

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Army Letters

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Drafted in July of 1953, Bernie served in the U.S. army during the Korean War from December 1953 – May 1955

He completed Basic training in Fort Ord, California and was then stationed with the 29th Field Artillery Battalion in Friedberg, Germany

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July 15 - 1953

The Post-Register, Idaho Falls, Idaho

JULY DRAFT CALLS FOUR



FOUR AREA men left Idaho Falls Tuesday afternoon for Boise where they will be inducted into the armed forces under the July Selective Service call for Bonneville County. Pictured above, the four men are, standing left to right, Jesse Earl West Jr., Idaho Falls, Rt. 2, and Bernard E. Knapp, 347 Cleveland St. Kneeling, left to right, are Harold R. Ireland, Idaho Falls, Rt. 2, and Hartley E. Olson, Pocatello. Sixteen other men left for Boise Wednesday for pre-induction physical examinations. (Post-Register Staff Photo).

Boise Ida. 15 Jul.

Dear Mom;

Just a note for now, doing fine. Our payroll has started today. We are in! Our picture will be in the Post. We found out we are headed for Fort Lewis in Washington. Our bus leaves to the Railroad station (city bus that is) in 15 Min. Harold and I are in the Boise PostOffice. We stayed in the Idaho Hotel, the same one we stayed in for basketball last winter. Will be in Ft. Lewis at least 10 days. Will let you hear from me again soon. as always Bernie.

Thur. 17 Jul. 1953

Dear Mom, Al, Lois, and all.

Well arrived in North Ft, Lewis today Thur. Went all night from Boise by train slept on a pullman ate supper on the train. Arrived here about 3 O'clock.

We saw a lot today. We left Boise on the Portland Rose. changed trains at Portland, came to Tacoma this morning. We saw tug boats and berges along most of the way and many large draw bridges, I guess that we saw some steamboats and some even larger. There were large lumber yards every since Nampa.

I'll send you my address, we'll probably be in Ft. Lewis about a week or so, you may get one letter to me before I get moved from here.

We traveled in good style to here, I was surprised to find out what things are like, not as I expected. There are two groups in since we arrived. We saw Ft. Lewis from the bus we went to North Ft. Lewis, a separate camp, so I may not see the fellows that I knew that were stationed at Ft. Lewis. However I may get away Sunday and if I can I will try to attend the L.D. S. services, I think they have them at Ft. Lewis, if they do I may see some of the fellows. The camps are really much larger than I supposed they would be. We'll get started on tests, lectures and other stuff tomorrow I guess. I hope and pray that I may come out of these tests with a chance for something better than regular army. Love Bernie.

Dear Dad;

This army is really a boy scout organization if I ever saw one, everybody tries to pass the buck to everybody else. The Sargents give every one under them the devil, and it goes on down. We were given our clothes yesterday, a barrocks bag then told to strip down and donate our clothes to the churches or put them in the bottom of the bag. They gave us a good fit on our shoes. I can't say that much else fits except my hat, socks belt and tie.

Today is 18th I am in Service center at North Ft. Lewis we've just had a floorshow. Clothes; they gave us two pairs of field boots, one of oxford, # of dress sox, 6 work sox 2 towels 2 belts, 2 ties, 2 work shirts, 2 work pants, 5 dress

pants and shirts, $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. each of underclothes a rain coat and a jacket, 4 caps, a necklas and we'll get tags with our names and serial number blood type. The Chaplain mentioned 3 groups of religion, Jewish, Catholic And Protestant, some L.D.S. fellows had an X on theirs.

I had a good time Monday night. Mary Ann got off so we went to Shelley to a good musical show, with Gordon McRae in "Desert Song" it's beautiful in color.

I got up early and visited with Al and Lois. All of us went to the Armory in al's car and I left on the bus. You probably saw our picture in the Post, the four of us are still together. I'm going to Church in the morning, there are plenty of guys who went be so the army won't suffer for help. After the first day I got sort of used to sergeants hollering.

Monday we will be given about 8 or 9 tests They are graded by machine so that we will know the score almost as soon as we are finished .There will be four months of basic, we then could apply for officers training, but looks to me like officers are married to the Army. I have never seen so many negroes , but they say there not many here- none in my barracks - some Indians here too.

Should an emergency arise the fastest and only way to get in touch with us is through the Red Cross, giving them our add.& serial number.

Your loving son Bernie

Week of July 23 1953

I must have done alright in tests today because I stayed with about $\frac{1}{2}$ the group to take O.C.S. test, even if I had a chance I wouldN't take it because it means another year and the active reserve till one is 65. I went to Church. They can't keep you from attending Church. I think I have never heard a more inspiring Sacrament Service. J Earl,Olson and I we took Harold with us. I played a little ping pong and waited around till 1:30 for Priestood Meeting. When I walked in was I ever surprised, I saw three fellows from Ricks,I went with them,after meeting, to their barracks until the 7 Oclock meeting. There are 3 or 4 fellows from Rexburg I sure enjoyed seeing them.

I enjoyed Sacrament Meeting. There was one fellow who talked,he and only been a member since last week, he was converted while bunking with a returned missionary, he was certainly glad to have met so many good L.D. S. Men and be baptized before shipping out. He has been through his four months of basic. I felt better after going to Church. I'll let you know my changed address, that should be fairly permanent about 16 weeks of basic training.

We had ten tests this morning, reading some, praticle math., and mechanics. We get a private interview tomorrow. We got our "dog tags" to day. And at church we filled out a slip and got our church books , the small copy of the Book of Mormon ,Principles of the Gospel,and L.D.S. tags.

Love Bernie

Aug. 27 Jul. '53.

