

HISTORY OF WALLACE B. SPENCER

by Dee Ann Spencer

Wallace Burnham Spencer was born Dec. 3, 1920 in Kanab, Utah. He was the son of Joseph Gurnsey Brown Spencer and Ivie May Burnham.

Joseph Gurnsey Brown Spencer was the son of Howard Orson Spencer and Persis Ann Brown. His Grandfather, Orson Spencer served as the first Chancellor of the University of State of Deseret (University of Utah) and Orson Spencer Hall is named after him. Orson served as a Baptist minister around 1835-1841 and joined LDS church in 1841. Orson was a Mayor of Nauvoo and a close associate with the prophet Joseph Smith. The first home of Orson Spencer in SLC was located on Main and Third South. In 1956 S.H. Kress Co., Ardens, Grayson Stores faced Main on the former Spencer lot. Standard Optical, Office and Factory Bldg. were on the corner and Ladies Shop, Mode O' Day, Carousel Jewelers, Skaggs Payless and S.H. Kress occupied the south side of the lot.

Joseph Gurnsey Brown Spencer was born June 29, 1881 in Kanab, Utah to a prominent family Joseph met Ivie Burnham while she was teaching school in Kanab. They were married June 27, 1917 in the Logan Temple and lived in Kanab.

Ivie was born May 13, 1891 in Richmond, Utah to Wallace Clinton Burnham and Anna Christine Hansen. Her mother died when Ivie was eight years old.

Joseph and Ivie had three children: Orson, Wallace, and Ann. Joseph became an invalid and eventually blind. Ivie had sugar diabetes. Ivie died Nov 22, 1926 and Joseph died April 17, 1928. Edna Burnham, a sister to Ivie took three year old Ann home to raise when her mother died. "Gurn" asked Edna to care for his two sons when he was gone. Their grandfather, Wallace Clinton Burnham was named the children's guardian. He had a houseful of his own and all he could take care of so their Aunt Vira looked after them until it could be decided what to do.

Aunt LaRue (sister of Ivie) and Uncle Hazel Yates were married on June 15, 1927. They offered to take the boys and raise them in Yost, Utah. Aunt LaRue was a school teacher and helped Uncle Hazel in the summers on the ranch. In a letter dated Jan 13, 1929- letter from Aunt Edna to Aunt LaRue states:

"Ann gets pleasure out of being aware of her brothers. They sent her many nice things for Christmas. She found a balky mule, little sweeper, stocking doll in a cradle and postal card at grandpa's. Postmaster handed her another

parcel at Garland from her brothers. In it was a sewing set from Orson, garters bracelet, and hankie from Wallace."

The boys also helped with the ranch work and attended school in Yost until it came time for high school. Then the boys and Aunt LaRue went to live at Aunt Edna's in Brigham City so they could finish high school there.

Aunt LaRue apparently didn't stay the entire time as she sent Orson a letter from Yost in 1938 expressing concern for his health as scarlet fever was in the schools. Wallace belonged to the Boy Scouts and was popular with his peers. He was attracted to a girl named Miriam who was attracted to his brother Orson.

The following narrative is derived from letters in order of date from Wallace and Orson to Aunt LaRue, each other, and Dorothy. These letters were found in a trunk at Dorothy's and read with her permission. I summarized most of them and used direct quotes in others. The direct quotes are in parentheses.

Orson served a mission to Ottawa, Ont CAN. He sent Wallace a post card dated Nov 26, 1938 from Chicago on his way to his mission. Orson encouraged Wallace to study hard and go to church. Orson looked forward to going to college together when he got back.

Wallace received a letter from Aunt LaRue Nov 28, 1938 where she encouraged him to get the most out of school. In March of 1939 she sent him \$10 for board for Aunt Edna and admonished him to keep out of debt. Uncle Hazel and Aunt LaRue had a great positive influence on Wallace and Orson. On Wallace's 18th birthday, Aunt LaRue sent him money and a letter expressing her love and concern.

Wallace graduated from Box Elder High School May 21, 1939. He belonged to the Science Club and the B'Ivers. His nickname in high school was Wally. He stated in the year book that his weakness was " Girls at Yost" and his ambition was to be a six-footer!

After high school, Wallace attended Utah State University. He was very interested in flight training and was enrolled in the course there. He sold his horse for money to go to school. In Oct 1941 he left school and joined the Marines in California. He had been eliminated from the flying course and didn't have enough credits to stay in school. He also felt the need to put distance between himself and a young woman, Roberta, to see how she might feel about him. He had considered going back to Yost to work until spring but knew he wouldn't be content in Yost without friends. His ambition was still to fly and he joined the Marines in hopes of getting into the aviation corps. Wallace was glad he was able to share his feelings with Aunt LaRue and Uncle Hazel and told them how much he treasured them and that what they had done for him could not be paid back with money.

Oct. 22, 1941

Wallace had the Marines contact Orson by telegraph to get his signature for Wallace to join - not because he was afraid Aunt LaRue & Uncle Hazel wouldn't sign - but because it was quicker by telegraph to Logan. He missed the deer hunt because of Roberta.

Learned a lot in the last year and a half. Learned things the hard way and came out of it with the smoking habit. Sorry to disappoint - but gives hours of enjoyment. When finds something that takes the place like work, hobby, or some girl-will quit.

