Blytheville Army Air Field, Blytheville, Arkansas.

January 31, 1945

Hon. Howard Brown, M. W. Grandmaster
Mason City,
Iowa

M. W. Sir and dear brother:

Yours of the 28th received and, as always, it was indeed a pleasure to hear from you; though very sorry to learn that both you and Sister Brown were ill but trusting that by now you two have fully recovered.

Your statement that you were hoping I was enjoying myself here in old dark was amusing, you know, I hate this south period, paticulelly since I think the north is bad enough but oh this south. Supposing you had an idea about how large a place Blytheville is, I might say that there are only two places in town wh negro soldiers can go in and buy a bottle of coke & one of those is the bus depot. The other day one of the white officers said he would be glad when they shipped him out of this blank blank

South because he had caught himself saying "you all."

I was also happy to learn that No 3 had paid up its back indebtness & it was my good fortune to have been in Burlington for a short period of time on six occasions the past six months and each time I had a chance to talk with some of my very dear fellow Craftsmen. However it did my heart particularly good to hear of the progress of No. 43. at my earliest opportunity I must address a communication to R.W. bro. Anderson, D. bro. Clark & W. bro. Aldrich for they have certainly come through with all their promises to me. I do not feel that my work was entirely in vain now as, according to my opinion, two of the three lodges mostly in need have come through admirably.

It is too bad you misconstrued what Bro. Digiuton said about the apron as I certainly did not tell him to ask you to order me one, and if you would read the Code you would know why. If you will recall neither M.W bro Parker or M.W. bro. Suter bought an apron, because they didn't feel

it would be wise to invest in them at the time since our funds were so low, however, you & the Trustees are the Grand Lodge during its recess, but while I was G.M. we did buy three of them, advancing some of the money personally as the brethren had promised that their money would be coming in by the time the G. L. sat and as you will recall more money was taken in during that grand session than in any other throughout the history of our Grand Jurisdiction.

Whatever you do be sure and study the Code & Constitution, Know the subjects it pertains thereto, try to keep your work flawless and don't jump at conclusions as you have seemingly done about the apron as that is a gift of the Grand Lodge & one does not ask for gifts, though he may, & I think it is perfectly alright to ask more or less disinterested parties if a certain gift is going to be given him at a certain time. Read & re-read your work before it is sent out even if you don't do it personally, if you are in doubt ask someone, after all we learn from others, for the work you cause to

to be minded is indicative of receiving a communication for some four hundred men. It may sometimes mean rewriting, typing or cutting a stencil for a whole page to correct mistakes in spelling & grammar but believe me, Grand master, it is worth it, and from the bottom of my heart I say that as a friend not as a censor, in other words, dear brother, do your best to live up to the expectations, the faith and the confidence the members of the Grand Lodge had in you when you were so honored by them as their Grand Master & representative.

Please excuse the penmanship as this is being written while lying here on my bunk and it is 11:30 P.M. again thanking you for your most recent communication and please continue to remember me in your prayers as I remember you and yours. Realizing there is little if anything I can do to help you materially, being in the service but my heart is with you and I know somewhat of your troubles.

With love & best wishes I am,

Always
Your friend & brother
Pfc. Thomas S. McD. P.H.M.