
Jack P. Bell Second World War correspondence

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4-18-1943

1943-04-18, Jack to Evabel

Jack P. Bell

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Subject Terms

Jack P. Bell; Evabel Bell; April 18, 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 - Rationing; Popular culture - United States - History - 20th Century

Keywords

April, 1943; 1943; United States; Camp Butner, N.C.; Elyria, Ohio; army; soldiers; troops; signal corps; correspondence; postal service; wife; husband; women at home; women; love; romance; duty; assignment; job; gifts; gifts from home; food; homesickness; rations; shortages; leisure; leave; clothing; uniform; kit; automobiles; Germany; thoughts on the enemy; patriotism; Africa; Allies; Allied Forces; Europe; mother; father; family; son; education; training; communications; radio; morse code; birthday; children; recreation and entertainment; employment; friendship; camaraderie; legal matters; post-war hopes; souvenirs; tobacco; supplies; money; finances; budget; reveille; barracks; rules and regulations; marching and drill; retreat; inspection

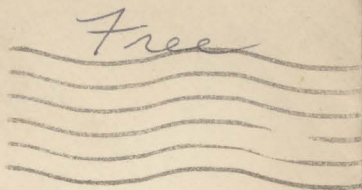
Identifier

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



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

April 18, 1943

Good morning sweetheart,

Sunday morning in the guard house. I'm all thru' walking post. Have to sit around here for about three hours till the guard is dismissed at 11:30. We started at 6:30 yesterday afternoon so that will make seventeen hours instead of twenty four like I thought it would be.

I got your package yesterday, darling. Thanks a million. Everything came in good shape. The oatmeal cookies are delicious. They make home seem so very near. Honey, I appreciate the pine-apple and jam, but you should save your ration stamps for things you need yourself. Everything was a surprise tho'. I didn't have any idea that you were sending a package.

I'm going to try and get a pass for next Sunday to go over to Generativeis. I hope I can 'cause I'll be disappointed if I can't make it. I will too. Too bad I can't get Superman to whip down here and pick me up. I could get to Elyria everytime I got a Sunday pass. The sewing kit you bought me sure got a workout Thursday

nite, sweetie. I sewed on insignias all evening long. You probably could have done the same thing in about twenty minutes. It took me three hours. It just goes to prove that as a sew and sew I'm just so so.

How is our little car running, darling? I haven't had my hands on a steering wheel since I've been in the army. Will take plenty of nice rides when I come home. When nice weather comes along I'll probably gleam to get out on a Sunday and wash it.

The news gets better every day. If my prediction of a couple weeks ago works out Germany will be all washed up in about two weeks. They sure have their backs against the wall in Africa now. When the allies start to invade Europe they'll have all the fighting right in their own yard. It can't end too soon to suit me.

I got a letter from Mom and Dad yesterday. She told me about the swell ride you three took last Sunday. One of these fine days I'll be going along too.

Radio school is very interesting so far. Being able to send and receive

messages in Morse may do me some good when I leave the army. If I can learn something in here I'll feel like I haven't been wasting my time. (Back in my barracks) v

Did I have something pleasant laying on my bunk when I came in this noon. Two letters from my dearest, darling sweetheart. How I love to get your letters, lover. These two were the letters you wrote on Wednesday and Thursday (Ricky's birthday) I guess we both get the same kind of mail service. No mail one day. Two the next. Oh, well just so we get them, darling.

I don't know whether I'll like being an everynite kid, sweetie, but if you insist I suppose I shall have to. As if I could be anything else. I won't be able to leave you alone, darling. You have all the priorities on me, sweetheart. I don't think I'll have much desire to go out visiting, myself, so well just be good old home bodies.

I'm glad everything is fine in our little home, dear. I like to have you tell me about it. How nice it will be to be a solid citizen again. Mr and Mrs Bell - both of the same address. Hmmm.

I'll bet Ricky gets cuter everyday. I'd sure like to have seen him with his birthday cake. Is he much bigger than when I left?

I hereby challenge you to a game of checkers when I get home. You always were a champion at it, weren't you, darling? Bill is good competition in a game, isn't he?

