

2 Oct 1944 I

James Deat,

Sowed my first army
KP yesterday. My job
was giving out ~~to~~ silverware.
It reminded me of setting
tobacco, handing out
30 pieces of cutlery per
minute. Am down to
160 and it's agreeing with
me. Had another boxing
~~match~~ ^{day before} yesterday, against
a boy from New York.
He knew how to box and
it was quite a tussle
in the first round, he
had a good left and
kept jabbing me off
balance, in the second
I caught him with a
left to the stomach
and a right to the jaw

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and he was unable to
continue, so I won on a
technical knock out.

Received some butterscotch
candy and cigarettes as
the winners purse.

Don't laugh, butterscotch
drops are a real treat
and can't be bought.

I have a choice seat on
the ship this morning,
between the life rafts
on the upper deck. There's
only room for one so
I can write in privacy.

This morning we had
milk and cereal for the
first time on the trip.

It was really good. It's
powdered milk and ice
water mixed, and it's

as good as ordinary
pasteurized milk.

Now that we have details
to serve, I no longer find
it necessary to play poker
to pass the time away.

Have deposited some money
with my company commander
and will send it to you
as a combination anniversary

& Xmas present as soon as
I'm able. We have

received two partial pays
of \$5.00 each since Sept 1,
the amount I send may
surprise you, but please
use all or any part of it
to buy something you
want.

Hope the bands for

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August + September arrived
and that the allotment
check is arriving regularly.
If we get stationed
someplace where money
is useless I'm going to
take out another bond.
Per month, 3 a month
won't be bad.

How's the car running?
I hope it isn't balky any
more. Guess I'm getting
to be a soldier. Cars and
golf courses and even
little things like bed
linens seem to be part
of a dimly remembered
past.

In one of your letters
please tell me how dad's
horses are doing and

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if possible enclose some
clippings giving an
account of the races. I
suppose your fall trip
to New York has come &
gone. Tell me about the
plays and the other
events of the trip.

Say hello to mother
and Dad for me. I'll
write to them later today.
I'll send their letter by
mail & this air mail
and you can compare
the time of arrival.

The ocean is as
placid as a lake today
and the sun's out.
Benzoline is a good
thing, leaving you, a
better one.

am getting quite dark
and have had no sun
lunar troubles.

My pen has been
leaking, but finally
solved the difficulty
and it's fine now. one of
the fellows who used
to repair pens fixed it for
me.

Every time I take out
the lighter that Dad gave
me, there are many
oil & ash. I have to
guard it carefully:

It's a good thing
Mrs. Skulter gave me an
extra watch band. mine
broke about three
days ago and I'm going to
use the ugly black

strap as it was thick
leather.

Have my file with
me and am going to fix
my nails. Never in my
life have I had such
an excess of time & so
little to do!

Finished reading
the 'Golden Horn' it's
an adventural story of
Oregon in about 1885
and decent reading
but let's give it about two
stars.

Can't think of
any other pertinent news
except that I love you
and that's been going on
for quite a time now.

David

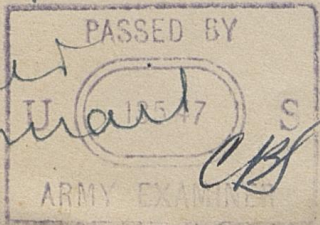
Can't waste this last page
and there's no use
rushing to mail this
as the nearest post office
is distant. Watching a
school of porpoise and
some sea gulls so I
suppose there's land
nearly, we'll landing
soon. Don't know how
to act on land, it's been
so long. I'll call you
if it's possible. Unless
I'll be able to tell you
soon that I'm someplace
or somewhere. Be good
darling. I won't write
tomorrow as I'm on KP
all day, but I'll be thinking
of you as I always do.
Your David

S Sgt David Bolatin
caval co #19
APO # 7958
c/o postmaster
New York



Mrs. David Bolatin
285 S. Ashland

Lexington, 37, Ky



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Jayne dear,

I wonder where Gallup finds the people he polls, and where the native wisdom of our people hides?

I have seen nothing but abysmal ignorance of present day issues, unrelenting hatred of minorities, and a general low tone in any discussion. Nothing constructive is ever said, these men want to pull things down that they don't understand, and have no idea what they want to build in their stead.

It causes a person to wonder when all this happened, for it didn't used to be, or things

didn't seem so. My explanation
is that the unpleasant
conditions of army life
tend to set aside the thin
veils of ^{civilian} pleasantness that
a person has and reveals
either a basic badness or a
basic goodness underneath.

When I think of the
wonderful opportunity
the army has at present
to make a thinking,
tolerant, civilized younger
generation and how
horribly indifferent
it is to its opportunity
it just boils me.

Instead of talking to
these men & presenting
both sides of issues,
they are semi bush bush

and allow the aggressively ignorant portion of the men to stew and fry in their own opinions and to shout them about and there is no one to refute them for the wise are silent and the army is officially mute and actually indifferent,

~~_____~~

~~_____~~ self censored,

well, I'll get my opinion better organized and write you more about it later.

played Ben Rummy with Bernie yesterday evening. He beat me by 1158 points in

9 games. It's a good thing we were playing for a twentieth. Guess I've lost my card touch.

Have read three introductions, good and good. These seem to be more mysterious than anything else in the Red Cross packages we got. By the way we all got R.C. packages and they had many useful things in them. Read Thurston's "middle aged man on a Flying Trapeze" he has much whimsy and most of it is quite amusing. He tells one story of a poker game that's hilarious and

reminded me of the games we used to have at 23 + Vesnettes.

I have a coat of tan and a decent beard, but will shave it off soon as it ~~is~~ is too much trouble to trim. I think it looks right nice, but admit you might not like it. Not a sign of sea sickness yet, wind had smooth sailing so far.

