

3-30-1943

1943-03-30, Jack to Evabel

Jack P. Bell

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Subject Terms

Jack P. Bell; Evabel Bell; March 30, 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.); World War, 1939 – 1945 – Equipment and Supplies; World War, 1939 – 1945 – United Service Organization (USO)

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; supplies; military kit; clothing; uniform; swear words; swearing; education; marching and drill; training; greeting card; family; mother; son; religion; weather; warm weather; discontent; military equipment; weapons; recreation and entertainment; cinema; motion pictures; servicemen club; food; literature; reading; music; radio; leisure; magazines; periodicals; USO; United Service Organization; societies and organizations; health and sickness; medical treatment; medical services; assignment; job; war work; employment; family

Identifier

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



Free



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

March 30, 1943
Camp Butler, X.C.

Darling,

This is a poor excuse for a letter; but here it is 8 P.M. and I'm in the supply room waiting for an issue of some extra clothes. Another summer uniform and some leather gloves. The letter on the other side is a sort of a prepared package of B.S.

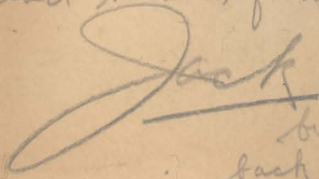
More classes today. It's fairly interesting. Some of our instruction we get in class rooms, and some of it right out in the field.

See, honey, it sure was swell to get your letters yesterday. I didn't get any from you today, but I did get a card from Mom she wrote just before going to church Sunday. She said you were coming over there for dinner. Did you have a good time?

We've been having some nice warm weather here. I imagine in another month it will really be hot. That's the South. Cold in winter, and hot in summer. Just like home.

I think it must be about time for the man to call my name. I'll try and write a better letter tomorrow nite, sweetie.

Love and kisses, from,



P.S. after waiting a decent while waiting. A

bunch of us were told to come back tomorrow nite. This is the first

P.S. I love you.

This stuff they tell about on the other side, amuse-
ments etc. must be great. I've yet to see them.

78th Infantry Division

COMPANY _____ INFANTRY REGT.
BATTERY _____ F. A. BATTALION
COMPANY _____ BATTALION
A.P.O. #78
CAMP BUTNER, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Folks:

I have arrived in the 78th Division, and my new house number and street address is filled in at the top of the page. If you address my mail to me just as it is shown, it will reach me quickly, and won't get lost. Be sure to use each part of the address as it is important in a camp this size.

On the hike up from the train, I passed row after row of buildings, guns, trucks, and equipment. In addition to the tools of war I noticed that our physical conditioning will not be all drilling. There is much space for games and athletics. I understand that there are three theaters in the Lightning Division area that have all the latest shows, too. When I get accustomed to the details, this Army life is going to be pretty good after all.

You will be pleased to know that the Army has made it possible for every soldier to keep up his religious activities. There are five chapels in our Division area and chaplains of all faiths and denominations who hold the services. The chapels all have electric organs and are so designed that services of every faith can be held in any chapel. One at a time, though.

There is one building here that every soldier is very much interested in. This is the "Service Club". My sergeant said that it was a club for the enlisted men and has just about everything, including a social hall, dance floor, balcony, cafeteria, soda fountain and library. There are plenty of easy chairs, smoking stands, piano, radio, writing desks, magazines, newspapers and books. The library has over 8000 books including the latest fiction, technical subjects, history, and, in fact, just about anything you would want to read.

There is some kind of program every night, with recorded concerts of classical music or some soldier pianist, on Sunday afternoons. On Friday nights a soldier dance is held which is attended by girls from Durham and the other nearby towns, under the supervision of the U.S.O. committees.

Across the road from the Club is the Guest House, where the official Government hostess and her assistants live. If any soldier gets sick his folks can visit him in the hospital and stay in the guest house. The number of rooms is limited but can be reserved by writing to Mrs. Frances W. McDonald, Senior Hostess, Service Club #2, Camp Butner, North Carolina.

Everything is well organized here and our officers seem to think of everything. Each man is classified and given a job here as closely related to his civilian work as is possible. They even knew that we would be very busy, so they arranged to provide each soldier with this letter you are reading, with an envelope. All I did was sign my name and drop it in the box to give you a "Hurry-up" letter. I will write later, and will be looking for a letter from you trying out the new address. Write soon, and often, for they tell me that all soldiers like to receive letters when mail call comes around, and I want to get my share.

Lots of love from _____

(NOTE: Cross out address not used, enter correct address and mail TONIGHT.)

[JACK P. BELL CORRESPONDENCE MARCH 1943 – APRIL 1943 #7]

[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 31 / 3 PM / 1943”]]

Mrs. Jack Bell

345 W. River St.

Elyria, Ohio

[Page 2 – Letter]

March 30, 1943

Camp Butner, N.C.

Darling,

[[Written
along long
edge sideways:]] This is a poor excuse for a letter;
but here it is 8 P.M. and I'm in the supply
room waiting for an issue of some extra
clothes. Another summer uniform and some
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you were coming over there for dinner.
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winter, and hot in summer. Just like home.

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call my name. I'll try and write a better letter tomorrow
nite, sweetie.

Love and kisses from,

[[underscore]] Jack [[/underscore]] P.S. after wasting a

decent evening waiting, A

bunch of us were told to come

P.S. I love you.

back tomorrow nite. That's the army!

[Page 2 – Back of Letter]

[[Typed pre-fab letter from troops to families at home extolling amenities and conditions on base.]]