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L.M. Bickett Company

*Rubber
Manufacturers*

Watertown, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

April 30, 1942

Dear Papa Bill,

I expect you will be surprised to get this letter and more so to find out who wrote it.

For some time now since I got old enough to know what was good to eat and how to walk I have been able to understand lots of things I hear other folks talk about, and so with the help of Jim Brown, O.B. and my grandpa LMB I am writing you this letter.

Now I know why you are away from us and why me and mama and your mama went so far in the automobile to visit you when you were learning how to be a soldier. Lots of times when I am playing with my toys on the floor the machine that talks tells all about a big war that is going on, and that is why so many papas had to leave their little boys and girls with their mamas and grandparents to go and fight so that when me and other little boys and girls grow up the world will be better than it would be if you didn't do your share to make it so.

I have heard about how Gen. George Washington and his soldiers fought to start the United States and how several times the papas had to go to war to make America safe, and now I can't tell you how proud I am to know you are doing the same thing for me and others. Us little boys and girls were born in this country as free Americans and just as you and your comrades are fighting to keep us free, your fathers and grandfathers fought years ago so that you could be safe and happy and grow up to be a fine big man and become my own dear papa.

The other day I asked grandpa LMB why wasn't he a soldier and he said something about keeping the home fires burning, and then he said he was a tin soldier once but after being one for about eleven years and not having any wars to fight in he got tired of waiting and quit.

I don't know what a tin soldier is but over the radio I heard something about a shortage of tin and how valuable it is so maybe it's a good thing LMB isn't a tin soldier any longer as they might melt him up to make shells out of (or perhaps they would use him for tooth paste tubes) and if they did he would make a lot of them.

Personally I'm glad he isn't tin because I heard him say the other day while you are away he has to be a grandpop, a father and a pal to me, and I like him to be all of them until you come back and be my real papa.

When you get back home I'll bet the three of us men folks have lots of good times together going fishing and boat

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riding like he tells me about doing, and so I am going to grow real fast so I can go along with you every time you go any place.

Mama Ruth and Grandmama B. will be surprised when they find out I wrote you this letter but they might just as well learn about what I can do because they have got lots of surprises waiting for them from me. I've heard that you usto live in Waupaca County where everything is full of surprises and as I am your boy I got a right to do some surprising too.

With love and a big hug I remain your son,

P. S. Grandpa LMB said he hoped you and your comrades do a better job this war than the last one, and when I asked him why he said the other war was to make the world safe for the Democrats and this war should make it safe for us Republicans as we hadn't had any safety or anything else since the other war.

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P. S. I hope you won't get mad when I tell you I expect to be a Republican and you can blame it on LMB as he is a red hot one and he says he is proud of it.

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P. S. LMB calls me Billee as he made up this name from Bill and Leigh 'cause he says I look like you and likes pretzels like you do.