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Jack P. Bell Second World War correspondence

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4-23-1943

## 1943-04-23, Jack to Evabel

Jack P. Bell

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## Subject Terms

Jack P. Bell; Evabel Bell; April 23, 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

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; anniversary; marriage; recreation and entertainment; leisure; humour; humor; friendship; camaraderie; weather; warm weather; spring weather; barracks; clothing; education; assignment; radio; communications; morse code; father; family; aunt; post card; uniform; reveille

## Identifier

2014.160.w.r\_Bell\_worldwartwo\_1943-04-23\_019

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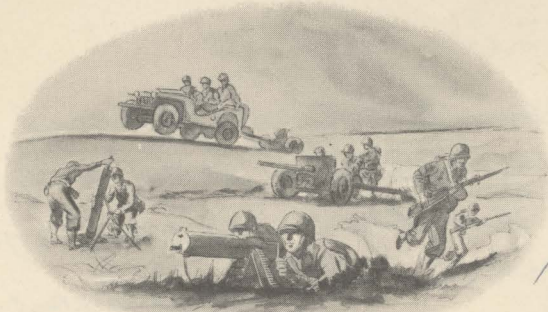
Pvt. J. P. Bell  
78th. Sig. Co. A.P.O. 78  
Camp Butner, N.C.



*Free*



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



(2)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Camp Butner, NORTH CAROLINA

April 23, 1943

Dearest darling wife,

Happy Anniversary, dearest one. By the time you get this it won't be, but today is it. Just six years and ten months ago toite a cute little sweetie pushed me off the rail at Cascade dance hall. Did I ever tell you that story? Well here goes. I was sitting there, minding my own business, not giving anyone any headaches, when zing, and din on my feet again, and there she was. Now this part is a secret, and you ~~must~~ not let it go any further. I guess I loved her from the moment I first saw her smiling face, but I don't think she knew it. At least I tried <sup>to look</sup> kind of angry. I guess it must have been the real thing 'cause she's the angel I married. Now do you know who I mean, lover? How the time has flown. It seems like last nite that we met, dearest. In another way it seems like there's never been a time that we didn't know and love each other. I guess that's because you are the girl I always dreamed of loving and marrying, and when we met my dream came true. I guess everyone dreams of that certain one, but everyone isn't as lucky as I am. Even away from you, you are so much a part of me, and so deep in my heart and mind that I always feel real close to you. Honey I believe that I can tell you exactly what I mean in three words. You guessed



it, sweetheart. I love you.

Darling, in your letter today you said you hadn't gotten a letter for two days. I suppose it's the mail service again, but just to make sure that they are all getting to you I marked this letter 1. I'll mark them thru' 5, and start over again. I'll do this for a while, and you can tell me what the score is. I haven't missed a day for quite a while, that's why it seems strange that you haven't had any for two days. One day isn't unusual, and then have them double up. It happens often that way here.

Tell Bill I appreciated the hooveress cartoon. I can just picture him laughing at that. Bill has a good sense of humor, and when he laughs, it's mighty infectious. Remember how he and I would get to chuckling about something, and you and Dolly would be disgusted as the dickens?

Darling, it's a beautiful evening for our anniversary. Warm, spring weather. I hope it's as nice in Elgria. I'm very comfortable now. We have the barracks all cleaned up. I took a shower, and put on my clean fatigues, which came back from the laundry today. I had my slippers on, but now I have my oxfords on, as lights will go out in a few minutes. Then I'll walk over to the day room, and finish and mail this.

Did you get the letter with the insignias enclosed, yet? I'm slipping another one in this. I bought some more. They only gave us six, and I needed more anyway.

I'm glad too, that I didn't get into an armored division as Milton did. I have a better chance of learning something useful right where I am than I would in any other outfit in the army. The nets and procedures are different in the army than they are in commercial radio, but operators all use International Morse, and I'll get the principles of radio engineering. It's a good field, and if I have enthusiasm for it when I get in deeper I'll stick right with it. There's no manual labor connected with it. That's appealing.





## Camp Butner, NORTH CAROLINA

-3-

How much weight have you gained, darling? You know I always told you I never cared how much weight you put on because I'd have more to love. So you have my permission. I'm not too certain how much I weigh now. All the scales in the exchanges are pretty well beat up, and not very accurate, but I'm not wasting away. Darling, when I come home we'll just laugh and grow fat together. How does that sound as a prescription for happiness? I love you so very, very much sweetheart.

Did Pa and Aunt Celia, and Ben and Lena get their post cards? I wasn't positive about your folks address, but I put down 408. Is that right? Of course I knew Ben and Lena's. Seems like I've been there before. Have you?

I sewed ~~another~~ insignia on tonite, the O.P. shirt I just got back from the cleaners. I also sewed the top of my overseas cap together. Some camps sew them together, some don't. This one does. I'm getting speedier now. You wouldn't know the boy who used to take an hour to wash, dress and eat breakfast. I get up at 6 o'clock, and at 6:10 I'm out on the street for reveille, in uniform, and leggings to boot. We wash when we get a chance, and it's not in the morning. Ten minutes is still just ten minutes.

Tell me if you're getting all my letters, sweetie. I mean after you've had a chance to check. Good nite, lover, see you tomorrow,

Your lover,  
Jack

[JACK P. BELL CORRESPONDENCE MARCH 1943 – APRIL 1943 #19]

[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 24 / 1 PM / 1943”]]

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

[Page 2 – Letter]

[[Image: Large, circled number “1” with an arrow drawn to it.]]

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

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

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[Page 3 – Letter continued]

- 2 -

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[Page 4 – Letter continued]

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

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- 3 -

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