

Folder 21: Shirley Minker, January – December 1944

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
January 2, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Shirley describes Christmas with the family, as well as her winter break from college. She is not ready to go back to school yet, has hardly seen any of her friends, due to being busy. She mentions getting five As on her report card.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
January 7, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley describes her train ride back to campus. She injured her foot at the gym recently, which had to be taped. Their friend Allen is still in Sicily, but is okay.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
January 13, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley talks about going to a graduation ceremony of air cadets. Three of her housemates were engaged over the Christmas break. There was a car accident of A.I.[du Pont High School] boys in Unionville.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
January 17, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley discusses going to the graduation dance, as well as the man that she went with. She went to see <i>Higher and Higher</i> with Frank Sinatra which she adored.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
January 26, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley complains about classes, especially biology and English. When visiting Bucknell she met some girls from Wilmington.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
February 2, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley is concerned about the lack of correspondence from Lee recently. She talks about the air cadets on campus moving to a different college in May. She talks with Lee about his upcoming graduation from flight school, asks what he wants as a present and whether he will go overseas immediately.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
February 8, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley discusses classes, taking exams, and starting a new class about bible study. She mentions that their father knew the teacher of the class, as he preached in Williamsport at one point. She will attend another graduation of air cadets on campus.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
February 12, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley talks about a show that the cadets put on for the college and a transatlantic broadcast which Bernice will be in.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
February 21, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley brings college life to her brother with complaints about the hellish week she had, including a terrible student council meeting, and Admiral Dewey. Her friend Fred is starting flight school, he envies Lee being almost done with training.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
February 28, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley tells Lee about Frank and his flight training, as well as reminding him that today is the anniversary of Lee joining the Army. She talks about her monthly tests which were more difficult than usual.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
March 5, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley is disappointed that she cannot go see Lee get his wings at his graduation ceremony [Pecos, TX] and expresses her sisterly pride in his commission. She compares Fred's training to Lee's and Shirley realizes how stressful Lee's training must have been, even more than originally. She lets him know how successful her play was.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
[March 10?, 1944]	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley sent a telegram to her brother telling him she wished she could be at his graduation [from pilot training].			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
March 26, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley was glad she was able to see Lee [on leave in Wilmington, DE the week of March 12] and misses him already, but is happy to be back in Williamsport. The ever-present news of friends in the service: Allen, who is still in Italy and seeing a lot of action, Frank will be eventually going to Santa Ana, where Lee did some of his training as well.			
Names: Allen Cavender			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
April 16, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley tells Lee that Fred, along with his entire squadron, is out of the air corps due to an issue with the psychological test. She talks about her Easter break at home. She is procrastinating on an English paper, which she and everyone else are now rushing to finish.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
April 28, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley visited her housemate's town of Roaring Springs, near Altoona. She talks about having a lot of rehearsals for upcoming performances. There are only two squadrons on campus left, and those that are left have nothing to do. She is surprised that her freshman year is almost over. She then finds out that Fred is now in the Army infantry.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
May 8, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Bernice coming to visit, the play Shirley was in was a big success. She describes Greet Day, which is where the students dress up for the prospective students to show off the college.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
May 31, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley is finishing her finals, the students leaving campus for summer break. She is getting a small prize for scholarship in the freshman class. She mentions her trip back home, as well as what she has been doing for the beginning of her break.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
July 14, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Shirley has a new job which she really enjoys, despite being busy and singing with the Brandywiners. She mentions Dey White who is in the Navy now.			
Names: Dey White			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
July 30, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Shirley talks about Brandywiners and how demanding it is. She mentions another friend in the service, Gordon, who was home recently. Shirley discusses her hesitation of going back to school and is thinking about focusing on her music instead.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
August 7, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Her performances of the operetta with the Brandywiners was successful. Ginger's puppies are growing fast.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
August 27, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Shirley talks about going to Rehoboth and the growing puppy, they are having difficulties trying to think of a good name for him. She mentions a Mr. Gassaway who was killed in action and Harry Wilson who was listed as missing in action.			
Names: [Fred] Gassaway [killed in action, August 25, 1944], Harry Wilson, Clarence Deakyne (KIA)			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
September 14, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Wilmington, DE
Shirley talks about her trip to the shore, which she enjoyed. She talks about her final days of vacation until she goes back to Williamsport. She mentions Raymond Harding was released from a German prison camp.			
Names: Raymond Harding			

Lee Minker left for combat duty in England on October 6, 1944.

Date V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
October 8, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Sorry that she missed seeing him [when he flew over the house on the way to England], talked with mother and Bernice. Sympathizes with him over his original co-pilot getting sick. Teases about how young the cadets are who are on campus in training. Going home for a music lesson.			
Names: Johnny Corbett			

Date V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
October 11, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley reports on her classes at school. There is a serious outbreak of polio with 11 new cases. Not certain how the campus will handle it. Asks for a present from Oxford [England] for her room. As always, lovingly signs her letter "good night and good luck."			

Date	2 V-Mails	Writer	Recipient	Place
October 22, 1944		Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
The dramatic club put on a play to raise money. There is a formal reception at the President's this weekend. She brings the fun of college life to her brother with a description of going to the lake on their day off for the annual chestnut hunt. There were problems with the boat so it turned into quite an adventure. Everyone on shore was laughing.				

Date	V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
October 30, 1944		Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
She got a letter from mother with the change in his address, hopes her earlier letters have reached him. Shirley is annoyed that she had to get dressed up in evening clothes to go to a formal reception for the president when there was no dancing.				

Date	V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
November 7, 1944		Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Her greeting, "Dear Looie" is a tease for her brother who is a Lieutenant. She has not been able to do any homework as she is listening to the election returns. Wished she had been able to vote. She is taking a friend home for the Thanksgiving break. Went to hear <i>Carmen</i> , her very first opera, and loved it. Tells Lee how much she misses him.				

Date	V-Mail	Writer	Recipient	Place
November 20, 1944		Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Has not written to him because of her tests, was quite surprised that she got in A on her psychology exam. The sextet she sings with sang at a dinner for the Masons, she was pleased that they received \$2 each for their performance. Glad he likes England, another sisterly tease calling Lee, "drip."				

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
December 1, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley talks about her visit home, where she and some of her friends went out for the evening and shopping for Christmas gifts. The puppy is active, now 4 months old. She will be the typing editor for the college yearbook			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
December 9, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
This is a hectic time for Shirley with finals nearing and her Christmas play. She celebrated her birthday [Dec. 7] on campus the previous week. She mentions that Fred was at a talk by General Marshall. She is getting ready to return to Wilmington for Christmas break.			
Note: The handwritten comment at the top of the letter was added by Lee Minker sometime in the early 1990s.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
December 14, 1944	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley talks about testing and getting a poor grade in psychology. She is continuing to practice for the Christmas play.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday afternoon [December 14, 1944]	Shirley Minker	Lee Minker	Williamsport, PA
Shirley describes getting ready for Christmas, she has finished shopping and wrapping presents. She is getting ready for the play, doing mostly final preparations. Note: Note: continuation of previous letter dated December 14, 1944			