

Folder 19: Ralph L. Minker, Sr., January – December 1945

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
January 6, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
<p>Minker Sr. tells Lee about another war loan drive, the best one to date. The family Christmas was changed by the cablegram they received from Lee. He talks about their visitors including Lee's girlfriend Julia [Taylor]. Congratulations on his promotion to 1st Lieutenant. Meant a lot to him to see the Clark Gable movie on the 8th Air Force. Fatherly pride shows when talking about Shirley doing well in school and Bernice being active in the community. Gives Lee career advice for the post-war period. Advises against a military career but will support whatever decision he makes.</p>			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
January 29, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
<p>He is so pleased with all that Edna [Minker] has done these past years, and lets him know how important the letters are that he writes to her. Report on the Bombers and the Sixth War Bond Drive. Hoping he will be home soon.</p>			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
February 17, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
<p>Minker Sr. went to a conference in NY this week, enjoys exchanging ideas. Went to the Latin Quarter for dinner and a show. Newspaper carried the news that Lee was awarded another Oak Leaf Cluster. Feels they are flying with him on every mission. Sends names of some of the people who are asking for him; letting Lee know how much they think of him and want to see him home.</p>			

Lee Minker completed his tour of duty by flying 35 missions on February 27, 1945, entitling the crew to return home. Lee Minker, however, signed on for a second tour and went on a 30-day leave in the English countryside.

Date V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
March 20, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
<p>Congratulations on safely completing their tour of duty. Looking forward to pictures of the Blue Hen Chick. Dad is supportive of his decision. Report on the Bombers.</p>			

Date V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
March 26, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
<p>Has lined up a pro golfer to give Lee lessons when he comes home so they can enjoy playing together. They had hoped he would be home by Easter.</p>			

Date V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
April 12, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
[Lee had sent a lengthy letter describing a “typical mission”.]Minker Sr. enjoyed it tremendously and shared it with dozens of people. It’s tough not to hear from him.			

Date V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
May 2, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
The campus grounds are showing improvement after all the work they put in. The war news is good, Japan should capitulate soon. Compliments Lee on being equal to the situation.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
May 10, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
The recent war news is welcome, difficult to understand how the Nazi ideology gripped the German people. Recognizes the work there will be to do after the war and that Lee will be a part of that. Counting the days until Lee’s return.			

Date V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
June 6, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Everyone is excited at the news that Lee has made Captain. Grandmother couldn’t speak. Teases that the whole family is in the newspaper and that he can’t keep up. Thinking of him being home soon.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
June 28, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Regrets getting the news that he has been delayed again. They are printing photos from all the negatives Lee has sent home, but there aren’t many of him. Looking for him in August.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday evening October 17, 1945	Ralph Minker Sr.	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Writes in support of the courses Lee has chosen for his first semester back in college. Will preach twice this coming Sunday. Golf and football, and hopes that they can enjoy them together.			