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November 29, 1944

War Department  
Army Effects Bureau  
Kansas City Quartermaster Depot  
601 Hardesty Avenue  
Kansas City.1, Missouri

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

To the War Department:

We received your letter notifying us that some personal property belonging to Pvt. Vittolh Seder was supposed to arrive within 30 days. Monday, upon my arrival home from work, my mother informed me that the expected parcel had arrived.

I am the sister of Vittolh Seder and on behalf of my parents and myself I wish to express my bitterest feelings towards all of you and your kind.

How can you dare of sending the families of the deceased such articles as we found? It was nothing but plain junk! The wallet was a gift from me and was in a shameful condition. We can understand this to the extent of the inhuman life a soldier leads, but where is just one piece of currency? My brother was never BROKE and by the condition of his wallet we are lead to believe he didn't have a dime. Who picked his pockets while he was lying dead? That we would like to know!

Among the articles that we received were rosaries, a bloody prayer book, a fountain pen, that is not in working condition (that must be the reason it was sent because it was of little value of anyone else), a lead pencil and a few snapshots.

He had a shock-proof, water-proof, self-winding wrist watch that my parents and I bought for him when he was drafted. Where is that watch? Who has it now? His girl-friend bought him a beautiful double headed tiger cameo ring for Christmas and that is not among those articles sent. The property that my brother had that was of some value was obviously stolen from and that which was of little value returned to us. In plain words that is the lowest dirtiest trick that could be pulled on anyone.

Our boys go to serve our country hating, fearing and dreading the thought of warfare. Their families, sweethearts and friends suffer all that the boy in service suffers. It is alright for those who can secure a nice soft position here at home and enjoy all the privileges of the service man but for those having to participate in actual combat it is sheer HELL!

Why are our boys fighting and dying in countries that do not belong to the United States or places that until now were unheard of. Is it because a few of our so-called big-wigs can't settle an argument between themselves or is it just a put up job and the war will be over when enough of our boys have paid the supreme sacrifice?

(In Criticisms Book - 7 Dec 44) *amp*



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There are a lot of people who aren't saying what they think and know because like us they have been hurt beyond words and probably think "what's the use?" but they aren't blind to all that goes on around them.

My brother and many like him had an education better than a lot of the men have who are still at home and enjoying life with their families and friends. Would anyone in their right mind call it justice to draft a man who is a skilled worker and place him in the infantry and keep a man here at home working at a job that a girl or woman could do. That is not justice and you, I and everyone knows that but it is being practiced and no one is doing anything about it.

I don't believe there is another man in this world who hated army life more than my brother and he had to pay with his life for something he didn't even understand. The boys in his outfit are trained so fast and so hard that they aren't given the opportunity to think of the consequences. Each man is told that his outfit or company is the best in the service. That is downright trickery! Each man goes around under the impression "We are the best." That is the army way of gaining the man's confidence low as it is.

All of these words do not mean an awful lot to you and perhaps you are even considering the fact that I am crazy and shooting off my mouth but just picture yourself with only one brother in this whole world who means the world to you and suddenly you haven't that brother. How am I and my parents and other people in similar circumstances supposed to feel?

Yes, I am an American and proud of it but I do not share the opinion that peoples differences or countries differences cannot be settled in no other way other than war. We are living in the most civilized era of mankind and yet we are resorting to the most primitive methods of peace. Destruction of man! Just what is to be gained after we or the nazis defeat the other? Nothing as far as I can see for as long as man rules the world there will always exist the craving for power and jealousy and selfishness is the root of all wars.

I hope you are satisfied with the wholesale murders that are being committed all over this world. Our boys are dying on the battlefields and we at home are dying with broken spirits and broken hearts!

Never, not as long as I live will I forget or forgive those who are responsible for my brother's death.

For the sake of those who are yet to experience our tragic incident I would suggest that you refrain from sending articles to the families such as we received. If you can't send property that they can look upon without their very hearts being torn out don't send them at all.

Yours very truly

*Nellie Seder*

(Miss) Nellie Seder

Several people have suggested that we write you about this and fast!