

KVP KALAMAZOO VEGETABLE PARCHMENT CO.

OFFICE OF
R. A. HAYWARD
PRESIDENT

PARCHMENT
KALAMAZOO
MICHIGAN
U.S.A.

March 1, 1943

To All Members of the KVP Family,

Before Christmas we sent letters out to all the men in service, a copy of which you will find on the back of this page. Practically all the men have replied.

At first we thought we would try to answer them individually; then we felt that it would be of much more interest to put all of their letters together and send them as a group. We know that everyone in the organization will be interested in the location, the service, and the experiences of the KVP men in the various branches of the armed forces.

To me there is nothing that is more interesting to read than this file of letters. The spirit expressed by every one of the men is that of an eagerness to get the job done and to get back home as soon as possible. You won't find one word of complaining or kicking about their lot; these letters represent the highest expression of patriotism that you can find anywhere.

To the men in the armed forces I would like to say that this same spirit prevails throughout the company here. Our business has changed more and more over to papers that are being used directly for war purposes. Our volume of business is high; we are short of men, and everybody is working extremely hard and long hours trying to keep up our end of the battle.

Everyone in the KVP Company is doing his best to carry forward our standards in this total war. We are proving our worth in a war economy and we will be in a position of leadership when peace comes again.

All of us send our best wishes to you. We hope that each of you will have an interesting and valuable experience and we hope you will be able to soon return with the satisfaction that you have done your part in helping to hold up the banner of Freedom that it may wave forth in all its glory for generations to come.

Very sincerely yours

R. A. Hayward

RAH/bz

Christmas will soon be here. The Community House will be decorated and we will have our annual Christmas Party. We will be thinking of you and hoping it will not be long before you will be back with us.

When this war is over, we can celebrate a real Christmas for we will know that we will have Peace on earth and Goodwill toward men, and that you will have done your part in establishing the free world of the future.

We feel that you are still a part of the KVP family and want you to receive the same Christmas remembrance that we here at home will receive.

We are sending this check with our best wishes to you and our sincerest hope that you will be able to return soon.

Sincerely yours

K
V
P

R. A. Hayward

RAH/bz

LETTERS FROM KVP MEN IN THE SERVICE

NOTE: After the name of each man appears the department in which he worked when here. Addresses are those given by the sender at the time he wrote, usually in December, and are the latest we have when this was printed.

Thanks for your nice letter and gift. The gift will be very useful, I will put it into my war savings for the present.

I regret I will miss the K.V.P. Christmas party this year. I always had such a grand time there. Mac and the gang always had fine entertainment. The sermons and speeches will be long remembered for their lessons in life.

I am proud of the vital part K.V.P. is taking in the war effort. I am glad my friends are keeping up their good work.

My battalion is standing by, anxiously waiting orders to shove off for parts unknown. I am with a fine bunch of officers and men. I am also in good trim, and like the Navy life fine. We have hard training, but lots of fun doing it.

I would like another sheet of K.V.P. stationery with the picture of the mill on the back. It could have some writing on the front. There are paper mill men from other states, and I like to show it to them. I sent your letter home already.

I appreciate getting the News-gram every week; the whole barracks read it.

I must knock off now, wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Victorious New Year.

Norman C. Sleep, Seaman 1/C, Navy 8160, USNR, C/O Fleet P.O. New York (Maintenance)

The K.V.P. Christmas gift of \$15.00 was just received and it sure does seem good to know you are remembering us in the service. Although I certainly do appreciate everything, I'm afraid K.V.P. is doing more than her share.

I was fortunate enough to secure a few days leave over last week. I did get into the office a few hours, but of course could not see everyone.

We are stationed with an Armored Division out here in the desert of California between Needles and Los Angeles. The country is very bare and dusty, but its nice and warm with plenty of sunshine.

Sure would enjoy being on hand for the Christmas party, but such is out of the question this year. Here's hoping we can all be back for next year's party.

Sincere thanks again for the most generous Christmas gift. Best wishes for the holiday season.
Lt. Gordon Vanden Brink (Sales) 146th Armd. Signal Corps, A.P.O.
256, C/O Postmaster, Los Angeles, California

You'll never know what a pleasant surprise it was for me to open your letter the other day and find a most welcome Christmas present. It really makes a fellow proud to know that he has at one time worked for such a company.

Then, too, the contents of your letter certainly gave me something to think about. In particular, I appreciated your comment about your looking forward to our return. I, for one, have decided that K.V.P. is just about one of the most ideal companies in the United States. There aren't many firms that are based on the solid principles that form the nucleus of Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company.

From all appearances, it won't be long before most of us attached to the Cleveland Office will be sent to sea. The SPAR's (Coast Guard Women's Reserve) are expected to take over within the next six to eight months. At present, I am truly enjoying the work I am doing. Payroll work isn't varied enough to want to make it one's life ambition, but it does prove to give some interesting slants on business. I take occasional letters in shorthand from the Pay Officer and personally answer quite a number of letters from fellows stationed in the district. We work about three nights overtime each week and most every Sunday.

It's hard to know just how to say thanks, Mr. Hayward, I don't know how to make it emphatic enough, however, thanks--thanks a lot. And again, I'm proud to be an ex-employee of K.V.P.

To you, sir, J.K., Mr. Peck, and all the K.V.P.'ites, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Robert L. Thompson, Storekeeper 2/C, U. S. Coast Guard, 1519 Maple Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio (Credit)

I have received your very generous Christmas gift and I thank you and the K.V.P. Company for such thoughtfulness.

I only wish I could be there to join everyone at the Christmas party, but this year I will join you in thought and hope to be with you when the next Christmas rolls around.

It is quite warm here and there will be no "White" Christmas.

I read the News Gram each week and it is good to know that K.V.P. is taking and playing an even more active part in the production of war essentials.

In closing, I thank you again for the letter and gift, and wish you and yours a Merry Christmas.

Pvt. John V. Stuart (Par. Mach.) 40th Sqd. A.A.F.T.T.C., Boca Raton Field, Florida

Your nice letter and the Christmas check is greatly appreciated. I can assure you the check, in my case, will be put to good use. Within the next couple of weeks I'm told that I'll be on my way to some as yet unnamed outpost in the South Atlantic, and the money will be used to purchase a lot of those little things that probably will be difficult to secure on a coral reef in that area. I'm making a list of the items and some day next week will go on a shopping expedition.

I am very grateful to you and to the company for making this Christmas check possible, and although I have been in the service only a short time, I share your wish that we may all be able to return soon. To me it will surely seem strange not to be at K.V.P. this Christmas, and the uncertainty of it all is very staggering at this moment.

I'm sure all you folks at the plant will have a happy holiday season, and wherever I may be I'll be thinking of the "gang" when the holiday season rolls around.
Francis Schermerhorn (Advertising) Y 1/C U.S.N.R., Y. M. C. A. Hotel
826 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Many thanks for the very nice Christmas present. I was very much surprised and needless to say, very much pleased.

I think we are leaving this week for a trip across. Sure hope next year at this time I can be back at good old K.V.P.

Thanks again for the swell present, and wishing you and all my friends at K.V.P. a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
Henry Murdock (Wax Print) S 2/C, Naval Receiving Station, 52nd Street and 1st Avenue, Brooklyn, New York

I received your letter with the money order enclosed and would like to take this opportunity of thanking you and the company. It

was indeed a welcome gift and I'm sure will be equally welcomed by every K.V.P.ite in the service.

I am getting along fine and am even gaining weight. I like my work and that makes the change from civilian to army life much easier.

I would surely like to be back at my old job in the mill and sincerely believe that we all will be in the near future. It is my opinion that the present pace can't be maintained much longer, and someone is going to crack. When that happens we will be on the way in.

Kindly give my regards to everyone as well as my sincerest wishes for a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year.
Pvt. Robert Randall (Wax Fin.) U.S. Army, HQ. Co. 97th Signal Bn.
Camp Bowie, Texas

I want to thank all of you for the wonderful present I received today. I appreciate it very much, and I want to thank you. My wife is going to visit me Christmas, and your gift will help us both to have a very Merry Christmas.

I sure would like to be there at the Community House to join in the program. It was wonderful last year. I'm sure I will be able to be home next Christmas. I hope so, anyway.

I want to wish all of you folks a very Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.
Pvt. Robert F. Overmyer (Wax) 860th Bombardier Trn.Sqd., A.A.F. Bomb.
School, San Angelo, Texas

Received your letter with enclosed remembrance, and wish to express my thanks for your thoughtfulness shown to your former employees now in the service. If everything carries on as well in the near future, as well as it has in the past four months, it may be possible to obtain a weekend leave on December 26 and 27.