Once today I felt great, was put on a big detail, watering lawns, the shubbery is mostly evergreens, the natural trees are firs. We had four lengths of garden hose prob. 100 yds. about every third barracks and kocked the hose in the sinks through the window and watered around the building there are about 20 barracks, the lawns are large, there were six of us two to each set of hoses. After dinner we did it all over again. The grass looks the same as the grass in the swamps and banks along Tom's creek where it is wettest, I saw a little clover scattered and plenty of moss. It must be a swamp grass it sure takes the water. Im surprised there aren't lily's and water cress. The water is warm it never did get cold to drink.

A McKenzie kid from Arco came, a grandson of our neighbor Eight fellows from Jefferson Co. came All were returned missionaries. If there are 52 weeks to a year I just have 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ left in the first round.

Sunday; Show this pictuer to Al, looks like a real happy character don't you think? You look into a machine, sign reads, Hold still when red light is on, It's like locking into a mirror you see yourself. Then the pictures look like they should be hanging in the Post Office some place, ha, ha. I just finished about five games of ping pong won four of them. I read a little tract I got in Church last week "Two years in Service can be Profitable" By Pres. Clark. Have another one, What Mormons believe' Ray Thompson from Sugar City is giving the Priesthood lesson today. They are serving coffee and doughnuts, the doughnuts are good and the water is not bad. J. Earl is going to Bliss Tex.

I went through 16 Hrs. K.P. today. Some mess halls are better than others. Some of the cooks-- most of which have a rank of Corp. Sarg. etc.-- are Pretty ignorant, they know that you are here at the R.C. for a short time and they treat you like slaves, others are nice.

We had a G.I. party today, that is where you scrub the floor with scrubbing brushes, then you sweep them with brooms, then with mops, and then dry mops. Windows, walls, everywhere cant even use the shower untill after inspection Sat. about (9 oclock. One kid had to scrub floor with toothbrush, one had to gig a hole 6x6x6 and put a cigaret butt in and fill in that he through on the ground. love Bernie.

Tues 28 Jul. 1953

Dear Dad; How is every thing in Island Park? Are the Huckleberries ripe? Today we are in Ft. Ord.* If I were a Gen. the fellows who dont smoke would't have to pick up cigarette stubs.

We left Ft. Lewis by bus, we traveled for about 45 min. At the Seattle Tacoma Olympia airport we boarded a large United Airlines Plane. There were 23 of us and about as many other pasengers, we flew to San Francisco, I did not sit by a window and besides I was just above a wing. I did see the ocean, many high snow capped mountains and the Golden Gate

Bridge. When we got to Los Angeles we flew from there to Monterey on a smaller plane -held about 28 or 30 beside baggage we came into the Fort by bus. Jay West went to Texas, Olson went to Virginia, Harold Ireland and I are here , that's of the four of us who left Idaho Falls together.

I thought it would be hot here but I have'nt seen the sun yet just fog. It has been colder than in Washington, and today we were issued winter clothing, wool jackets, trousers, long underwear, wool caps, and gloves. They say it is as cold as it will get the yeay around here, so I guess it wont be bad if it's never colder than this. At least it will be better for training than it would be if it were hot. Wou have to wear full uniform every where outside of your barracks, that could be warm on a warm day.

I just saw Mr Watt's daughter-in-law, she was an Andrus from Thornton you would know her father, Don Watts, her husband is stationed here I understand. Kenneth Patterson, a missionary from Burley, has been in the same group as I since we were in Washington, and in the same barracks I hope we dont get separated I like him, He's a swell guy. We are the only non -gen-tiles ,or heathens in the barracks. There are really some rough characters here I tell you. Love Bernie.

Add; Pvt. Bernard E. Knapp US 56211695
Co. M 63rd Inf. Regt.
Fort Ord, Calif.

*written before
last one*

Sat. July 25, 1953,

Dear Dad;

How is everything going? Well if we could do all the work assigned us here and then do something else we could work two hours and rest ten. There are a lot of kids here who never worked before. You have noticed how people around the mill watch you work. Their eyes nearly pop out, Kids here talk about work ing but they don't know what you mean. If you ever work they watch you like it was something they never saw before.

I got my shipping orders Fri. I will leave for Ft. Ord Mon. It's near San Francisco.

One day I watered Lawns all day, One kid had a lawn mower for about 7 hrs. , a wheelbarrow would have cut about as much. Swamp grass must be the viriety no lawn grass would grow in so much water, they have moss and toadstools growing in them funny they dont have waterlilies.

I did reel well on my tests ,the interrigation officer said I did average on radio and well above average on all the others, He said I can apply for nearly any school which might be open ,we can make application in about sox weeks, to pass O.C. S. takes a score of 115 I got 114. I don't care thought If you Pass it you are in the reserve until you are 65 and have to spend two full years after you get through with 9 mo.

or a year of schooling. They put down that I had taken art and typing. I'll get some sleep we get up at 4:30, on K.P. it's 3:30 till 7:30, 16 hrs Sun. we sleep Late 5:30 ha, ha,
Tell all hello, yours Bernie.

Mon Aug. 3 1953

Dear Mom.

Well it seems like ages since I have written. I guess I'll finally have a permanent add., at least for 8 weeks, unless I should get a break, it will be 16, we are in a 16 week basic company. A heavy Infantry co. It will be larger guns for foot soldiers, machine guns, bazooks, recoil rifles, etc.

The lights are out early than usual, generally 11:30 and we get up about 4:45 or 5:15, it's a long day when you start that early. Tell every one hello, aunt Jenny if you write to her.

First four weeks we were quarantined like prisoners. we have about one hour free time scattered over the day, when we must shine shoes mend clothing and do laundry. Our platoon sergeant is a Negro, There are two LDS twins from St. George but I am not lucky enough to have one. Things should get better that is we will likely lose our quarantine, that depends on how we do things and of the 6 platoons in our M Co. guess we have the worst reputation, that means we get the last choice of everything, we have some smart alects in our platoon. We had classes about 6 hours today, we got our M1 rifles yesterday. We were marched to church yesterday. ~~L~~ It was Sac. Meeting, Eld. Spencer W. Kimball spoke about 8 minutes. Hello to everyone

Love Bernie.

