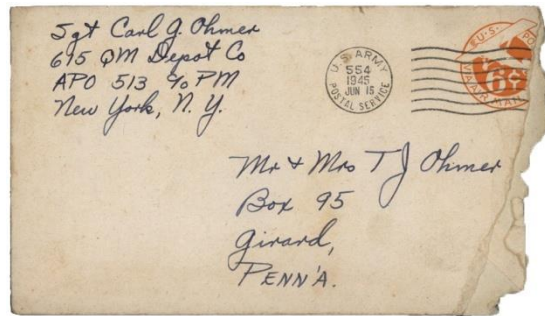


Gettysburg College  
Musselman  
**Library**  
*special collections*

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**Guide to the  
World War II Letters from Carl G. Ohmer and Richard E. Ohmer**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Created by Kate Boeree**

**June 2009**

## **MS 104: World War II Letters from Carl G. Ohmer and Richard E. Ohmer**

*Processed by Kate Boeree*

*June 2009*

(3 boxes, 0.81 cubic foot)

Dates: 23 January 1943 – 15 April 1947

### **Provenance:**

Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum in 2009.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains 109 letters written by soldiers in World War II. 98 of these are letters addressed to the Ohmer family in Girard, PA from their sons, Carl and Richard, as well as a friend of the family, Ray O'Connor. 11 of the letters are addressed to Georgia Hitchcock in New York, NY from John V. Starr, as well as one letter signed "Don," with no other distinguishing factors of his identity. All letters include their original envelope. This collection is divided into four series.

Series I: Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer

Series II: Letters home from Richard E. Ohmer

Series III: Letters to the Ohmer family from Ray O'Connor

Series IV: Additional letters addressed to Georgia Hitchcock

**Carl G. Ohmer, "Red"** (1920 – 1994): 70 letters written to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Ohmer and his younger brothers, Ken and Teddy (T.J.) between February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943 and February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1946. During this time, Carl Ohmer was stationed in California, Arkansas, and Kentucky and was moved to France in September of 1944 where he stayed for the rest of the war as part of the 55<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Depot Company. He worked army office jobs, including working as a switchboard operator in a message center office in France. Many of his letters show a genuine concern for his family – he asks them to write as much as possible, wants his younger brother Teddy to do well in school, and sends most of his savings home for his brother Ken's new business venture. His letters describe daily life in the military, including some interesting insight to the remnants of war that he stumbles upon in France: "The irony of the whole thing is that our own artillery and bombs probably did more damage than that of the Germans, in most cases the word would be most of the damage, if not all. So much for that" (September 29, 1944).

**Richard E. Ohmer, "Dick"** (1918 – 2006): 25 letters written to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Ohmer and his younger brothers, Ken and Teddy (T.J.) between January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1943 and August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1945. The letters follow him as part of Battery C. in the 30<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery through Pennsylvania, California, Washington State, Alaska, Virginia, Oklahoma, and North Carolina, where the correspondence ended with mentions

of his plans to buy a home there for his new family. During his enlistment, Richard's wife Betty became pregnant, and their son, Dickie, was born in January 1944 while Richard was away, contributing greatly to his homesickness. Many of his letters address a tension between his wife and his mother, but the reason for this tension is unclear.

**Ray O'Connor:** 3 letters from New Guinea, the Philippine Islands, and Louisiana dated August 10<sup>th</sup> 1943, December 20<sup>th</sup> 1943, and February 5<sup>th</sup> 1945. Ray was a family friend, who addressed his letters to Ken, as well as the boys' mother, Bernice Ohmer, addressing her as "Ma" indicating his closeness with the family, possibly almost like a fifth son. Ray is mentioned in several of Carl's letters as well.

**John V. Starr:** 10 letters written to Georgia Hitchcock in New York City between August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1943 and April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1947 while he was in the Army Air Corps in China and India. He writes of some sort of injury in China that put him in the hospital recovering from burns on his hands, arms, and legs. In most of these letters he is recovering from these injuries and waiting to hear what will happen next: whether he would be discharged or could return to work with the army.