Wish that it were possible to attend the Christmas party this year, but hope we can all be together for the next one.
Robert Newland (Filter Pl.) S 2/C, Barracks 304, Group III Section
M 10-13, Great Lakes, Illinois

Well here it is, a year of war finished. Last year at this time I had no idea of being in the armed forces of our country, but I am a soldier now. Last year I had the privilege of attending the K.V.P. Christmas party, but will be unable to this year, but I will be thinking of it. Yesterday when I received my mail I had a letter from K.V.P. I was anxious to read the letter and seeing the check for Christmas from K.V.P., my heart overflowed with joy. I certainly cannot express in words how much I appreciate it, and I thank K.V.P. from the bottom of my heart for it.

I hope and pray that this war may soon be over and that peace may again rule upon this world. I am sure I will be happy when I can again punch the clock at K.V.P. I always enjoyed my work at Shipping in Mill 2. I had good men to work with, and will be glad when I can be back home. I have run on to a few men that have used K.V.P. paper in business. The first thing I ask is "how do you like their products"? "Fine," they say, "cannot be passed for quality." That sure makes me feel good. I am pushing for K.V.P. They are much concerned about the size of the company of the appearance of it. I always tell them it is the model paper mill of the world and a fine place to work.

We had our first snow this morning. It makes it look like weather back home. I know you have had snow for mother has written and said the ground is white. I am in the northwest part of Texas. They tell us that we will have more snow and very strong winds.

I get the News Gram. I sure get a kick out of it. It keeps us posted on what's going on at K.V.P. Well I have run out of news for now. Thank you for the fine gift. I certainly would like to be at the party, but that is impossible for me so I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pvt. John A. Newhouse (#2 Shipping) Station Hospital, San Antonio
Aviation Cadet Center, Co. B Medical Training Center, San Antonio,
Texas

I wish to take this opportunity to thank K.V.P. for my Christmas check.

I have changed addresses twice recently. I graduated from the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics, November 2, 1942, then went to the Wright Aeronautical Corporation factory school for eighteen days and am now down here in Texas working on the line.

It is pretty nice down here. We have had a few frosts, but haven't had any freezing weather. The sun is shining bright today, and it is warm enough so that part of the fellows aren't wearing their jackets.

We have three, eight hour shifts so we have somebody on duty at all times to service or repair the airplanes when necessary.
Pvt. Dale A. Middaugh (No. 2 Shipping) 1017th Squadron, Tarrant Field
Fort Worth, Texas

Your letter and the Christmas gift enclosed make me homesick for K.V.P. The spirit of kindly and friendly cooperation which I enjoyed there so many years is not too evident in the army, and believe me it is a wonderful thing to be remembered.

I'm just out of the hospital from acute typhoid shot reaction and now marking time at K P, etc. waiting to be shipped.

Merry Christmas to you all at KVP and thank you much.
Pvt. Edwin Meador (Credit) Co. E, Bks. 1082, 1609th S.U. Ft. Custer,
Michigan

I wish to thank you and the K.V.P. Company for the Christmas check that was sent me. It made me feel good to know I was being thought of back home.

I too, will welcome the day when we can come home, and take up our civilian life again.

Thanks again, and Merry Christmas to all of you.
S/Sgt. Kenneth L. McClish (Specialties) 995th T. S. S. Unit #2,
720 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago, Illinois

I received your very welcome and appreciative Christmas check and I thank you, the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company, and the Board of Directors with all my heart.

I have been very busy and being isolated from all Christmas preparations, I, frankly, have given little thought to the season and its meaning. After reading your letter, I sat back and began thinking to myself, "Is this not one of those things we are fighting to preserve, a basic ideal we are holding to cherish, such as the Christians in past times sacrificed their lives to obtain."

War at any time is not a pretty picture, and I don't imagine Christmas Day will cause the Axis to soften nor alter their plans. This is why I do not hesitate to tell you what I did with the check. I purchased a War Bond.

I am very proud to be a member of the KVP family and so very proud also of its part in the war program. It makes it easier for us each day to know that when this is all over we have a place to go and again pick up the normal threads of life.

Again I thank each and everyone and I will be most heartily with you in spirit at the Christmas party. May you all have a joyous Christmas and a happier New Year.
Lt. Glenn W. McKnight (Glendale) Blytheville Army Air Field,
Blytheville, Arkansas

How is everything out at K.V.P? Why don't some of you write? It sure would be appreciated.

I received your most welcome letter today. Many, many thanks for the Christmas present. It will come in quite handy. Out here money is something the boys are always talking about but seldom see.
Pvt. Robert C. Lanker (Spec. Fin.) Motor Trans. School, Ser. Bn.,
M.C.B., San Diego, California

In the morning's mail your letter and the company's Christmas gift arrived. Actually it may sound strange for a former salesman to be at a loss for words, but that is the position I find myself in at present. Both pleased and surprised is what could actually be said. I must admit however, the thing that touched me the greatest was not the gift, but one paragraph: "We feel that you are still a

part of the K.V.P. family and want you to enjoy, etc."

That paragraph really warmed the cockles of my heart. Immediately my mind went back to the swell relationship that continually exists between employer and employee, so extremely different from most organizations.

Uncle Sam knows where I shall be on Christmas Day, and too, the day of our Christmas party at the mill. One thing I do know, however, and that is my thoughts shall be with all of you--wishing you as happy a Christmas and most enjoyable New Year as possible. From "one of the boys" a million thanks to all
Lt. Karl W. Lambooy, Jr. (Salesman) C.A.C., A.P.O. 10564, C/O Postmaster, New Orleans, Louisiana

I received your letter and also the \$15 money order Christmas gift for which I once again want to thank you and K.V.P. When I show the money order to my fellow soldiers and tell them its a Christmas habit which the K.V.P. Company does annually, they hardly believe it is true. To me it just proves that K.V.P. is swell to all its employees.

I am still here at Chanute Field, but it's hard to tell how long that will be. On the first day of this month I was promoted to Staff Sergeant. Tell Don Mac Dowell I said hello. I have been getting the K.V.P. News Gram regularly, and I enjoy reading it a lot. I hope the K.V.P. Company has continued success in the future and again I want to thank you one and all for the swell gift and may your annual Christmas party be better, happier and bigger than ever.
Staff Sgt. Walter Koch (Par Rewinders) 17th Technical School Sqdn. (Special) Army Air Forces, Barracks 222, Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois

I wish to express my deep appreciation for the Christmas gift which you sent to me. I worked just the short time of three months as your employee and was presented a wedding gift and at the time of my induction into the army a going away present, and now this ever welcome Christmas gift for which I can not thank you enough. I only hope that someday I may repay you and your employees for your thoughtfulness. I am also glad to receive the News-Gram which is sent to me regularly.

I hope to have a leave in the near future and will certainly pay the company a visit. I hope also that this situation will soon be cleared up so we may all come back to normal life, although I don't dislike the Army, it isn't like home.

We are treated very good here and Texas is a nice state. From my letters from home the weather is much better here. I want to thank you again for your kindness; I really appreciate it.
Pvt. Herbert D. Kaiser (Wax Fin.) Co. A, 56 Bn. 1st Plat., Camp Wolters, Texas

I surely wish to thank you for the \$15 money order received yesterday as a Christmas remembrance from K.V.P.

It is most gratifying to be thus pleasantly reminded that no matter what happens to us in the line of duty, far from home, we are not alone in spirit.

Herbert M. Johnson (Credit) Plaza Hotel, Laredo, Texas

I received your letter with check enclosed yesterday. I haven't time to write a long letter of thanks but I will say this: I don't think I will be able to be home for Christmas this year. In fact, I'll probably fly Christmas day and it makes one feel good to know the company they worked for is thinking of them. Thanks again.
A/C Richard E. Ivory, 68 A.A.F.F.T.D., Jackson, Tennessee.
(Par. Print)

Your very nice letter with the Christmas gift enclosed was received yesterday and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the same. It certainly was appreciated and I am proud of the fact that I worked at a concern that never forgets anyone even if they are not there with them.

My company has been on the move quite often lately, and we are now stationed at Camp Cooke, California.
Arnold Forslund (#2 Unloading) 909th Ord. Co. (H.M.), Camp Cooke, California

First I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the fine Christmas remembrance I received the other day from K.V.P. One of the things that makes it easier for us boys in service from K.V.P. is the confidence we have in you that you will never let us down and you never forget us.

Our 333rd. Engr. Regt. left Toledo Ordnance Depot on Saturday, November 28 and arrived out here in Arizona the following Wednesday morning.

Yuma is a beautiful little town in the Southwest corner of Arizona, and the climate here is fine. Today is Sunday and several of the men are out now with their shirts off sunning themselves and that is just what I am going to do too as soon as I finish this letter. We are right out in the desert sand and right beside a large Army airport. The planes keep us company all the time, and there is close to a hundred thousand soldiers within a very few miles from here. Our men are here to build an evacuation hospital. With about a thousand men actually working at the construction of the buildings, they pop up very fast. We are supposed to have it completed within six weeks and they will be finished before that time if the lumber keeps coming through.