Reason don't like living in Yost - "You are either no good or your too good in a religious sence. Religion there to me is something people cherish because they can't find complete happiness some place else, either in there work or in there home. and it proves to be a traditional thing and very effective one to some people. Don't think I'm not a believer in it. But it is something that I don't think I could give my troubles too."

Lost weight - weighs 130 lbs. The lightest since starting high school. After picking spuds with Orson in Aberdeen didn't eat a square meal for a week. Felt hungry but after a good cry and a square meal won't heal."

October 27, 1941 - In the Army now!

Like a concentration camp-for seven weeks

Every type of person here. One other guy from Utah here.

"Maybe one of these mornings I will wake up and realize how foolish I have been are else how wise I was." (Still has Roberta on mind). Requested Aunt LaRue to send an Algebra book and 8th grade math book for review for exam for ground school.

October 31, 1941

Wishing Aunt LaRue Happy Birthday

Appreciation for all their kindness - don't realize how much until you are away.

Joined the Marines to find self and is doing it.

Nov 8, 1941

Received the text books

Insurance for \$5000 had to be to blood relative no more distant than brother or sister.

Put it in Orson's name but will come to you.

Unable to come home due to lack of funds at end of boot camp.

Nov 16, 1941

Details of daily life in boot camp

Keeps busy and likes it

Might go see Aunt Vi for Christmas or Roberta in Frisco

Received letter from Roberta - can't understand why two people were born to like each other and can't do anything about it.

Took test for aviation - don't know how well I did. Could have passed it easy after 8th grade but now not so sure.

In the hospital for two days - reaction to typhoid vaccination

No letters from Orson - Ann. They may not be interested. "They say there is always one black sheep, I might be black to them but I think I'm still white inside."

Nov. 20, 1941

Thanksgiving Dinner

Orson writes things in letters he won't say to your face. Treats me like a two year old - maybe I am.

Want to come home on furlough - but don't sacrifice.

While on hike got ball cactus in knee. Very swollen and sore but if I complain might have to have an x-ray and that would never do as is it is in my lame knee.

Nov. 26, 1941

Want to come home for Christmas - Cost \$25 If I don't make it home, don't know yet what I'll do.

Training at the rifle range -learning to shoot their way.

Keeping busy, dealing with the harassment o.k. and liking it.

Dec. 3, 1941

Received watch for birthday from Aunt & Uncle & \$25 for money to come home for Christmas. Very appreciative and surprised.

Training at the rifle range - get extra pay the better you score.

Staying so busy can't keep track of the time.

Dec. 14, 1941 - 2nd Guard Co. Camp Elliot - San Diego, Ca.

War declared Dec. 7. - We were on the rifle range. Hurried and fired for record. Made marksman and returned to the base. Broke up and was assigned here- out of 500 men ten of us were put in this guard company. Lucky Break. Have a chance of making good.

Fellows here don't see how we got in here. Most have been here for at least two years and some 10 years with overseas duty for at least two years.

Due to war, won't be furloughed for Christmas. Will repay the \$25 in monthly payments.

Thanks again for watch.

Dec. 23, 1941

Wishing Aunt & Uncle a Merry Christmas

Disappointed not to be home -but disappointments good for me

Anxious to "get over there and wipe up the Japs."

No letters from home or Orson or anyone else. Homesick

Jan. 1, 1942 Camp Eliot

"Past year seemed like a whole lifetime. I guess that's what a woman can do, if we adjust ourselves somehow I guess these things would never happen. However experiences and hard knocks won't change me. I'll always think my pants were too small to hold the ideas and steps I took. I only hope that you never say I shouldn't have taken them. This is sure a funny letter, but really I have a hard time in keeping my thoughts to myself."

Always wanted to fly and now looks like I'll never make it. They put us where we're needed not where we want to be.

Need parachute troops. If I put on a few more pounds I can make it. Parachute Troops give a stiff physical exam but sure I can pass it.

Thanks for Christmas package. Received box of candy from Orson & Olga but no letter. Haven't received anything from Ann or Aunt Edna since birthday. Roberta hasn't written since a week after arriving at boot camp.

Jan 11, 1942 - Camp Eliot

"It sure seems like people can't appreciate things until they have to get along without them, I don't believe I would have ever felt the full devotion I have for you and Aunt LaRue if I hadn't been without you as I am now."

Working in the mess hall - don't like it.

Called into Sgt. Major's office and asked if I could type - I said yes and he is moving me into the office to work. May be the break I have been waiting for. Need 6 months service before getting into parachute troops and if in the office won't be transferred overseas for awhile. Beginning to realize what a foolish break I made by leaving school. Idea may have been right if war hadn't started so quick. Now don't have much chance of getting into what you want - they put you any place they need men. Going to keep trying to get in the air corps.

Money still tight. After laundry and insurance have \$8 left each month. Broke crystal on watch you gave me.

Jan 15, 1942 -Camp Eliot (letter dated Dec. 15, 1942 but fits in here)

Hates the town of San Diego. Low on funds.

Job in the office fell through

Trying to get into aviation and if can't make it try for parachute troops.

Thinks less often of Roberta

Laid around in the barracks during Christmas and New Years.

Since coming to Camp Eliot have gained weight. Weight 149 lbs. Most ever weighed.

Have to be ready to ship out on 30 minutes notice.

Jan 25, 1942

Yale, Harold, and Max came to see me.

