

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Peter Tamburro
Current home town: Columbus, Ohio
Age: 50

The following are letters Carmela Tamburro sent to her son, Raymond, when he served overseas during the "Restoration Period" after WW II. She opened every letter with the same greeting and closed them in the same way. In order to save space, the first letter has the greeting and the last letter has the closing. Enjoy!

From: *Mrs. P. Tamburro*
Thompson, O.

To: *Pfc. Raymond P. Tamburro*
Box 4157701 Hq. Co, Comd. V.S.F.E.T.
A.P.O. 757 c/o P.M. New York, N.Y.

August 7, 1946 – Dear Son, Received your letter and was glad to hear you are well and fine. We are all fine so far, thank God. Gram and Uncle John and Jay are here this week for vacation. Am sure glad to have them over. Tuesday they went to Middlefield at the auction. They sure bought ducks and chickens for me and Gram, and Aunt Car and Jr. took them. Was sorry to hear you had a touch of flu, but glad to hear you are better and keep up the good spirit. Dear Son, I am glad to hear by next year at this time you will be back in U.S., home again, a civilian. Hope and pray to the good Lord the time will fly soon. We are praying for you to return soon. Dear son, Dad and Andrew and Square Head are working every day so far. Gram and Uncle John all send their best regards to you...



August 9, 1946 – Your income tax check was \$71.14. I put it in your book account in Chardon Bank. Dear son, I will go over to Mrs. Arnold and get the films and have some pictures made and will send them to you. They sure come out swell. They will be the ones I send. We made over Aunty Toody's house...

August 13, 1946 – Will let you know Gram and Uncle John and Jay stayed here for one week vacation. Uncle Mike and Aunt Toody were over also Sunday. Sure good to see them. Ray, let me know how the meals are and if you like France. I hope you do. Last week I went to see Rosie baby. Is she pretty nice and fat...

August 15, 1946 – Received your letter and was glad to hear you are fine and well. We are all well and in the best of health. I went to see Dr. Boyd. His John is in Frankfort, Germany and said he likes it very well. Am glad to hear your chow is okay and as soon as dad and tine receives your gift for their birthday will write to you. Dear Son, the argument your cousin and I had was he didn't stay home and plant the corn with dad. He went to work so Dad stayed home six days to plant his corn by himself when we argued he wanted to sell his half farm and cows to your brother Andy and Andy didn't answer him. Then he accuses me and your Dad if he listen to us we will send him for charity. Boy, when I heard that I sure seen red front my eyes and told me he lost two jobs on account of Dad and me. So we sure had a damn hot argument and now it is three months. I don't talk to him. He talks to everyone else but not me. I also told Antoinette what he done three years. We bought the farm but she didn't kind of like it. Will let you know Mike Beck got married last week. He married a tramp like him. She lived over Mrs. Beck two months before she married him...

August 27, 1946 – I feel a lot better, but still can't do no more work. We went over Patine Joseph Tamburro and he sure looks fine. Am sorry to hear the chow is very poor. I hope it will improve. And also you don't like Germany, but I thought you said at first you liked Germany and now you don't like it. Dear Son, Dad and the rest are working everyday on the machine. Ray, I still haven't got your war bonds. You better talk about it to your C. O. and find out what's delaying the bonds. Dear Ray, if you send me money home, I will bank it for you like I did the income tax check. You get a pretty good allowance pay day every month. Try to save as much as you can. Will let you know dad is plowing land to put our wheat in and also our garden is coming along just fine. We could stand some rain but no rain and our corn is sure lousy but can't do nothing about it. Our nights are sure nice and cold. It's so cold at night, I have two blankets on my bed. Last week I was in Cleveland for a couple of days to see Gram and Aunt Toody. George Underwood said hello to you, Ray. I guess I have no more to say...

August 29, 1946 – The farm is coming along nice, but nothing as nice as last year. I am sending you a few clippings from our Thompson news what's going around in Thompson. We sure had a nice day of rain and sure need it. How are you coming along with the chow. Better I hope...

August 31, 1946 – Andy and Patine Joe went over Shirley's house for supper and Joe said Shirley is nice girl. They went fishing last night. Joe and Andy, they sure had a nice time. Well Ray, finally Gram moved into her home she bought. She was over Uncle Mike house for three months before her tenants moved out. Aunt Vi may get married by end of September. I hope so...

September 4, 1946 – This is first Labor Day we didn't have no company at all, except Uncle Mike and Auntie because Gram moved and was busy getting her house straighten up. Aunt Vi and Jerry went on fishing trip with his mom and sister, so we were all by ourselves. Dear Ray, will let you know Deanna and Tina started school and such relief with Deanna going to school. Boy she is sure bad and mischief...

