

SGT. VANDERHOOF WRITES PARENTS

Newton Boy Held Prisoner of War in Germany

May 4, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Vanderhoof this week received their first direct communication from their son Technical Sergeant Merl Vanderhoof since he had been reported as a prisoner of war in Germany.

The card received was dated March 20 and read:

"Dear folks": well, another week gone. Everything fine with me. Have you received my personal belongings from the squadron yet? Please write Joe. Please send me a good pipe and tobacco, Pop. They are worth a lot over here. I have learned a lot of new games. Love, MERL."

The address side of the card contained several items of printing in the German language, and at the time of going to press Mr. Vanderhoof had not been able to find anyone who could read the wording. It is thought possible that this wording might give some information as to the camp that his son is being held.

Young Vanderhoof, a member of a bomber crew, was taken prisoner when his plane was shot down over German territory while on a bombing mission.

His parents were at first notified that he was missing in action and a few weeks later word was received that he was safe and was being held in Germany as a prisoner of war.

Mr. Vanderhoof says the "Joe" referred to on the card was the squadron Commander.