Got a liberty pass and hitchhiked to Long Beach to see Aunt Vie. Heart to heart talk about Roberta. " She said Roberta wasn't married yet. I was so thrilled I could have cried. I haven't heard from Roberta yet - don't know what she thinks and it worries me. If I can get a 72 hr. leave I want to fly to Frisco. It would cost \$30 and if things turn out the way I want them too I would like to get a ring for her. The way it is now don't know whether I am coming or going. Right now I need your help. Don't want to do something you don't approve of. I'm asking for your approval and financial help. This is a loan not gift. It will cost about \$100 for the ring and for transportation/expenses.."

Put in transfer for Aviation and it was highly approved..if there is an opening believe I'll get it. May not be here much longer and if not there is another brigade leaving before long and chances are good I'll be leaving with them.

Money left to me has been used up for a good purpose and Aunt & Uncle don't owe anything. Might get a raise next month.

Feb 7, 1942 Camp Eliot

Received letter from Roberta dated Dec. 19

Took exam for PFC and today given warrant

Best news - being transferred into Aviation, Monday!

Been really busy - like it that way. "The more they give me to do the more kick I get out of doing the job. That don't sound very much like me does it? Well I'll have to admit I never knew one person could change so much in such a short time. Really I have changed, not my own ideas that you gave me, but everything is so different here that I had to do something."

(Confession) "Uncle Hazel I hate to see you sell Paint, since you sold Dunk he has been the best friend I've had, he was clumsy I guess I'll carry a lame knee all my life on account of that fall. I never did let you know he was the reason for my lame leg, Maybe it was best that I didn't, it used to worry me all right when anyone else rode him, not Heidy tho, he never went fast enough to ever do any worrying. I thing I can say you'll never get a horse quiet as good as old Dunk was for all around work. Oh well I guess those days have past forever they are real memories tho."

Don't do anything that is foolish to satisfy my foolish wants...Regarding Roberta in last letter.

Feb. 11, 1942 N.A.S Sqdn. 23 San Diego

Happy Valentines

Hate moving around but glad to be here. Have breaks because PFC. Took IQ and math exam and passed. Waiting for interview and then go to school in Florida, Virginia, or Chicago for 4-5 months. After 6 months of training can go for flight training. Better chance because of PFC.

Hair is turning white. "Woman troubles, I guess. I'll have to get me some color back."

Eager to get share of the Japs. Hope flying a plane when the time comes.

Never been so happy and yet lonesome in all my life.

Met a guy from Preston who saw the Improvement Era the Bishop had sent. He is a Mormon too. "We really had a testimony meeting he is from Preston."

Feb. 20, 1942 N.A.S. San Diego

Response to Aunt & Uncle letter regarding Roberta

Uncle & Aunt didn't send money for trip to Frisco

Felt it might be best if Wallace didn't see Roberta again

Wallace's mind not changed regarding Roberta

Feb. 23, 1942 - N.A.S. San Diego

Received box of candy from home for Valentines day

Hitch hiked to Long Beach to see Aunt Via for the weekend. Got there at 3:00 a.m.

Sunday morning. Too early to wake Aunt Via so sat in a hotel lobby. Just fell asleep when hotel manager came along and kicked me out. Told him my situation. Didn't make any difference. No bums aloud. Really got a kick out of it. Hope if the Japs drop any bombs on USA it lands on him and his hotel. Stayed rest of nite in bus depot. Went and had breakfast with Aunt Via and then went to church with her. Made to feel at home.

First time to church in a long time.

March 23, 1942 NAS San Diego
 Went to Frisco to see Roberta. Had a swell visit. "The jokes are all up between her and me." (Roberta joined the Army in Santa Barbara.)
 Orson hasn't written in a long time and Ann never writes.
 Give clothes to Orson except work hat. Orson is having a hard time. Probably won't fit or be in style when I can wear them again.
 Working in tower. Really like it. Lots of studying to do.
 "Coming back there someday and build a reservoir and a home get me a good country girl and settle down to raising kids and chickens. So for petes sake don't sell out leave me just one acre. That's enough for chickens and the kids can run in the streets. I've got a pretty good outlook, don't you think?"
 Be working in tower about two months and then go to school at Lakehurst, New Jersey. About Sep or Oct ready for flight training.
 Please send \$25 loan. Had to put watch in hock to finance trip to see Roberta.

March 29, 1942 NAS San Diego
 If can get flight training will be the happiest guy in the world
 Received letter from Miriam. "I guess you have wondered why me and her never stirred up a big romance well I'll tell you - It was Orson that cut it short for me and after that it never did seem the same. We always got along and have always been good friends. From now on I'm going to be like I used to say about women. I'll be like Jesus and love 'em all.) Of course I'll draw my own lines. I've seen some women that a fellow would have to have more than darkness and a sack over their head.
 Feel better after trip to see Roberta. Before thought she wasn't going with me because she was my cousin. Maybe partly and because other fellows were showing her a better time.
 Money still tight. Wrong time to ask for money from home. Still trying to get out of debt. If Orson or I need the help I figure it is him.
 Haven't heard from Orson.

April 9, 1941 NAS
 Heard from Ann
 Uniforms are expensive. Marines don't pay enough to buy them.
 Asked Uncle Hazel to write a personal letter
 Rode in dive bomber. Thrilling experience.