Dad, dont send my camera we have no way to lock anything.

Tues July 28 '53

How are you? Sunday some of my friends were at church. I met Kenneth Patterson, a returned missionary, from Burley, He's a sweet guy, a little taller and heavier than I. He volunteered at priesthood meeting to talk in church, he certainly gave a wonderful talk. He shopped to Ft. Ord with Harold and I Jay West went to Ft. Bliss Tex. Bet it's hot there. About like Wash. here.

Monday morning we left Ft. Lewis by bus. At Seattle Tacoma, Olympia airport we left by large U.S. airliner, there were 22 fellows and a sargent pluss the ordinary passingers 15-25 pluss all our baggage. We left 12:15 and were in S.F. about 4:20. The airport at Seattle was larger building than the two I.F. hospital nurses home and Temple combined I guess. We didnt go in it they had other stations where we got our tickets, larger than I.F.

Rail Road Depot. Guess S.F. is pretty large, we saw the ocean, the Golden Gate and Say Bridge from the air. WE flew from S.F. to Monterey on a smaller plane it held about 30, we came to the Ft. by army truck.

We came here to the service club to get awet from doing detail, if your around the barracks they get you sleeping, writing or whatever. The fort is enormous in size, I dont really

know how large for one thing it is built upon rolling hills.

An orchestra is playing it is made up of G.I.'s who have checked out instruments just to play them. This wasting time goes slow, I went to the barracks, the orderly is a new draftee like myself, he said don't come in go to the P x or Service club or you'll get put on detail. The Service Club was not open so I sat on the porch took my Testament and read most all the First Gospel. After dinner we marched about two miles where we were given clothes, woolen jackets and pants leather gloves and long underwear two caps and infantry button.

After about a month of basic we can put in for schooling I think I will do like Harold plans, he is going to put in for "Training Aids" he says that has to do with lettering and such. They give you 1st 2nd 3rd choice. I did well enough on my tests.

The PX is a large modern store, with everything to sell. Ft. Ord is the size of a city, more compact than a town, not so many vacant lots. Kenny said yesterday when we got on the plane, "Oh, if my mother knew where I was she would just die." He was in Va, and S.C. on his mission and sounds like a southerner
Love Bernie.

Have been chosen one of 20 to work for C.I.C.. Counter Intelligence Corps.

Pfc Bernard E Knapp US56211695
B Btry 29th FABn
4th Inf. Div. APO 39
% PM NY NY

First trip to Holland



VIA AIR MAIL

copied

Mrs. J. W. Knapp
347 Cleveland St.
Idaho Falls,
Idaho

My leave stated on the 20 June. I left at midnight and went to Bad Nauheim where I stayed with the Lunds for the night. Sunday we went to church in Friedberg and after church I took my cameras and my bag and went to Frankfurt on the train. Then I got a round trip by train to Aachen, Germany where I called Henk on the train and he came and picked me up at the Bahnhof.

I left Frankfurt at 4:30 and traveled through Mainz, Bonn, Köln, and Koblenz on the way. All of these cities are situated on the Rhine River. All the way along the Rhine River there are high sides many of them are actually cliffs. They look a good deal like so of the hills along the way south of Pocatello. Well anyway all along these hilltops at various places there are castles. Some don't have much left and others appear to be kept up and in good shape.

At Aachen Henk came and got me and we visited for quite a while then I went and got a hotel room at the Bahnhof hotel across the street from the Bahnhof. The next day Henk came and got me and after we had eaten he took me in the jeep and drove me around Aachen for a little while. It was an old city and like most of the cities that I saw along the Rhine had been badly bombed during the war and very little has been done to fix them up again though this may not be true and if so it just goes to show how badly they must have been right after the war. Well he drove me to the border at the little town of Vaal. I checked in at the customs office there and he cleared the jeep and on we went. Now I was in Holland. No more cobble stone highway but a modern one. Henk drove me about 20 or 25 miles into Holland where he put me on the train at Maastricht. The I went on to Amsterdam alone.

I had the address of a hotel where I could get a good room at a reasonable price and after a few minutes walking from the central station in Amsterdam I found a travel agency and they directed me to the Hotel. The manager spoke good English and he was filled up just for that one night so he took me to a friend's place who had an opening for that night and then the next day why

I went back over to his place. where I stayed the rest of my stay in Amsterdam which was until I returned home. All ~~1000~~ toll it cost me 6 guilders a night. A guilder which amounts to 27¢ in our money wasn't too expensive especially since breakfast comes with the hotel room there.

Amsterdam is fairly large. It is called the Venice of the North. It has about 60,000 inhabitants and is smaller than Salt Lake in area but is built up more in the air as a whole. It has many old buildings with there outmoded steeples. There are over 54 canals and over 400 bridges. Seems like that every block has a bridge. There are many small boats and barges small enough to pass below the bridges and also there are many draw bridges on the main canals that allow larger vessels through. †

Tues. I went to my hotel. (The 1st night at the Hiller hotel the elderly couple both spoke English and they talked to me for a while before I went to bed. When she found out that I was not a coffee drinker the woman asked me if I happened to be a Mormon and when I told her then she got out her scrap book and showed me a picture of the Salt Lake Temple on a little article of Faith card and two autographs that she had, so I supposed that she had at one time had some missionaries into her hotel.)

Tues. After taking my bags over to the other hotel I decided to find the large Museum. It was called the Rykes Museum. Well I walked quite awhile before I found it and right across from it is the LDS church in the city.

So I wound up going there first and it happened that ~~on~~ that day they were holding a district report meeting so I attended upon invitation. The missionaries reported there and it was a very fine meeting and I really enjoyed the testimonies and also hearing what Pres. Van Dam had to say.

Well I ate with the family there that were taking care of the church and later on the missionaries had a snack and I ate again with them. They eat bread and butter twice a day in Holland and then the other meal they eat vegetables, especially potatoes and spinach. They have a sort of molasses which they eat on their bread along with butter.

