
Jack P. Bell Second World War correspondence

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3-29-1943

1943-03-29, Jack to Evabel

Jack P. Bell

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Bell, Jack P., "1943-03-29, Jack to Evabel" (1943). *Jack P. Bell Second World War correspondence*. 126.
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Subject Terms

Jack P. Bell; Evabel Bell; March 29, 1943; World War, 1939 - 1945; World War II; World War Two; United States; War and Civilization – History – 20th Century; United States. Army; United States. Army. 78th Infantry Division; United States. Regimental histories 78th Signal Company; United States. Regimental histories 78th Infantry Division; Elyria (Ohio) – History – 20th Century; Women - History - 20th Century; Nineteen Forties; World War, 1939 – 1945 – Soldiers; World War, 1939 – 1945 – Women; Camp Butner (N.C.) - History - 20th Century; World War, 1939 – 1945 – Camp Butner (N.C.)

Keywords

March, 1943; 1943; United States; Camp Butner, N.C.; Elyria, Ohio; army; soldiers; troops; signal corps; infantry; correspondence; postal service; wife; husband; women at home; women; love; romance; family; birthday; disappointment; loneliness; communications; telephone; quarantine; military leaders; rules and regulations; marching and drill; training; homesickness; discipline and punishment; health and sickness; leisure; friendship; camaraderie; recreation and entertainment; thoughts on the enemy; Axis; Germans; post-war hopes; mother; son; brother; employment; war work; job; automobiles; marriage; supplies; clothing; money; budget; finances; tobacco; food; cooking; barracks; motion pictures

Identifier

2014.160.w.r_Bell_worldwartwo_1943-03-29_006

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Pvt. J. P. Bell
78th. Sig. Co. 78th. Div.
Camp Butner, N. C.
A. P. O. 78



Free

Mrs. Jack Bell
345 W. River St.
Elyria, Ohio

March 29, 1943
Camp Butner, N. C.

Dearest Fink,

Darling I got my first mail today, and did I ever hit the jackpot. Seven letters from you, and one from the folks at noon mail call, and one letter from you at this evening's mail call.

I'm so sorry that everyone knew when I was before you did, darling. I can't understand it. I mailed the first cards all at the same time Monday mite. One to you, one to the folks, to Bill and Dolly, and to Genevieve. Also you probably know by this time that I was just as disappointed as you were that I couldn't call on your birthday. You see we only get a

We started out this morning by running an obstacle course, Commando stuff. Lots of climbing and jumping. Most of our day was spent in classes. Camouflage, chemical warfare, military courtesy, and military sanitation. As far as physical exertion is concerned. It was the easiest day I've had since I've been at Butner.

I miss you a lot, darling, and I'd like nothing more than to be back home again, but I don't feel morbid or desperately homesick, and I hope I don't get to feeling that way, because there wouldn't be much I could do about it. I feel cheerful and healthy. The life is clean and rugged. The discipline is rigid, but not oppressive. So far I've had little time

chance to go to the PX when a non-com takes us. It's never for a period of more than a half hour. It's a small incomplete PX. I don't know whether they have phones or not, and you can see that I probably wouldn't have time to place a call. I'm not complaining because I know that things will probably be better after quarantine is over. Then we'll be able to go to the big PX. I just want to tell you so you'll know that it's not because I didn't want to, but it's just that I can't do everything I'd like to do.

Enough of that. It was so swell to read your letters, darling. It seemed as tho' you were right here talking to me. I wish I could write like that. Maybe you like my letters anyway. Do you sweetie?

Our basic training started today.

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 a few minutes here and there to write you
 I'm satisfied. After basis I'm sure things
 will run along better with a little more
 leisure time.

I'm certainly glad you're getting
 around with your friends, darling. Say
 hello to all of them for me. They're a good
 bunch. We've all had lots of good times to-
 gether, and will have lots more when this
 is over. This is just an interruption. I'm
 certain that the axis is tottering on its
 last legs now, and that it's just a matter
 of a short time till it's over.

Mom told me in her letter that
 Chuck is going to be in Salt Lake City for
 a short while. He sure has seen a lot

of country. Hasn't he? I sure do hope he gets stationed someplace close to home soon. It would be swell if he could get home once in a while on a weekend.

You sure must be keeping busy these days, darling. Holding down a job, taking care of the house, and the car, and all the things that go with them. It's a lot of responsibility, honey, but one of these days I'll be coming home, and we can make it a cooperative affair again. We have a lot to look forward to, sweetheart. Our first two years of marriage were paradise, and it will be the same again, only better and sweeter because of the separation.

In one of your letters you asked if I could think of anything else I want. I believe the bath towel and clothes hangers are the only things I need, sweetie. If I

need anything from time to time that I can't get around here I'll let you know. As for money in pretty well set yet. I have 13 or 14 dollars left. I don't need much. a pack of cigarettes now and then is all. They're only 13¢ here. I get plenty to eat, and I can't buy any sport clothes so you see money is one of the least of my worries.

I can see right now that I made a slight mistake. This extra sheet of paper was folded right inside. So I just started to write on it. Oh well, just so you can follow it.

The barracks is fairly quiet right now. Most of the fellows in this end are writing letters. The only interruption we've had so far this evening was a trip a

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a couple of barracks down the street to see a movie on military courtesy.

Well darling, it's 8:30. One hour before lights out. I have a pair of shoes to wash and shine, and by the time I do some washing it'll be time to call it a day - so I'll say so long darling, all my love to the sweetest lover in the whole wide world.

Your Sweetheart,
Jack

P.S. I've got a date with a dream.
Her name is Fink.

[JACK P. BELL CORRESPONDENCE MARCH 1943 – APRIL 1943 #6]

[Page 1 – Envelope]

Pvt. J.P. Bell

Free

78th. Sig. Co. 78th. Div.

[[Image: Military post-mark

Camp Butner, N.C.

stamp, with print text

A.P.O. 78

“CAMP BUTNER / N.C”

encircling date:

“MAR 30 / 1 PM / 1943”]]

Mrs. Jack Bell

345 W. River St.

Elyria, Ohio

[Page 2 – Letter]

March 29, 1943

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[Page 3 – Letter continued]

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[Page 4 – Letter continued]

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[Page 5 – Letter continued]

- 5 -

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- 6 -

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