See a lot of folks on board who remind you of someone else, I was surprised to find fellows of Glass' type recurring frequently. Sure do remind me of him.

my foot feels fine. I have
been exercising my right
leg as much as possible
and there is not so much
difference between the
size of my legs as there
once was. I believe that
eventually it will be
completely healed.

Naturally, I haven't
heard from you since
we left. It's sure going
to be swell when your
letters eventually catch
up. I can have a
reading orgy.

Bennie and I have
continued our Isin
Runny. We don't pay off,
just keep a perpetual
score. I am now ten

points ahead of him
after innumerable games.
Sitting on deck and
gossiping with Al Malinow,
his reading "Victory" by
Cousad and I'm anxiously
waiting for him to finish.

The beard is still on
and growing luxuriously.
Bob Moller is growing one
too and we look like goons.
If I can I'll take a picture
and send it to you.

Have taken so many
shots that my white
compasses are having a
conference + may strike
for better working
conditions.

am peeling and look
like a speckled hen.

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you ought to be glad you don't
have to look at me. It's a
shame to waste the back of all
these pages, and I don't think
I've written anything that
will be censored, so I'm
going to start back. Each page is
numbered so you shouldn't
have any trouble. These
serial letters are all right,
give you plenty of chance to
express yourself. Too bad
I can't give you a day by
day account, but that isn't
allowed. With nothing better
to do, I've been working on
my nails. Even fixed the
cuticles for the first time,
the whole thing looks
damned unusual.

My beard is taking

on a reddish tinge, which would have struck it. My blonde ancestry coming out I guess.

My beard is now a casualty of a high class kiltzer. I was trimming it into a van Dyke, so this guy keeps telling me it wasn't even, so I removed a little here and a little there until it looked awful so I removed the whole thing. A vestigial remnant remains in form of a cookie duster, which I ~~have~~ ^{have} firmly resolved to keep. On the other hand I seem to remember that I disliked fellows with mustaches, so the

issue is in doubt.

You'll be pleased to know that a package of cigarettes lasts four days now. We're not allowed to smoke in our quarters, so just don't think of it.

Still feeling fine. Got a bit bored and ran out of reading material, so started playing poker. Have done well. We're not allowed to gamble for money so we play for little blue chips, it's the cleverest game.

Had a funny dream the other night. Was back in school and was quite worried about an impending exam, it

was so unlike¹¹ my actual
cassat at school, that I
cant imagine the
dreams origin, probably
Freudian.

You remember Babe
Meyers, he was out
at crowdet when I was.
The boy really is a
comedian and keeps
you laughing. Ran out
of ink and this brand
is no good in my pen,
so will have to scratch
for some more.

Have now read
everything within
borrowing distance. So it
looks like I'll have to
find something else to

do. Had intended to
write on this for
a little longer, but
think I'll turn it in
for censoring.

I love you

~~Fair~~

S/Sgt David Bellet's
Casual Co #19
APO # 7958
c/o postmaster
New York City

OPENED BY



Mrs. David Bellet's
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, Ky.

air mail

[Handwritten signature]

64112

U. S. ARMY EXAMINER

Temple
Babe
Bombay

ma
talk
walk in —

Sweet

Dear Jayne

7 Oct 44

I have been sitting here for half an hour like a country boy at his first circus, watching the sparks fly from a spot welders touch. They're prettying the ship up for port.

In my next letter I'll be able to tell you approximately where I am.

I should be getting some mail from you soon and look forward to that more than anything else. I should have stacks of letters from you, and

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I'm going to read them slowly so they'll last for days and days.

I have had a slight heat rash and look very colorful, having been painted with mercuriolate. am going to get plenty of sun today and that ought to dry it up.

Everything's packed and ready to go. Hope we get off the boat today as I have HP tomorrow and altho the job is easy, it's rather warm in the cafeteria.

got a real soup bowl
made the other day and
to top things off, the
lights went out before we
could finish, but it's
not bad, just a bit short.
you can tell I've got hair
but you have to look
carefully.

Have given up card
playing entirely. played
so much that I got
plumb tired of it, besides
don't want to lose what
I've won.

miss your lectures
on the inherent evils

of gambling, but that's
not novel, cause I miss
everything else about you.

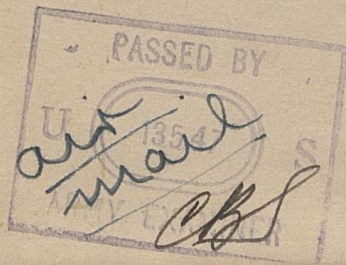
I think I'll mail
this right away so it'll
be censored before we
land and get to you
more quickly.

I love you
David

Ssgt David Boletun
Casual Co. 19
APO # 7958
C/O postmaster
New York



Mrs. David Boletun
285 S. Ashland
Lexington, 37, Ky



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Fayne dear

8 Oct 44

We have landed
and I am permitted to
say that we are
somewhere in India.

We were not able to
send cables, ~~to send~~
even permitted to get
off the boat until we
marched to the train
station. The car has
wooden slat benches
but is roomy and
not bad. We stop at
each station and at
the last one we were
off the train for a
few minutes. I taught

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an Indian kid to count to ten, he was quite clever and quick. You know of course of the awful picture here of extreme poverty and filth among the masses. The middle class seems quite small and we haven't contacted the upper class.

Coming off the boat a porter carried $\$$ my knuffel bag for 2 annas that's equivalent to 4 cents. The next division is the ~~Ruppe~~ Rupee, it's worth about 32 cents.