From the last reports I received the other day, Clark Quigg will be receiving a CDD soon. Possibly he has received it already. Elmer Fike has been having a very bad cold since we arrived here, but I

believe he is better now. He is doing some very good work as Co. D Mess Sgt.

I believe the majority of our men are anxious to get into foreign soil where we can feel we are doing something more direct to the winning of the war.

I enjoy the K.V.P. News Gram every week, and I hope to receive some letters from some that worked beside me as I am very anxious to know how things are on my old tower, and in closing, I am wishing all my K.V.P. friends a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest and most Prosperous of years. I would like to sit in with you for your Christmas party which has always been an inspiration to me.
T./Sgt. Carl E. Fisher (Wax Prod.) Medical Detachment, 333rd Engr. Regt. S. S., Yuma, Arizona

Thanks ever so much for your letter of December 2 and also for the Christmas remembrance.

This will be my eighth Christmas with K.V.P. Gosh, how I'd like to be there for the annual program. It has always been a real inspiration -- a sincere time of Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards men.

Actually, being away from K.V.P. sharpens our sense of appreciation. I know that it will be a joyous day for every K.V.P. man in the armed forces of the United States when they receive your letter. The percentage of men who are remembered by their peace-time employers is small. Makes us realize more than ever how lucky we are.

Believe me, my best wishes for a happy Christmas for every member of the K.V.P. family goes with this note of thanks.
Pvt. Max Doan, (Spec. Sales) Headquarters Battery, 701st C.A. (A.A.) Medical Detachment, Fort Totten, New York

In regard to the letter and gift I received from K.V.P., I want to thank you very, very much. It sure is a swell feeling to know that we in the Armed Forces have not been forgotten by our fellow employees and employer. It makes this time of year more real to us in camp when we receive letters from home and friends who we used to work with. I'm quite sure that many Christmases are going to be of a much different nature this year, and some will be even a sad gathering. Knowing this, and realizing also how God has seen fit to spare us now, makes this Christmas one to be long remembered.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to K.V.P. and also to extend a most Merry Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year for all.
Sgt. Wayne L. DeVall (Print-o) Co. "G", Students Enlisted Bn., Students Regiment To Do School, Camp Hood, Texas

I received the swell Christmas present from Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment today, so I am writing this letter to thank you for it.

I really appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

I would like to take the time now to wish every employee of K.V.P. a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I also want to thank you for the copy of the News Gram. I really appreciate that also. I like to find out how things are going at K.V.P. Also I enjoy finding out about how the other men who are in the Armed Forces are getting along.

Pvt. Garold Dean 36192027, Co. F, 311th Infantry, Camp Butner, North Carolina (#2 Beaters)

I could say thank you for the \$15 Christmas gift from K.V.P. and let it go at that. However, it isn't the money or the things that the money will buy; it is the thought that I and the many other K.V.P. men, many of them thousands of miles from home, are being remembered back in Parchment and are still a part of the K.V.P. family.

My thoughts will be with you at the Christmas party. I hope that it will not be long before I can be back taking part in the work and the entertainment of the K.V.P. Company and Parchment, as I have done in the years past. I enjoyed every minute of it, and if I expressed how much I miss it all, I could write pages.

I'm truly grateful for the present, and I express my best wishes to the entire K.V.P. family.
Frank Crook (Credit) 2144 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Yesterday I received your letter and check and believe me it couldn't have arrived at a more opportune moment. I haven't been paid since my enlistment, and I certainly was happy to receive the present. I want to thank you all a million.

Say, don't be discouraged about your snow and cold weather up there. We woke up this morning with a foot of snow on the ground, and it's plenty cold, and I thought it was warm in New Mexico. I must say, though, that these mountains with their numerous pine trees all covered with snow certainly make a beautiful picture. I have only one regret, I was issued no long underwear or galoshes.

I attended the Camel Caravan last night, and advertisement or no advertisement, they certainly put on a swell show for us fellows. I wonder where these U.S.O. and service shows are, you people are paying for.

Well, I want to thank you all once more, and I certainly hope or rather wish I could be there with you this Christmas. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Pvt. Ernie Crook, (Electrical) Bks. T-531, Camp Luna, Las Vegas, New Mexico

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the officials of the company for the check you sent to me for Christmas. It sure makes a man feel swell to think although he is going, he has not been forgotten.

In my thirteen years that I have worked for K.V.P. it has been a joy and a pleasure. I miss working with you and seeing all of you very much. If I am one of the fortunate ones to be home for the holidays, I will see all of you at the annual Christmas party that we have been so fortunate to have every year. I assure you that if I am unable to attend I will be with all you in spirit.

Hoping this letter reaches you in the best of health, I want to wish you and the entire K.V.P. company a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Pvt. Richard Bushouse (Wax Finishing) L.S.S. Company #16, Barracks #2517, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin

For me, Christmas is already here. I'm surely grateful to you for the swell Christmas remembrance you sent me and for the wonderful letter that came with it.

It is things like this that make a fellow proud to be a KVPite, and proud to be an American. How I value those few months I spent at K.V.P. and the friends I made, and to know that I am still in the "family" tops it all.

I sincerely wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and this goes too for all the fellows in service. I know that every single one of them will be happy to receive your Christmas wish and your Christmas remembrance, and will wish that he could join in your party at the Community House.

Again, thanks ever so much, and best wishes.
John H. Bultje (Traffic) Union Park Hotel, 210 S. Ashland Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois

I received the letter from the office and the check from the company. I thank everybody for their kindness.

I would like to be there for the Christmas party.
Pvt. Robert L. Anderson, 36400727 (Office) 941 Q.M. Plat ITI A.B.
Lowry Field, Colorado

I received your Christmas letter and the enclosed check. They were both very welcome, and I want to express my appreciation for them. I would much rather have received them in person, but that would be impossible, I'm afraid. Maybe with a little luck and a lot of hard work, we'll all be able to enjoy next year's party together.

I haven't been assigned permanently to a job as yet, but as I have completed the radio operators course in the Air Force Technical

Command, I should have something before long. That's the worse part of my situation now, knowing that I can do a job, but now having the opportunity.

I can realize the difficulties that all you folks at home are working under and hope that you will have the health to continue the job. To win this war will take the best efforts of everyone, civilians and soldiers, and I'm sure we all will do our best to get it over with.

Again let me thank you for the gift, and sincerely hope that we can all be back together again soon.
Pvt. Al Webster (Accounting) 925th T.S.S., Room 284, Flight A,
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Your fine gift of \$15 arrived last week, and needless to say it was a very welcome one. My spirits were rather high at the time because of a promotion to the grade of Corporal, the day before. The money order boosted them much higher.

I value the gift not only for its monetary value, but also because of the fact that you are thinking of us in the service, and the assurance it gives that we will have employment to come back to when our mission is accomplished.

Please accept my best wishes for the holiday season, and may the good Lord grant that the Peace on Earth and Good Will toward men of which you speak, may soon be accomplished.
Henry Wolthius (Maintenance) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery,
F. A. Replacement Training Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Your letter with the Christmas check enclosed was received by me last week, and I certainly appreciate your remembering me since I have been in the service.

Many times my thoughts have gone back to the great K.V.P. family and the fine friendships I have formed among them.

Two months ago I was transferred here from Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and am now assigned to the 1072nd Guard Squadron, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

It is my sincerest hope that this war will soon be over, and that I will be able to return real soon.
M/Sgt. William J. Kooistra (Wax Prod.) 1072nd Guard Sqd., Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio

Received your check for \$15, one day last week, and was more than pleased to get it. It sure makes a fellow feel mighty good to know that the people you worked for think enough of him to do something like that. You can rest assured that the \$15 you folks sent me will be used to good advantage.

You know, a lot of people think that just because a fellow is in the service, that he doesn't need money, but we all have plenty of places to spend our money and to a very good cause too.

I like the Marine Corps fine, and am getting along very well. It is certainly a wonderful outfit, the best in the world. They are sure proving it so far in this war. We are going to win this war and also win the peace afterward, and that's a whole lot more than any of those other countries can ever say. We are all doing everything in our power to get this war over as soon as possible, and I don't think that it will be very far away. We all know that you people back home are all plugging for us one hundred per cent. You just can't imagine how good that makes us feel.

It will sure seem good when I can get back to good old Parchment and get started on my old job again. It certainly is a wonderful place to work.

Thank you all again for the very fine gift, and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Pvt. Norton Young (#2 Power) T 1077, R.D.M.C.B., San Diego,
California

Just a few lines to let you know I received the check and letter you sent to me. I don't know how to thank you enough. It certainly makes me feel great to know the folks and friends have not forgotten us, and I want to thank you most sincerely. I only wish that I could be at the Christmas party so that I could thank you personally, and see the swell program and beautiful decorations.

There is a job to be done and we are here to see that it gets done properly this time. All we ask of you back home is to write often and keep the wheels of industry rolling so that when we do come marching back we can all rejoice knowing that we all did our part in preserving freedom and making this a happier word to live in.

