10-24-1945

Jack P. Bell World War Two Correspondence #598

Jack P. Bell
Mail Jam Broken, APO Claims

By LESTER BERNSTEIN
Staff Correspondent

PARIS, Oct. 23—Theater postal authorities today came up with facts and figures to explain recent delays in the dispatch of States-bound air mail and to assure GIs that their letters now are flying home without delay for the first time this month.

A recent New York dispatch recorded the complaint of redeployed troops that they were beating their own letters to the States and reported anxious inquiries from letterless correspondents of men still in Europe.

Today's announcement disclosed that high priority cargo and passengers had been "bumping" air mail on ATC planes. As a result the planes were unable to carry the 22,500 pounds of mail daily allocated by the theater priorities board—an allocation large enough to cover all westbound air mail.

The situation grew so bad early in the month that on Oct. 8 and 9 it became necessary to dispatch a total of 104,300 pounds of air mail by fast ships. This represented about 4,700,000 letters, or 37 percent of all the air mail originating in the theater during the first 15 days of October.

Those letters, it was announced, will be delayed in delivery from ten days to two weeks over the time it would have taken them to reach their destinations had they been flown.

But the backlog of lingering letters now has been cleared up, and the air mail situation is "current"—postal talk meaning that the letters are not staying in any one place more than 24 hours. As of 6 PM yesterday, 12,676 pounds—570-420 letters—were on hand on the Continent and 1,400 pounds—63,000 letters—were in the UK awaiting air dispatch, but none of this mail had been there a full day.
Darling wife,

It looks as if your mail should be coming thru a little better now sweetie. I read in the S+5 today where it had been screwing up here on the continent, and none of it had been going air mail to the states, but now they have it straightened out again so I'm hoping my letters will be getting to you faster.

Three of us went to the show tonite. I didn't care too much for it. "Music for Millions." The music was good, but the story itself was strictly from hunger.

You know honey in a way the time has really been going fast here. I like it much better than the 78th. We don't have any formations here. The CO calls you at 6:30 in the morning, then we sleep another half hour, and go to breakfast. Then we sweep and straighten up our bunks, and around eight o'clock go to work.

Darling I'm always thinking of the grand times we've had together, and how wonderful the future is going to be. I'm so happy when I'm with...
you. It doesn't matter what we do as long as we're together. You're such a dear sweet darling. I love you so very much sweetheart that it seems I couldn't possibly love you more, and yet every day I love you more and more. You're my cute sweetie and my sweet cutie, and I'm just existing till the happy day when I come home, and we'll never be separated again.

Remember how we'd start out in the car in the winter time, and you'd try the heater, and say, 'I'm always thinking cold heat was coming out.' I'm always thinking of all the cute little things you do and say. Oh darling it's going to be so wonderful when I can walk up behind you, and lift your hair, and kiss your sweet little neck. Being with you is such sweet paradise.

I just took a little peek at the pictures you sent me lover. Oh sweetie it's going to be so nice to see you in person. Your flesh is so sweet and smooth. All your sweet dimples are going to be kissed so tenderly darling. Just remind me to take it easy and not eat you up baby Fink.

We'll have such a wonderful time when I come home. We'll have a month just for ourselves, and make
it a honeymoon. As far as that goes lover, we've been on a honeymoon ever since we got married, haven't we sweetie? We'll always keep it that way honey. In this month's vacation we're going to have we won't plan a thing we'll just do whatever we want to when we want to. Will you like that darling?

Another six days till Halloween. Remember the last Halloween I was home, and your club had the party in Ralph and Ethel's basement. That was really a good one. Remember how Jean McDonald was drinking wine, and got meaner than a snake? Well sweetie I think I'll hit the hay and dream of my darling wife whom I love so very much. All my love and millions of hugs and kisses.

Your own,

Jack
Pfc. John P. Bell 35052495
279th. QM Ref. Co. APO 758
C/O PM New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Jack Bell
345 W. River St.
Elyria, Ohio
[Page 2 – Newspaper clipping]

[[Clipping describing how mail would begin moving more freely between GIs and civilians]]
[Page 3 – Back of Clipping]

[[Back of clipping, depicting a photograph overlaid with comic characters.]]
Lauren Cruz 01.19.2016

[Page 4 – Letter continued]

Lich
October 24

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