Pres Van Dam was a former officer in the Field Artillery and so he had to tell a few of his experiences in the Army since I reminded him of the army.

I took a few pictures after that and wandered around window shopping.

Wed 22 June I went to the station and took a train to the Hague (Den Haag) which is the city where the mission headquarters is. It is a tremendously large city. It is spread out for acres and even miles. I walked and walked and never did come to where I could see anything that looked like the edge of town. I rode a street car for it seemed like ten or fifteen minutes just to get to the street where the mission home was located, Laan Von Poot.²⁹

Well I got there just in time to join the missionaries in their dinner meal and as usual it was a bread meal only they were a little fancy and had jam to put on their bread.

I decided to follow the street car tracks back to the station but it wasn't that easy and besides it was farther than I had anticipated. But as the city is spread out and not many buildings over 2 or 3 stories high I saw an unusually high tower and decided to see what it was and take a picture of it. It turned out to be the Peace Palace. It was begun by a 1 1/2 million dollar contribution by Dale Carnegie and then all the countries of the world contributed in the way of building materials such as the tile by Italy and statues by the other countries, paintings and so on. It is lavishly built and decorated and then on completion in 1917 it was the place where the United Nation's Court of International Justice was held. Then during the war it was forced to be abandoned and now the Carnegie library which is on the premises and is the largest library on international law in the world is there and is the place for school in the summer and many universities all over the world send students there for the mid summer course. Finally I left here after a tour through the palace and I later took many pictures both inside and out I found my way back to the station.

Then I went on to the Delft. It is noted for its blue dyed china ware. I looked up an address there of a missionary. When I found the address I was invited in and they were just getting ready for to eat but no more bread for me that day. Well they had to leave for a cottage meeting so I got back on the train and took off for Rotterdam. By the way this fellow was Herman Hatch a boy whom I had known at Ricks.

It took about an hour to get there. By 8:00 I found his address and after I found it he was gone to a cottage meeting so I stayed there until they came back. He was really surprised to see me. Since he did not know that I was in Germany and so we spent a few hours talking over our days at Ricks. The next morning he took me on his ~~bike~~ companion's bike and I followed him. We went all over Rotterdam. We went over to the harbor which is the world's largest inland port. There we went across. Well first we got on a huge escalator and went 75 ft or so down then we peddled along through a tunnel for 5 min. or so and then got on another escalator and came up on the bank opposite to where we had been. I got several pictures of the ships there and also one of a British aircraft carrier. Then we rode back across and after a while we saw the new part of the city. It has been rebuilt. It had been bombed a great deal mostly because it was a big port. As most of Holland wasn't bombed heavily during the war.

Then nearly back to Gaylen Beazer's apartment which was in the upstairs of a doctor's office I saw the famous church of the people who came over on the Mayflower.

At that I left Rotterdam, and left for the Delft doing some looking at things that I had seen there previously.

At Delft I visited the old church (Oude Kerk) I took a lot of picture there and I went into the tower and climbed to the highest heights. There was a winding stair with an occasional landing and a door outside where there was a railing around the tower so that I got pictures from several altitudes and from any direction I was able to get shots of the city. One that I particularly liked was that of the New church which was just across the street, although it was tall I was high above it. Also I took a picture looking up at the big clock on the tower and also the bells in the belfry. Then coming down I counted the number of steps which was 333 and each of them was an eight inch step. so it was quite a height. (Excuse the typing since I am using a strange typewriter and a portable at that.) Part of the steps were wooden and part were of stone. Also the steps made a complete turn every 10 or 12 feet.

Wed in Den Haag (The Hague) I visited the Peace Palace. I went into the palace on a tour for 25¢ and saw it all. All the different things were largely gifts donated by countries of the world. The fountain in the rear Garden was given by Norway. This fountain had four seals and 4 polar bears. It was a tile bowl. It had many rooms some of which I saw. In some were lavish gifts such as a pair of ivory tusks from the King of Siam and other things like vases in which there were figures gold-inlaid. A large pure white statue of a lady representing peace -- gift of the US. A statue 1/7 the size of the original Christ of the Andes statue which you may have seen in one of the church sections which showed Pres McKay during his visit to Chile or Peru. Italy gave much of the tile for the floors. Paintings on the windows and the ceilings of the hallways were done by the Dutch. Rugs for the floors in some of the rooms were by the Dutch also. I didn't have any flash for my camera but I did take some black and white shots with my Rollei.

Lots of sailors in the cities I suppose mostly they were Dutch and some English. Friday began by going to Aalkmar, North of Amsterdam a ways. It wasn't very impressive however. There was a cheese market there alright and I saw the old dutch workers in their costumes carrying the cheese out and loading it onto the boats on the canal in front of the market place.

The weather wasn't very good and I noticed all the Holstein cattle grazing as I went back on the train to Amsterdam. The farms there are different than in Germany the farmers live on the farms therefore you see the farmhouses. I guess that is one reason Holland looked so good because it is like the farm country I have been used to seeing.

Back at Amsterdam I decided to go to Artis which is the zoo ^{aquarium}. Saw an aquarium there all kinds of snakes, turtles and fish of many kinds. Saw a Rhinoceros and other things.

Then I went back to the hotel and after leaving my camera case just took my Rollei along and went down by the station where I took a tour on a boat through the canals. It was a long boat having more seats than in a large bus. It had a glass top and glassed windows. I went out in the harbor and also I saw the Zuider Zee while I was in the harbor and then of course I saw many ships and the docks of many lines from all over the world. The guide on this tour said; "Amsterdam is called the Venice of the North". Many buildings are actually built in the water. It has over 200 bridges, over 53 canals and 60,000 inhabitants. I saw its narrowest street on the tour. One way traffic for pedestrians.