April 15, 1942 NAS
 Orson quit school to work
 Reed is marrying Eloise the 12th of June. If Orson doesn't want my clothes get the suit cleaned and give to Reed for a wedding present.

May 1, 1941 Aerology School NAS San Diego
 Mother's Day Card

May 13, 1941 NAS
 Wishing home to help with the summer work
 No date Being transferred to New Jersey

Need money

Met a Mormon on the train from Los Angeles. Swell fellow. Likes to hunt deer. Gave him Uncle Hazel's address. Would appreciate if you would show him a good time if he goes out there (Yost)

Talk of furlough when we get out of school.

May 19, 1942 NAS New Jersey

(Photo of Wallace & friend) on trip to New Jersey

Haven't heard from folks since arrival.

May 24, 1941 New Jersey

Applied for flight training. Holding breath. Passed IQ and preliminary physical exam.

Planned on being a flight sergeant - but if make this will be commissioned.

Orson is in Yost helping with the farm

June 8, 1942 New Jersey

First liberty. Met some women who took us to Atlantic City. First time out with anyone since I joined.

Think I'll make flight training

May get a furlough. Cost about \$60 to come home. No money. If you have the money ok if not don't go to any trouble getting it. Letters are sometimes lost - so please register if anything of value in them.

Jun 15, 1942 NAS NJ

Out of 40 men that tried out for flight school - 8 made it and I was one.

Tradition is that those who made it give a beer party to the others. "They get all the beer they can drink. Thank the Lord they don't all drink. We figured it up and I guess it will cost us close to \$15 bucks a piece. I told the other two fellows I would pay my share. But I'll be darned if I know where I can get that much money. I know you don't approve of a party like this - but that's what the fellows want. If you would send me enough to foot this bill I'll pay it back. They want it next weekend so I'll have to borrow it or else hock my watch. I guess it don't sound very good of me to be sending home for money to thro a beer party but I hope you understand. These really are bunch of swell guys. I hate to let them down."

June 30, 1942

Received \$15 - thanks

Beer party Sat. nite for fellows leaving for flight training on West Coast

Received letter from Ann at LDS in SLC. Likes it.

School from morning to night - only three weeks left. Then maybe to the West Coast.

Possible furlough. Getting \$20 more a month now

Jul 8, 1942

First time played golf-enjoyed it - at the station

Went to USO show - group of Negroes from NY - never saw a better show in my life.

Invited to take a furlough with friend Castle or Boland - might if stationed on the East coast

Jul 27, 1942

Lucky Break - sent to 2nd Air Wing at San Diego

2 out of the 7 were sent to San Diego
Made corporal today
Planning on coming home during the transfer
So thrilled -": now it has become a reality, I'm simply delirious.

Aug 10, 1942 US Navy

Back in the groove
Don't know plans yet
Enjoyed visit home
Good visit with Roberta/both will probably be shipped out soon/for the best

Aug 26, 1942

Received transfer - (somewhere n. of San Diego)
Out of 500 men me and nine others stayed in the US
Roberta stationed about four miles away
This station is all Marines and seems good to get away from the sailors.
As yet no Aerological office, or equipment
Am presently working in communications (telephone switchboard) don't like it much.
Haven't been paid. Had to hock watch and ring and borrow 6 bucks

Sep 15, 1942 Marine Air Station Goleta, Ca

Got a pup tent for an office
Ed Castle, friend met in training is at Cherry Point
Aunt LaRue and Olga going to teach school in Yost
Had a date with a Lt.'s girl friend from NJ and then went with a coed to church and a show. Best part she has a 1941 Plymouth.

Sep 25, 1942

Last week two smak-ups - 2 captains and 2 Lts. killed. Both happened within 12 hours.
Still waiting for supplies to get own office up and going.
No one seems to care if they get the weather forecasts or not
New additions arrived to our group. What was left of a Marine squadron. 18 men and only 2 planes out of 18 left in commission.
Glad Orson back in school.
Draft board still after farm lads. Pretty soon Yost will be a ghost town.

Oct 5, 1942

Have own office but not equipment - not much to do
Satisfied will be stationed here for some time so decided to get auto.
Be glad to buy your Chev if you don't need it.
"No doubt, you think I am foolish, but a fellow never knows what is lying ahead -therefore I might just as well spend my money on something that will give me a little security and a better time while I'm at it."

Oct 30, 1942 St. Mary's College, CA

Surprise - US Navy pre-flight school

Happened so fast head is spinning
Maybe someday I'll be able to fly over and say hello again.
Orson will be surprised to hear my good fortune.

"If you want to know just how lucky I really was - from the whole Marine Corps there were only ten men chosen - two have not arrived as yet. Maybe there overseas are even dead now one never knows."

"It has nearly started a revolution around here - the idea of a cow puncher and farm boy making flight training. All my friends call me the sheep herder. I can say I mind tho - my experiences in the last year have been worth more than gold to me."

Nov 3, 1942 Cherry Point NC letter from Ed Castle to Yates

Wallace was one of all time high friends.

Often talked of our past and he always had kind words for you. Painted such a beautiful picture of your country that right away a trip was planned after the war is over.

When you hear the war is over - kill the fatted calf because from the east I'll charge in and from the west will come Spence and when we get together, I you know the steaks will disappear."