### **Series I: Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer**

1-1 Finding Aid and Research Materials

1-2 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, 1943

- 3 February 1943 "Hello Mom + all," from Los Angeles, CA (2 pages)
- 27 July 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Camp Chaffee, AR (2 pages)
- 31 October 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Camp Chaffee, AR (2 pages)
- 25 December 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Los Angeles, CA (3 pages)
- 29 December 1943 "Dear Mom, + Dad + Ken + Teddy," from Los Angeles, CA (5 pages)

1-3 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, January – May 1944

- 8 January 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Los Angeles, CA (6 pages)
- 5 February 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Los Angeles, CA (2 pages)
- 8 February 1944 \*missing pages 1-3\* from Los Angeles, CA (4 pages)
- 16 February 1944 "Dear Folks:" from Los Angeles, CA (5 pages)
- 16 May 1944 "Dear Ken," from Camp Campbell, KY (3 pages)
- 23 May 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Camp Campbell, KY (9 pages)

1-4 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, June – October 1944

- 18 June 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Camp Campbell, KY (2 pages)
- 26 June 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Camp Campbell, KY (5 pages)
- 15 July 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Camp Campbell, KY (6 pages)
- 19 September 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)

- 29 September 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (4 pages)  
*Enclosed:* Censored postcard from France
- 7 October 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (5 pages)

1-5 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, November 1944

- 1 November 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 5 November 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (7 pages)
- 6 November 1944 "What a set-up!" (To Ken) from France (8 pages)
- 26 November 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 29 November 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)

1-6 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, December 1944

- 1 December 1944 "To 'Mom'" Christmas card from France
- 5 December 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (4 pages)  
*Enclosed:* a clipping from *The Stars & Stripes* (Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces)
- 7 December 1944 "Dear Mom + Dad," from France (3 pages)  
*Enclosed:* "Dear Ken + Ted," from France (1 page)
- 15 December 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (5 pages)
- 19 December 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from France (4 pages)  
*Enclosed:* *Newsette Bag*, part of a weekly paper sent to the soldiers (2 pages)

1-7 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, January 1945

- 1 January 1945 "Happy New Year – Phooey!" from France (4 pages)
- 2 January 1945 "Dear folks" from France (3 pages)
- 6 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 9 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 16 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)
- 19 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)
- 22 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 28 January 1945 "Dear Ken," from France (4 pages)  
*Enclosed:* clippings from *The Stars and Stripes* (Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces) (3 pages)
- 30 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)

2-1 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, February 1945

- 1 February 1945 "Dear Ken," from France (4 pages)  
*Enclosed:* Newspaper clipping from 22 January 1945 issue of *The Stars and Stripes* (Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces) (2 pages)
- 11 February 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (6 pages)  
*Enclosed:* Letter to Carl from friend Bette, dated 27 December 1944 (1 page)

- 16 February 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (4 pages)
- 21 February 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 24 February 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)  
*Enclosed:* Clipping from *The Stars and Stripes* (Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces)
- 26 February 1945 "Dear Ken," from France (8 pages)  
*Enclosed:* Clipping of humorous cartoon, unknown origin

2-2 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, March – April 1945

- 1 March 1945 "Dear T.J.," from France (3 pages)
- 2 March 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (5 pages)
- 9 March 1945 "Dear Ken," from France (4 pages)  
*Enclosed:* newspaper clipping from *Newsweek*, Jan 15
- 18 March 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)
- 26 March 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (5 pages)
- 4 April 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (6 pages)
- 15 April 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 17 April 1945 "Dear Ken," from France (2 pages)

2-3 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, May – September 1945

- 5 May 1945 – Empty envelope
- 6 May 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (6 pages)
- 14 June 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)  
*Enclosed:* Humorous "Up Front with Mauldin" cartoon
- 20 June 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (7 pages)
- 2 September 1945 "Dear Folks," from France (4 pages)
- 12 September 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)
- 18 September 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)

2-4 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, October – November 1945

- 4 October 1945 "Dear Ken," from France (7 pages)
- 9 October 1945 "Dear Ken," from France (3 pages)
- 11 October 1945 "Dear Mom and all," from France (3 pages)
- 30 October 1945 "Dear Mom & all," from France (2 pages)
- 10 November 1945 "Dear Mom & all," from France (1 page)
- 16 November 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (7 pages)
- 23 November 1945 – Empty envelope
- 26 November 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)

