New Haven,
Feb. 13, 1935

Beloved Lotten!

The trip to Stamford* went well and I had a good night's sleep. It has truly become a new home, compared to what it has been, clean and well-organized in every corner, quite a few new things have been bought, well, as I said, one can hardly believe it is the same home, for which I am very happy. Hugo drove me here yesterday and we had a good lunch which was ready when we arrived.

Had a good meeting last night. God gave me real freedom and I think I became a blessing, I feel that the greatest need is: Revival and I began with that topic and will continue with it, I read Ezekiel 37:1-14, which the officers thought was magnificent. I believe that God will do something among us during this campaign.**

So happy that the weather is still beautiful, and that no snow has fallen. I am alone this morning, the officers are out with their "War Cries". This afternoon we will go out on visits.

I'm sending you a poster from Hartford. I think the officers did their best in regards to advertising.

Loving, loving greetings to you and Sven. I see you surrounded by your rags.***

Your Sven

***Mary's note: This was my parents' third appointment after they left Training College. They were there from 1932 - 1936. In Mom's defense, I am sure the house was as clean as possible long before 1935. Grandpa had been in Sweden during all of 1934 and I don't know when he had been to Stamford prior to that but I would speculate that it probably was shortly after they moved to Stamford and before Mom had a chance to clean the quarters.**

****Mary's note: There are too many verses to quote but the Lord is commanding Ezekiel to bring old, dry bones to life, which Ezekiel does by following the Lord's instructions.**

*****Lotten is keeping a Swedish custom, by weaving rugs with rags. First one has to cut old clothing, etc. into strips, and he sees her surrounded by these.**

Hartford,
Feb. 19, 1935

My own Friend!

Your letter from last Sunday made me extremely happy, I was afraid that your cold was a very bad one. Thank God you are well!

Everyone was so grateful in New Haven, yes, more than I have ever seen among our people, and I dare to believe that God was able to do something real for many.

The officers drove me to New Britain after dinner yesterday, then Adjutant Erikson was going to Hartford, so I rode with him and was heartily welcomed here. I was probably a little tired, but today I am completely vigorous---and I think we are going to have a lovely time here. At 6 p.m. tomorrow I am going to have a meeting in the Industrial Home here, have just finished a little sermon in English---I had an English meeting in New Haven---and can you believe that up to and including Captain Laurén, who is so good at English, came up and congratulated me.

Am enclosing a letter, which speaks for itself, from Brigadier Blomgren. Do you think I should promise to go up there for one or two weeks? Won't it be too long for you to be alone again? Let me know what you think before I tell him my decision.

Am happy about Sven's success. Do you want to have the sisters' letters from Florida back?

Loving greetings---your Sven

Hartford,
Feb. 22, 1935

My own beloved Lotten!

Ten thousand heartwarming Congratulations!!

Wishing that I were home and could verbally assure you of my good wishes for you and whisper in your ear that the amorousness of my youth still burns in my heart for you, yes, warmer and more sincerely today than ever. You have been the guiding light on the path of my life and the inspiration for my soul during the teeming battles of the past thirty-seven years. You surely recall that it was 37 years ago this week that we first began our battle in New Britain.* May you have a lovely, calm, and blessed birthday tomorrow! I will be near you in my thoughts.

We have had wonderful meetings here up to now, last night there were 13 at the Penitent Form. Hallelujah!

Today is Youth Day and I am sure it will be wonderful. Loving greetings to you and Sven.

Your Sven

***Mary's Note: They began their appointment in New Britain on February 16, 1898.**

Hartford
Feb. 23, 1935

To my dear Bride of My Youth!

Today, on your birthday,* may you feel the personal presence of God---I would give anything if I could just look in on 21 Magnolia St. for a moment. I hope that Sven honored you with Postum in bed today. I neglected to ask him to buy flowers for you, but as thoughtful as he is, I hope he did it anyway.**

We had a very lovely day yesterday, there weren't so many young people, because there aren't so many up here, but we had two good meetings and many older people. And I believe that God, who was close to us in Spirit, was able to carry out wonderful things, because I believe more than ever that he can do it and does do it, even if not so many came to the Penitent Form.