I met Henk the next day at 10:00. WE walked around for a while. We visited the Ruykes museum and saw the old paintings of Rembrandt and old ships, old rooms of paintings of former Dutch rulers and miniature ships ranging from very small models to some 25 feet long or so. Later on in the day we went to his mother's home. She lives in Amst. but on the opposite side of the harbor. The city is joined by a system of ferry boats which operate free due to the consideration of the city. We had dinner which was bread and butter with a little jam to go with it. After supper Henk took me to Haarlem which was where he was born and went to school. Here there is an LDS chapel and it is where he joined the church. The only font is at Amst. but he attended church in Haarlem. He showed me the places of historical interest and old churches, castles and the park where he had played while growing up.

The park is about 4 acres and has a small herd of deer and some swan and ducks in the canal there. There is a beautiful place in that city where the Queen previously lived.

That evening we attended a movie in Amst it was my 1st Cinema scope it was in English with Dutch in printing at the bottom. The next day Henk and I visited the Van Alman's who live in the top of the church. She brought Henk into the church and also influenced her husband into joining the church. They are nearly ready to go to the states since he has not obtained his citizenship papers he has to be back in the states within two years so that his mission is a short one. They have two little daughters. Sunday morning at 1:00 I met Henk at the station and we crossed on the ferry where I went with him and we ate dinner at his mother's house. WE had a nice dinner of spinach and potatoes and pudding. That day I braved eating a herring "Haring", which are raw but pickled fish. But they serve them with plenty of onions and bread this was the supper which we ate after church. WELL I had Henk tell his mother good-bye for me and left, meeting him the next day at 9:30 at the station and we were soon on our way back to Aachen on the border where Henk is stationed. We were at the border by 1:00 and ready to go to his place but I stopped for an hour to do a little shopping. That night we visited and went to a German movie which Henk had to explain to me. I stayed in a hotel that night and the next day Henk came down and saw me off on my train back to Frankfurt.

Well the trip along the Rhine is pretty. It is nice with its cliffs and castles all the way along over looking the banks of the river. The river is filled with boats for sight - seeing and for hauling freight. There are lots of berries and grapes growing along the river. That is why it is often called the wine land.

The cities in that part of Germany are really torn up. Especially Aachen and Cologne. I changed trains at Cologne and was supposed to again at Mainz but never and nearly got to Switzerland or well on the way at least before I discovered it and turned around and took a train back to Frankfurt which took me about three hours. But I saw more country than at way.

Well so much for my trip to Holland and I will say that I certainly have a desire to return again. Next time however when the tulips are in bloom since that is when I shall it would really be beautiful and also when the weather would be the sunniest and nicest.

Spl Bernard E Knapp US 56211695
B Btry 29th FADn
APO 39 NY NY



*retained from
middle east*

VIA AIR MAIL

JW Knapp
347 Cleveland St
Idaho Falls,
Idaho

*185
120*

Sunday 20 Feb '55
Friedberg

Dear Folks,

How are you? By the time you get this letter you will already know we are safe and soundly returned by the little telegram I sent to let you know we were back and all okay.

Today is our last day on leave so we went to church this morning and then came back. We all ate at Lee's mess hall. I went to the btry and picked up my pen came back to the chapel annex and am doing a little catching up on my work, - letter writing and so on.

Last night I straightened up my locker and bed put my ~~things~~ things away. As soon as possible I wish to get my notes of the trip written up in an orderly form and then I'll try to type it up.

It was nice to attend Sunday School again after a few weeks absence. Bill Orchard, our group leader, asked me this morning to be one of his ~~com~~ ~~com~~ consider so I will probably be busy a little later

on.

Well since I came back I've ~~sp~~ spent quite a bit of money. I ~~did~~ have wants for a long time to buy some presents from Germany.

I'll send you a list of ~~the~~ things and who they are to go to. There are really ~~some~~ ~~so~~ ~~the~~ some things that are nice. I mailed 6 boxes yesterday from Bad Nauheim APO so I spent all of the morning running around back and forth to the APO. Then I have two ^{or three} boxes in ~~my~~ ^{my} locker ~~or three~~ to mail.

This week I shall pick up some more things and get them on the way also.

I sent a couple of dolls. They each have baskets and red dresses, a German type dress. They are Little Red Riding Hoods. So I shall have you keep them. Now this may sound funny. But this week I shall send 7 separate boxes with dolls in them. 7 dolls. They are for my sister and sister-in-law. When I send them I'll send them to the girls. I think except for the one for Beth which I'll send to you for her and also I'll

send some more things in another box.
One is a hunting knife for Steve.

Some salt & pepper shakers and one of them has a cracked top. It is heavy. It contains a collection of coins that I picked up on my leave. They are plastic. I ~~too~~ cracked it when I loaded it with coins and tightened it down too much. Then there is a statue of Venus that I bought in Greece. A head scarf etc from Jerusalem. Watch closely for a small plain looking stone. It is just sort of gray or yellow and only the size of a marble. I picked it up on the shore of the Dead Sea, why I don't really know but after I got back and read the letter Claudia had written asking for a rock for her collection I was glad that I had carried this little plain looking pebble around in my pocket. So it is in some paper with other things.

There are 2 vases and a little bowl from the Dead Sea. They are black. They are for you mom. If you would like you could give Claudia one of the vases. I thought perhaps the bowl would be okay for bobby pins, curlers, change or something. I really didn't get many souvenirs we were.

so loaded down any way it seemed.

There are two small clocks. Maybe one would look okay in the kitchen. In the boxes with them are ~~two~~ two keys for winding and two pendulums. They just hook from the bottom and hang. Then I am using some old letters to wrap things with as well as newspapers. So please take all the letters and keep them in a box for me until I get home.

I am sending some pamphlets, Christmas cards and other souvenirs I have accumulated also and so please keep it for me in the garage or some place for me until I come home. You can throw all the newspaper away just make sure no base things get thrown away too and then I'll sort the rest when I get home.

I sort of wondered if one of the small clocks would interest Aunt Lavinia but I guess not.

