

Letters from Bob Extrom to his family

Letter dated 9/22/50

All is fine and well with me. I could stand a shave and bath and could throw in a haircut, but otherwise I'm still healthy and fit.

You know the story by now, and I would appreciate some clippings on invasions.

We're about a mile or so out of Seoul This date and moving fast. Not giving the foe anytime to think. We hit em hard and so fast that they've been on the run and don't have time to stop.

Mom, Mike Gasper, Chandlerville got wounded in the back - he is alright. Would you write her and let her know that Mike is alright. I believe if you address it - Mrs. ML Gasper - Chandlerville, IL that will be sufficient.

Actually, it's been easy going, not much resistance.

This thing ought to be over soon. Hope they don't keep us over for occupational duty. Mail is coming tonight, hope I hear from you. Know I will.

Presently I'm sitting in my foxhole (just dug) hoping to get this finished before it gets dark.

The terrain is rough and we're all worn out from traveling so far in so few days (24 miles - round about)

Can't think of anything I need. Supplies are now coming through since we took the Kimpo Airfield.

Just received your letter of Sept 12. Glad to hear that everything is fine. It's getting dark so will have to end this. I will write again as soon as possible.

All my love and affection, Bob

P.S. please call mama Styler??? And tell them I will write them soon. Been busy - you know.

Letter dated 9/28/50. Seoul, Korea

Dear Mom and Dad,

Received your letter of the 16th yesterday. We are now 3/4 of Seoul secured. Our Regiment/1st Marine had the privilege and hard task of going thru the heart of the city and it was hard with resistance heavy. Our casualties were not too bad though.

Yesterday and last night our Battalion was given a rest, much needed. As ROK forces came into Seoul to relieve us for a spell.

Sept 25th almost spelled doom for this company I'm with company. We made a big push the 24th and our flank companies were pinned down by the enemy. Only our H company could advance. We lost communication with everyone and got lost behind enemy lines and Emplacements. For 16 hours straight we were seeing heavy fire from every side. Believe me we prayed a lot and someone else must have been praying hard too. For with God's will did we finally gained communication and fought our way out of the trap back to our lines. But it's over with now and with yesterday's rest we're ready to take the rest of the city. It's much harder in a city than out in the hills and mountains. We receive very little, if any news at all pertaining to the armies down south. But we do believe it won't be long before this is over.

I don't know where Al Martin is. Believe he is in the regiment which is the controlling hdqs for the 3 Battalions on the front lines.

Glad to hear that the new garage is going up. How's Donny doing in school and football? Hope he puts on enough weight. I believe I've lost close to 25 lbs so far. But some good meats (not rations) and some sleep would put that back on.

Hope you write often. You don't know how good it is to receive mail over here especially after the past two weeks. I wish I had time to write to everyone individually but that's impossible. Hope they write though.

The days are warm and the nights very cold. Sure hope we don't have to fight during the winter months.

If you see Al Schank or Bob Vinsec or anyone, tell them hello and that I'd like to write and answer their letters but just haven't the time. Tell Dale to drop a line too. In another week or so we should be taken off the line and return to a rest camp known as de lousing camp. It sure will be good and get new clothes.

If you'd like to send a box, I could use some heavy socks and a muffler. You could add some goodies.

Thinking of you mother and dad and everyone. god bless you all. All my love, Bob.

Letter dated 9/30/50

Dear mom and dad

Just finished washing my hair in a nearby well and changed socks for the 3rd time since we left Japan. It makes me feel like a human being again.

Yesterday we left Seoul and are now approx 3 miles S.E. Of the city. General McArthur and Pres Rhee of S Korea came into Seoul before we left for our present location.

There is little fighting at all now in this sector. I don't believe the gooks can last more than a week.

Latest report we received was that the southern armies are moving up this way. I wonder if we'll have to cross the 38° P and fight into N Korea. As far as our Div is concerned, we are to be relieved from the front in a week.

I have no late word as to how Mike Gasper is getting along. Last reports were - he was doing fine. Sure wish we could get some late newspaper. The Stars & Stripes is always 2 or 3 weeks old.

Tell Donny to drop me a line and let me know how he's doing in football. I did hear that Joe Louis got beat in his comeback try.

Some good scuttlebutt is being passed from our higher officers - that being the 1st Marine Div should be back in the states by Thanksgiving. Hmm.. I wonder!

All for now. Just wanted to let you know all's well and I'm fine. Thinking of you... all my love, Bob