Mobile Anti-Aircraft which will be mounted on Half Tracks.

It is pretty hot here although it is the humidity that makes it bad. It is a swell camp and about 15-mi from Galveston. There Theater and a Service Club which has dances once or twice a week.

We can't leave camp for a month, but it don't make

PVT John E. Parker  
PLAT 1, BTRY B, 34th Bn.  
AARDC  
Camp Wallace, Texas



Mrs & Mrs John Chambers  
Caro, Michigan  
R.F.D.

any difference to me. As there  
isn't much more one can do in  
town. Well not much more anyway.  
I just moved to a different platt.  
so my new address is

Plat 1. Btry. B. 34th Bn AARTC  
Camp Wallace, Texas. Tell Stearns,  
my and also hello to Jack Lew.

I am like a mexican from  
my eyebrows to my collar bone.

We are busy from six a.m. to  
5:30 P.M. and have to do our  
washings and other things after  
that.

I am sure glad I got to  
see all of your folks before I left.  
I doubt if I will get back home  
again before this is over. I just  
got my G.I. haircut. Boy they sure  
believe in giving you money  
worth. So long  
Until I hear more time

Jack White

July 24, 1943  
 Saturday  
 9:30 AM

Hello John - Lucille's Family  
 I guess it has been some  
 time since I have written you  
 so I will try and do you better  
 than a post card.

I suppose you folks are all  
 well and happy. I am well too,  
 that is when I have time to be.

It sure has been hot here.  
 I was out in the sun all day  
 Thursday and my face almost got  
 burned. My nose is quite sore  
 and is raw. I am glad I don't  
 have one of those extra large ones.  
 We went through the obstacle

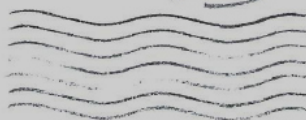
course this afternoon and had  
to march about four miles besides  
2 of the boys fell out. It wasn't too  
bad but the heat was pretty mean.

We are perspiring all of the time  
and our cloths are wet most of  
the day.

We are leaving Monday night  
for a 3 day bivouac down by the  
river. We sleep in pup tents 2  
men to a tent. Personally I'll stick  
to my bunk it is a lot more  
comfortable than mother earth.

We have just one more month  
of training here and then will  
be shipped to another camp from  
which we are to get a short  
furlough I hope, as long as it

MAILED  
JUN 2 1914  
STATION HOSPITAL  
WARD 32  
FT BLISS, TEXAS



Wife of Mrs. John Chambers  
Care, Michigan  
RFD

(3)

don't mean we are to be shipped  
across.

How is the release for Clarence  
coming along. I sure hope he  
gets it.

Well I must say good night  
as I must get some sleep so  
that I can get up early and go  
to town tomorrow.

Your old Cousin  
Jack

Mar 5

Dear John Lucille:

I don't know if you answered your last letter or not but I thought I would drop you for a while to let you know I am still in this hemisphere. In fact I am still beating my brains out in the hospital

It's a great life don't try it sometimes. Up at 6 a.m., wash, go to breakfast, ~~take a shower and go to work~~, sit around and wait for noon chow, come back to the ward and wait for supper and sit around or take in a movie if it happens to be that night and wait for nine o'clock and to bed.

If it isn't windy I usually sit on the steps and consume a little sunshine. Hazel comes down for a couple of hours every day, which sure does break up the monotony. Jerry is sure lots of fun, he will soon be walking.

Well John I am sorry to hear you got put in I.A. I hope they change it.



Hazel will be leaving for home next Monday night. It is going to seem pretty lonesome not to have anyone company. Guess I have been spoiled. I hope to get a couple more passes before she leaves.

My condition is just about the best the last month. The only thing that is keeping me here is the swelling in my leg. The doc said it may never get back to normal completely. Sure gets monotonous, when I do get out of here I will be ready for the nut house.

How is the Pontiac running? I just fixed my car sent working and needs \$40 worth of repairs. So I don't know if I will have it fixed or not as it is just about due for a overhaul job, plus some good tires.

Well guess have run out of wine so here wishing you a lot of luck with the draft board.

Jack

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the space below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.



To MR & MRS JOHN CHAMBERS  
CARO, MICHIGAN

From 34851889  
CPL JOHN FARBER  
C/O B. Altaline  
APO 479  
So F.M. NYC, NY  
JAN 9 1945

Dear John & Lucille:

Just a few lines to let you know I haven't forgotten you folks. I received your letter the other day and sure was glad to hear from you. Your family must really be growing up. I don't suppose I'd hardly know the children now.