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There are big notes
of 30,000 Rupees
called a lakh. Well
not go any further
as I haven't a chance
to earn any more in
my present capacity.
Well quit thinking in
terms of dollars and
think of Rupees and
annas or better still,
let's forget the whole
thing. Peddlers and
beggars flock to the
train, but we pay
them little mind.
I bargained with a
guy for a curved knife.

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he offered it for 30 Rupees
and I offered 3. He
was down to 9 when
the train pulled out,
eventually I'll get one
for 4 or 5 Rupees.

This train is a
bit slow. It goes
fast enough ^{when it goes} but stops
very often.

I've been saving
myself so I could
tell you with proper
enthusiasm about
getting mail from
you and a letter
from Mother. I read
them over and over

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and will continue to
read them until I

get more. The last
one I got was

Sept 8th, it was a mail

I was shocked
to hear that my uncle
in San Francisco died,
he seemed well when
I was there, I'll write
Mother, in the
meantime tell her,
you know what, I'm
not very good at
that sort of thing.

we're allowed to
keep the windows open
on the train and it's

nice + cool, but some
of the countryside
smells like an old
Silo.

Not picking up
any of the Indian
language yet, but
expect to have a
decent vocabulary
soon.

I'm sorry I
forgot Dad's birthday.
Wish him a happy
birthday for me.
also, when I'm able
to get someplace where
I can send your
combination anniversary

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and xmas present, I'll
send \$10.00 extra, please
pick out a gift for
Dad. I shall make his
birthday last a long
time.

If I can find
anything here that
you'd like I'll send it,
but it looks like
I won't have much of
a chance for shopping.

Got my electric
razor back & if I ever
find an electric plug
I'll use it. Am not
too hopeful.

Especially you're

playing tennis, dont
ever do it. practice your
golf too and get some
other woods that are
more suitable. I still
think your woods are
too bulky for you.

Am making this a
serial letter, goodnight
sweetheart, more in
the morning.

The kids along the
railroad track are
singing 'Oh Johnny' in
a singing voice, then
they yell Huba Huba, must
have been some yankees
here before.

Bought some bananas + oranges at the last station. They're a bit green, but almost ripe. We've been instructed not to buy any food except fruits with peels as things are easily contaminated in this climate.

The countryside does not seem strange. There is quite a bit of corn and except for a lushness of vegetation there is a resemblance to a Ky. countryside.

We arrived here just after the monsoon

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season and it doesn't come again until next July.

I've got insect repellent on good and thick. From sundown to sunrise we apply it every 4 hours and our car is fumigated twice daily with an insect repellent bomb, so there are few insects in our car.

Got a Thunders. English dictionary and am slowly picking up some words

In observing the farming along the railroad. There always seems to be 5 men to do one man's job. The land looks good

It's a dark loam + not at all rocky. The main beast of burden seems to be the ox. I've seen some water buffaloes, and we just now passed some monkeys. They had long tails and seemed better off than many of the people and they didn't say anything about Bakshesh. Just bought 4 coconuts for 1 Rupee. They're really good. Never had any before, guess it's very provincial. Anyway, the juice is refreshing and the meat is good and doesn't make you thirsty.

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almost like this train ride
better than the one we
had in the states. We
have the doors & windows
open and there's a good
breeze and everything is
so new & interesting.

We got to wash today and
it was refreshing, we
put water from a spring
in our helmet & had a
merry time. Well so went
another day, more in
the morning.

Can't sleep so I've
been sitting near the
coach steps with a
fellow named Muesher

The dozed off and almost
fell off so that inspired
the following doggerel.
There once was a guy named ^{much} A
who was sitting on an insecure ^{peach} A
the train started fast and that was the ^{last} A
of much undone by a lurch.

Not as good as your
birthday poetry, which I
thought was a worthy effort.

By the way, in
rebuttal to the speech of the
negative concerning the
singlemindedness of my
wife, I meant my remark
generally - Poets, you ask
~~the~~ ^a question until you
receive the answer you

want. Introspect and if my contention isn't true, forget it. It's not too important anyway. Being with you is the important thing, the other little things will never count for much anymore. Compositely you're as good a gal as there is, of course, I'm prejudiced, being in love with you.

Romance + the mystery of India. So far the most mysterious thing is how the engineer of this train manages to find so many places to stop. It may be

religion or national pride,
or maybe he's running for
political office, but stop
he does at each & every
opportunity.

There was a beautiful
sunrise, the clouds are sparse
and grey with golden tints
We are going thru rice
paddies and the land is
marshy, but green and
appelling, nicer than
yesterday's view. There
doesn't seem to be so much
crowding of the people. The
cattle have the hump of
Brahmin cattle, and mostly
black skin, in color, and ^{some white}

are somewhat bony and high rumped, have seen only about 200 head, they're possibly not representative.

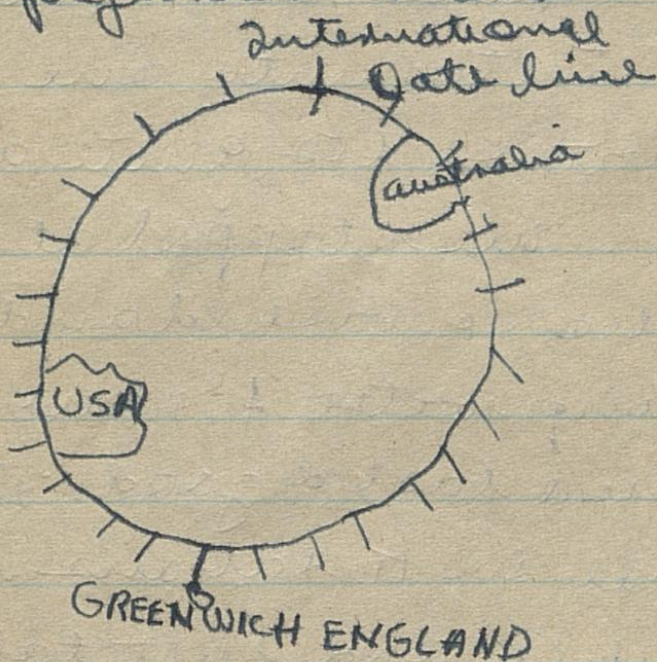
I have learned to brush my teeth with one mouthful of water, it's quite a trick.