Maybe you could give a set of the salt and pepper shakers to Aunt Theola.

There is only one stand for the shakers so ~~to~~ a red dotted one and a black dotted one keep in the stand at home.

Then the cracked ~~on~~ one and one more keep at home also. Then the other set for Aunt Theola if you would like.

I'll have some diploma's etc in it also and so please just keep the contents except newspaper and a little excellson and worn out boxes the clocks are in. The box isn't too big you could keep it I guess in the garage. Well just check everything you take out especially before you throw it away.

Dad you can pick out any of the three pocket knives for yourself. One of the famous Black Forest knives is mine - one is Steve's. Be sure and tell him that it is a Black Forest knife. In the Black Forest of Germany on the Swiss border they make these famous knives and also that's where the 300 Day Clocks and Cuckoo clocks come from by the way.

Then there is a box of figurines already on the way too and in a month or so they should be there. You will want to check them for me please. They are the original Hummel figurines. I planed to match them up and make book end stands for them and give them on when I get home. I think they are nice but they really cost the money.

I sort of thought perhaps Claudia would want some of them. She wanted something from

here and I suppose she didn't know just what but said if I'd get it she would send me the money. See what she thinks of them some time ~~when~~ ^{when} she is sep.

- (1) boy with rabbits. (2) boy with dog and fiddle
 (3) boy with dog and umbrella (4) girl with flower
 (5) boy on fence with bird (6) boy with horn and bird

I thought they would be nice paired up for book-ends. Ask what Claudia thinks of the idea? What do you think. I believe the price is written on the bottom of all of them. that's in marks. A mark a mark is worth about a 25¢ so they cost 2.75 if they are 11 mks. and 12 mks \$3.00 So you see they are fairly expensive.

I had the German store where I bought them package it also and I surely hope none of them ~~gettin~~ get broken. He said he packs lots of boxes for overseas so I guess they will get there okay. Then there is a small 100 day clock arriving also coming but in a separate box.

I also sent her a 400 Day Clock and then one to Thelma. Here is a larger one size of yours.

now then I need to send a few more gifts.

I don't want Amra, Claudia, Mary, and Warren to

be left out. By the end of the month the Pt here will have some nice cuckoo clocks in the same price as the large 300 Day Clocks.

I would like to know what the following would rather have.

I expected to buy a
cuckoo for

Warren, May, and Anna.
and a 400 Day or a little
Dog Clock for Claudia.

Do you think they would like them.
Which would they like the best.

Could you let me know by the
end of the month please. I really
would like to know, especially
about Claudia's choice.

May's new home in Island Park has a place
for a nice cuckoo. Warren possibly because
he likes music. Anna likes music so I
think she would like a nice cuckoo especially
the kids would and May's kids also.

Before I come home I'll send one for
myself. I may want one someday. Then too
I would like a little Dog Clock. I'll get
one sometime too. Then after payday or maybe
next week I'll send a little dog clock to
Alta and one home. I have them ordered already.

Well anyway you'll have a lot of packages coming. There'll be two or three separately packed dolls arrive too. And I'll write later letting you know which of them goes to which person.

Then Mary, Anna, Claudia and the rest I'll send directly to them.

Well all for now about waiting.

It is good to be back. It seems so nice to have milk and fresh water to drink. We went like camels while down there. Of course all our hotels were nice places so we could get good water there. But we really starved for milk and ice cream.

I need to spend some time now getting my notes up while it's fresh on my mind.

I had a lesson back from the BYU they gave me an "A" so I must strive to complete the course before I leave Germany. Then too I really do have a lot of studying to do.

Those books you sent and Mark Peterson's books.

Also I should do some reading in the old and new Testaments.

Les said the Bible has taken on more interest to him now. Reading of where Jesus went here and there. Or this happened there etc. Well I've been there. In your mind you place the

particular place in the spot you saw white on
leave. We were to Jerico, Bethany, Bethlehem.
Well I need to study more that is for
sure.

In another couple of months I'll
be needing to send my books home. I hope
to go back to Switzerland. One of these days
mom I would appreciate it if you could let
me know some of the places in Ireland where
your father was if you know or could find out.

I want to take another leave before I leave
Germany. I could go to Norway, Denmark, (maybe)
Ireland, Scotland, England-London-, Paris,
Holland in the tulip season. Spend about
10 days all of those places and the remaining
10 days of leave in Switzerland. So seeing
it it nice weather and some of the nice places
to see there. Lucerne, Zurich, temple at Bern again,
Basel, Interlaken, ~~Lucerne~~ Matthehorn. Well
I hope I can see all those places.

Oh in one box will be some calendars.
Maybe it would be fun to show them to Sis Ray.
She could translate the German for you anyway.

Well I'll sign off for now with love Bennie

PS We traveled

3,100 miles by military air (free of charge) 975 miles by rail
4,250 miles commercial air \$120.00 spent \$185.00
4,350 by air. a total of 5,325 miles. visited 3 continents,

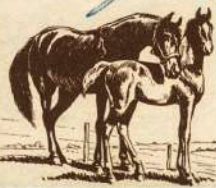
1. Europe
2. N. Africa
3. W. Africa

Harold & I are going to Ft. Ord, Cal.
We will leave here Monday. We
may fly but I hope we go by train.
I see more country or less in more
time I should say, I think I did
quite well in my tests. I'm not
worried about anything much
anyway. Well I'll let you know
my address as soon as I am located
for ~~at~~ sure in Ord. I got your letter
at the same time I got Al's

I wish I had brought my camera
sometimes. I could have taken some
pictures of my friends last week at
church.

I really feel good in some ways,
you know since last February I
haven't felt so close to the Lord in
probably years. I really feel swell
about it. It seems so good I hope
I'll always feel the same. I don't
worry about temptations bothering
me very much.

