

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Harold E. Lutz, Bert Lutz, Theo G. Brenir, John E. Shirley, Donald J. Calm, and Stanley Keever Jr.

World War II Letters

Reading, Pennsylvania, Italy, Detroit, North Africa, London: 1939-1945

\$350



A collection of 39 letters to Reading, Pennsylvania native Stanley Keever Jr. from various childhood friends while they were stationed overseas during World War II from 1939 until 1945. All letters are very good with modest aging and tears from opening.

During World War II, Stanley Keever Jr. was declared unfit for military duty and was left on the home front in Reading, Pennsylvania while his childhood friends, all neighbors from Pennsylvania, including Harold E. Lutz, Bert Lutz, Theo G. Brenir, John E. Shirley, and Donald J. Calm joined up. While completing their tours of duty the men wrote candidly to Keever about their training, women, and war, while trying to comfort their friend who was unable to offer his services to the war effort. Harold E. Lutz, who writes most frequently, reported in November of 1942, "Stanley I am living in my own adventure story. All the thrills and romance I want. From one climate to another. Meeting fascinating people, working and sweating, living and laughing and loving." He follows up a year later from North Africa with, "I'd like to be home again. And we used to say nothing to do. To do that now would be paradise."

Most of the letters deal with the men wanting to be done with the war. In June of 1944 John E. Shirley writes, "I guess you no if these cock suckers don't change their damn minds again at the last min. I'll be on my way back to see you all on July 4th. Yes, that is supposed to be definite, but I no better." Kever answered with, "I've been wondering when in the hell you're coming home. It's high time, kid. They must be giving you an old fashioned fucking. Yes?" The other topic of conversation is women and sex. Harold writes, "They have these sex shows like Havana over here not very far from where I am. I have not seen any but got plenty of information on them...I get to see a lot of nice French babes lately. I mean a lot more than I did for many months. One nearby village has a few honeys."

By 1945 Lutz was ready to return home to Reading and normal life. He tells Kever, I'm really tired of army life and especially dislike this location. No place to have fun at all. Towns are lousy, the women won't associate with us to any extent. Especially it is hard to get a piece of (a small donkey)...In closing Stan, I hope this European affair will end soon...I'm sick of military life."

An interesting assemblage full of frank and honest views of military life during World War II. [BTC#389978]