September 5, 1946 – Your Dad and Tina received the pipe and bracelet you sent hen for their birthday and Dad sure wants to thank you a million time. He sure likes his pipe and Tine sure likes her bracelet. She also thank you very much. Tina and Deanna still always argue and scrap as usual as before I always have to get after those gals of mine. Dear Son, we are sure having some terrible cold nights this last

week. I sure think I have to make a fire in the furnace. Your brother Andy shivers all the time because out at the pacific always hot and over here cold. Chilly days and night this morning he got up and put on dad sheep skin coat on. He sure was cold and every night he has to have the heater on in the car...

November 26, 1946 – Deanna is coming along pretty good, thank God. Dear son, I was glad to hear you celebrated your birthday with your buddies and had a nice time. Dear Son, we are trying very hard to get you a good camera for Xmas and your birthday as soon as we can get one we will send it to you. They promise us for sure I will get one to send it to you. I am sending you Don Tomaro wife picture in the Plain Dealer. It was too bad I had to miss the wedding because Deanna was operated on a day before the wedding. P.S. Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Sherer and Mrs. Mandowsky all says hello to you...

December 15, 1946 – Ray, we sure had some real first snow this year of snow today and plenty cold for sure looks like old man winter. Will let you know Dad finally are putting in a electric pump and water in our farm it is sure about time for it. Ray, I got your letter saying you are going to back to Germany but I guess you will go and maybe you will like it. Dear Ray, about our Xmas money you couldn't send it now whenever you can send it will be alright...



December 20, 1946 – Ray, we are not going into Cleveland for Xmas. The weather is very cold, snow, icy roads and very slippery. So I call up Uncle Mike and cancel us of going in. He didn't like the idea of us not going but Uncle John invited us over to have Xmas with them, so we are going over to Uncle John. Dear Son, let us know when you are moving back to Germany. Aunt Nunzie was over to see us and stayed overnight and went back this morning. Norma took her in. I still didn't get none of your war bonds yet...

January 20, 1947 – Let me know how is your cold, better I hope. Am very sorry to hear you are going back to school but so best you can and listen to your commanding officers and soon your time is up and you will be back home and do as you please no more bossing around. Will let you know Uncle Mike and Aunt Toody are still here and sure is good to have her around. She helps with cooking and house

work and evening we play cards and crochet and read. We sure have a nice time. I will miss her when

she goes home in Cleveland. Well Ray, we sure are having a lot of rain today and every day and snow very much and I do think next week we are going to butcher our pigs. I am not sure yet. I went to see Don Tomaro and your Godmother, Mary said hello to you and also your Godfather Don and wife also said hello.

January 27, 1947 – Will let you know last week I received one of your bonds for November 1 and that is all. I got a letter from Wade and he wants your address but he also is moving again in four months. He moved four times so you are not the only one. Have patience until you get discharged. They sure do queer things in the army. Am sorry to hear you didn't get paid for three months, but what can you do? Let me know if you need money. Will send it air mail to you. Dad and the boy didn't work on the trench machine all last week and maybe this week. We are having too much rain and snow a lot. Last week we butcher out pigs and we are going to make sausage. Let me know if you got the Xmas package we sent you.

January 29, 1947 – You said you sent us a record of your voice. I didn't get it yet as soon as I get it I will let you know. Ray, I thought it over. I went to bank and cash two war bonds of yours and mailing it to you \$15 in money order. I am sorry I didn't have it myself. I would have sent to you. Let me know if you get it and it is alright. I cashed your bonds to send you the money. The last seven weeks Dad and Sonny done very poor on the trench machine. Damn think broke down in about two months, five times. Sure cost a lot of money to buy parts. I hope we do better on it. I am disgusted about the work has been done very bad...

January 31, 1947 – I received your record in good condition and could not play it right away because it is high on one side. So I have to flatten about a week, and then I will try to play it again. Ray, I was glad to hear you received the package and in good condition. Yes, we have butcher last week and we are going to butcher about a week or so. We sure made some home-made sausage. I will send you some sausage, as soon as it dries and I will let you know when we send you a package. Dear son, our mens are still not working on the trench machine steady on account of bad weather...

February 13, 1947 – All the mens are home about three weeks now no work at all they just eat and eat like damn hogs. Will let you know we were snowed in for 4 days the kids couldn't go to school and no snow plow for 4 days today is first day Tina and Deanna went to school. Dear Son, we could not hear your record at all. I don't know why it wouldn't play at all. Dear Son I was sure glad to hear Underwood came to see you. I bet you sure felt good to see him try to see Jon Boyd if you can. I get your mail regular and I write to you 3 times a week. I can't figure why you don't get all our mail. May God Bless you, Son. Mrs. Underwood said hello to you...

February 18, 1947 – We all went to Uncle John wedding just Dad and Andrew his nephew stayed on the farm and me and all the kids and also Shirley came along. We sure had a very nice time and also lovely supper. We stayed in Cleveland for 2 days and Gram is feeling better. Also Aunt Vi is going to get married in April for sure. His divorce is final this week and lent started so he has to wait until Easter. Andy and Shirley has their wedding date set for September 13, 1947. I hope and pray the lord nothing

will happen because they are going to have a big reception in Cleveland. Already have the hall and orchestra booked for September 13, 1947...