Nov 8, 1942 St. Mary's College

Should be out of here in three weeks

Mailed sea bag with clothes to you

"Whatever you can use of the clothes there help yourself, the rest you can put away for souvenirs - you know to show my grandchildren when I'm an old gray haired man."

Nov 15, 1942 St Mary's

Place is like another boot camp only easier than the Marines

Putting on weight - maybe because I knocked off so much smoking. Chow is better, lots of exercise.

Thanks for box of candy

Could use money for Christmas. Cadet business is o.k. but sure costs the money. Have to buy white shirts, ties, hat, etc. To be a full fledged cadet a fellow's Dad is supposed to be a millionaire. "Don't think I'm kicking, I'm proud of my heritage and the folks who gave me the best home anyone ever had."

" I am platoon leader and have fun telling these boots what to do."

Nov 27, 1942 St. Mary's

Thanks for cake and candy. Hope Thanksgiving was good. (menu enclosed)

Nov 27, 1942 letter to Orson

Thanks for telegram

"This athletics program is really rugged I have been running on the average 8 miles a day on the 880 yard run yesterday I came in first, and nearly knock a kid cold in boxing so I guess I'm holding my own. I'm really stiff tho - I have hard time walking at attention."

Heart goes out for the situation of living apart Orson and Olga are in.
Ann writes regularly and is thrilled about her outlook.

"If in the next year or so I don't meet one of these things they call a heart
I'll be able to help you a long in the case you do get an intern for a
doctor at some school next fall - don't hesitate to ask me."

When home on leave, we will have to decide what to get Ann for present.

Dec 6, 1942 St. Mary's

Thanks for birthday gifts

"Yesterday we had a Regimental Review in the California Stadium. It really
looked swell. Our Battalion received the most congratulations thanks to our
platoon leaders - I'm not bragging but I happen to one. The three of us ex
Marines are all platoon leaders. We really have quite a time."

Tired of this training. About 7 more weeks and then go to next training
base.

Kind of blue today. Mind turns back to things that have happened in the
past two years. Roberta will always be center of my being. Hope someday to
either forget her or have her for always. Hope you understand.

Wish you would write more often.

Dec. 20 1942 St. Mary's

Christmas greetings

"Things are going along much the same as they have been for the last month.

I'm on the sub-squad for two strokes in swimming. Here's hoping I can master
them before long. I guess I'm up to average on everything else."

Dec. 28, 1942 St. Mary's

Enclosed Christmas dinner menu

Scolding for not writing more often

Christmas was tops compared to last year.

Three weeks from now I should be either on way home or on to next training
not sure which it is yet.

Orson sent clothes brush and nuts but no letter - people must be busy.

Jan 5, 1943 St. Mary's

Hoping to finish up and get leave home

(Received leave)

Postcard - SLC

Next address: Oakland CA no date

Feb 12, 1943 Livermore CA

Valentine's Card

Likes flying - Taking A check and then if pass will start solo.

Mar 1, 1943 Livermore

Very busy

Thanks for telegram

Time going fast - may be leaving 6-8 weeks if can absorb the technique

Four more checks and then thru flying.

"I had a little tough luck when I first started to solo - I had a couple of ground loops. But I've learned a little since then on landing airplanes. I also failed a navigation exam last Sat. - it wasn't because I couldn't do the problems - but just a small error at the beginning which made all my answers turn out wrong. My average is high enough tho that it won't bother me much. I just hated the idea of getting a low mark when I'd been getting good ones - a meer technicality tho."

Haven't heard from Ann - won't be able to be there for her wedding.

Mar 11, 1943 Livermore

Kick Orson in pants and tell him to write.

A very good friend was killed Tues. Name of Storm - has been roommate even at St. Mary's. He was taking his "B" check and the instructor decided to do a little dive bombing on an army gun implacement. The consequence was they both were killed and burnt half up. Storm lived till the next morning but it was better he did die. He would have been blind and one leg gone.

Yes I received the Era. Too busy to read. Tension is great. Last week flunked three exams. Either having trouble with my flying or ground school.

April 13, 1943 postcard - on way to Corpus Christi

April 17, 1943

Be glad to get training over. Every place gets worse.

Uniforms are white - please send my two white uniforms, white shoes, socks, and shoulder boards. Also dark pair of Marine shoes. A complete outfit is going to cost \$400-\$500.

April 24, 1943 letter to Orson Corpus Christi

This place is toughest yet.

Finished all checks here at Basic - now flying in formation and night flying.

Two more weeks and into instrument flying. Then advanced flying.

This will be type of ship I'll get later on. However have to take PBY's here and then go to Cherry Point for the A20's or else P38's.

Put in for the P38's

Biggest leg of training is over

May 5, 1943 Corpus Christi

Received letter from Ann - she has job- Scott is interested in his work they are happy.

Going back in Marine Corp

Put in for attack bombers, if don't get them will take fighters or dive bombers

"It doesn't matter much I guess just so there plenty of horse power and wings on them."

Finished basic flying in 7 days. First one in class through.

Really hot here. Face peeled about three times.

Last night another of friends spun in while night flying - makes three since we started at Livermore. Have to watch this damn thing but common sense at the right time can help a lot.

