

May 23, 1945

Justice William A. Smith
The Supreme Court
Topeka, Kansas

My dear Justice Smith:

I was very glad to get your good letter of May 21st. We too were indeed delighted to know that Blanche's son, Owen, our grandson, was again under the command and protection of our military forces. He was navigator-bomber on a B-24 stationed in Italy, and on a mission to bomb the ordnance works at Moosbierbaum, Austria, not far from Vienna, the plane was disabled and the entire crew was captured.

We had some information from members of the squadron who had seen the disabled plane, but we have never had any direct word from Owen. After some time the Germans reported that he was a prisoner of war and that was the last we heard until we had the report from the War Department that he was again in American hands. Letters and packages sent him are being returned to us, and we are keeping them unopened until he can be with us and can open them for himself. He is a mighty fine boy, was 23 last November, and lacks about a year of completing his course as a chemical engineer at Kansas University.

I am glad to hear the good words of your boy, Donald, and I hope his good luck will continue with him until the day of his release.

Dolph has also read your letter with pleasure, and I shall take it home to Mrs. Simons, after which at your request, we will send it to Blanche, who will be very happy to read it.

When you have occasion to come to Lawrence again, why don't you let us know and find some time to be with us at our home. We should be delighted to have you.

Cordially yours,

W. C. Simons

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