I wasn't too surprised that Johnny Lightner quit, but that was a dirty trick leaving without notice. R.J. is too white a man to treat like that. At least he's tops in my league.

Some sure flies around here. Every time you turn around, Sunday's here again. I hope I'm thru' getting Sunday detail for awhile. It's a pain in the neck.

I'm glad Ida is such good company for you, honey. Give her my thanks for writing to the Finance company for the certificate of title. I'm glad you got it. Now everything is all ours. I hope we can start our little tile house right away when I come home. That will be the start on our insignia, woud it, baby? Have you sort of decided on the floor plan yet? I'll bet you have. Speaking of insignias. I'm putting a couple in this letter. Tell me if you want more, and how many. They only cost a dime each so don't worry about that. I have enough money. about the only expense I have is cigarettes (13¢ a pack) and some shoe Polish now and then. Oh yes, I always brush it now.

Dearest, darling have I told you lately how much I love you. Well I will now. I love you, baby Fink, you're such a sweet, cute little, darling that you have me going around in circles. you are the sweetest, dearest, bestest little lover that ever was. Oh, honey I wish I could hold you in my arms for just a few minutes, and tell you just how very much you mean to me. We have so very much to look forward to, darling. Just remind me to be careful of your ribs, honey, I might bust 'em when I hug you.

The Western seems to be a swell place to work, doesn't it honey? I mean about the time off, and shoes etc. As long as I'm going to school there's no chance for a furlough. We won't worry about it tho', 'cause in this army you never can tell about nothin'.

I've just finished getting my laundry together for tomorrow.

I sure am glad I don't have to wash all that stuff myself. I'm not sending the yellow towels you sent me to the laundry tho'. They only hold themselves responsible for D. I. stuff, and the towels are far too nice to take a chance on.

You asked me to sort of tell you what went on around here. I'll try. I get up at 6 in the morning. About ten after six we fall out for reveille. Then back to make our bunks, clean the barracks, and give our shoes another swipe with the brush. Breakfast, then police call. (That means cleaning up the grounds - paper, matches etc.) By this time it's nearly 7:30 so radio section marches down the line about six blocks to radio school. We're in there (mostly taking code) out at 11:20 and back to chow, they allow us that ten minutes so we'll get back in time. Lunch is at 11:30. At 12:30 we fall out again. This time we go to our own radio school on the company street about six buildings away from my barracks. We get some more code, and learn about radios. at 4:30 we're thru'. We get shaved and shined. Dress in our O. P. uniforms (That's our olive drabs, dress uniform.) and at 5:10 we fall out for retreat and inspection. After that we have supper, and we're thru' from about 6 o' clock on till 9 at lights out. Sometimes they have something for us to do at night. It keeps you busy. If there's nothing doing, and a fellow doesn't want to go to bed at 9. He can go to the day room, and read books or magazines or write letters till 11. I don't know why they call it the day room. The only time a fellow gets to use it is at night, except on Sunday. It's really not too much of a grind. We get a ten minute break every hour when we can go outdoors and smoke. In a way, it's a good thing they keep us busy it makes the time go fast.

Here comes the bottom of that page, and I guess I'm all run down for this trip. All my love and devotion to my own sweet wife.

Yours Always,
Jack

[JACK P. BELL CORRESPONDENCE MARCH 1943 – APRIL 1943 #16]

[Page 1 – Envelope]

Pvt. J.P. Bell

Free

78th. Sig. Co. A.P.O. 78

Camp Butner, N.C.

[[Image: Military post-mark
stamp, with print text
“CAMP BUTNER / N.C”
encircling date:
“APR 19 / 3 PM / 1943”]]

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

[Page 2 – Letter]

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The sewing kit you bought me sure got a workout Thursday nite, sweetie. I sewed on insignias all evening long. You probably could have done the same thing in about twenty minutes. It took me three hours. It just goes to prove that as a sew and sew I'm just so so.

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[Page 3 – Letter continued]

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(Back in barracks) [[Image: arrow drawn to below portion of letter]]

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[Page 4 – Letter continued]

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[Page 5 – Letter continued]

- 4 -

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