Just as we finished the meeting last night, it began to snow heavily, and today the snowplows were out, but now it is raining a little. I hope you haven't had too much snow at home.

It's too bad that Sven doesn't feel well, if he is going to see Hartwell, he should mention that he is Colonel Wiberg's son---plus reach an agreement on the cost before the operation is done. He ought to do it inexpensively. I thought the symptoms of bad glands were pain and gout, is Sven sure that it is his glands which are the reason why he feels so ill?

Tell the insurance man that Christie has our insurance, and that we are satisfied with him. When it comes to the income forms, I assume they can wait until I come home, so long as it doesn't state they have to be sent in before I come home.

You ought to ask the mailman when "War Cry" and the cards from Svembell arrived in the Bergenfield Post Office, plus find out from the New York cancellation stamps what the dates were.

I will leave here on Monday morning at 9 to go to Lynn. I pray and believe that God will help give victories even there. Loving greetings to you and Sven.

God Bless You, my Treasure!

Your Sven

***Mary's Note: This was Grandma's 64th brithday.**

****Mary's note: C.W. Post, inventor and industrialist (1854 -1914), remembered a concoction he had been served on the Texas Plains. Farmers wives, with little or no store-bought goods had come up with a mixture of their own as a substitute for coffee. The mixture was a blend of chicory, with roasted wheat and other grains found in the Texas Plains. Coffee's side effects on the body were of concern to Post, but he liked the taste. He put all his efforts into making a substitute with the same taste, but without the ill effects that caffeine had on the body. In 1894 he established the La Vita Inn, a sanitarium at Battle Creek, Michigan, and systematically began work on his coffee substitute. After a year of relentless work and experimentation, a suitable substitute was developed from wheat, bran and molasses, which he thought was tastier than chicory. He gave his mixture the name, Postum Food Coffee. It is still on grocery shelves today (2002).**

This is an undated letter in Lotten's handwriting; I believe it is to Sam, although it is strange she would sign herself "Lotten" instead of "Mamma."

.....succeed in overcoming your physical weakness. I hope you can be outdoors as much as possible. You seem to be in a little better mood. Your letters are excellent!

You asked about Sandberg. He is quite happy. Pappa met him a while ago and he said joyfully that he was fine, both body and soul. He was building a house on the lot, or to be more precise, on the street near Tulpangatan. He intends to live in it himself. He has built a large cellar so they can store their furniture there. Their home on Clinton Avenue has been "Foreclosed"*. They are losing it also and now only have debts. Circumstances are changing in this life. Their youngest daughter had an epileptic attack again last week. They don't know if it is epilepsy or has some other cause. They are going to operate or try to find out if it was caused by the operation for gallstones, which sometimes can result in such attacks, or so it is said. Mrs. Peterson has started a veritable rug industry. She has made 13 large, really fine ones for her own home, and now she has started to make them for the church. Four other women and she are going to make rugs and sell them to raise money for the church. She asks everyone for rags and shares them with the others. They already have orders for a large number. She tells everyone Mrs. Wiberg gave her the idea. Well, yes, she could have taken on something a lot worse. I don't know if I told you about Elisabeth Johnson. She has been quite frail for a while. They took all of their sausage just before Christmas. I don't know why. She has been so upset, she has been afflicted again with her old problem, a weak heart.

That was a wonderful dream you had, even if your Pappa isn't building a home in heaven, there is Someone who is doing it. He promised to go "and prepare a place for His own". Sister Alma feels well, hasn't been ill this winter. Hugo is working, as usual, is frail, but seems to manage anyway.

I have a lot to do these days in order to make suitable food for Sven. I have to mash and strain everything he eats. Can you imagine if I had received such food and care when I was ill. Surely I would have become strong faster. The house-purchase you mentioned really isn't a good idea for you. You can live comfortably for many years for $600.