We stopped at a large station & washed and got boiling water for our coffee. It sure tasted good. The coffee in K stations is soluble and just takes a second to prepare.

The village I saw Kupa sang for us and whacked on a drum so we threw him an Anna, he was
(start reading back)

pleased & sent solid for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour

In case you don't know how the international date line works, I'll show you how I figured it out.



If you started around the world ~~to~~ going west from Greenwich and ~~would~~ could make a trip around the world in one minute, you would

pick up or gain 24 hours
since time moves back
one hour every 1000
miles on the equator or
app. every 800 miles further
north. Now since you
picked up 24 hours
you have to lose that
time someplace. So a
place was chosen in
the Pacific where it would
cause little confusion &
arbitrarily made the
international date line.
There we went to bed
Sunday night & ~~woke~~ up
Tuesday morning, thus
losing a day & equalizing

the house we gained.
That's the way I figured it
out, there's no reference to
clock against, you might
look it up & see if I have
the correct conception.

Tell Mrs. Skudder the
watch is running very well,
gains a bit, but I'll have
it adjusted soon. Still
have my fountain pen &
lighter. The pockets of our
fatigues have buttons on
them & the boys I'm with
are quite honest.

We're entering country
that has dense foliage
now and keeping a sharp

lookout for ~~fringe~~
jungle animals, haven't
seen any yet.

just passed a beautiful
waterfall, about 60 feet
high and it was roaring.

Now jungle atmosphere
you fame, me drip, not
Tayan, enough. That's the
way we sound talking to
the natives. I was
embarrassed at the station
last night, started to
talk sing song jabbles to
a native selling British
magazines and he
replied in perfect English.
Gotta be careful from

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now on.

noticed that things like telephone poles & railroad ties are mostly made of iron & steel here. I presume it's because wood rots easily in this climate.

I guess Dad has his horses at Russell Downs now. You didn't say anything about them in your last batch of letters.

Saw a very decent looking black pony in one of the villages, about 14 hands and well shaped. Looked like a cross between a mustang & a standard

lined.

just took my shoes and socks off for the first time during our train trip. yep, the feet are still flat.

Last night had a funny incident. we take turns sleeping as there isn't quite enough room for all. Anyway when my turn came to sleep, I had lent my pack, blanket + raincoat to other fellows and had to borrow a head rest from some one else. There's a good

poker game 10 ft. from me
and I haven't any more to
play, aren't you pleased.

When I changed
my money from Dollars
to roubles, there weren't
many large bills so I
had to take a total of
over a hundred bills.

They're larger than
dollars, so I rolled
them into a package and
tied them up in a paper.

The train's going
very fast and it's
hard to write.

There has been
a change in the cattle

-24-

they're not quite as miserable looking as the first herds and their color runs about the same as our cattle white faced cattle are rare. Much of the land ^{in this section} here looks like a golf course and is far too closely cropped for decent forage. It has many gullies and washes probably due to the rains of the monsoon and previous overcultivation will have been promised tea at this station so think I'll get out & get

-25-

in line. The tea was very good, served by a typical lady Thavickshu-botton III. The canteen was donated by the local Rajah + some English business firms was reading the Asia Digest. The viewpoint is; of course, largely colored by the British. There is a 'you don't understand anything about it,' attitude when reference is made to American viewpoints concerning India. The inescapable

conclusion is that India is the hub of the Empire's wealth, and the status quo must be maintained or the Empire will lose a great part of its resources. The British hand in the Shandi - Jinnah talks concerning a separate state for the Muslims is very apparent. Confidential letters published, general disruption of the talks. The old story of divide & rule. The funny part is that in my opinion

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a rich and friendly
independent India would
be a far greater asset
to the Empire than the
wasteful, half wasted,
poor India of today.

I'll write a complete
letter on this later.
If you're interested in
my humble opinions,
let me know in your
next letter and I'll
go into the various
facets of this problem.

Smoked two English
cigarettes today, one
a 'mild woodbine' the
other a 'De Luxe Direct'.

am writing to the mfg.
and suggesting the
following changes in
name. (1) Wild Wood
and (2) De Lux Soap
as being more descriptive
and accurate.

Saw some Indian
chewing tobacco, it
resembles our Long
green, only its master
and the juice is
chimpan. The first
time I saw a natural
expectorate tobacco
juice I thought someone
had planted a wallap
on his hisset or perhaps

he had a terrific case
of pink tooth decay.

Bought some tangrines
at the last station, they're
good but not quite ripe.
I guess if things get ripe
here they spoil quickly.

When I get home, I'll
tell you about the W.C. on
the train, it's kind of
funny, but you'd get to
have a good sense of
humor, I can say that
accuracy is paramount
and the boys awarded me
an Expert's medal on my
first run, it was a
dead center bull's eye.

Tell grandmother that the knife she gave me is quite the thing for getting coconuts pried apart and is in constant demand.

Had some fun at our last stop. There were some natives around, ~~and~~ ^{they} had come up to ask for Banksian (gifts) and I gave them a political speech in the manner of F.D.R. it was kind of funny.

Gradually evolving a hobo style this morning we built a fine herd

-31-

the tracks and heated
our coffee water.