I'm not at Fort Benj. Harrison any more, although my address is the same. Right now we are at the port of embarkation awaiting any day to get our sailing orders. Where we will go, I guess God alone knows. As I write this letter I wonder when you will receive it. When I get where we are going I will write again and let you all know where we are as near as I can.

Before I close, I want to thank you again for sending the Parchment News, then the K.V.P. News Gram to me as I have read many interesting items and news of Parchment.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Pvt. Joe Manock (Maintenance) Bks. 2, 12th Gen. Hosp., Ft. Benj. Harrison, Indiana

I am finally getting around to writing you a letter. Today I received a letter from the company with their Christmas check. I want to thank them very much. It makes a fellow seem proud to have

worked for a company that remembers their former help.

I suppose you are making plans for the annual Christmas party. I wish I could be there. Maybe in a year or so I will be able to come back and enjoy it again.

My life in the army has been very interesting. I am still in my basic training period, and will continue so until after the New Year. This airfield that I am at has the largest bombardier school in the world. It is located in West Texas. There are no trees or hills as far as the eye can see, and a good snow storm would be a good sight for sore eyes.

I don't know how long I will be stationed here, but I hope to complete my basic training at this one camp. For my technical training, I haven't the slightest idea where I may go. The army moves on a moment's notice.

How is everything out in the mill? I suppose there is a shortage of manpower.

Well, I can't think of much more to say, only that I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks a lot for the nice Christmas gift.

If you have time to write, I would like to hear from you.
Pvt. Richard Davia (Wax Prod.) 486 Sch. Sqdn., A.A.F.B.S., Midland, Texas

A few lines to express my appreciation for the very fine Christmas gift I received from the Parchment mill. Thanks ever so much. It certainly was a wonderful gift for anyone, and especially a lad in the service.

I am enjoying my new responsibility and the part I shall soon be able to play in helping the allies' cause for a more decent and better life for the people of this world who have suffered so much in the last few years. My part may be very small, but enough such parts go to make a wonderful and big thing in time to come.

I also want to thank the news office for the News Gram I receive every week. It sure is wonderful to be able to keep right in step with what is going on among the friends and familiar places you like to think about, and I know I do, and I can say for sure that I know all the other lads feel the same way.

I will say this for the people at home, both here and in the United States, if we lads can fire the guns as well as you people load them, this war will soon be over.

Once again my sincere thanks for the Christmas gift. I shall use part of it for train fare home during the holiday leave we shall soon be enjoying. This time home, I will make it a point to get out to the office and mill.

I close with best wishes to you and all my friends at K.V.P.
Walter A. Badham (Parchment) No. 1 "M" Depot, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Thank you for your kind remembrance. I will certainly feel a part of the K.V.P. family this Christmas.

As a soldier in the United States armed forces, I am determined to make the following Christmas what it should be: a season of Peace on Earth and Good Will toward all men.

Pvt. Everett Jacob (No. 2 Box) Serv. Btry. 491 Armd. F. A. Bn., A.P.O. 261, Camp Polk, Louisiana

I received your check yesterday. It certainly was a very welcome Christmas present.

I am in the Air Force as a student in Radio Operator's and Mechanic's school. We all were certainly very fortunate in being stationed at the Congress Hotel here in Chicago. Upon graduation from the twenty week course, we become assigned to a bomber crew as radio operators. Everyone here is very anxious for that day to come when we will be part of a crew on a bomber helping to end the war as soon as possible.

Very many thanks to K. V. P. for the Christmas check and a Merry Christmas to all.

Pvt. Jack E. Arnold (Wax Prod.) 1005th T. S. S., Flight 5, Room 542
720 So. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

I would like to express my appreciation for the Christmas check. It made me feel mighty good to be remembered as still a member of the K.V.P. family.

My best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Victorious New Year to everyone at K.V.P.
Cpl. Donald F. Black (Print-o) Army Air Base, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
(55th Signal Corps)

It is about time for me to write my Christmas letter to you and friends at K.V.P.

This Christmas finds me in the southern part of the states where the climate is warm and nice. It is the first chance I have had to see the state of Florida, and I rather like it. I believe this camp is the best one I have been in yet.

I had hoped to spend this Christmas at home, but it looks like I will have to spend it here. I can be thankful I am here instead of across in the Pacific somewhere. Even though I can't be home I expect to have a good Christmas here in the Army. I received my regular K.V.P. Christmas present this year, and I want you to know it was deeply appreciated. Many of the boys in the service never receive Christmas checks like the men who worked at K.V.P.

Well, time is short now, and the lights will soon be out, so I had better close for now.
Cpl. R.M. Skinner (Wax Prod.) Hdq. Btry, 8th Obsn. Bn., Camp Blanding
Florida

Well I guess it is about time I was writing to you. I suppose you think I'd forgotten all about you over there, but I haven't. I've just been too busy to write, and there isn't much I can say anyway.

I saw a paper mill over here one night, and sure wish I could go through it. It was dark but from what I could see it was very much different from the ones over there. I met some people who said they might be able to arrange it. So if I can get enough time off, I'm going to go there and see if I can get through. I think it would be very interesting.

How is everyone and everything at K.V.P. Tell everyone "hello" for me. I am O.K. and feeling fine. This country sure is a lot different than ours, but I'll take the good old States any day.

My A.P.O. has changed a few times since I have been over here, but it is 645 now, and I think it will be that for a while now. I haven't received any mail over here yet, but is starting to come in a little now.

I had a very nice trip coming over, and the weather was fine. I just hope it is that way when we come back, which I hope is not far off.
Cpl. Edwin G. Kniss - 1608434 (#2 Roll Room) 296 Sign. Inst. Co. .
A.P.O. 645 C/O Postmaster, New York, New York

Thanks to the swellest gang for their thoughtfulness of me on Christmas. Your Christmas gift to me was really swell, and will be used by the writer to come home after Christmas to see you one and all and personally thank you.

This will be my second Christmas away from K.V.P., and I pray that next year I can be home with you all. I can picture the Community House decorated for the annual party, and will be there in thought with you.

May the whole blooming gang have a swell Christmas and may next year be kind to you all.

Thanks again "gang" for the swell present.
S/Sgt. Bert H. Cor Sette, Jr. (Wax Sales) Co. B, 29th Bn. E.R.T.C.,
Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri

Your welcome letter and fine Christmas gift came a few days ago, and I want to express my sincere thanks to you and to the K.V.P. Company for your kindness. It pleases me, more than words can tell, to know that the folks back home are thinking of us fellows in the Service and have tried to make our Christmas a bit merrier. I surely appreciate your thoughtfulness.

During the time I was employed at the Parchment Company, I found the executives and employees to be sincere, friendly folk, and, on many occasions, when I asked for information or made a request of one kind or another, they were always ready and willing to help me in any

way. I will always remember the days I spent there and the pleasant associations I had while a member of the K.V.P. family. It has been a privilege to work for a concern which is interested, not only in the making and selling of paper, but has the welfare of its employees at heart.

Army life has been rather interesting to me, so far. I have seen many places and have learned a number of things. Mr. Kindleberger was correct when he said the Army training would do me a world of good. I had had to work rather hard at times, especially during my basic training period at Fort McClellan. But hiking over the hills, bayonet and rifle practice, calisthenics, etc., out in the open have been of value to me. I have gained considerable weight and have felt fine most of the time. This life has given me a new perspective of things, also. I have learned to appreciate more fully the value of a good home, a fine family, and true friends.

Uncle Sam tries to make things as agreeable as he can. There are opportunities for the fellows to go to school to become officers, technicians, etc. And, if one has any initiative at all, he can make his stay in the Army a gainful one. There are movie houses, service clubs, recreation rooms where we can go and spend many pleasant hours during the week. Athletic contests are also held several nights of each week. We have plenty of good wholesome food to eat, good clothes and fine, clean barracks in which to sleep, etc.

Since coming to Camp Hood, I have been rather fortunate in being given a job in the Insurance Division of the Regimental Headquarters office. The work is fairly interesting and the boys there are friendly and congenial. I don't know what the future holds for me, but, so far, I have been fairly well contented. To be sure we have had to make some sacrifices, but, on the whole, I think this Army service will be of inestimable value to us, and, some day, we shall be proud of our service record. I know you folks back there in Parchment are contributing just as much to this war effort as many of us fellows in uniform, and I hope that, together, we can bring about an early victory. Some of the soldiers here believe the War will be over in 1943, and I surely hope they are correct. It will be a happy day when we can return home to our families and friends.

Your Christmas party is only a few days away. I wish I could be there with you to enjoy the fine program and see the smiles of the "old timers" as they take part. I know I will be missing a rare treat. I sincerely hope that this party will be the biggest and finest the K.V.P. employees have ever had.

With every kind wish for a very merry Christmas and a happy and Prosperous New Year for everyone.
Pvt. Leslie T. Pullon (Office) Hq. and Service Company, Acad. Reg.
T.D.S., Camp Hood, Texas

I received a very nice letter and a very much appreciated money order yesterday, and I want to thank you and the whole company.