March 8, 1947 – We were sure snowed in again. We about had just as much snow as we did two years ago. No School all week long and no groceries at home. Norma was at home for three days, couldn't go to work. Also mens were home all week. Dear Son, am very glad to hear you are starting home end of next month and pray the lord to see you soon again. Dear Son, Aunt Vi will be married right after Easter. No big wedding and not even a cup of coffee for the family, so we will save our bus fare. Aunty and Uncle Mike are still with us. Uncle Mike is wiring his house. I will sure miss them when they will go...

April 3, 1947 – We are sure having some terrible rain and rain first too much snow and now too much rain. Well here is Spring around the corner and Summer coming closer. Also, the wedding coming closer along. We are sure going to be very busy and also our house wallpaper and lots of things to do. Gram and Aunt Vi and Johnny and Ann are having Easter at the farm. Uncle Tony and Jo are going out to dinner. Don't want to be bother to cook or bake...

April 7, 1947 – Let me know if you had a nice Easter and what kind of meals you had. We had a very nice Easter as I told you before. Us and Uncle Mike and Gram and Uncle Johnny and Ann and Aunt Vi and Shirley. We sure had a nice dinner. It is turning cold again and sure seems

Spring can't get around the corner. Our furnace is still going. Gram says hello to you and also aunty Toody says hello to you...

April 10, 1947 – Will let you know I received your money order you sent me. I will try to put it in the bank the way you told me. Dear Son, will let you know this week we are having some fair weather, so far. I think Dad is going to plow some land to plant oats if it doesn't rain anymore. Dear Son, I got two invitations this month for weddings. One is for Mrs. DeFranco daughter, Madeline sister. Irene is getting married April 27, 1947. We are going and the other wedding is Eldina DeFranco in Cleveland. We are going if nothing happens. Uncle Mike and Aunt Toody said hello to you and hurry up back home. Uncle Mike is moving on the farm May 1 and is going to rent his home in Cleveland...



April 17, 1947 – I went to Chardon bank and put your money order away for you. I gave Andy \$20 out of it. He needed it very bad. You know these fellows. Dad and Sonny and your cousin didn't work or got paid for about six weeks. So when you come home, you talk it to Andy. Dear Ray, dad said for you to hurry up and come home. He wants to give you a job working on trench machine...

April 24, 1947 – We are having pretty good warm weather, but it sure does some rain but it warms up the next day. Sunday is Uncle Mike and Aunt Toody 25th Wedding Anniversary. I and Aunt Carmela are giving them a dinner which only her family and my and Gram and Aunt Vi and maybe Uncle John and Anna and also Shirley is coming along and no one else. I will let you know how it turned out. Madeline sister, Irene is getting married, Sunday, April 27, but we are not going to the wedding. Too much chasing around. We are all invited also, and also Aunty Toody is invited but we will bring a gift only. Best regards also from Aunty and Uncle Mike...

April 29, 1947 – Sure glad to hear the good news of you coming home and I hope and pray you lots of luck and don't get sick of worry few weeks. Let me know when you are leaving Europe. Daddy and Andy and all of us were glad to hear the news. Won't be long you will be back in the states. Dear Son, yesterday we celebrated Uncle Mike and Aunty 25th wedding anniversary. I and Jr. Mother gave Aunty a lovely dinner April 27, 1947 and also Gram and Aunt Vi and Antoinette and Shirley and Aunty Carmela and family. We gave Aunty an Electric Roaster and she sure liked it. Well Son, I went to doctor last week and he said I am coming along better but still can't do no house work just yet to cook and wash dishes once a day. Dear son, I guess that's all. Best regards from Uncle Mike and Aunt Toody, too...

May 3, 1947 – We had so much rain; we can't get into the field to plow land for our oats and garden. Maybe it will be too late to plant our oats now. Our wheat turn out lousy. Too much frost and now too much rain. Dad and the mens started to work with trench every day. Except when it rains, they stay home. They started to tie our grapes now and also work on machine. Dear son, yesterday I went to a baby shower in Thompson. She belongs in our club. Mrs. Arnold picked me up and brought me back. We sure had a nice time there. Aunt Nunzie was here this week and spent a few days here. Today she went home. Tour Patine Andrew and Freddie arrived in California last week. They drove and arrived safe and well. I don't know if they like it or not yet. It is too soon to tell yet...

September 1, 1947 – I look in my tin box and only have four bonds of you January through April and didn't get no more so you better look after the bonds. How come I didn't get any more? And about the money you put in soldier deposit is O.K. with me just as long as you can save it in there. I am satisfied with your idea. Ray in close, you need some money you write to me and I will send it to you as I can cash in your bonds and you the money. Don't forget to ask me if you need it. Dear Son, I send you, my best regards and love and kisses from me and Dad and the kids. May God bless you. Loving Mom, Carmela