Now, goodbye and thank you,

Lotten

***written in English; capitalization is Lotten's.**

Lynn,
March 1, 1935

Beloved little Lotten!!

Thank you for your welcome letter, which I just received, I have been a little anxious about how things would go for Sven and it makes me extremely happy that everything went well and surely Sven will be stronger after this. So grateful to God that you are healthy and well, too bad that you have lost weight, you should eat more, and more nutritious food, try to get up to 145 by the time I come home. "Just try!!".*

There's not much here in Lynn, the best soldiers have left us, such as the Liedjens, Bergkvists, and Erikson, very few people at the meetings, I try to give them my best and pray that God will bless it, so that something may be accomplished.

On Wednesday I tried to find our old comrades---Rasmussens, he was the one who was our door-sergeant at Boston 6, they live in a place outside of Cambridge, he is in a wheelchair now---a cripple because of pain, you can well believe that they were glad to see me. They said to say hello to you, and otherwise they are quite the same, belong to the Missions Church now. Next week I will try to find the Norwegian Rasmussens, they live in East Boston. In conjunction with Boston 6, I will be in two or three churches, he has organized a full program.

I hope there won't be any more snow now. How's the coal in the cellar?

Loving, loving greetings to Sven and you.

Your Sven

P. O. Box 43
Milford, Mass.
Mar 8, 1935

Dear Capt & Mrs Wiberg,

Just a line along with the card to let you know how I am.

I'm quite well and we are getting along O.K. Capt. is a good worker as far as I can see and has it in him.

We had our welcome meeting last night (Thurs). Had 30 in, but had a good meeting.

Adjt & Mrs Howe that used to be stationed near my home were to the meeting as they saw that I was there. I certainly was glad to see them.

We also had open air last night. Then today we had inspection. I hope that your inspection went off good.

How do [you] like Lt. Leggett?

I have your car in the garage up here and drained the radiator to be sure that it doesn't freeze.

Capt is bringing his parents over for the weekend and his mother will cook for us over Sunday.

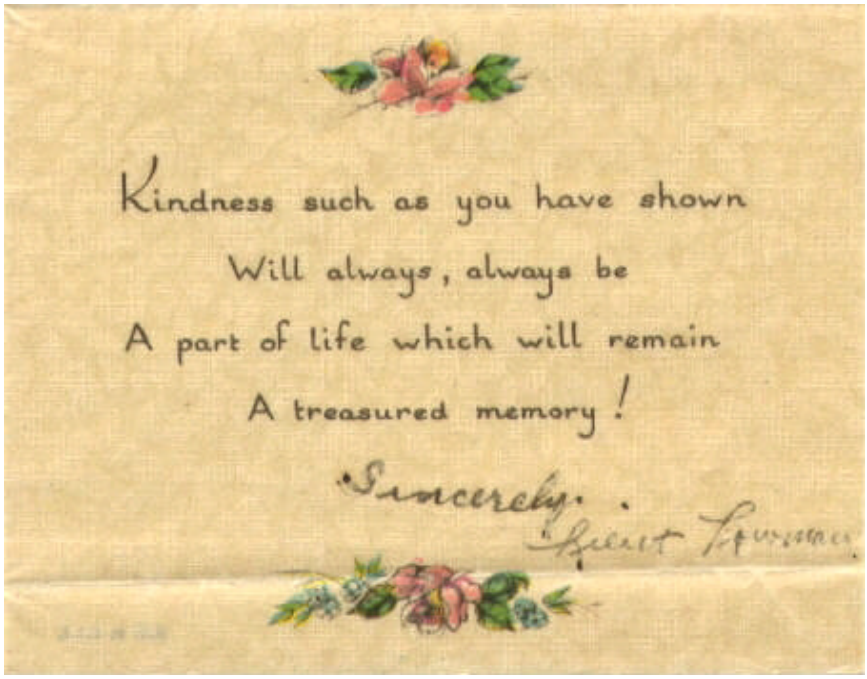
I surely miss Stamford and have been quite lonely, but getting over it. Boy what a change and difference from Stamford. It is almost a bear-?, but I feel that we will be able to make it go. Keep praying for us. I'm thinking and praying for you and the Corps.