It really makes a fellow feel fine to know he has worked for a company like yours. Now the big thing is to get this war over and get back to work at good old K.V.P.

I want to thank you again for the swell Christmas gift.
Merle Collison (Wax Prod.) 619 Tech. Sch. Squad., Bar. 1429
Truax Field, Madison, Wisconsin

Well, just a few lines to let you know that I am all right. We are on a little island in the Pacific. There are a lot of wild deer and hogs here. Although we can't give the name and location of the place, we are allowed to give a few facts about this place.

I am now a Corporal, and would like to climb as high as I could. Have you heard from any of the other boys in the service, and where are some of them?

We have a lot of athletic equipment with us and we also have three movies a week, so it isn't so bad. I also receive the News Gram from the mill, and I enjoy reading it.

Well I guess I will have to close. So long.
Cpl. Bernard Block (#2 shipping) A.S.N. 16045643, 13th Air Depot Group, 13th Depot Repair Sqd., A.P.O. 502, C/O Postmaster, San Francisco, California

I will try to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still all right and hope the gang at the mill is still going strong.

I want to thank the K.V.P. Company for the Christmas check that I got the other day. It sure did come in handy down here where everything is so high.

It is not so good down here right now because it has not rained since last July, and it sure is hot and dry here now, and every time the wind blows you sure get enough sand to eat. They are trying to get this job done so we can get out of here and get to some other climate. The fellows are not use to this hot, dry climate. About every one of us has a cold and we can't seem to get over it. It sure is real hard to try to run a kitchen here and not have any dirt in the food, but that is what they expect you to do.

Tell the fellows that I said hello. I sure wish I were back there for the Christmas party instead of being down here in this desert sand, because it does not seem like this is the 11th day of December.

Well, I will have to ring off and get back over to the kitchen to get supper out.

Sgt. Elmer G. Fike (Bond) 333rd Engr. Regt. S.S., Co. D., Yuma, Arizona

Well, it has been some time since I have been home. I am sort of slow sending letters to anyone. My folks are about the only ones that I really write to very often. As I sit here and think about home I have so much to be thankful for. I just had to send a few words of thanks to the company and you. The check was swell. It comes at a time when I can, as you know, use it very easy. It will be used as

part payment on my railroad fare home this Christmas time if the Lord is willing.

I am well at this time, and hope that this letter finds you and yours the same. Things are going along about the same here at the field. Al and I are still together. We don't know how much longer we will be here. There has been some grape vine rumors going around that it won't be long before we are going overseas. I have a P.F.C. rating and expect a corporal rating soon.

Tell the folks in the office I said hello, and tell all of them I wish them Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
P.F.C. Francis Goodman (Wax Prod.) Mitchel Field, Box 35, Hempstead, New York

I received your most welcome and unexpected letter, and it certainly is one grand feeling to think I still am a member of the K.V.P. family, even though miles away. I can appreciate the Christmas party now, even more than I did, because I won't be there. But when you guys start singing, my heart will be there. Yes, I sure will miss that. I am now beginning to realize the true value of that party. Let's hope it is never stopped.

This is the letter I promised to write, so I will tell you a little about what we have been doing. I went to Fort Custer for a week, then went to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri for my basic training. From there I went to Keesler Field, Mississippi for four and a half months to a mechanic's school. It was a very good course and worth plenty. Then I left there upon graduation and was sent to Bowman Field, Kentucky where I was assigned to the 314th. We are a transport group, and also tow gliders. I never did go out as a mechanic, however, as it was decided to try me in the Engineering Department, so that is my present place. It is very interesting, and I like it very much. I never did fear the Army in the beginning, and have got along very well. I work with some grand officers and that helps. The Army has treated me much better than I ever expected. But, between you and I, I sure wish it was over as I was pretty well satisfied at home.

My next letter will come, but probably not soon as we are very busy and on a seven-day schedule.

Please accept my many thanks for the check, and tell the Shipping Department I would like to receive some letters.
Cpl. James King (#2 Unloading) Hq. 314th Troop Carrier Group
Sedalia Army Air Base, Warrensburg, Missouri

I received your letter and the checks and wish to thank you and the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company very much. I appreciate your remembrances at this time.

I hope to visit K.V.P. during the holidays. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Pfc. Myron L. Newman (#2 Shipping) 28th Field Hospital, Camp Campbell, Kentucky

It has been quite some time now since I have given any of you at the mill any word of my whereabouts, and I know it, but I was made to realize it even more yesterday when I received your very considerate and much appreciated Christmas remembrance. To be shown such consideration as we employees of K.V.P. are, makes even the holder of such an apparently insignificant job as I held, feel important to the functionings of the whole plant.

Of course, I don't suppose anyone needs to tell you how much we appreciate that feeling of importance which you give us, but I'd like to emphasize my own personal appreciation.

I had, for a while, figured on attending the annual party, but again this year I'll be a little late. In fact, as near as I can determine now, my furlough will fall on the exact dates that it did last January. One thing I can't determine is how we, of this division, are still in a position to obtain furloughs. I'm really very fortunate to be able to come at all, but I will be there and until then, when I can see you all and thank you personally, I trust you will understand how much I appreciate your consideration if I just say "thanks."

S/Sgt. Walter Parent (#2 Beaters) 145 Arm'd Sign. Co., A.P.O. 255
Camp Cooke, California

Just received the letter and check the mill sent me, and I appreciate it very much. It is going to come in handy as I have been red lined, and have not been paid for two months. If everything goes all right, I will get another furlough, the 29th of December, and will certainly be glad to see the fellows when I get home.

They call this the sunny South, but lately the weather has been freezing and damp. They can give me the good old Michigan weather, and the good old Michigan ways. Everything we buy down here we have to pay twice as much for it.

I have a new job in the Army now. They sent me to school to learn how to drive a half track, and now, I am driving a half track. This kind of weather is not so good for us, as the trucks have to sit outside, and we have to work on them every day, sometimes on Sunday. We have had rain for two days now, and have had to work on them just the same.

I hope the fellows at the mill feel that we are doing everything we can, but we have a hard time getting the things we need. I sure miss the mill. When I was back home working I could go and come whenever I wanted to, but now, you go only when they say you can.

Well, I have quite a few letters to write, so I will say, until we meet again, I am as ever.
Pvt. Edmund Rector (Par. Mach.) Co. G. 8th Inft., Camp Gordon,
Augusta, Georgia

Still in sunny California, although it is getting in the rainy and cold season.

First, I want to thank you for the Christmas present. It sure can make me feel as though I am going to spend next Christmas with you in the Community house. I sure wish you have as swell a time as I did the two years that I was there to get in on it.

I get the News Gram each week, which is sure thin, but still carries interesting news, and my wife gets just as much a kick out of it as I do, so at least two of us read it over.

A few of the fellows from the mill get near us, but before I get to look them up, they are gone. I still am driving a truck for Uncle Sam, and sure putting on miles. I go to San Francisco six days a week, so I am kept busy. Save me a truck to drive at the mill to keep me in Army trim when this all blows over, which will be soon.

For Christmas we got a baby boy, born the 24th of November.

We move around quite often, and it takes a month for our mail to catch up with us. We live in all kinds of buildings, from horse stables to universities.

For now we'll close by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cpl. Teck. George Gregurich (#1 Unloading) 125 Infantry Service Co., Gilroy, California

I received the wonderful Christmas present sent me by K.V.P., for which I am very grateful. It is very encouraging to know that the company still remembers me, especially at Christmas. I certainly wish I could be back and enjoy the Christmas party presented every year at the Community House by K.V.P. It usually bolstered up the Christmas spirit for everyone, and I'll never forget them.

Possibly this letter won't reach K.V.P. before Christmas, but here's hoping everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Thanks again for the \$15 which was a very fine Christmas present, and was appreciated very much.

Wayne A. Williams, MM 2/C (Maintenance) U.S.S. Tennessee, M-Div.
C/O Fleet P. O., San Francisco, California

I want to thank you and the rest of K.V.P. for the gift which you sent me. It was appreciated very much.

Carl H. Ketchum, Jr., F 1/C (Office) Division A, Section 3, U.S.S. Monrovia, 622 - 99 - 89 U.S.N.R., C/O Postmaster, New York, New York

Received your Christmas check and thanks from the bottom of my heart.

I am spending the week in Los Angeles, and am having quite a good time.

Cpl. Clarence Hageman, Co. F, 37th A.R., 36195491, APO 254, C/O Postmaster, Los Angeles, California (#2 Unloading)

I extend to you and the other directors of K.V.P. my appreciation and many thanks for the Christmas check and letter of good cheer. It traveled considerable distance as it followed me through three of my most recent stations.

I am very disappointed that I will be unable to attend the annual Christmas party this year.

