3-26-1943

Jack P. Bell World War Two Correspondence #122

Evabel Bell

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 Pvt. John P. Bell
 78th Sig. Co. 78th Div.
 Camp Butner,
 N.C.

 A.P.O. 78
Mrs. Jack Bell
345 Dr. River St.
Clydia O.
March 26, 1943

Darling,

Well, I finally got your little card, after everybody else told me where you were. Gosh, Honey, you'd think you would let me know before any else where you were. I even got a card from Genevieve saying you were in Camp Butner before I heard from you and Bill and Dolly even got a card before I did. After all if you got there Sun. you could have let me know before Friday. I nearly went crazy until I heard where you were. Of course you told me you weren't going to write every day, but I didn't think you would never else before you'd write to me. But if that's the way it's going to be, I suppose I'll have to just take. Of course, I shall write my meansly little letters every day, just as if I were hearing from you as often.
I sound so sarcastic, but how would you feel if everyone knew where I was but you? If the situation were vice-versa and then almost a whole week gone just before any word of my husband. I thought for sure you must have gone to Calif. or Texas or some place real far and here you were only about 650 miles away. Why didn't you wire me at least? I looked for a phone call every night, but I suppose you couldn't get to a phone so that's excusable.

Well, enough of that, I really and truly love you very much even if you don't think of me as much as I do of you.

Well, Wed. night right after I finished your letter, I was sitting there almost ready to go to sleep when I heard a knock at the door. I went to see who it was but I couldn't see any one so I opened the door and then squating
were all my girlfriends and they yelled "Surprise!" I was so surprised you could have knocked me over with a feather. Lena made the party and there was Edith, Elic, Jean Gibson, Florence, Emma (Lena's friend) Ida, Dolly & Lena & me. We played bingo and we had a swell time. I got some real nice gifts. I got a beautiful satin slip, two aprons, a box of powder, a pin, a bottle of apple blossom cologne, a box of stationary, and a box of fench soap. and you should have seen the beautiful birthday cake. It was a big huge one with flowers all over it and in the center it said "Happy Birthday, Eva!" How wasn't that nice. Then I thought every one had forgotten about me. They didn't leave here until about 12:30 or a quarter to 1.
and then Thurs. when I got home Dolly called me up and she said she thought the baby had the measles and so she would have to call the club meeting off. So all the girls called and said they didn't want it postponed again and each one offered their house. So I called up Dolly and told her and she said she would rather use my house. So she came over with all the food. In the meantime I had to hurry up and clean up my place which was messed up from the night before. Get dressed & eat before they got here. So I was so busy I didn't get a chance to write to you. But I shall make up for it in this letter. Any way after the girls got here, Dolly had to go after her sister Esther (who was to be a guest) and she was gone about 45 min. We got kind of wonded we couldn't figure.
out what would take her so long when all of the sudden the phone rang. Dolly was stuck out on Furnace St. Her horn had let loose and her car stalled, and she couldn't get it started. So then she sat on Furnace St in a stalled car with the horn going like mad. Well any way I went out there I didn't know what good I would do. She called George Barnes and he came and brought a new battery and disconnected her horn. Any way by the time our meeting got started it was 10:30. So we sat down and played Dominos and I won first prize, and then we took pictures. I think these ought to come out better than the other ones. At least in these we all held still. Well the girls didn't leave until about 1:15. So to-night I'm going to sleep good and early. And I hope no one disturbs me.
Well, Sweetie, I got my first pay to-day.
Sept 19, 23. That's for 5 days and after
taking out $5 worth of bonds, S.S., V. tax
and all the other crap. So I don't think
that is too bad. It sure is a thrill
to get money that you really earned
yourself. You know it was nice
when you brought the money home
but I really didn't have to work for
it (not actually). But this is my very
own doing. On my own. If you run
out of money before your payday don't hesitate
to ask me for it. I'll send you as much
as you want.

I got my picture badge yesterday, why
I sure do look like a gangster's moll. He
told me to stick my face closer to the camera
and that's just what I did. And it looks
it too.

Gosh, Honey, isn't it wonderful that
you got at Camp Butner? Just imagine...
only 33 miles from Henderson. I'll bet your tickled. Tell me all about the camp.

Is it a nice camp? I understand it's quite new. How in the world did you ever get into the Signal Corps? Tell me what its all about. What are you supposed to do? Do you have to go to school very long for it? I hope you like it. 😊

Why do they keep you in quarantine for 21 days? I thought most places it was only 10 days.

Well, Sweetheart, I hope you don't get tired reading all this nonsense but I thought perhaps you might be interested.

I love you, my dearest one, and I shouldn't say this, but I miss you so very much. I'm always wishing you were close to me so I could feel your lips on mine and
have your nice warm body next to my usually cold one. I just want your arms about me and your face close to mine. When you come home I'm never going to let go of you. Oh sweetheart what a time we shall have when this is all over and the lights come on again all over the world.

all my love & kisses,

your own

P.S. Everyone sends their very best regards:
Jean, Edith, Lena, Ida, Gibby, Ralph, Sking, Violo, Barb and of course me.
Pvt. John P. Bell  
78th Signal Co. 78th Div  
Camp Butner,  
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Fink

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