

Dale F. Leipper – Military Service

Note: this is just a sample. I have a lot more letters to go through and a lot more comments to add.

These experts are from letters Dale wrote to his wife, Virginia, his parents and other family members during the 1940's. These experts relate to his military experiences.

Note: I have used the @ symbol to indicate something I was not able to read or couldn't figure out exactly what was written.

November 2, 1942

Letter to Dale's parents & sisters

I haven't heard from Bill since he sent me his address, They keep those pilot cadets busy and move them around a lot. I have talked to some of them and they lead a hard life, usually in some out of the way camp. They envied our position here very much.

There is an article in this months Readers Digest about the value of weather forecasting in the war.

August 24, 1943

Letter to Dale's parents

We are pretty well settled now. Living conditions near the field here are about as bas as they were in the other places we've been. However we found a nice cottage in an auto court from miles from McClelland Field and about ½ mile from Ruth's home and one mile from town. It has a kitchenette, bedroom, bathroom, closet and garage. It is \$15.00 a week. Has a nice lawn in front.

My orders are just about what I expected when I left San Diego. We will be here for several weeks. The captain said I should not have brought VA – but since I did it is OK. She can't go along with me when I move again though.

Today I had a physical exam and will start taking shots tomorrow. This afternoon we went into Sacramento. We went to a News real theater and saw "Report on the Aleutians". It was quite a show. It is nice that the Japs are clared of of Kiska@ now.

The policemen at the field here all salute officers. It is quite interesting to be around so many planes and pilots.

September 12, 1943

Letter to Dale's parents

Last night we went to a dance at the officer's club here. It beats the one a Callan. Everything is free. The music was swell. The people wer all very nice,

This week I shot the tommy gun and made 13 bulls eyes out of 15. Also I shot well enough with the pistol to get the highest rating – expert. Withe the carbine, I didn't do so well.

September 17, 1943

Letter to Dale's parents

I am enjoying myself very much here in Seattle. It may be some days yet before I go.

The camp is very nice. Tall pines and a good view of water. I am in the officers quarters. We have our beds made by an orderly. He also keeps the place clean and tends the fires (coal stoves).

The climate is a lot like ours was back home although a little colder I guess.

I am on duty from 8am to 5pm and can do as I please otherwise. I have met a lot of swell officers here. Many of them are just back from Alaska and have some very interesting things to tell.

September 23, 1943

Letter to Dale's parents

This has been a very pleasant visit here in Washington. I'm afraid I am being spoiled what with enlisted men to take care of my room, pack and mark my baggage, etc.

This morning I had a staff car with girl driver and armed guard to do a very interesting job. I like being an officer.

You should see the new clothes and equipment I have. The best of everything and equipment for any possible kind of weather. I could be warm and dry under any conditions.

There are a lot of things that would be interesting to tell you but I guess I'll have to wait for the war to end. This letter will probably be censored. I think it's alright though.

I am having things so nice now that I want Virginia to have some things too. I hope she will have some of the pleasures that are due an officer's wife. Lots of the wives spend a lot more on themselves than VA does. I guess she'll get what she wants though.

The nurses here gave a very nice dance for the officers last night so I went. It was fun. There were WAVE's WAC's and nurses there. The colonel also.

May 20, 1945

Letter to Virginia

Return address

Capt Dale Leipper 0-273887
11th Weather Squadron
APO 942 1/0 PM
Seattle, Washington

Miller got back this morning after more than three months in the hospital. It is good to have him here again as he helps keep the place clean and in order and will sor of offset @. @ isn't too bad but he always does just a little less than his share while Miller does more.

One of my old Meteorology classmates came int the Central yesterday. He has been in the 16th weather region 0 Canada – and it sure sounds good to me, They are paid in American money which is worth 10% extra in Canada.

They get overseas pay they get a leave once @ a year regularly of 15 days and twice during the year they can get additional seven day Canadian leaves and spend them with their wives in Canada. Then they have stations in very fine towns – Edmonton, Great Falls, Minneapolis, Calgary, and each of the forecasters gets to spend on of his two years at one of these places and he can have his wife there with him. And once a year they go to Great Falls for a month for school. When they are there they get per diem (\$7.00 a day) and can also have their wives there. When they asked the forecasters in that region about rotating not a one of them wanted it.

As a contrast, in our region every single forecaster does want rotation, I would sure like to get rotation and go into the 16th region – provided I could not stay in the States – however since none of them want rotated out there will be no @. It doesn't seem quite fair.

@ says after hearing about our set up, he'll never again complain about his. He thinks Anchorage is @ - It may be but in spite of that, it is the best place in our region.

I took a walk this morning. I guess I told you that they had kicked the officers out of the buildings near us and had them turned over to civilian families so there are lots of kids playing around here. One building I went past the man and his wife were singing and playing London Bridge with their little girl – about 5.

I don't mind doing what I have to do but it sort of hurts when the fellows who were not fit to be taken in the Army are given jobs here at pay often better than mine and are allowed to live with their families and go on as if there were no war. Many of them are getting along better now and have more money and less worry than they would have in peace time.

I noticed one hopeful thing in the paper yesterday. Dependents of military personnel in the Bahamas, the Caribbean area and Brazil @ may now go to where the men are provided transportation, housing, etc are available. It shows that the war department is considering the fact that Army men would like to have their dependents with them and allowing it when conditions permit. Maybe they will allow it in Alaska before long – in Anchorage.

I wouldn't mind staying here a year more if you were here. Do you think you would really like to come? I think it would cost about \$1000 so you might make sure we have that much available if they should release the rules. Housing in town is one heck of a problem here.

Yesterday I saw the girl who wrote the article about my promotion and gave her a bawling out so she doesn't do anything like that again. It seems she is rather new to journalistic customs and just didn't know the proper way to write such an article.

I have heard a little more along the line of this rumor I mentioned. In this new version they want me to come to the States and go to school a while and then go to another theater for a special job. That doesn't sound as interesting as the first version but is still interesting.

May 21, 1945

Letter to Virginia

Today I got a letter from the school board saying that they had extended my military leave for the next year.

There was a big piece in the Sat Eve Post about Capt. Squeaky Anderson. I knew him at APO 980 and may have written to you about him. He was quite a character – a seaman from away back.

May 23, 1945

Letter to Virginia

About this rumor that I told you about regarding me. I have found out that I will be able to read the letter as soon as the Col. Answers it. I may not be able to tell you is in it but I am sure that it is nothing that requires definite action anyway. It is only a suggestion that they think would be useful if carried out. I don't know which way my feelings lean. I guess that will make very little difference anyway.

When I said that I had thought of staying in the Army I meant that I was considering staying only until the end of the war. If the inducement were great enough after that I would consider it but I think one of the things that I would require is that I be stationed in Southern California and that the pay be almost twice what I would get by teaching. Otherwise I would not even consider it.

**What I would like to do is to become an expert in certain types of weather so that I could demand almost anything that I wanted and have a chance of getting it. If I did not get what I wanted – and I would make my wants large – then I would just go back to my teaching job and forget it.