Timed this letter
right as its end will
coincide with the end of
our train trip.

The boys have
weathered the trip in
good shape. We're in high
spirits and our (char)
fant, has already
conducted the morning
song fest.

Arrived in camp
and have already
eaten our first
breakfast of hot
cakes, fruit, coffee

Sgt David Balatin
Casual Co # 19
APO # 7958
c/o postmaster
New York



Mrs. David Balatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, Ky

PASSED BY
U 13547 S
ARMY EXAMINER

air mail
CLJ

4

sending grateful

thanks
with love

W. H.
Father

14 Oct 44

5

Jayne dear,

Have a long leisure period, so there's time to write a decent sized letter.

Come to think of it, it was horrible of me to write my last letter ^{from U.S.} in a critical vein. I'm truly sorry and ask to be forgiven.

All your letters have been read & reread many times, they are super and it's hard to tell you just how much they mean. It's like a man who has been exiled from everything he loves being secretly allowed to go back for a brief visit.

It was disturbing to know that you had a cold during your stay in New York. Please take care of it and if it's still with you, remember a day or two in bed and fluids are the best treatment.

The Louisville Bank incident is closed. Mr. Davis, the Mgr's, letter to me, was quite apologetic in tone and I consider myself a bad guy for fussing at you, should have known you'd take care of it, sorry.

Your telling of Alice's schooling and preparations caused much nostalgia. It brought to mind the cool crisp air of early September, the anticipation of learning and then the realization, new books, new thoughts, things that were hard to grasp and the exquisite feeling that came with understanding, the thump of a boxing glove on mugged

(not mine)

- 2 -

anatomy, the sweat of an honest battle, callow pretense at romance, learning to get along with people that think they're as good as you imagine and hope you are, the awful deflation that comes when it gets through that they're totally correct, the readjustment period, drinking spiked beer with boys who may someday become men, the dull sessions, learning to say, "sorry I'm wrong" (never quite fully learned) buying clothes of many colors, 48 hour poker games, gracious losing, O ditto. I won't go on, hope Alice gets full enjoyment and learning from her schooling, the imagine there will be some minor differences from the above described.

Received a letter from Rena, who was visiting aunt Eva in Pittsburgh. She's art program director at the Y M H A in Boston, Mass. Her letter was newsy and Aunt Eva wrote also. Glad you went to see her while she was in Lexington.

Happy to hear that Dad completed the Clark farm transaction to his satisfaction. Hope he'll continue to breed and race a string as I believe he gets much enjoyment from it.

checked into the allotment etc and everything seems correct at this end. you should be receiving \$60.00 and two war bonds \$25.00 each per month, and they should start as of august. If you haven't received bonds for august, write to the ~~the~~ ^{War Bond} allotment Branch at Chicago, 366 W. Adams St., and have them look into it. I may allot another bond, depending on how much use I have for money where I'm stationed.

... wrote to Sidels, Mullers, Blasses and am writing a collective letter to the Union of Aunt's, Louisville Branch.

Concerning the sailors and bond holding in New York — my, my, (unquietly) got a kick out of Dave Kalms' predictions. He belauds the obvious with consummate skill.

about Victor and his wife, you forgot to make allowances for the bemused state that accompanies pregnancy. Then too, you seemed the tiniest bit concerned, understandable, of course, realize the motivation etc and altho possessive, I know that somewhere in the subconscious, there is a spot, very private, in each person's mind that is reserved for those who have gone before. I have no intention of intruding, you may keep that part of

your mentality, for⁴ your very own, there
is so much to the rest of you that
I love deeply, that I cannot afford to
be envious.

The snapshots that you took,
please send them to me as quickly
as you can.

In referring to Jimmie D. in your
letter, you didn't finish telling where
he is or how he looks etc. I would
be interested in hearing more, if there
is any more.

Your account of Sardi's started
a whole chain of thought about
the visit to Baltimore and New York.
The speed of that trip, I was really a
lunk to drive so fast. If someone else
had been driving, we might not have
arrived in time for me to change
my liners.

Now, let's discuss the rising
hair line. Haven't looked in a mirror
for many days, and then only in a
tin one with imperfect reflection, so
am not in a position to give a
perfect account, but would venture
to say that if there is any rise, it
is gradual and not alarming. If any-
thing drastic happens I will
let you in on it, (ain't losin' none so far)

[REDACTED]
went out for lunch at this

point and can't imagine how I'd finish a sentence that started with [redacted]

Reread this letter and my language sounds like it's formal, in a vented way, but it's too much to rewrite. Can't imagine why it's so stilted, these days in letter writing like everything else.

Writing a short story, if it pans out I'll send it to you. If you like it, send it in and save the rejection slips for me.

I read Damon Runyon's stories at the same time as you did - coincidence

Reading 'Jaw Byrne' - decent so far.

Bernie K. is writing to his chorus girl at the same table. (hope he doesn't see this)

Postwar rates on kisses, entirely free, no strings attached, even after 10 P.M.. all this is in form of a reward for your writing every day. also (secret) I go for that sort of thing myself.

all my love

David

Enclosing 4 money orders, three for \$100.00 and one for \$60.00. Happy anniversary + Xmas and Happy Birthday to Dad.

S Sgt David Bolatin
casual Co 19
APO # 4958
c/o postmaster
New York, N.Y.



Miss David Bolatin
285 S. Ashland Ave
Lexington, Ky.

PASSED BY
13547 S
ARMY EXAMINER
mm.