We have been having it pretty easy the last 3 weeks doing mostly guard duty. Hope it holds out for awhile.

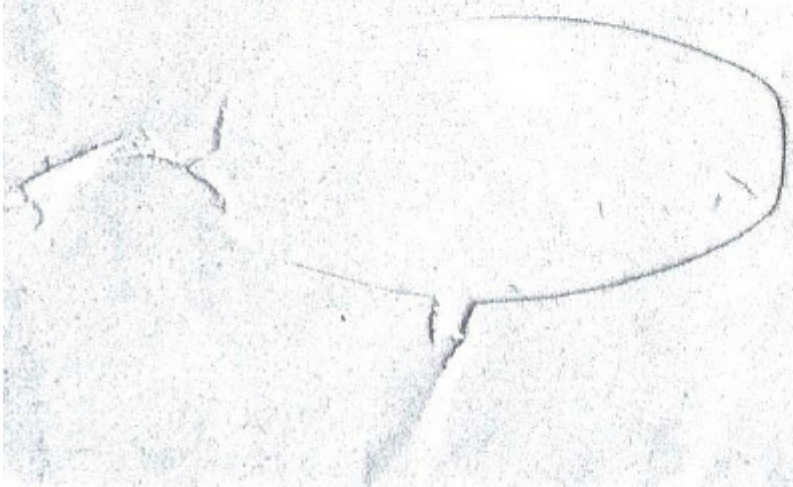
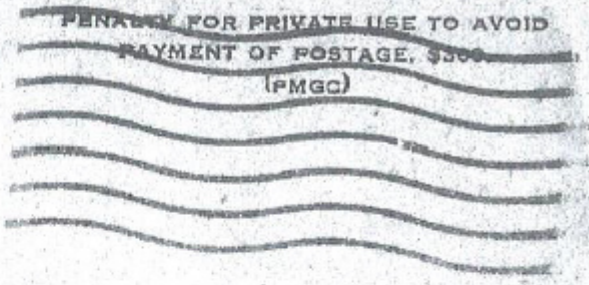
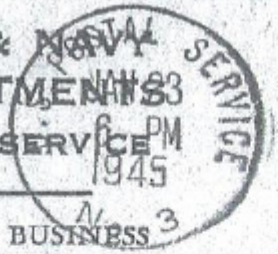
Winter has really set in here with plenty of snow and cold.

We are living in a town and have a room with a good stove. Of course we have to sleep on the floor, but it's a lot better than a fox hole. The people down stairs just make us some fig fruit for pie. Coy is my mouth watering. Miss & Clarence making out at home? I haven't heard from him for a long time.


Write when you can. Hoping you are all well.

Jack

WAR & NAVY  
DEPARTMENT  
V-MAIL SERVICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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



(CENSORED STAMP)

To: **MIRIAM GOLD CHAMBERS**  
**CARD, MICH**  
**RFD**

From: **SCASID09**  
**Sgt. Gold FRISER**  
**4180 HOSPITAL PL. UNIT**  
**APC 209**  
**5. PM NYC, NY**

**5-2445**  
(Sender's complete address)

See instruction No. 1

---

Dear John & Lucille:

I'll be darned if I remember if I wrote you since I hit England or not anywhere here alive.

I sat up for the first time yesterday. Guess it won't be long before I'll be on my feet again. I sure was lucky just a fraction of an inch more and I would have got it in the spine.

The stars are having swell weather here. The sun is almost hot & shines every day.

I got my first mail yesterday since I left and I sure managed to get it. That's a long time out to get from home.

How is everything with you folks. I suppose John is still working on I-51. Hope to see you one of these days in the near future.

