

January 3, 1945

Lt. O. W. Maloney, O-2062684  
465 Bomb. Op. -- 782 Bomb Sq.  
APO 520 c/o Postmaster  
New York, New York

Dear Owen:

The idea of a group letter was good, but getting it done has meant delay. The portion of the letter that was written by your grandmother, Dorothea, Bus, Lance, and Charles is at my home. Dolph and Marie and their two boys and Mary Jule and family have letters upon my desk, but I shall hold this letter along with the ones on my desk until morning in order that they may all go together.

I know it would please you to know how much you are upon our minds. You are very precious to us, we love you very much, and we have great confidence in you. We hope and pray that you will be one of the fortunate ones to escape injury and that you will come back to us in the not too distant future. I am inclined to think that your experience in the army will be found to be of great value to you in your peace-time life.

A natural thing would be for you to complete your education as a chemical engineer, and then to enter in with your father in the conduct of the business of the Maloney Tank Company, of which you would eventually become the head. I don't believe in anyone mapping out another's life for him with insistence that the outline be followed, but sometimes suggestions are helpful.

Your sisters are mighty fine girls. Eileen has become quite a young lady, but is still young in the ways in which we like to have our folks remain young. She leads a busy life, and I presume they have told you that she had been selected as editor of the school annual or something of that sort. You would be proud and happy to see Marilyn and to know what a fine girl she is.

I was talking to someone the other day who said that a boy named Bachman was a plane mechanic stationed apparently somewhere near where you have been in Italy. Whether he is there now or whether you have met him is problematical. He might have serviced the very plane that you use.

I think you are aware that your great grandfather, Dolph Simons, spent five years in the Union army, having volunteered when Lincoln made his first call for 100,000 men. After Lee's surrender, he was with the Western army and spent about a year in Texas, guarding government supplies. His father, who was your great, great grandfather, was 52 years old, but lied about his age, enlisted as of age 42, and served for three years. Dolph Simons was the principal musician of the regiment with a rank as major. Going back still farther, I have eleven ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War, the records of nine of them are known to me to have been accepted by the D.A.R., and possibly the other two have been also, but I have not checked. Then way back, William Bradford, Governor of Plymouth Colony