5

~~Mr. [unclear]~~
Leopard
Via
Bob Frank

W. J. [unclear]
a number
200
[unclear]

15 Oct 44

Jayne Dear,

Al and I had our first adventure today. We went into a nearby town and it went quite like going from one city to another in the states. First of all the trains are really something, not bad, but unusual. There are four passages. 1st + 2nd Intermediate, 3rd Classes. We rode 1st Class, and were fortunate enough to get a compartment to ourselves, complete with electric fan. We locked the door & relaxed. The fare was 3 Rupees 4 annas for a trip. At one of the way stations a cultured English voice inquired whether we would unlock the door. It turned out to be an Indian physician and we had an interesting discussion concerning India's political situation. He seemed to think that India is not yet ready for complete freedom and a plan whereby they could gradually obtain their independence would be best. Of course, being a member of a high caste he may have certain vested interests that prejudice his viewpoint, and the discussion we had

pointed strongly toward that.

we arrived at our destination after dark and took a taxi to town. After bargaining with the cab driver, the price went from Rs 3/8 to 2/5, great stuff, you can't take any fixed price here but must bargain on every transaction, except at established stores.

we ate in a very nice americanized restaurant and had an excellent meal for 4 Rupees. There was an orchestra and dancing, and it's fascinating to watch the people. They are of every type, description and nationality. A kid from the corn belt, a very exact Britisher, a high caste native, Eurasians all at tables within a small area. Felt quite like a cosmopolite. We, of course, were unable to comprehend the menu and luckily ordered a decent meal. Consommé, white fish with an outstanding sauce, fried potatoes, demi-tasse and beaten white of egg topped with whipped cream. Very solid Mrs. Jackson. We did not drink any spirits as liquor is going to be one of my taboos while here. You can't tell if it's decent

and the climate just isn't suitable, even for the mildest forms of dissipation.

Am getting plenty of exercise, calisthenics, football, and just plain walking. My foot feels fine, but after some exertion it still gives way a bit. After the war, maybe one of Dad's nets can fix + bolster my heel, and even if I have to step down a bit in class, I can still be a winner.

Was talking to a captain in the medical corps yesterday and he was telling me about Indian diseases.

You see advertisements in the newspaper for Heprosy cures, venereal disease is very common among the natives, there is of course malaria, dengue fever, phylaxias, caused by embolisms in the blood vessels and many other quaint things. We take elaborate precautions, sleep in mosquito nets, use insect repellants, keep covered between sundown and sunrise and all in no more danger of the mosquito diseases than you are in the states. As far as I know I have yet to get a bite of any kind here. After the war I think I'll continue some of the practices

- 4 -
as its downright comfortable not to
be bothered by insects.

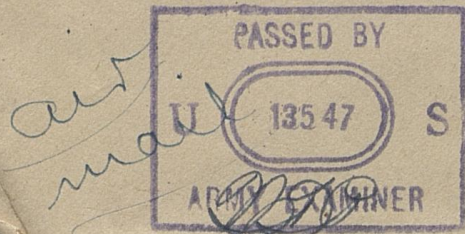
Well honey that's about it for
today, the shops were closed when
I was in town so I still haven't
gotten a chance to do a bit of
shopping.

I love you
David

Sgt David Bolatin
cas co 19
APO 7958
c/o PM, New York



Mrs. David Bolatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, Ky



le



UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE



C. B. I.

Dear Payne,

16 Oct 44

The above is a misnomer, it was the only stationery I could get.

Relaxing today, did a 8 hour guard last night and have today off. Guard was quite an experience. It's entirely dark, no lights at all and I spent most of the time picking my way around mudholes, it did a California on us yesterday and rained in the dry season, very unusual, also very wet. There were some jackals on my post and I was hoping one would get fresh with me so I could try marksmanship by sound, but they're very cowardly and run off at the slightest sound.

I'm all dressed up today



-2-

UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE



C. B. I.

in shorts and short sleeved shirt and sun helmet. Sun I look funny, but it's comfortable.

Sort of tired today. Not used to standing for long periods of time so I'll probably do some resting today.

Got further proof that all is in order about the bonds. We signed the pay roll yesterday and the deductions were in order. I suppose by now you've gotten bonds for August + probably September.

was reading 'Time' today and noticed how, more than ever they tinge the news with clever anti-Roosevelt stuff.

noticed something about the Ky. soldiers ballot, (absentee) that I'd like you to check on if you have the opportunity. Two envelopes came with the ballot



- 3 -

UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE



C. B. I.

~~The~~ The inner envelope, in which the ballot is sealed is about $\frac{1}{4}$ " too small to accommodate the ballot folded as it is, so it's necessary to fold the edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " all the way around. That would be a clever way to distinguish between soldier & non soldier votes after they are placed in the ballot box or it may be an error in sizing the envelopes. I'm kind of unsure to find which is correct.

The insect repellent we use has ruined my watch crystal. If you ever get a chance, send me a crystal in the correct size, I'm sure Mrs. Skubler will know it, and I can arrange to have it put in here. I know how to wear my watch tied through a button hole on my shirt when I have repellent on, but the damage is already done.



UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE



C. B. I.

Bought a mirror today, and found that I still aint pretty. India hasnt done a thing for me.

Haent received any mail lately, but would rather get many letters at once. Letters are called 'sugar ration' here. Hope to get into town one day this week. Maybe I can find something you'd like.

Thats about it for today, trying not to miss you too much but it isnt doing ~~me~~ any good.

I love you

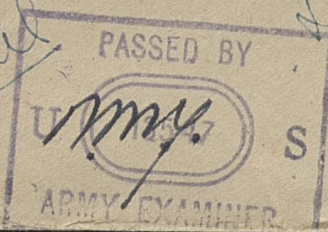
David

Ssgt David Bolatin
Cav Co 19
APO 7958
C/O PM, New York



Mrs. David Bolatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.