I ask

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

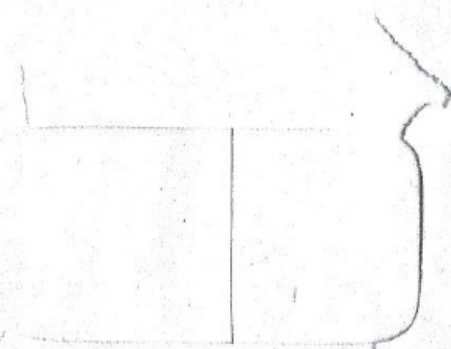

V-MAIL

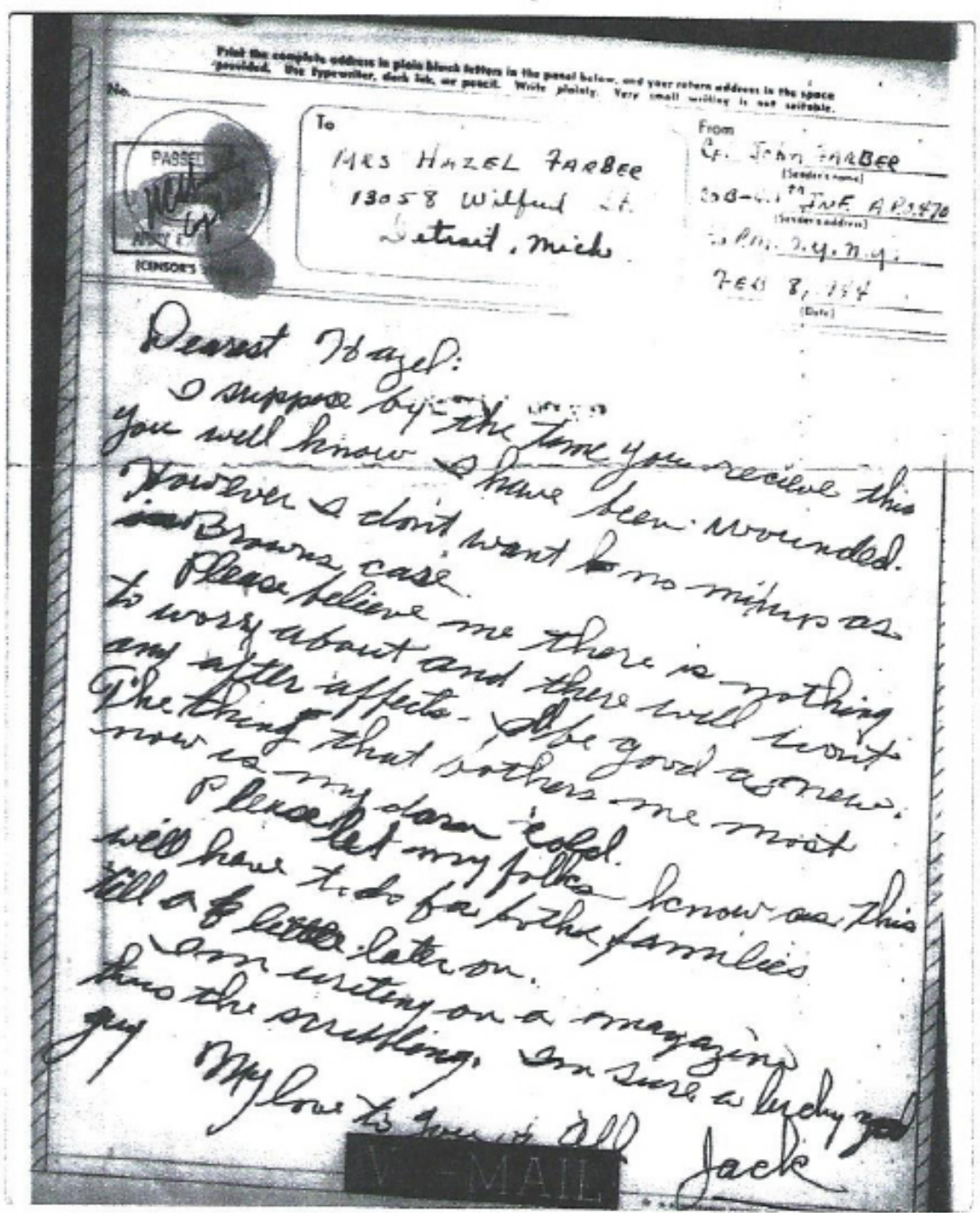
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

WAR & NAVY  
DEPARTMENTS  
V-MAIL SERVICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
APR 3  
2 PM  
1945  
No. 3

FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300





John and Hazel were very involved in their community through Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and church youth groups. In retirement, they enjoyed traveling around the country in their camper. John was never interested in returning to

*Europe.* It is doubtful if he knew that he was only about 50 miles west of his maternal grandfather's home town of Groetzingen, Germany near Karlsruhe when he was wounded.

John passed away August 12, 1994 at age 82 in Warren, MI, and Hazel passed away September 2, 2012 at age 98 in Waterford, MI.