

April 19, 1945

Mr. J. L. Frazier, Editor  
The Inland Printer  
309 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

My dear Frazier:

I was glad to receive your letter of March 20th, but very sorry indeed to know that your son was missing in action as of July 8th, 1944. I can understand how distraught you must be over not knowing where the boy is. The same is true in our case. Owen Maloney was captured with the entire crew of his bomber by the Germans on January 31st. The War Department has been advised that he is a prisoner of war, but we have had no direct word from him.

We have written thru the Red Cross hoping to reach him but have no assurance that we have done so. If he was captured not far from Vienna, he may have been in the concentration camp over-run yesterday in which some prisoners were released and others had been taken farther south by the Germans. Owen is a manly boy and rather discreet. While I know he would not kowtow to his captors, neither his looks nor manners would tend to aggravate them.

It is a frightful thing that the world is being subjected to at this time, and there is hardly a family to which grief of some kind has not come.

The eastern third and perhaps half of Kansas has been subjected to spring floods. Thanks to a substantial dike put in a year ago, and to some permanent work on the Union Pacific tracks, the water did not go out over Grant Township, but it did spread over lowlands in many places. The Wakarusa, a little stream to the south of Lawrence, was out of its banks for several days. Spring planting has been greatly delayed, and undoubtedly the oat and potato acreage will be largely curtailed. The state has thoroughly recovered from the dehydrating it had ten years ago and now is as full of water as a sponge.

Give my regards to Mrs. Frazier, and please let me know as soon as you hear from your boy, and I will let you know about Owen Maloney, who is the son of our daughter Blanche.

With pleasant memories and a deep regard, I remain

Cordially yours,

WCS:df

W. C. Simons