*Air
Mail*



7

18 Oct 44

Jayne dear,

Received a letter from you today
sent Sept 30th. Getting my 'sugar
ration' was great. The enclosed
snapshot of Mother + Dad is now in
a waterproof case, and has been
well exhibited. I have to add-in law
in explaining the snapshot to the
fellows. I hate to tell you the
reason 'cause it sounds like soft
soap, but they think that Mother
+ Dad look too young to have
a son my age, 's the truth 's help me.

No adventures since yesterday,
am on temporary duty with Special
Service, keeping the native employees
'coolies' working and general work
of that sort. Ran a Bingo game
last night and was in a misectacking
mood, so we had a lot of fun.
Got off some good cracks about a
little camed elephant, kidded the
guy who chose it as a prize, told
him he was either from Maine or
Vermont (is he actually was from Vermont)

Fixed up my tent a little, built a clothes rack + obtained a table. we have a tent with a wooden floor and it's functional but quite satisfactory.

Have to go out now and find what there is to do.

Have been writing every day, but got my dates mixed up on the last few letters, so you'll have a blank space on the 17th.

Food for my Xmas present is great, don't take too many pains, nothing else I need right now except to be near you, and have to be satisfied with visits via dream, and thinking about you.

you sounded off you'd feed in your letter 'cause you hadn't heard for 35 days. Know you'll understand when you get my first letters.

I love you
David

19 Oct 44

3

Jayne dear,

Had an interesting day today. As I told you, I'm doing odd jobs temporarily until one comes up that's in my line.

Anyway today I had 25 native laborers. We were to make a sunken path, make a drainage ditch, and lay out a deck tennis court. I'd heard you were supposed to be very bossy and tough with them, but today I found that they are like any other bunch of humans, some will work best when coaxed, others need clubbed. Anyway we finished the job very early and there was no loafing.

After that I took an inventory of the Special Service equipment at the Red Cross and cleaned and catalogued the items in the storeroom.

Tomorrow have an interesting project. Am going to lay out a miniature golf course. Reading a book on it this evening and hope I don't snafu the job.

- 2 -

May play a rubber or two
of bridge this evening, not sure
al + I and another fellow named
Miller can get a 4th but will try.

That's it for today sweetheart.
I miss you and love you.

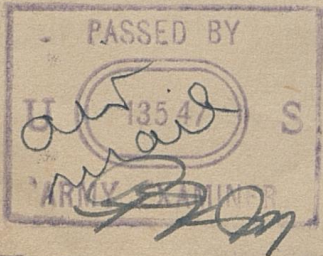
David

S Sgt David Belatin
Case CO 19
APO 7958
C/O P M, New York

POST
494
OCT
19
1944



Mrs. David Belatin
2855 Ashland Ave
Lexington, Ky.



8

20 Oct 44/9

Dear Jayne,

Most of my ink, know you
won't mind one in pencil, there
isn't much doing.

Was reading a collection
of short stories yesterday that
took my fancy. Kenneth Bessie,
Dorothy Canfield, and others.
Each story with a novel twist,
much human interest, some
good thought and altogether
enjoyable.

I'm working on a poem
now, one of my tent mates
has a one year old daughter
named Benny and I've been
bired to write her birthday
poem. I get paid off in Footie
Rolls, (he has to remove the
paper wrapping according to
our contract.)

I knew the mail situation
was too good to last, 3 days
since my last mail + it will
probably be a while until
more letters arrive. Feast
or famine.

as she told you before, our food is quite decent, but it's all the same. When the Xmas packages arrive it'll be a great day (probably in January).

This is a noon hour letter, if anything of interest happens during the day I'll add to it, probably have some ink by then.

Glad I wanted to mail this, received a nice letter from Rona in which she claimed they were better Bridge players but conceded our superior golf ability. Found a new game to like, Valley Ball. It has some similarity to Basket Ball, spiking a ball at the net has the same motion as a sharp overhead pass and playing an opposing man at the net resembles close guarding under the basket when the opposition is about to take a shot. I filled in for a team in a league game & we tied the league leaders.

- 3 -



United States Armed Forces.

and are going to play it off tomorrow.

Do I have to be modest or can I

C-B-I tell you that 'your husband' was kind of the mainstay.

I'm using up a big part of my beer ration tonight. We have an ice box here at Signal School for the express purpose of keeping beer cold. It's really a luxury. At six bottles a week one doesn't swallow it right away, but kind of rolls it around a bit.

Got my laundry back today. They don't use any soap on it, just beat it around on the rocks. It looks clean and comes back ironed, also minus many buttons, but it's better than doing it yourself.

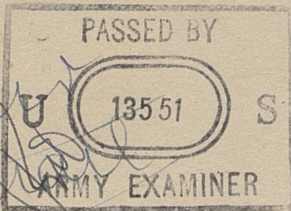
That's it for today honey.
All my love to you

David.

Ssgt David Bolotin
cas co 19 APO 7958
c/o P.M., New York



Mrs. David Bolotin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky



9



24 October 1944

Jayne Sweet,

Well anyway it's a typewriter, even if the space bar is messed up and the keys are so loose that you can't type over 35 or 40 words a minute. 'twill ease your eyes a bit after having to analyze each word for a possible connection with some true word, living or dead when I write longhand.

Again not a darn thing of interest to you has happened. It would take one o f Millard Langfelt's stories to make something interesting out of my experiences. I hope insect repellent is good for the complexion, I use more of it than I do water. A couple of the boys and myself treated ourselves to a decent sort of lime and gin drink the other n ight. It wasn't so bad, but it will never take the place of Kentucky's own. I sure hope that by now some o f my letters have started to arrive, boy is that redundant, 'cause if you read this, the sentence doesn't apply. It's hard to get used to the fact that my letters take so long to arrive, and doubly hard to wait for yours.

