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

Pvt. J. P. Bell
78th. Sig. Co. A.P.O. 78
Camp Butner, N.C.
April 18, 1943

Good morning sweetheart,

Sunday morning in the guard house. I'm all thru walking post. Have to get 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 pin you sent. 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 Denver, s'il. I hope I can cause she'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 El�na every time. I got as Sunday pass. The sewing kit you bought me sure got a workout. Thursday night, sweetie, I sewed up misgivings all evening long. You probably cut some bows, too. It just goes to prove that as a Sew and Sew pin just so. How is our little car running, darling? I haven't had any chances except some rides when I come home. We'll take plenty. I'll probably glean 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 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 where I feel like I haven't been wasting my time.
(Back in my barracks)

Did I have something pleasant laying on my bunk when I
came in this noon. Two letters from my dearest, darling sweetheart.
I must write on Wednesday and Thursday (Ricki's birthday) I guess we both.
Oh, well just as we get them, darling.
I don't know whether I'll like being an everyone kid sweets,
but if you insist I suppose I shall have to. As if I could be any-
thing else. I won't be able to leave you alone, darling. You have all
the privileges 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,

Rickie gets out every day. I'd sure like to have
seen him with his birthday cake. So 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 Lightning 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.
Time 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 insignias, won't 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.

Demons, darling have I told you lately how much I love you. Well I will now. I love you, baby, and you're such a sweet little, darling that you have me going around in circles. 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. I'm 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? 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.

We 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 too. They only hold themselves responsible for D.D. 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 as 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 show, 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 drab 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 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

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

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

Free

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 Genevieve’s. I hope I can ’cause she’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. We’ll take plenty of nice rides when I come home. When nice weather comes along I’ll probably yearn 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 barracks) [Image: arrow drawn to below portion of letter]

Did I have something pleasant laying on my bunk when I came in this room. 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 every nite kid, sweetie, but if you insist I suppose I shall have to. As if I could be any – thing else. I wont [sic] 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 we’ll just be good old home bodies.

I’m glad everything is fine with 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, Mmm.

I’ll bet Ricky gets cuter every day. 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 allways [sic] 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.
Time 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, wont [sic] 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 [c] a pack) and some shoe polish now and then. Oh yes, I allways [sic] 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 wont [sic] 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 G.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 revellie [sic]. 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.D. 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
nite. 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
nite, 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 Allways [sic],

[[underscore]] Jack [[/underscore]]