

NAME: Robert

RANK: Technician Fifth Grade

ORGANIZATION: 795th Military Police Battalion

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: European and Asiatic-Pacific Theaters of Operations

- The following excerpt/text is directly from an original wartime letter written to Robert and an original wartime period document about Robert. These are two of several letters and documents related to Robert in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following excerpt/text is presented under fair use and public domain provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt/text. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Robert receives a letter from a female friend in England:

“10th January 1945.

Yes, I surely thought you had given me the go-by in disgust, so you can imagine what a surprise I had when I received your letter and Christmas card together only yesterday. I was very pleased to hear from you after so long, I was beginning to wonder if anything had happened to you. Now I see you are still in your seven senses, and as you put it I haven't hurt your feelings. In spite of it all, I still remember, as you do, the time we spent together, and each time I see an M.P. with a white Helmet I think of you. I've got some pleasant memories too, especially one of a moon-light ride in a Jeep (I hope they dont censor this letter) and talk of a house...These are things I'll never forget, I only hope I dont make any mistakes in whatever I finally chose to do.(I noticed how throughout your letter you kept wishing me luck). I'm so glad you still intend to write to me when you've got time – in you I feel I've got a very great friend – something I can never quite make out having known you for such a short time.

I have received your picture...it really is lovely, very lifelike, and I've also written to your mother at last, to thank her for sending it, and giving her my impression of her son as I found him. (Nothing to worry about ! !) I was surprised there was no letter enclosed with the picture. It came by ordinary mail and took about 3 months. I had given up the idea of ever receiving this, it arrived Christmas week; made as good a present as I received that week.

Talking of Christmas, what kind of time did you have over there...I guess though its not too late to wish you a Very Happy New Year, with lots of luck in whatever you do and wherever you are sent. Although my wishes are very late (which is partly your fault anyway for not writing sooner) they are most sincere.

How's the M.P. business going – hope they aren't working you too hard. You know there must be lots you can tell me about; what do you do with your time off (IF YOU EVER HEAR OF SUCH A THING NOW) Do you still 'Live out' you know what I mean – go out to dinner etc., remember our 'Cottage Café' I've never been in that place since I last went with you that Saturday afternoon, had tea, and then went on to a show. I even remember very well the film we saw; happy days. I do hope very

much I'll see you again even if it has to be back in the States. Do you think you would want to see me back there? I've made things somewhat awkward dont you think, but I would really hate to lose your friendship maybe I'm even being selfish, but as they say 'All's fair in Love and War'...

...I've made a New Year Resolution to keep clear of making dates – so far I've succeeded despite one very persistent Corporal in the Medics who calls me up regularly every day; he should be getting tired by now but he thinks New Year Resolutions dont mean a thing...

...I dont know what else I can talk about – I could but, remind you that I still think about you in just the same way as I ever did, so please write to me and let me know what you are doing. What do you think of the French women as compared with us – or dont they compare? Have you met any you think you could 'go for'?

So for now I'll say 'Good-bye' and take care and remember to write to me soon.

Always your very sincere friend,

Imogen

P.S. Please excuse typing – my pen is the same as yours !!”

Robert receives a summary of his military occupations in his Separation Qualification Record:

“CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR: Investigated all types of cases, concerned mostly with the activities of the U. S. Soldier. Such cases as murder, rape,etc. Dealt with the black market while serving in France. Made out reports and turned them in to the provost Marshall. Served in the European Theater of Operation and the Asiatic Pacific.”

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- Robert made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the return of Charles de Gaulle to Paris which Robert's organization took part in (viewer discretion advised):** <https://archive.org/details/gov.archives.arc.39134>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers the kinds of U.S. soldiers Robert investigated during the Second World War (reader discretion advised):** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment_by_the_United_States_military