Best wishes to all those of K.V.P. for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
A/C Forrest Smith, (No. 2 Unloading) A.A.F.C.C., Sq. C-3, Nashville, Tennessee

I am writing this letter in appreciation for the thoughtfulness shown by the K.V.P. Company and its staff members which made my gift possible. To know that we are not forgotten at home is the greatest morale builder a soldier can have.

This check which I received has more than one place to go, and I assure you it will be used to the greatest advantage.

I enjoy reading the News Gram which is being sent to me. This keeps me in close harmony with the fellows I used to work with.

The day of liberation can not be soon enough, because I am anxious to get back to offer my service for the company which has not forgotten me.
Sgt. Joseph Kozminske (Wax Prod.) 328th B.F.T.S., Gardner Field, California

Yes, Christmas will soon be here, and I shall again miss our annual Christmas party. Well, after this war is won, I will be back to make up for everything I have missed, and the way things look now I'm sure that will be soon. I still have very pleasant memories of the days I spent at K.V.P., and I am looking forward to the day when I can return and start right back where I left off.

I want to thank you for the check, and your thoughtfulness behind it, and I also want to wish you and yours, and all my friends at K.V.P. a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous, Happy New Year.
S/Sgt. Leo Trim (Wax Prod.) 1004th Tech. Sch. Sq., 720 S. Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois

Thanks a million for the Christmas check. It really is appreciated. My only wish is that next Christmas this war may be over, and we may again celebrate together. It is nice to know you are not forgotten back home.

Hoping to see you soon.
Pvt. Herman Hoekstra (Par. Machine) Co. "C", 319th Infantry, A.P.O. #80, Camp Forrest, Tennessee

I received your check and would like to thank you and the company for thinking of me at Christmas time. I am only sorry for one thing that I will not be able to attend the annual Christmas party, but maybe after we have won this war, we will all be able to return to our work and have the good times that we have always had at Parchment.

Again, I would like to thank you, and hope you and all will have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.
Flying Sgt. Stanley Rolfe (Glendale) 476th Flek. Gunnery Train. Sqd.,
H.A.G.S., Harlingen, Texas

Christmas will soon be here again, and though the hopes we had last year at this time did not come true, we are again renewing our hopes that by next Christmas we shall all be home.

Being as it is, we are all thankful to the people at home for doing everything they can for us, and here I want to thank you, and the K.V.P. Company for the money order I received last week. You may be sure it was appreciated.

Wishing you another successful Christmas Party, and a Merry Christmas
Sgt. Richard Norton (Advertising) 5th Comm. Sq. A-S, Morris Field,
Charlotte, North Carolina

I want to thank you for both the ten year and Christmas checks that you sent me, as they came in very handy. I realize the Christmas spirit is alive as ever. We in the service are constantly reminded of the good will at home, through your correspondence, and the good deeds performed on the service man's behalf.

I regret that I cannot be in attendance at the K.V.P. family party. Nevertheless, I want you to know that my thoughts will be of the K.V.P. family.

Knowing of the many people to whom Christmas will be but a memory at this time, I hope at this time next year that our holidays can be appreciated by all, when not only the home folks, but everyone can enjoy the spirit of true Christmas. and the normal pursuits of all can be continued and we can keep smiling.

I will close, wishing all of the K.V.P. family a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.
Pvt. James D. Kline (#2 Beaters) Co. "C" 63rd Q.M. Bn., Brks. No.
3569 (A.S.N. 36186470), Camp Edwards, Massachusetts

I am not one, when it comes to letter writing, so I will make what I want to say very brief.

I wish to thank one and all for the very nice Christmas present Parchment sent me this last week. My wife is sick in bed or I would have written sooner, thanking you for the gift. It is something that always comes in handy at this time of year.

Thanking you once again, and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Pvt. Norman Myers (Specialties) Co. A, 51st Signal Corps, U.S. Army,
Camp Blanding, Florida

I received your check and am writing to thank you all. I am not enjoying this life very much, but its for a good cause, so will make the best of it.

I would love to join you at Christmas, but it is impossible. I will stop, hoping I can be with you next Christmas.
Pvt. Mervin Cripe, Jr. (Wax Prod.) Hq. Btry., 346th F.A. Bn.,
Camp White, Oregon

Well, I was going to write and thank you folks back at K.V.P. for the swell Christmas present which I received, but we were put on a shipping list and so I thought I would write and thank you all for your kind attention which you folks have for your former employees who are serving their country, and also the ones who we left behind now.

We really like this camp, and we also expect to see the white Christmas which we have been dreaming of while we were still in the sunny south.

All of us fellows were really surprised Saturday morning when we awoke and saw a snow bank on both sides of us after we had been used to getting up and taking a cold shower before breakfast to cool off.

Well, I had better close, and just say thanks a lot for the swell gift which I received, and hope that we may all be reunited again in the near future, and also have finished the job which we now have on our hands.

Tell everybody I said hello and would like to hear from the whole gang.
Pvt. Clifford Menck (Parch. Finishing) 100 Air Base Sqdn., Alpena
Army Air Base, Alpena, Michigan

Thank you very, very, much. Your kindness was so great, it made the day your gift arrived a very special date.
Pvt. Wm. J. Penning, (Wax Prod.) 36405377, Co. E 363 Inf.
A.P.O. 91, Camp White, Oregon

Thanks very much for the wonderful gift from K.V.P. and wish I could be there for the Christmas party.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I hope to be able to be back for a visit soon.
Orville Hurst (Par. Print) 828 Guard Sq., Drew Field, Florida

Hello. I just received your letter and was sure glad to hear from you. I received the ten year check from your company, and was sure proud to be a ten year employee of the K.V.P. Company. I hope that there will be many more years that I can give my services to the K.V.P. plant, and sure wish that I, and all the other employees who are in the Armed Forces, could be there to attend the lovely Christmas program that we have always attended. We are putting all our hearts and souls in all the programs over the air that we hear out here overseas.

We expect to do a good job over here while we are at it, to get this all over with, and then we will live in peace once more. So until that time will close, saying hello to all.
James Horrocks, S.E. 2/C (Maintenance) Navy 8070, C/O Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California

Many thanks to all at K.V.P. for the wonderful Christmas remembrance. Do you know, I think it is impossible for you to comprehend, nor for me to express in words, the perfectly grand feeling it gives a fellow to know that his company is still thinking of him and remembering him.

I know too that all the boys get as much kick out of the news letters as I do. I look forward to them. From the letters I gather that K.V.P. is now a very well internationally represented company.

If K.V.P. is half as proud of its members in the Armed Forces as we are of K.V.P., we may surely feel flattered indeed.

Thanks again for all your kindness.
Lt. Thomas A. Roy (New York Office) Hotel Bellevue, Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts

I have entered the Army Air Force (A.A.F.) as an Aviation Cadet. The mill sent me a lovely present which came at an opportune moment. I will show my gratitude by making myself one of the best pilots that has ever come from K.V.P. Company.

I enjoy the News-Gram. It gives me many sweet memories of the good old days at K.V.P. and keeps me well informed on the other fellows from K.V.P. in the Armed Forces.
A/C Richard G. Lester (Roll Room #2) Group 4, C/O Squadron F-4
A.A.F.C.C., Nashville, Tennessee

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Parchment Company for the swell Christmas present you sent me.

I certainly do miss good old K.V.P. because you have a swell bunch of fellows to work with.

I am 1,100 miles away from home at the present time, but my dad (Mr. Albert Stewart) sends me the Parchment News-Gram every time it comes out so I am keeping pretty well posted on the things that are happening.

I am looking forward to the day when I can come back and renew old acquaintances, so until then I will say "keep the paper moving."
Pvt. Delbert Stewart (Parchment Finishing) Co. C, 409th Int., APO 103,
Camp Claiborne, Louisiana (36412500)

I have been waiting to thank you and K.V.P. for the Christmas check I got. It sure came in handy with Christmas and all.

Things are happening so fast here in Des Moines that you don't know where you will be from one day to the next. I finished Administrative School two weeks ago, and now I am on guard duty at the Drake University waiting for a new class of officers training to start. If everything goes as it should and I am able to pass in all of my classes I may become an officer in six weeks. I may get shipped out before the class opens, so I am keeping my fingers crossed for luck.

I would have liked to get home to thank you for the check, but I guess that will have to wait a while yet. I hope when I do get home I will have some gold bars to show off.

I will close now and get back to my guard duty, and I wish everyone a very Happy New Year.
Jean Sise (Par. Finishing) 14th Co. 2nd Reg., Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

I would like to thank you very much for the nice Christmas present you sent me.

I'm very sorry I haven't written to you sooner, but I have been busy trying to catch up with my work. We came in a month later than the regular body of men, and I have been going to classes Sundays to catch up.

KVP is well represented in this division. I see some fellow almost every day that I knew at Parchment. There must be at least a dozen or two men who used to work there.

