

NAME: Gustav

RANK: Lieutenant Colonel

ORGANIZATION: Persian Gulf Command

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Persian Gulf

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime letters written by Gustav. These are the only letters from Gustav in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Gustav writes a colleague who is also serving in the U.S. Army:

“2-10-44.

We were all glad to hear from you and to know that you have enough work to keep you busy...You always had a lot of letters to answer so I'll add mine along with the others.

Our work here seems to be settling down into a steady routine with the usual amount of gripes and rumors. The Chaplains don't have smooth sailing anywhere but ours are doing a good job. I manage to keep them mixed up enough to feel like shooting me and in that way they're rarin' to go most of the time. We are now having Chapels built or remodeled throughout the Command and they will be very nice when completed...

...I'm feeling fine and manage to get in a little volley ball or table tennis each day just to keep in shape. We could use your smiling mug over here in Persia particularly on the volley ball court or in our office...Camp Wolters of Iran is holding up the old traditions and we all wish you every success in your work.

Write again when you can find time

As ever

Gustav”

Gustav writes his colleague again who is also serving in the U.S. Army:

“4-20-44.

We all really enjoyed your fine letter of March 11th. We are gradually recovering from a very heavy Lenten and Easter program, with the Jewish Passover thrown in...As 'Boss' (?) I passed the buck and incidently most of the work off...For why should I have them over here? ...I still think you should

come on over here with us and help...I'm sure you would enjoy Persia and we could surely use a big guy about your size...

...We are all feeling fine and keeping busy enough to keep the time flying by. You talk about traveling:man alive I make nearly 2000 miles a month besides my headquarters work and at least 12 Services a month and 4 radio broadcasts. That's just my regular schedule and when 'extras' come along I get really busy. We work like these little burros or (---). We are in the midst of a volley ball tournament and so far our team is leading. We had a battle last night that about ruined all of us, but we finally won 2 out of 3. I'm about a veteran over here now as I've been here 15 months...and there doesn't seem to be any relief in sight. If I have to be on foreign duty I might just as well stay put as go home for three weeks and then have to start out again. Always glad to hear from you and we all send our greetings and wish you the best.

As ever

Gustav”

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- Gustav made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to original wartime footage in the public domain that covers the above time period and Gustav's organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/gov.fdr.262>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Gustav's wartime organization, the Persian Gulf Command (reader discretion advised):**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf_Command