Well by now
Love
Bernie



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CUSTOMS DECLARATION

QUANTITY	ITEMIZED LIST OF CONTENTS	VALUE	
6	Hummel figurines Bona fide Gift Duty free under Sect. 321 Tariff Act-1930 may be opened by customs	\$ 40	Cents DM

DESCRIPTION OF PARCEL
 (Box, Package, Bag, etc.)

Gross Weight (Parcel)

..... lb. oz.

(Date Stamp at Post Office)



Insured
 No.

Insured for-
 \$ (U. S.)

For Use of Dispatching
 Exchange Office

Parcel Bill No.

Entry No.

INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY SENDER

Dispositions de l'expéditeur

Senders must provide for an alternative disposition, striking out the requests not employed, as follows:

IF UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED:
Au cas de non-livraison, le colis doit être:

(A) Deliver to.....
Livré à M.

.....

(B) Abandon.
Abandonné.

(C) Return to sender. Return charges guaranteed.
Renvoyé à l'expéditeur, qui s'engage à payer les frais de retour.

Signature of sender—Signature de l'expéditeur

Signature of sender—Signature de l'expéditeur
Bob 29th FABA

Address of sender—Adresse de l'expéditeur

AP0 39 NY NY

The address of the package, box, bag, etc., should be written below as well as on the package, etc., itself.

Name of addressee—Nom du destinataire
JW Knappp

Name of addressee—Nom du destinataire

Street and number—Rue et numéro
347 Cleveland St

City, Province, State, etc.—Ville, Province, Département, etc.
Idaho Falls, Idaho

USA

(Country—Pays)



JW KNAPP
347 Cleveland St
Idaho Falls,
Idaho

17th May 55
Ft Carson, Colo

Dear Dad,

For father's day
It must be said
There's some delay
and preparation none
But just the same
I'll send this note
for there is a claim
that must be made

For one so dear
for one who's waited
prayed with faith sincere
to guide a young one home.

Though just a little late
of dad's big day!
The road still leading straight
returns the thoughts,
fond wishes and most of all
our hands to clasp
our eyes to fall
on loved ones now rejoined.

Bernie

Dear Dad,

Well things are
surely in a rush. I
can't keep up to it all.

I wonder if I draw you
a little picture
if you will get
something for me.

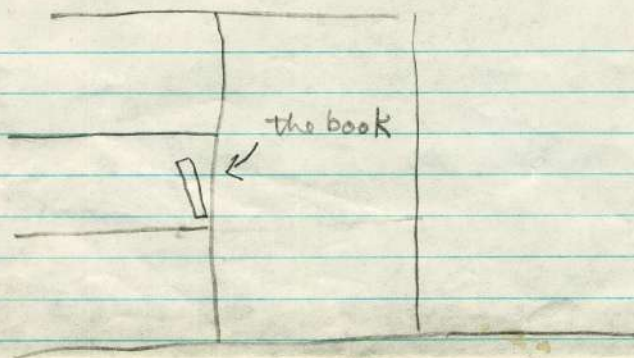
A note book. It's
a loose leaf one and
it's in my room. It
takes the same
size paper as this.

It is covered with
light brown or straw
colored paper.

I'll draw on the other
side.

Things have really been
in a hustle bustle.

If you & Al don't come
don't worry about getting
it here. It's not at
all real important. It



my bookshelf

It's the only book on
that ~~shelf~~
shelf with
ringed or loose leaf
paper.

Well we are really
rushed. I don't know
how you could ever
have felt much more
unfamiliar & strange in
Salt Lake than I do.

Page 2

only has some pages
that might be helpful
but by no means
necessary.

Hi- Hope all is well
Wish you would bring
a can of mashed potatoes
to sort of pay our board.
Love Mabel.

Letters to Bernie

From Home

JUSTIN W KNAPP
347 CLEVELAND
IDAHO FALLS IDAHO



Pvt. 1 Bernard E. Knapp, #154
US 56 211 695
Co M. 63rd Inf. Regt.
Ft. Ord - Calif -

Dear Fannie

My little boys birthday - no longer my little boy in size, in experience, in life, A soldier of our nation, a man learning to take hardships, long hikes - and orders from men who are much his inferior in manhood. A man who holds the Priesthood of God. Who carries that honor nobly, proudly. who is learning the Principles of the Everlasting Gospel, who knows Life Eternal is built upon these principles. A man who will keep the commandments of the Lord, who will live clean, nobly and well, who will laugh and play. who will kneel and pray. A man who will turn away from the sins of the world. and hold fast to faith in the Lord.

A man who will find
beauty in life and paint
it upon his heart and some
of it upon canvas. a man in
whom others will have confidence
and not be disappointed. who
is loved by his family, adored
by his parents - Who has had
the promise of great blessings
pronounced upon his head by
one who has received that right
from the Father. blessings that
kings or generals cannot bestow.
and few receive. All these things
make the man you are.

And in humility I say, Father, you
have given me a choice soul
to feed and cloth and love.

And I have done the best I
knew. and this man
is my little boy too in
memory in love the

little boy who's first months
were of sickness and distress -
later there was some improve-
ment in health. but many sick
days now and then. The little
boy who used to walk and walk
with me - who was loving
and kind whom the kids
would never let grow up
any more than his mother
would - who had pictures
on all the lesson assignments
(a suggestion I didn't fully realize
until later.) the little boy who
ran to school happily in
a make believe fashion. on
a prancing horse - turning at the
corner to wave good by. I still would
follow with him on the detail in
the mountains - and hold his hand
in the dark. I would be the one
afraid - I would want to help when

way was rough - to watch
while he slept.

But there is One so much
greater than we - and so we
ask Him to watch over our
little boy - grown to manhood.
He sends some one who is wise
much more than we - this
someone goes with him in
the dark places - over the rough
trails into the desolate places
and the long marches he is
with him, unafraid - because
my little boy is clean and
free from sin, and sin is
the only thing that drives this
someone away.