We are all looking forward to when we can get this thing over and can get back to Michigan again.
Corp. Elzo Comer (Wax Prod.) 91st Signal Co., A.P.O. 91, Camp White, Oregon

Just a few lines to let you know I received the Christmas gift from the Company. Thanks a lot; I sure appreciate it very much.

Well, how is everybody back at K.V.P. I sure would like to be there again this year for the Christmas party, but maybe next year I can be.

I know I should have written long before this to inform you of my change in address. I am now in the 333rd Eng's. Reg't. I was transferred from Fort McClellan, Alabama to Toledo Q.M. Depot. While there I had a little accident and smashed my hand up some, so they sent me here to the hospital. I also had my tonsils out last Monday morning.

I expect to be sent back to my company some time next week.

I wish you and the company a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Pvt. Bert Berkompas (Maintenance) 333rd Eng's. Regt. S. S., Yuma, Arizona

I hope this letter finds you and all my friends at K.V.P., fine. To start this off, I want to thank K.V.P. for the swell Christmas present. It was swell, and it sure came in handy.

For the last month and a half I have been going to school, studying Air Navigation, and now that it is finished I am going to start another one in Celestial Navigation.

The weather here has been grand, but from reports back home, it is not so good.

In answer to your last letter about fishing, there are salmon here, but they are mostly in the mountain streams, and we don't get a chance to fish for them.

I have been playing basketball with our squadron, and right now we are in the lead. Starting next week ten of us will fly to most every army field in the West playing basketball. We also have a few schools lined up, such as Washington State, Montana, Idaho, Utah and a few more. As far as flying is concerned, I have several hours of piloting bombers, and I sure like it.

I am still teaching Instrument Flying and have about 100 hours of instrument time also on my log book.

Well, I really can't think of anything else at present, but tell the News I'm still at Geiger Field and still a sergeant. Sgt. J. F. Ten Busschen (Unloading #2) 41st Hdq. & Air Base Sqn. Geiger Field, Washington

I sure will be glad when we can all get back to good old K.V.P. because after being in the service for five months and talking with fellows from all over that have worked at all different kinds of work, I realize how lucky we were to have worked at K.V.P. Of all the 75 men in my barracks at Grand Haven, I'm sure I was the only one to receive a Christmas present such as all the boys from K.V.P. did.

I expect to be here for some time. We live in a building here that the Coast Guard took over and rebuilt into barracks. It is right down town on the main street, so I don't have far to go when we have liberty. We are doing guard duty in the ship yards; there are two, the Manitowoc Ship Yard, where they are building submarines, and the Berger Yards where they build wood boats such as mine sweepers.

We are on four hours and off eight most of the time, about every third time off we have twelve hours. Just came off at eight and will go back on at four this afternoon, so will close and get some sleep. Ellis J. Francisco, S 2/C, (Wax Finishing) U. S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Detail, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

A few spare moments this A.M. to drop you a few lines. I am still here in Florida; the weather here is nearly perfect now. Perfect as it is, I could like some of Michigan's snow and ice.

I am assigned to this field for the present, as an instructor in the air and on the ground. The work is very interesting and time passes rapidly. I am not permitted to tell more than that of my particular duties.

As many students as come through this school, I have yet to see any of my former friends. Someday perhaps one will come this way.

I always read with interest the happenings at K.V.P. and the other K.V.P. men in service. They are scattered over nearly all the world, aren't they?

I can understand what your problems must be with such a turnover of manpower and ever-changing conditions. Even so, you do have the "ole" timers to use for a nucleus.

I missed the Christmas party this year. One always misses good things when he can't have them. I also missed the snow that has always been a part of Christmas to me.

It is nearly time for me to report for duty so will close for now, hoping that peace and victory will not be too far distant, and we may all find normal times again.

Sgt. John V. Stuart (Parch. Machines) 40th Sqd. A.A.F.T.T.C., Boca Raton Field, Florida

A Christmas spent on duty in a foreign country, far from home, was made much more pleasant and tolerable for me because of the letter and present which I received from the K.V.P. Company.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to you and the company for remembering me at this time. It made me feel as though I still belonged, even if separated by a war and an ocean.

If there were more of the K.V.P. spirit in the world today, there would be a whole lot less war, misery, and suffering.

Our job here is progressing well, and we hope that by hard work and the help of those back home, we can end this thing and be back where we belong by another Christmas.

Pvt. John Thurston (16063335) Co. B 831st Engr. Bn. (AVN) A.P.O. #517, New York, New York (Par. Print)

I wish to take this means of thanking K.V.P. through you for remembering me at Christmas time with the greeting and gift. It made me feel that I was still at K.V.P. This is the first party that I have missed in twelve years, and I hope that all the boys, as well as myself, will be home for next year's party.

Down this way we did not have a white Christmas. I have always had a desire to spend a winter in the South, but would not exchange

Michigan climate for what we have here.

Again I thank K.V.P. for the lovely remembrance and extend my best wishes to you and all K.V.P.
Pvt. Guy H. Han (No. 1 Paper Tester) 1064 M.P. Co. (AVN) Bks. 1492,
Robins Field, Georgia

I received my Christmas check and was very glad to get it. One sure realizes what a great company K.V.P. is after they get out and see what little other companies do for their employees in the service.

One of the big things I missed more than anything else was the K.V.P. Christmas party, although my wife was with me for three days and that is about as nice as anyone could ask for. I was telling the boys in my company what K.V.P. did for their employees each Christmas, and they said they never heard of such a thing in a big company.

I'm in Camp Phillips, Kansas, fourteen miles southwest of Salina, Kansas. It's a new camp, just set up. My job is going to be a store keeper at our garage. I go to work at 8 A.M. and get off at 5 P.M., with 90 minutes off for noon, six days a week. We also have N.C.O. school three times a week after chow at night. Outside that and other things they think of, we have off.

I wish the K.V.P. family a very Happy New Year, and I hope to be back with them soon.

Cpl. Clarence L. Kinney 36151327, 94th Signal Co., U. S. Army,
A.P.O. #94, Camp Phillips, Salina, Kansas (#2 Shipping)

Today being New Years, we have a half day off, and it gives me an opportunity to write and thank you and the K.V.P. Company for the Christmas check. It sure will come in handy on my first leave, if I ever get one.

We moved up to this rifle range camp on Christmas eve. We are living in dirt floor tents, no electricity, no hot water, and very poor chow. I have to shave every day with cold water. There is no plumbing, but a lot of Chic Sales Specials.

I made sharpshooter on the pistol range, and we are practicing with 22 Cal. rifles about three hours a day. The rest of the day we "snap in" or practice without ammunition with our M.I. 30 cal. rifles. We have to learn our three positions: prone, setting, and kneeling, before we go to the .30 cal. range. Some time next week we will have a test day with our .30's and then after a few days more of "snapping in" we will have our qualification shoot. I hope I can do as well with the rifle as I did with the pistol. It will mean a \$5.00 a month raise in pay if I can do it.

I hope you will excuse my penmanship because all we have to write on is an Esquire Magazine.

Give my regards to all the gang and give them my best wishes for a very happy and prosperous New Year.
Pvt. Lawrence Zepernick (K.V.P. Co. of Texas) Plt. 1146 R.D., M.C.B.
San Diego, California

I received your most welcome Christmas check and would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation. Believe me, it was a pleasant and unexpected surprise.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say "hello" to all of the gang in the Print Shop. Sorry I haven't written sooner, but there just isn't much to write about and I really do keep pretty busy.

I trust that you have all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and that the Christmas party was a success, as I am sure it must have been.

So in closing, again I want to thank you for the check.
Pvt. Frederick F. Nigg (Par. Print) 16039237, Btry. I, 82nd C. A.
A.P.O. #836, C/O Postmaster, New Orleans, Louisiana

Last Saturday I met my grandfather in Chicago, and he gave me the company's Christmas present. I'm very glad to know that the mill thinks so much of the boys in service. It certainly makes a fellow feel good, and I appreciate it a great deal. I guess it had quite a time finding me as I noticed that it was sent to Norfolk, Virginia and back.

Friday, the class of five hundred fellows will be graduated from the Hospital Corps School, and on the same day we will be shipped out to a base hospital for further training. The course has been all too short. Six weeks in which to learn what we can about First Aid, Meteria Medica, Hygiene and Sanitation, Anatomy and Physiology, and nursing. I believe I've learned something, but the real test comes when we reach the base. After base training there are numerous places to which we will be sent. Some will specialize, some will go to sea, it is difficult to tell.

Robert B. Stewart, III, HA 2/C (Mail Room) U. S. Naval Hospital Corps School, Class 15, Bks. 105 Starboard, Great Lakes, Illinois

I am writing you these few lines to say thanks a lot for remembering me at Christmas time. I believe that the last time you heard from me it was for the same reason. Don't think because you don't hear from me more often that I have forgotten the company that I worked for in civilian life. I believe that I now appreciate the fine way I was treated better than I did before I left work. Next to my family, I believe that I miss the fellows that I worked with more than anyone else.