2-5 Letters home from Carl G. Ohmer, December 1945 – February 1946

- 7 December 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (3 pages)

- 10 December 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from France (6 pages)  
*Enclosed:* "Dear T.J.," from France (2 pages)
- 16 December 1945 "Dear Mom & all," from France (4 pages)
- 26 December 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from Rheims, France (3 pages)
- 16 February 1946 "Dear Mom + all," from France (2 pages)  
*Enclosed:* Special Order, 13 February 1946

**Series II: Letters home from Richard E. Ohmer**

2-6 Letters home from Richard E. Ohmer, 21 January 1943 – 30 August 1943

- 21 January 1943 "Dear Ma and All," from New Cumberland, PA (1 page)
- 29 January 1943 "Dear Ma + Dad + all," from Watsonville, CA (1 page)
- 17 August 1943 "Dear Ma + all," from Seattle, WA (2 pages)
- 26 August 1943 "Dear Ma + all," from Seattle, WA (4 pages)
- 30 August 1943 "Dear Ma + all," from Seattle, WA (3 pages)

3-1 Letters home from Richard E. Ohmer, 27 September 1943 – 9 December 1943

- 27 September 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Seattle, WA (3 pages)
- 1 October 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Seattle, WA (4 pages)
- 30 October 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Seattle, WA (4 pages)
- 26 November 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Seattle, WA (2 pages)
- 9 December 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Seattle, WA (7 pages)

3-2 Letters home from Richard E. Ohmer, 19 December 1943 – 7 June 1944

- 19 December 1943 "Dear Mom + all," from Seattle, WA (5 pages)
- 2 January 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Seattle, WA (4 pages)
- 6 February 1944 "Dear Mom + Dad + all," from Seattle, WA (6 pages)
- 24 February 1944 – Empty envelope
- 7 June 1944 "Dear Ma + all," from Camp Pickett, VA (2 pages)

3-3 Letters home from Richard E. Ohmer, 15 June 1944 – 14 December 1944

- 15 June 1944 "Dear Ma + all," from Camp Pickett, VA (2 pages)
- 13 September 1944 "Dear Ma + all," from Fort Sill, OK (1 page)
- 17 September 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Fort Sill, OK (2 pages)
- 1 October 1944 "Dear Mom + all," from Fort Sill, OK (1 page)
- 14 December 1944 "Dear Mom + Dickie + all," from Fayetteville, NC (1 page)  
*Enclosed:* Letter to Dickie, Richard's son

3-4 Letters home from Richard E. Ohmer, 21 January 1945 – 20 August 1945

- 21 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from Fort Bragg, NC (3 pages)

- 23 January 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from Fort Bragg, NC (2 pages)
- 9 February 1945 "Dear Ma + all," from Fort Bragg, NC (4 pages)
- 18 February 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from Fort Bragg, NC (3 pages)
- 20 August 1945 "Dear Mom + all," from Salt Lake City, UT (3 pages)

3-5 **Series III: Letters to the Ohmer family from Ray O'Connor**

- 10 August 1943 "Hi Ken," From [Ray O'Connor] New Guinea (7 pages)
- 20 December 1943 "Dear Ma," From [Ray O'Connor] Louisiana (1 page)
- 5 February 1945 "Dear 'Ma,'" From [Ray O'Connor] Philippine Islands (1 page)
- Enclosed: Front Lines Daily News, 2 March 1945 (2 pages)*

3-6 **Series IV: Additional letters addressed to Georgia Hitchcock**

- 6 August 1943 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr, India (2 pages)
- 30 December 1943 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (1 page)
- 25 January 1944 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (1 page)
- 30 January 1944 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (1 page)
- 8 March 1944 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (2 pages)
- 5 June 1944 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (1 page)
- 23 April 1944 "Hi ya sweetheart," From "Don" Miami, FL (2 pages)
- 4 May 1945 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (2 pages)
- 6 June 1945 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (2 pages)
- Enclosed: Family photograph*
- 15 June 1945 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (3 pages)
- 15 April 1947 "Dear Georgia," From John V. Starr (1 page)