May 5, 1943 Corpus Christi

Measured for uniforms

If you get waiver from "Lilly Ames Uniform Shop" you will know what it is. In case I'm sent out of the country before paying for them - I gave you as the people to hit for the balance. Uniform shop asks for \$150 down and the balance in three months. Have \$250 worth of Navy clothes but they won't do any good. I have to turn around and buy Marine clothes. My others can't be used. (regulations)

May 5, 1943 Mother's Day letter to Aunt LaRue

May 23, 1943

Sorry Grandmother Yates passed away

So busy going crazy. Instrument flying almost over.

Ed Castle has a daughter

Broke Euleen's heart. While home on leave visiting with Roy and wife got Gladys's address. Euleen got wind of it and she is a heart broken kid. Sure not lose sleep over the matter.

May 31, 1943

Waiting to hear from you

Today uniform co. phoned and said they had not received the waiver yet.

Without this cannot deliver uniforms. Please let me know what you decide.

Almost finished with instrument flying. Busy with gunnery. Advanced will take between 4 & 6 weeks.

June 10, 1943 Corpus Christi

Reported for advanced training.

When finished will get wings and commission in Marine Corps.

Jun 26, 1943 Corpus Christi

Now flying PBY's next to largest ship the navy has-patrol bomber lots of work that is combination of mental and physical. Never knew I could do it. Last of next week final check if I get an "up" and then should have things cinched.

Received letter from Orson & Olga and they seem to be getting along o.k.

Rumors are may not have any leave when finish up here

Would so like to have you here when I finish up-but things are so uncertain it would be impractical.

Uniforms have not come yet-better be getting here pretty soon.

Jul 10, 1943 Corpus Christi

Thanks for money.

So busy but time is dragging - want to finish up so bad.

We haven't enough planes for the number of cadets flying - then there such old planes its a wonder they don't fall to pieces. Just so they last till I finish up."

August 2, 1943 Altitude 3,000 ft, airspeed 105 kts. - somewhere over the Gulf

Writing this while flying along a night navigation hop.

Should graduate this Sat. Been here a month longer than planned.

"The latest dope is that I've found a pretty good gal friend, she's only 19 but they get started pretty young here in the South. Dang good looking girl, I met her when I went in to get my uniforms she works for Lilly Ames Co. Nothing to worry about, I thought maybe I'd lost the spark kind of surprised myself."

August 8, 1943 Corpus Christi - Telegram

Finished up - be home sometime this week

August 14, 1943 letter from Staff Sgt Ed Castle

"Congratulations my friend. I knew you could do it."

"Let's watch these Navy town women. You see what one of them did for me. But I'm not sorry. We have a very cute little daughter."

August 31, 1943 - San Diego, CA

Arrived San Diego o.k. - hope you got home o.k.

This is a Regulating Squadron - don't know where I will be sent - here or overseas

I certainly want to thank you for everything it was the most perfect two weeks I've ever spent - being away sure makes you appreciate the things I've had at home for so long."

Really costing to get all my equipment. Spent nearly \$100 for overseas equipment. Was under impression it was furnished but found out different.

Will have good camping equipment when this is over.

Sep 16, 1943 Mojave, Ca.

Best place yet

"I believe you must be saying prayers for me, I was never meant to be so lucky. Here I am learning to fly B24's there a four engine bomber. Well we use them for long range photography. It's really a good deal. While were learning to fly them we take cross country hops so don't be surprised if I write and say I was visiting Ann the other day. We can just jump around the country like nothing - the world is really a small place - don't you think."

Wrote to Dorothy to see if she could stop to see you when she comes out here. Haven't had an answer yet.

" Think I'll be here awhile so don't be surprised if I decide to get married. I'd like to wait until I get my debts paid up - but Dorothy thinks nows as good a time as any she's left Corpus Christi and is now home with her mother for a visit.

Oct 1, 1943

"I'm more than busy, and I've had my plans for getting married all shot to pieces-Dorothy was coming out the 25th of next month, but day before yesterday the Colonel gave me the word I would be leaving in a short time - there was eight men chosen and Smith and I are two of them - were supposed to go as co-pilots, well since they got the word - we've been flying every day & nearly all day, they're trying to check us out as first pilots - before we leave nobody knows just when that will be. It might be tomorrow are it might be a month from now."

Oct 14, 1943 Mojave, CA

Still here - surprise

Thanks for the pinenuts

" I have a bit of surprising news for you - as things stand now I'm to be married a week from this Saturday - might never happen but that's the latest word. It kind of rushing the deal - but it will be pretty swell to have such a girl to come back to after this thing is over, the security in thought is worth a good deal to me. I called Dorothy last Monday night and we decided we'd make a try at getting married before I left, She certainly wanted to hear from you but, I told her our happiness was what you wanted most so, after I leave she could go and pay you all a visit."

"Aunt LaRue I don't want you to worry about me are think badly at any time, there is a big job to do - and I don't feel selfish in any way as to the outcome of things. The issue is to large to consider our individual interest and desires. Someday they're will be a group of people on the world that won't appreciate what you are I done for them - but we ourselfes get a great satisfaction out of doing are part today. I'll never let dishonor overtake me. What I do I do with the training and the background you gave me."

Nov. 18, 1943 San Francisco, Ca Hamilton Field

Dorothy and I are married. Take good care of her for me.

Don't worry about me, I'm well and happy.

"After this thing is over I don't know just what I'll do, but if you would sell Dorothy and I a little security in what you have it will be appreciated. You think that over and if its what you want I'll try to send you what I can.