I sincerely hope that you and all at K.V.P. enjoyed yourselves over the Christmas holidays. I, myself, had a nice time in spite of the fact that it was my unlucky fate to have kitchen duty on Christmas day. We had a swell Christmas dinner -- turkey with all the trimmings

Page 31

and we also had a small party in the afternoon.

I have received several K.V.P. News Grams. It is great hearing some news from work. I was especially interested in the list of articles the company is manufacturing for the war effort. I'm sure the plants are kept plenty busy these days.

I will close now, saying thanks again for the Christmas present and wishing you all at K.V.P. a happy and prosperous New Year.
Pvt. John Jennings (Philadelphia) 33071863, A.P.O. 957, "A" Bty.
198 F. A. Bn. C/O Postmaster, San Francisco, California

Well, here it is at the close of another year and things don't look any brighter as far as the war is concerned.

I received your Christmas present and I want to thank you for it. I used it for my trainfare home to visit my wife and three children in Kentucky over Christmas. I also get your News-Gram, and it is a very interesting little sheet.

I would like to hear from some of the fellows, or even the girls. I will try to answer all mail.

The weather is very nice down here, and seems as though spring is here it is nice and warm.

Thank you for all you have done for me.
Douglas S. Hunting (#2 Beaters) Navy 1005, C/O Fleet Post Office,
New York, New York

It gives me great pride in feeling that I am still considered a part of K.V.P., and I would like to take this means of thanking you for the nice Christmas gift, and tell you how much I enjoy reading the "News-Gram."

For the past few months I have been stationed here at the U. S. Naval Air Base, Corpus Christi, Texas. By the way, it is considered the largest air base the Navy has in the United States. Prior to this duty, I was aboard a sub-chaser in the Gulf of Mexico, patrolling for submarines. At the present time I am not free to go into detail of our accomplishments or losses, however, I can say this duty never had a dull moment.

Again, I express my thanks, and will close with best wishes to all.
Clayton W. Stone F/c, U.S.N.R., 3616 Pensacola Cts., Corpus Christi, Texas (Texas Plant)

I want to thank you for the check and best wishes which I received today.

I was sorry I couldn't attend the annual Christmas mill party, and I am hoping the day will not be far off when I can again resume my duties at good old K.V.P.

I appreciate the fact that you still consider me part of the K.V.P. family; it helps my morale, which is important in establishing the free world of the future.

My sincere thanks for your Christmas remembrance.
Pvt. Paul H. Waters (Parch. Prt.) Co. C 204th Qm. Bn., Desert
Maneuvers, C/O Postmaster, Los Angeles, A.P.O. Rice, California

I know I should have answered the letter which I received from you, which included the Christmas check, but you know how it is during Christmas time.

Even though my brothers and I and a great many others couldn't be home on this day for our family gathering around that dinner table of stuffed turkey, pumpkin pie, etc., I tried to make it just as enjoyable this year as we have other years by buying them a little of something. We weren't home this year, but we certainly will try to do our best for the coming Christmas.

We might be at war and there might be a few of us who die in the mud and blood of Japan while we are fighting for our peace and freedom of our country, Old Glory and for our wives, children, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, etc., but I promise you that our red, white and blue flag which we have lived under and depended on and fought for before will be flying over us again before long without having someone trying to tear it down. Old Glory will be raised and lowered by us free Americans and no one else.

I better say so long and thanks for the check again. Don't lose your faith in your KVP boys because when we hit, we'll hit hard. Answer this as soon as possible and may God bless you and all the others until we are reunited.
Pvt. Clifford Menck (Parch. Fin.) 100 Air Base Sqdn., Alpena Army Air Base, Alpena, Michigan

I wish to thank the company for their remembrance to me for Christmas. I sure wish I could have been there for Christmas.

I am on a little island in the Southwest Pacific. The weather here is pretty nice, except for a few rainy days.

The way things have been going lately, it won't be so very long before this war will be over.

Thanks again for the Christmas check.
Cpl. Bernard Block, ASN 16045643, 13th Air Depot Group, 13th Depot Repair Sq., A.P.O. 502, C/O Postmaster, San Francisco, California (#2 Shipping)

May I express my thanks for the remembrance that has been shown me by all concerned in the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company this Christmas.

What more could a man who has been taken away from his home and friends to fight the common enemy want than to be remembered by all. Of course, I miss the Christmas party and the gathering of all, but I have my choice of seven different religions to choose from here. Trusting in the Lord all the way, it is only right to believe that soon I will be able to join you all again.

I miss everyone a lot, but I have a good job here, and have a lot of friends. We are treated with respect, and have proven ourselves worthy of our cause. But for all of this, I still prefer Kalamazoo and Parchment.

I would like to hear from you all. If possible, drop me a line.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful Christmas present.

L. H. Hendrickson (Waxed Production) Navy 8120, U.S.N.R., C/O Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

Last week I had a most pleasant surprise. It came in the form of a letter from K.V.P. The letter carried your signature, so I'm sending my thanks, along with a word or two about the career of a certain former KVP'ite soldering in the big vast continent of Africa. I enjoyed the letter, and of course a check coming at a time when my resources were at a very low ebb, was most welcome.

A lot has happened since I left home. Fortunately, all of my experiences have been pleasant, and most interesting ones. The only possible exception to that might be the weeks we spent sailing across the deep blue sea, when at any moment a submarine or mine, or perhaps some other fiendish device might make it necessary to remember all the swimming lessons we have ever had. Our crowded conditions and steady diet of boiled lamb didn't help matters any, but to know that we were going to a foreign land, and be classed among those who call themselves "World Travelers", was enough to help us forget our so called hardships.

We are now in Libya, having a lot of fun trying to keep our tents from blowing down during the wind and sand storms for which this country is famous. It rains here too. The last one we had, we found the floor of our tent had become a small river. That dampened our spirits for the moment, but this desert can be one of the most beautiful places in the world when the weather is nice. I guess all bad things have a little good following, no matter where you are or what you are doing.

I have had a number of opportunities for sightseeing. I guess that is the aim of most all of us who are over here--we want to see all we can while we can. I have been most fortunate, I think, to have seen nearly all of the places of interest and importance that this part of the world possesses. Cairo, the mighty Suez Canal, Alexandria, the pyramids, Sphinx, and the River Nile, plus a very interesting and long awaited visit to Palestine, are among the places covered in my travels. They are experiences which I shall never forget. Books can tell you of the wonders of this world we live in, but no book can ever tell you what your own eyes can see when you are right there on the spot.

I have missed home. I suppose I am voicing the sentiments of all the fellows who have had to leave their family and friends to become "A Yank in England, A Yank in Australia, or as in my case, A Yank in Libya". I keep in very close touch with all of you back there through frequent letters, and I always find my copy of the K.V.P. News-Gram full of news of the doings of the Company, which I always find most interesting.

Thanks again for the fine remembrance. It was appreciated more than you know. My best regards to everyone there, and I hope to be with you soon.

Sgt. Ray L. Hall - 16014087 (Office) 81st Sq. 12th Bomb. Gp.(M)
A.P.O. 785 - C/O Postmaster, New York City

I have finally gotten around to writing, hope I will be forgiven. They have kept me very busy in the past month. I have been shifted about from one camp to another, until I have finally landed here. I'll attempt to describe it here. First of all, I'm writing this letter to you by lamplight. My desk is an improvised table made out of a box. We have heat too, kerosene heaters. I guess they think cold showers are good for a fellow because there are no hot ones.

Before I forget it, some of you may be interested that I met one of our old mail clerks. Remember Bob Stewart? I met him right on the main streets of San Diego. It sure was a surprise for the both of us, and we can assure you folks we miss good old K.V.P.

I sincerely want to thank K.V.P. for the most wonderful Christmas present that I received. It was a welcome sight, believe me. Thanks a million.

They say it will be two or three months yet before I get across to meet Mr. Jap. But I can assure you from all of us in the Armed Forces, we are looking forward to that meeting--and to those who have already met him, I guess its proof enough.
Pvt. Robert L. Waugh (Mail) F.M.F. Tank School, Camp Elliott, San Diego, California

I sure was surprised today when I received your swell Christmas gift through the mail. To you and the board members of K.V.P. goes my hearty thanks for the swell gift. I'm very happy and pleased with it. I also want to thank you for still considering me a member of the K.V.P. family. I have always enjoyed working at K.V.P., and here is one soldier who is looking forward to the day when he can again return to his work there.

I'm getting along fine over here. Things are going along nicely and I hope they keep going that way. I sure hope that this war isn't making things too tough for you, but no matter how tough things get, I know as well as all the other people at K.V.P., that your mill will be right there and ready to do whatever job that faces them.

May God bless each and everyone of you with his richest blessings. Lots of good luck and cherrio.
Sgt. W. J. Johnson, 36169256 (Print-0) Headquarters Squadron, 322 Service Group, A.P.O. 528 C/O Postmaster, New York, New York