

**PARENTS RECEIVE  
FIRST LETTER FROM  
SGT. VANDERHOOF**  
*May 14, 1944*  
**SAYS HE AND WHOLE BOMBER  
CREW ARE SAFE IN GERMAN  
PRISON CAMP**

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Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Vanderhoof this morning received their first letter from their son, Technical Sergeant Merl Vanderhoof, since he has been held a prisoner of war in Germany. They had received a post card from him last week, but in this letter he was able to tell them more and give them greater assurances of his safety.

He says he is being well cared for in the German prison camp and insists that they stop worrying about his safety. He has praise for his pilot, who he says was responsible for saving the entire crew of their bomber that was shot down on a bombing mission over Germany. He only received one small scratch as a result of having to bail out, and this was not of sufficient importance to call to a doctor's attention.

His letter follows:

Germany, March 7.

Dear Folks: Well, now you can stop worrying about me in combat. I am safe on the ground for the duration of the war as a P. O. W. My new address is on the outside. Please write often. I can only write two letters and four cards per month. I want to write one letter to Jeanette.

My whole crew is safe. We have our pilot to thank for that. He sure was on the ball and told us to bail out at the right moment. I received one small scratch on my right leg but it didn't even need a doctor's attention. Please write, and let all know that I am safe, and above all don't worry.

We bake cakes and eat swell. Send some underwear, socks and razor blades. Please write M/Sgt. Joe Phillips at my old address and let him know I am safe. Love, BUDDY