

The following is a copy of a letter written by Pilot Officer (later Flying Officer) Joseph C. McIver, Ser #R72688, to his brother Jut on April 4, 1942. There is also a second letter dated September 9, 1942 which Joe wrote from somewhere in North Russia.

Joe received his wings as an Observer (a half wing with the letter O) which was a navigator also trained in bombing and gunnery. Later in the war this wing was replaced with the half wing and the letter N for navigator.

After serving a Tour of Duty he returned to Canada on leave. He opted to do another Tour and was posted to Coastal Command as a crew member on a B24 (Liberator) flying out of Reykjavik, Iceland. They patrolled the North Atlantic hunting for German U Boats and flew cover for convoys.

On November 18, 1944, when this aircraft did not return to base, Joe and the rest of the crew were reported missing and at a later date presumed to be dead.

(1)

7/4/42

Dear Jut;

I got your parcel today: it was still intact, and took about a month and a week to come: that's not too bad. Thanks very much! The pipe tobacco I took over with me was all gone but two pipe fulls, so you timed it pretty well. I got your letter quite a while ago. I wrote you but, I write so many letters, I forget whether it was before or after getting yours. I have had quite a few letters from Helen,

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a couple of air graphs and letters from home, as well as letters from Will, Adele, ~~Ella~~ and Gen. So you see, I'm getting most of the local news, even if it is a bit old. Eileen ~~Ella~~ was in Ottawa when she wrote hers.

I don't know whether you have seen any of my letters to home or no. Well, we left the 12th of January, got over here safely, saw a bit of this side and finished a five week course and am now on the final course. This is the last school. After here we go to a squadron or,

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who knows, We might go to the east? I'm crewed up with an Australian pilot and two Australian wireless operator air gunners and we get along O.K. It is very quiet here. We are on an out-of-the-way station and get a day off a week. The closest city is fifteen miles, the transportation not so good so we usually spend our day off and most of our spare time in the sgts' mess--about the only decent place on the station. I finish here the last of the month and

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expect my first leave after that. I'll see London first. Everybody makes for London. We do a lot of flying here.

Potatoes are a good price. Peter D. is doing some more buying and selling in horses? Are you going out of the horse business? They got the old house moved at last. I laughed at Teresa's letter---about Benny Gorr and Romeo and some of the other curios' out there. I heard over here you were getting married. You didn't mention it in your letter? I suppose you'll say that I kept

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things pretty quiet too! I didn't know for sure until late.

Who will get Wes's job on the boat? I didn't tell you that I saw Tom Walsh at Halifax in a barber shop: he invited me to his room, but I didn't get around to it. Erma Hughes and Mary McPhee are sure doing things up! Foolish whelps! We get enough to eat here, but not as much of some things as I was used to. I would like to be hoeing into that quart of milk in the horse tub. Do you remember? We used to nearly bloat ourselves! How's Fugh John?

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he is pretty gay. Old Thane A. is in love eh? Blanche had a high old time on her Cross Canada tour. They are great friends of Dr. Duffy's?

This about winds up my letter. But I'll thank you again, and keep writing the odd letter. I'll answer them. So long

As ever Joe

Borden Carleton, PEI
February 3, 1997

Dear Jut:

Just a quick note to return Joes original letter to you and a copy, one of a number, that I put through the computer. I took the liberty of making a few notes prior to the body of the letter just in case there are others who may be interested in getting one but who would not have been aware of his involvement in WW II.

We were sorry we didn't see more of you and Eunice when you were over to Margarets funeral. It was understandable your need to catch an early boat back to the mainland. It sure as hell was a cold one there in the cemetery. Hellen didn't last long after Margaret. That, indeed, was a fortunate thing for her and all others who were attentive to her needs. Tell Eunice we were sorry but also pleased that Hellen had finally found release from her imprisonment with ill health.

Haven't been down around the cottages this winter yet. I'm sure there are likely some mice and possibly a rat or two that have invaded one if not both of the cottages. I'll probably drop in one of these days soon. Want to make sure they are properly fed.

Hope you are enjoying good health and that Eunice has been able to find some respite from her back problem. I was into the Cancer Clinic on the 24th and was given the green light until the 29th of April so I have nothing to complain about. Teresa, unfortunately, has or may have, herself involved in a possible congestive heart condition. She has had an X-ray and blood work and is due more intensive tests, in Out-Patients, later this month. We are hoping, of course, that a less debilitating problem will be diagnosed.

Teresa and Gene are dropping in this evening for dinner, corned beef, and undoubtedly we will play a little cards. Too bad you and Eunice aren't here. We stayed over with Adele and Clarence one night last week and we also have visited with Jack and Celia in the past couple of weeks. Mary Hugh John is not doing well and there will possibly be a wake there in the not too distant future. I see this letter is starting to get morbid so I better cut it short.

Best regards to you both from Teresa and I.

Teresa 

Document: Scanned by Betty McIver

Thanks to Desmond McIvor for copy of the
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