Dec. 17, 1943 Jacksonville, FLA letter from Dorothy to Aunt LaRue

Enjoyed stay with you. Would have loved to stay longer if not for Christmas and wanting to be home.

Mother sends her regards and thanks for the pinenuts. She thinks they are grand.

Dec. 18, 1943 San Francisco, CA

Dorothy wrote and talked about you and the way you showed her around.

Hope you liked her - she is a swell girl.

Am as well and happy as can be without Dorothy.

Jan 1, 1944

Would folks consider selling one of the places when the war is over

Jan 12, 1944 San Francisco

Birthday letter to Uncle Hazel (put copy in book)

Jan 24, 1944 Letter from Dorothy/Aunt LaRue Jacksonville, Fla.

Saw a newsreel about the capture of Cape Gloucester and two B-24's in it. Possibly Wallace was in one of them.

Planning on applying for a job at the shipyards

Wallace sent native jewelry from the islands

Feb 9, 1944

Dorothy and her mother can't get fuel and are freezing.

War is going pretty good.

If you send anything, boston baked beans and candy coated almonds would be appreciated.

Saved close to \$900 since been out

Feb. 22, 1944

Close to 40 missions since I've been here 13-14 hour hops love it

Dorothy working now

Want Aunt and Uncle to remain as beneficiary on insurance

Feb. 22, 1944 letter from Dorothy to Aunt LaRue

Working and liking it better now

Heard from Orson and Olga. He expects a six day leave in April and they want to go see Scott and Ann and invited me to go.

"Guess you heard over the radio about the 22 Marines who were the first Americans to fly over Truk. Well, those fellows are in Wallace's squadron. Wallace said he wasn't fortunate enough to be in on that mission. However, I imagine he had a great deal to do in the raid on that Jap base. He says practically every nite they have to get up and run for foxholes."

If things keep going as they have it shouldn't be long before he comes home.

Feb. 28, 1944

May be sent to Australia before long for a rest leave. Can't see much sense in it , it just costs money see some more country tho.

March 5, 1944 Letter from Dorothy to Aunt LaRue

Have the measles

From the papers, I gather Wallace is in the Solomons.

Mar. 20, 1944

"A few days ago one of the fellows in our crew, I guess will get the Purple Heart. I guess you might say we were all happy and lucky to get on the ground again."

"You don't need to write and tell Dorothy any of the things I tell you. She is young to realize what must be done and if I tell her she'd worry herself sick and that don't help a bit."

May 5, 1944 South Pacific

A good many things have happened. We got another job done. Been sick but o.k. now. Still deaf in one ear.

Should be going to Sydney end of the month.

May 13, 1944

Commented on the grain being planted and school about out.

Would enjoy a more stable existence for a while. Could stand some civilian life.

May 20, 1944

Thanks for candy

Would like canned meat such as sardines, crab meat, lobster, chicken, dill pickles and ripe olives. "For pete's sake don't send any spam are deviled meat we get plenty of that, most of the time a little too often."

Heard from Ann and Dorothy is planning a visit there sometime in July.

Both my ears are o.k.

End of next week crew should be leaving for Sydney. Could stand a little of the civilized world.

Jun 12, 1944

Just got back from Sydney

You are probably glad school is out. No doubt needed at home. "You know Uncle Hazel I wouldn't let my wife work only at home when I get back.

Frankly I believe she'll be busy too. I'll see to that.

While in Sydney went to the mountains and went horseback riding. Took in the night clubs and spent rest of the time eating steaks, lettuce, and tomatoes. Then did a good deal of drinking.

Jun 19, 1944 South Pacific

Sorry Heidi is not well.

Sent Jap rifle and bayonet home sometime ago.

Sent Dorothy a purse (leather) from Sydney.

Some wonderful things have happened this month toward the aim of peace.

July 6, 1944 South Pacific

Not very busy. Had a squadron party. Had a baseball game and bar-b-q on Sunday. Had duty on the 4th.

July 24, 1944 South Pacific

Last 24th I celebrated was stacking hay at Eddy's place three years ago.

Not much mail service. Dorothy is up visiting Orson & Ann.

Think I'll be back within the next 6 months. Maybe Dorothy could stay with you for a month before I return. Maybe she will want me in Jacksonville to meet her mother depending on how long a furlough.

Am in new place. It is nice right next to the ocean. Very hot. Haven't heard from Yale. "By golly I feel for these foot soldiers in this part of the country.

It's no place for a white man anyway. I at least have good clean air to breath, and a half decint bed at nite, thats more than most of them have."

Aug. 14, 1944

Ages since I heard from you. Hope nothing wrong. Must be busy, the little I do has no comparison with the work you are doing.

Orson dropped a note and said a great deal of complimentary things about Dorothy. She visited Orson and Olga before visiting Scott and Ann.

Got letter from Yale. He sure would like to get back. Been nine months today since I left and seems like ages.

