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Jack P. Bell Second World War correspondence

CAWL Archives: Second World War

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4-22-1943

## 1943-04-22, Jack to Evabel

Jack P. Bell

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## Subject Terms

Jack P. Bell; Evabel Bell; April 22, 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 – Peace; Spain; Japan; Pacific Theater; Russia

## 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; greeting card; promotion; military leaders; uniform; celebration; radio; communications; education; morse code; barracks; family; discontent; loneliness; automobiles; employment; job; marching and drill; landscapes; war work; peace talks; peace; diplomacy; Spain; surrender; Japan; Russia; strategy; thoughts on the enemy; bombs; bombardment; food; family; children

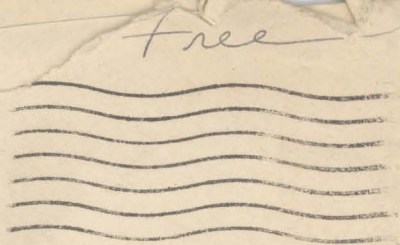
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Pvt. J. P. Bell  
78th. Sig. Co. A.P.O. 78  
Camp Butner, N.C.



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



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Camp Butner, NORTH CAROLINA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

April 22, 1943

My darling,

This is a red letter day. Two letters and a card from my baby. Thank you very much for the card, lover. It is such a sweet one. I got real good service on the mail today. The one letter was postmarked 19th. and the card and other letter was postmarked the 20th. Do you ever get my letters two days after I write them? I guess its closer to four, isn't it?

There was a sort of a ceremony connected with graduation. Everyone wore O.P.'s that day. The company commander called out our names, and our lieutenant congratulated us on getting into this or that or whatever the man got into, gave us our buttons and insignias, and that was it.

Yes, I like radio a lot. It gets more interesting as I go along. Code is coming pretty easy so far. You're getting your wish about my getting into something where you use your head. It's mostly all brain work.

I'd like to clean the wall paper for you, honey, but my noon hours aren't quite long enough to do it as I did last year. The kitchen paper is the dirtiest, isn't it? I think the living room paper is too far gone to pay you to clean it. You know that spot on the wall where it looks like somebody papered over a light

cord, and then yanked the cord out? Don't worry too much about it, darling. Maybe it won't be so long before we have some walls of our own, and we can paper or paint them just the way we want to.

Our squad changed barracks again tonight. Something else to take upon time. I've had two Sundays for myself since I've been here, and I won't have another one for two more. That's the only thing I don't like about it. No time to do anything. Thirty three miles from Genevaville, and I might as well be 1,000 miles. If I'd been jiggered for anything I couldn't holler, but I don't have a mark against me.

What kind of a Packard did Phil get? Sedan, or coupe? How's his business these days?

We were out about two hours on our hike last nite. It wasn't as tough as the last one tho'. We had a slower cadence, and went cross country over fields, ditches and the works. That  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour is really moving. I imagine we only covered about seven miles last nite in the two hours.

Do you work six full days a week, honey, or five and a half? I forgot. Are you getting to be a pretty sharp inspector? I'll bet you're the best. Just as you are in everything you do.

I don't think the offer of Spain for a peace consultation will be considered. I think that they'll carry out the terms of unconditional surrender, but the way it looks now, and the attitude men in the know are taking, I don't think they figure it's going to take very long to get that surrender. As far as Japan is concerned I think they'll make quick work of them. They're gunning for bases in Russia to take off from, and when they really start to bomb Japan they have the opening wedge in.

I finished the last of those swell oatmeal cookies last nite, baby. They were delicious to the last crumb. I imagine Milt and Art enjoyed theirs too. I haven't eaten the pineapple or jam yet.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Camp Butner, NORTH CAROLINA

-3-

I'll have to get some crackers at the PX one of these evenings. Chow is getting better all the time around here. We had swiss steak for supper tonite. But you know, darling, no one yet has ever made swiss steak like you make it, or anything else, I guess that you've just spoiled me for anyone else's cooking. Speaking of food, thank you for the bite of spam sandwich, but I didn't take such a very big bite.

Is Fanny staying with her folks now? How is her baby? Did Milton sell his Plymouth? What does Libby hear from Sam these days? If I don't quit this I'll have you writing a whole letter about the Babich family, but I like to hear what goes on, and how everyone is getting along.

You know, darling I can find more to write about Clyvia and what we used to do, and what we'll do when I come home than I can about camp. Things are sort of the same around here most of the time, and I don't cover the territory I used to at home. You know how it is, "Don't get around much anymore."

Well my sweetheart, I guess I'm all unwound for this trip. Good nite, lover all my love and devotion to my dearest darling,

Your own,  
Jack

[JACK P. BELL CORRESPONDENCE MARCH 1943 – APRIL 1943 #18]

[Page 1 – Envelope]

Pvt. J.P. Bell

Free

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

[[Image: Military post-mark

Camp Butner, N.C.

stamp, with print text

“CAMP BUTNER / N.C”

encircling date:

“APR 23 / 1 PM / 1943”]]

Mrs. Jack Bell

345 W. River St.

Elyria, Ohio

[Page 2 – Letter]

[[Image: Grayscale image of a group of soldiers fighting/training with jeeps, artillery, rifles.

Situated above text: “Camp Butner, NORTH CAROLINA”]]

April 22, 1943

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[Page 3 – Letter continued]

- 2 -

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[Page 4 – Letter continued]

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- 3 -

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