Say hello to all.

God bless each of you.

Sincerely

Lieut. Lowman



Bergenfield
14 mars 1935

My Beloved Sven,

In reality I don't have anything special to write about, but wanted with these lines, to wish you a warm welcome home. It is cold here again today, but the sun, which melted almost all the snow which fell yesterday, seems to be coming out from behind the clouds, so it will probably be warmer soon. The grass is beginning to change color and the leaf buds on the trees are beginning to swell. The bulbs are beginning to poke up through the earth's crust, so Spring will soon be here. Oh, God is good! It will be so nice to be able to be outdoors almost the whole day again in the fresh air. I have been thinking about the contrast to last year when I was so constantly weak, and now that I have begun to be strong, I will be able to enjoy everything this year. What I wouldn't give to have the great joy of having you home for several weeks. Then I will be able to agree with the song on the radio, "I'm no longer alone".

Now I am hoping and praying that the week in Providence will be richly blessed by God and that you may experience his presence and strength richly measured. Oh, how near to my soul God has been a thousand times in Providence, and how I have experienced that He answers prayers. He is exactly the same today!

I have written a long letter to Anna Coate this morning and now I can set about my everyday chores.

Say hello to the officers and thank them from me for the roses, and explain to them why I haven't written to thank them.

I just remembered that 38 years ago it was you who wrote a letter to Providence* and now it is I.

Millions of greetings and welcome home.

Lotten

***Mary's note: Providence, Rhode Island, was Grandma's one and only Corps as a single officer. She took up her appointment in Providence on March 3, 1897, and married Grandpa in New Haven, Connecticut, on February 17, 1898. All of which still does not clear up the mystery of where and when they first met.**

Providence,
March 15, 1935

My own darling!

Thank you for your sweet little letter yesterday, but what surprises me the most is to see that you have moved to the other side of the street, and yet you have always said how happy you are to face south, so the sun lights up our dear home!?*

Well, today is Friday and soon this week will also be over and then home. We have had good meetings here, on Wednesday there were nine at the Penitent Form. God was very close and I think that wonderful things were carried out, hallelujah! Last night the Färnströms were at the meeting---and he, as usual, was very interested to know how you are, and only wished that you could have been here, too. They absolutely want the officers and I to come out there on Monday---and they didn't think it would be so bad if I went home a day later, "but they didn't get very far with that". This afternoon we are going to the old-age home to have a meeting. It is warm and sunny here today, and I am hoping it is the same for you.

I will most likely take the bus home on Monday, it leaves here at 8:30 a.m. and arrives in New York around four o'clock, and costs only about half the train fare.

Thank you, my friend, for your letter, which you wrote yesteday, it just arrived and reminded me of what happened 38 years ago. Millions of thanks for what you have been for me during those years.

If Kaleb comes home on Sunday, please congratulate him for me. I completely forgot his birthday.

I am happy there are only three days left and then home, home!

The sisters send greetings to you.

Loving greetings to Sven and you from your

Sven

***I think Grandpa is teasing her; perhaps she put the wrong return address number on the envelope - which, however, did not survive.**

This is an incomplete letter from Lotten to Emma Lundgren in the Autumn (from context).

[September, 1935]

....every day, weigh 144 pounds now. That is not too bad for me, exactly 10 pounds more than last winter. Pappa helps me with the work, so everything is comparatively easy. God is good! All of our comrades send greetings and ask me to come to the meetings, too, but I think it is probably sensible to stay calm for awhile yet. I become so over-anxious when I have some public responsibility.

Concerning the trip to Florida, let's not speak of it again. Sven talked about it every day until my husband said that it hurt him to the point of tears to hear about it, because he well knew I needed to go there, but thinks it is impossible, at least for this year. If we can just pay our bills, it will be great, but winter is also the time when Pappa can earn a little money. So I have to do my best to take care of my health here and trust in God who has never let me down. We have had 2 weeks of real summer weather, between 60-70 in the shade, today it is a little cooler.