So where we cannot follow
our prayers will go - our love
will be there on mountains, in camps
valleys or sea - our love is always there -
your mother

JUSTIN W. KNAPP
347 Cleveland
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Wm Edstrom
7835 S CREGIER
CHGO, 49, ILL



KTLP
Cpl. Bernard E. Knapp. U.S. 56 211695
Btry. 'B' 29th F.A.Bw.
A.P.O. 39-
New York N.Y.

Dear Bernie;

We were happy to hear that you get to ride in place of hiking. It sounds pretty good that you may get to be in the orderly room. It sounds like Germany is more on the ball than the English from the way you described the markets & etc. European cars sure do tickle the American's Hub! Everyone probably reminds ^{you} of Blair Hamon doesn't it? Do you remember my four spoons I got from England "Ornamental" One had a picture in it of Frankfurt on the Rhine. It was in that area too where our first Co-pilot bailed out and broke his leg. I think there is a pretty good chance of a ~~to~~ rating in the Orderly room isn't there? I'll send the names of the places we bombed and you may here or see something of them. How

far are you from Byrne Switzerland?

Heilbronn	Paderborn	Misburg	Bielefeld	
Magdenburg	Hoblenz	Minden	Coblentz	
Nijmedgen	Holland	Megg.	Aachen	Munster
Fassel	Hamm	Hamburg	Bingen	
Kassel	Hamburg	Hannau		

Coblenz magdeburg
Kaiserslautern Asnabruk Halle
Euskirchen Nurenburg Bielefeld
Weweler Otbergen
Munster Naumburg
Magdeburg aschaffenburg

Well there they are; They put plenty of silver threads in my scalp. There were 35 complete trips and a few incomplete

Well, I thought your letter sounded like you were well pleased with your lot; I'm glad of that. I had to dig out my Shaffew pen. The ball point gave out I guess.

Well we got through another Xmas rush; I was high man on Over-time for carriers and so now they call me 'old-dust-kids' & or George's fair-haired boy & etc. They say 'How come'; and I say well, when you get a job just go to work, and they think I'm just kidding of course. My biggest day was 14 hrs & 40 min. all time & a half. I hope you will tolerate the mess, but I'll try to get into practice soon. We are getting a carpet & moving our bath-room for Xmas. I got a grey suit & Lucy got a dress. The kids liked the cradles. Did you see them. Well, write again soon & will be thinking of you ^{truly} _{always}.

"BERNIE"

Our Uncle Bernie, we think you swell
How much we miss you, words could never tell.

We're writing these lines to just let you know,
We think you O.K. from your head to your toe.

You so full of fun, and a prince of a guy
There's no other like you beneath all the sky.

In work, school, or play, your right on the top,
In a couple of years you'll then be called "POP"

Your hair will grow thin, your feet will grow lame,
All because of----- we don't know her name.

These last two verses were just for fun,
They weren't meant to be any kind of a pun.

When weather is stormy, or skies are blue
Our only concern is just to see you.

Your Faith is sincere, on this we depend
There's just six months left, then it's the end.

In O'D's, Khakies, or Civies would do,
All we want is just to see you.

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A.K. + L.K.

Real corny isn't it?

Letters to Bernie

From Friend

MIT LUFTPOST
PAR AVION
BY AIR MAIL



Mr. Bernie Knapp

Idaho Falls, IDAHO

U. S. A.

Please Forward

P. S. Just discovered that I don't have your address. So will just send it to Idaho Falls!

Tell Elder Fish hello for me.

Kaplaneigasse 1
Darmstadt, GERMANY
22 January 1958

Dear Bernie!

Your Christmas card was indeed a pleasant surprise! I had often wondered what you might possibly be doing and where you were. As you've already noticed, I am back in Germany, but not necessarily for Uncle Sam this time! At present I am in my ninth month as a missionary and am enjoying it immensely.

I was pleased and also thrilled for you after reading that the "Hong Kong" area would be your home for about the next three years. A mission is difficult work, but the dividends are very high, depending of/ course on the diligence of an individual.

My first field of labor after arriving back in Germany was the quaint old city of Bamberg (Bayern). The city itself is predominantly catholic and even has an archbishop residing there (should say "ruling there!"), but nevertheless has a terrific little branch of devoted members who have a wonderful spirit among them. It was joyous working among them and partaking of their spirit and sharing many things in common with them.

From Bamberg I was transferred to Düsseldorf, a city of some 700,000 and located in the famous Ruhr area which is noted especially for its heavy industry. Düsseldorf is known among missionaries as the Penthouse of the West German Mission! The apartment, located on top floor of branch house is one of the very finest in the land. So for that reason many of the Elders would like to go there. Also for that reason, Pres. Burton told us not to spend too much time in the apartment!

We had an excellent English class with an average attendance of between 150 - 180 each Wednesday evening. Besides regular grammar instruction we had song practice and learned all kinds of American songs. In fact I had an all-girl chorus and we had a great time singing Xmas carols on Xmas Day in a large catholic hospital. As near as we could ascertain, much good will was created.

But of course all good things must come to an end and mine came in the form of a transfer! It was rather hard leaving so many fine friends and a lovely branch, but I am just as pleased with Darmstadt which (we learned a week ago) is the oldest Branch of the Church in Germany. We have more time to do regular missionary work here instead of taking care of branch functions as is necessary in most other cities.

My companion is a very nice boy, 20 years old, from Honeyville, Utah, and has been here just slightly over three months. He didn't know a word of German upon his arrival, so you see that we are kept busy learning the language in our "spare time" which of course is rare! The language is coming along very satisfactorily for me thus far. Should speak it like English before too long (with constant study!).

Well, it's time to go to work so will sign off the air for this time. I certainly hope these few lines find you well and happy. I suspect you're getting anxious and tense about embarking on your new adventure in the Orient! Keep my address and drop me a line from there when you happen to find time. Thanks again for remembering me at Christmas. Give my Best Regards to your Folks. And take good care of yourself.

Sincerely your ol' shipmate,

Ferral