Sep 17, 1944

Thanks for food

Don't send any more packages. Don't know for sure but may not be here much

- longer. Hope to be home for Christmas dinner.
- Oct 17, 1944 San Diego Ca
 Home Again! Surprise to the whole squadron
 Dorothy quit her job and is with me now. When I get leave we will be up to see you. Not sure where I will be sent from here.
 Hope to make it home for deer season.
 " I sure have a grand wife and were having a wonderful time."
- Dec. 8, 1944 letter from Ed Castle/Aunt La Rue
 Saw Wallace and Dot on West Coast. Made plans for post-war project.
 Visiting Aunt LaRue and Uncle Hazel and eating home-cooked chow.
- Dec. 20, 1944 letter from Dorothy to Aunt LaRue El Centro, CA
 Trip down was swell. Had one re-cap come off out of Las Vegas and a warning ticket for driving over 35 mph.
 Apartments are scarce but we applied in Nov for a place at the base. Can only stay here 60 days.
 Going to LA for New Year's.
 Thanks for the swell time we had there.
- Jan 31, 1945 El Centro, CA
 Moved into a ranch house w/swimming pool. Sharing with another couple.
 Place is furnished including a big red angora cat and 15 laying hens.
 Now we are settled the scuttlebutt is we may move to Cherry Point NC or Atlanta, GA
 Wallace hopes for Atlanta to Instrument School for that means he would be an instructor and probably stateside for about 8 more months.
 Wallace made First Lt. as of Nov.
- May 6, 1945 Kingston NC
 Hope to be here for a while. Until after Jr. gets here.
 Someday I'll be home to help get the work done.
 Flying fighter type airplanes now. More fun to fly.
- June 29, 1945 Kingston NC
 Letter from Dorothy: Orson and Olga visited us. Unbearably hot. Went swimming one evening, played bridge, and Orson & Wallace played golf.
 Expecting Ann & Scott soon. If Aunt Edna comes-would be nice if you could travel with her.
 "We had quite a scare last week, at least Wallace did as I didn't know anything about it until it was all over. Thank goodness. As you know, he is now flying a single engine fighter plane. Last week they sent him over to Beaufort to] practice carrier landings. As he was coming in for the approach and was about 500 ft. off the ground his motor cut off. He crash landed in about 2 ft. of mud ` came out with only a scratched hand, elbow, and stiff neck, which was, indeed a miracle as about the only thing left of the plane was the cockpit."
- Jul 31, 1945 Kingston NC
 Letter from Dorothy: Wallace is in Atlanta at Instrument School. He will be

an instrument instructor. This break means he probably won't be sent overseas til sometime in 1946.

Would liked to have gone with him - but doctor recommended against it.

Mother will come and stay with me for 6-8 weeks after Jr. comes.

Aug 8, 1945 Atlanta GA

Hope you have a job waiting for me when this is over.

Won't be long before the war is over.

Orson called to say he was going to be a bouncing papa. "Well your going to be Grandpa and Grandma whether you like it or not. The best in the world to."

Aug 10, 1945 Kingston GA letter from Dorothy

War news is wonderful! Maybe won't last much longer.

Received baby gifts and candy.

Aug 24, 1945

War is over

Deciding what to do now. "Dorothy's happiness comes first wherever are whatever I choose to do I'll do my up most to make the best for her. My hope is to come back there and settle down and raise my family." (copy letter)

Wallace and Dorothy returned home to ranch. They built a new home in Stanrod and began raising their family. Later on they moved back to the ranch in Yost and worked with Uncle Hazel and Aunt LaRue. They became the parents of six children, JoAnn, Stanley, Michael, Carl, Sara Jane, and Dolores. After Uncle Hazel died, Wallace continued ranching and began expanding. He went partners with Almy Fehlman and Carl Oman on a place in Kelton, Utah where summers were spent harvesting the hay crops with the help of his children and hired help.

Wallace was involved in community affairs. He served on the Board of Directors of Raft River Electric, the National Rural Electric Assosiation, was a member of the Lion's Club, served in the Utah State Cattlemen's, and the National Cattlemen, served as Mayor of Yost and helped build the Yost chapel. He was progressive and installed a gravity flow pipe line through the ranch in 1976 and set up sprinkler systems and helped build a small reservoir to hold the water used to supply the pipe line. He built up a quality commercial cattle herd.

He loved to hunt, fish, deer camp, snowmobile, ride, the ranch, his wife and children. He enjoyed nice cars, family gatherings, travel, his pipe, dogs, and friends.

Wallace enjoyed golf. He and Dorothy spent many good times with their friends, Reed and Eloise Palmer, Spin and Marge Baty, Arland and Glenna Thompson, Darwin and Beth Thompson, . They enjoyed an annual Labor Day outing with their friends to various places to play golf and have a good time. They travelled on business combined with pleasure for the NRECA, NCA, and Utah Cattlemen. Some of the trips took them to Washington D.C., Hawaii, Mexico, Texas, San Diego, Las Vegas and Salt Lake City.

Wallace remained close with Orson and Ann and their families. It was traditional at Thanksgiving

to meet at each other's homes and enjoy a family football game and a talent show and a big Thanksgiving dinner. After Uncle Hazel died, Aunt LaRue and Aunt Edna were looked after by "their" children and included in family gatherings.

Wallace and Dorothy were good parents. They instilled respect, loyalty, a love of family, pride in a job well done, and the work ethic in their children. He was proud of the accomplishments on the ranch and of his family. At the time of his death, he had eight grandchildren. Wallace died of a heart attack October 6, 1977 at Cassia Memorial Hospital, Burley, Idaho suffered at his home a few days earlier. He is buried in the Yost Cemetery - Yost, Utah.

* Excerpts were from letters Wallace and Dorothy had written to Aunt LaRue during his service in the Marines and World War II.