Well, soon I will have finished my blanket, i.e. the four corners. I have 130 and haven't bought very much yarn, instead have worked in all that I already had plus all that you gave me. Naturally, it isn't going to be beautiful, but it will certainly be warm and that is the main idea. I am going to give it to Sonja for Christmas. I am going to give the rug to Kal, it will soon be finished and is really beautiful. It is really beautiful here after all the warm, rainy days. The grass is green and the neighbor's Golden-chain bush is in full bloom. Think, if only this winter is not so cold.

Well, little Emma, I hope you feel well and don't forget us when you pray to God. Please say hello to Miss Jenson and McEwan. My family says to say hello to you.

Affectionately, Lotten

Boston,
Nov, 1, - '35

Beloved Lotten!

Your two letters, postmarked in Englewood yesterday morning, were just received, a thousand thanks. I am happy to hear you are well and feeling strong. I am also glad that I am fully vigorous, except for a little stiffness in my hands in the mornings, but that isn't so bad.

We had a good meeting here last night at the Corps, but only with our own people.

Tonight I am going to Lynn, and have been invited to the Öster's for dinner, for "Rice & curry".* The whole officer's collecting group is accompanying me to Lynn and they have been invited to Major Söderström's for dinner.

It would be a good thing, if God in His mercy, took Augusta home soon, since I don't believe that she has any physical.....*****

What time is Lundberg leaving for Florida? I thought she was to stay in New York or at the Colonel's until I came home and we could drive there, and you could see Eva's [Evangeline Booth's] palace, I am coming home on November 18. There will be a little saving of 5% instead of 6%, which is $15.00 per year, still a little something! I have been hoping that we could manage Ida Johnson this Autumn, which I believe is possible if everything goes well.

I am happy about Jerrestam's promotion in Sweden, even though he should have been C.S. and Åkerberg should have been F.S., but I cannot fathom why they have sent Bolander to Stockholm, they must have lost their minds, and Lydahl to Småland, that beats everything____

Even the officers from Providence are here to collect, so there can't be much there either. Well, I am trying to do my best for the few who do come, and one cannot do anything more than that.

.....light the furnace with your coal....***

Loving greetings to Sven and you!

Your Sven

***written in English; punctuation is Sven's.**

****euphimism for dying. Mary's note: Augusta was Grandma's sister. She was 71 when this letter was written; she died October 27, 1935.**

*****last word is missing from both my copies---Mary's note: original is torn.**

******missing words on both copies---Mary's note: original is torn.**

Worcester,
Nov. 14, 1935

My own friend!

Well, now I am in Worcester again, as I am sure I wrote before, accompanied the officers from Providence here, they hired one of the visitors to the meetings to drive us here, we have had two good meetings here. Yesterday, Major S. Anderson from Gardner came and was with us at the meeting last night. This afternoon, I am going to visit the old-age home again and give a speech to the elderly, I was there when I visited the 3rd, they are a grateful group to speak to. Last night we were with several nice missionaries for dinner, and tomorrow we will go to another family. I am afraid I have gained some weight during this trip, but it will probably disappear again soon after I come home and get a little exercise.

Now there are only a few days left, and then I will steer "Pelle" towards home, will try to start early Monday morning. I will stop by and visit Hugo on the way home.

I heard that Eva [Booth] has been in New York up to last week, and probably has stayed in her residence, that is probably why Lundberg hasn't come to Wahlgren. I still have not been able to use a Salvation text other than last Sunday in Providence, sinners don't come within hearing distance, but I think my meetings have been a blessing for our own people and for God's children. and before we have a revival within us, we can't even think about getting the sinners reborn. I believe a spiritual revival is on its way.

The officers thank you for your greetings and send their warm greetings to you.

Loving greetings from me to Sven and you!

Your Sven