It's the tail end of the evening and I have quite a bit of work tomorrow, so am going to turn in, maybe space and time will fade away and I'll meet the sweetness and dearness of you in my dreams.

*I love you
David*

29 Oct 44

Jayne dear,

Hoosay, got a letter today, but it was mailed the 28th of August, so I didn't learn too much news, but letters are letters. Suppose I'll be hearing from you soon. Sure do hope my letters have been arriving regularly, tho' I doubt it.

Well, honey, I'm in school, Signal School, I can't tell you what specific branch, it's very stimulating, and I'm getting quite a kick out of it. As you know, it's the first Army School I've been to and the methods are right decent.

Smoking my pipe quite a bit nowadays. One of the fellows got hold of a decent tobacco and I'm helping him smoke it.

Played some bridge last night with my tournament partner. He's all right, but bids very conservatively, and doesn't interpret my bids too analytically, in other words, he isn't brilliant, so we'll two of a kind and should do terribly in the tournament.

Kind of stymied now. All my experiences now are directly

connected with the school I'm going
to and I can't tell you a word about
them. It's sort of distressing, this
is the first time I've felt the pinch
of censorship.

Haven't been to town since
the first time, and probably won't
be going any more, except perhaps
next Sunday. This fellow I told
you about named Reggie Giles
asked me in and I may go with
him.

I brought two dolls, one for
Joanne + one for Janet. I'll mail
them both to Lexington and
will you tell Esther to take her
pick and forward the other to
Chicago, as I can only mail one
package a month.

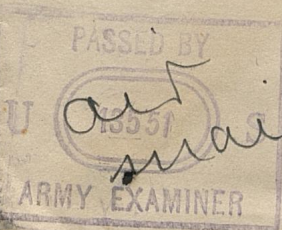
That's about all for today.

I love you
David

Ssgt David Beletim
cas co 19 APO 7958
c/o pm, new-york



Mrs. David Beletim
285 S. Ashtland ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky



10

31 Oct 44

fairly sweet,
you ought to see the winter
moon here. It's so bright that
you can almost read by it. The
country is pretty at night, the
silver flush of moonlight does
quite a bit for it. But, it's only
functional since you're not about.
might as well not be so pretty,
doesn't mean anything.

The lighter is still working
fine. Having an awful time
getting lighter fluid tho. The PX
never has it. I'm trying to find
a substitute. May try Indian skin,
as it smells much like lighter fluid,
and the fellows get lit up pretty
well on it. (I've sampled it and it's
not too bad) though the kind I had
was English skin, (Isordens).

Just had a terrific argument with
a guy at the next table. He asked
me how to spell mangers. It
turned out that he thought the

leaders of the allied war effort were
war mongers and classified
them with Hitler. After a very
heated discussion I broke through
his very thin veneer of ~~worked~~ words
and found abysmal ignorance.

peculiar chap, I wonder how often
his kind is duplicated.

Well that's it for tonight.
It rained very hard today and
I've a slight touch of cold, so
I'm going to bed early.

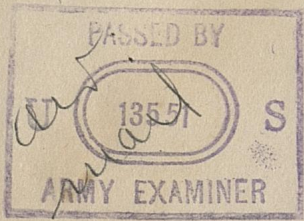
Good night sweetheart

Love
David

Ssgt David Belatin
cas co 19 APO 7958
c/o pm. New York



Mrs. David Belatin



285 S. Ashland Ave
Lexington, 37, Ky

11

~~James~~
Baker

John
Kirk

Bill

Tom Adams

Walden

School

Library

Maple
Lodge

front line
reader
25. new

Jayne dear,

9 Nov 44

Buy someone a Xmas present or something with the enclosed check. One of the fellows was broke so I cashed it for him and now can't get it cashed. Don't need the money anyhow.

Wonder how long it'll take to hear the election news? Probably get it right away. Hope so anyway.

Setting along swimmingly nowadays. Not much to complain about, except a sizeable bump on my forehead, obtained in a bit of boxing. Under the soothing touch of the medical corps it's gradually resentering my forehead.

Was talking with an old army Sgt. from the Sand Hills in Nebraska. He told me there is usually a lot of Hereford cattle feeder size for sale in season there at reasonable prices and

- 2 -

Dad probably knows all about the situation there but thought I'd send him the address of a Sales Barn there just on the off chance that it might be interesting. It's Chambers Sales Barn, Chambers Nebraska.

Was talking to a fellow today who's been here [REDACTED] months. Looks like I'll have to come home by way of Tokyo. In other words it's the duration and not before till I'll be home. Not too nice, but a fact's a fact.

Must get to sleep so I'll be fresh for tomorrow's schooling. Isn't like the campus of '35, but it has its points. This is the first time since I've been in the army that I've learned something new instead of applying things I already knew. Good for post war state of mind, 'cause I

sure will have plenty to learn in
a new field.

It's a good thing I know
you write every day, 'cause I'm
sure not getting any mail. I'll
probably all hit me at once and
I'll have a real field day, only
I hope it's soon.

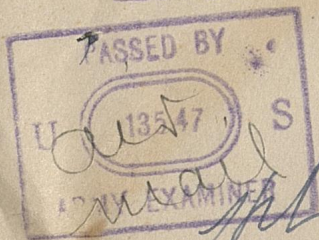
Goodnight dear,

I love you
David

S Sgt David Balatin
cas co 19, APO 7958
c/o p.m., N.Y.



Mrs. David Balatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, Ky.



1

4 Nov. 44

Jayne dear,

Received your letter of Oct 12 + the enclosed clipping. Hope dad keeps some of the brood mares as I believe he enjoys racing. Also for no good reason I've got a hunch that the yearling filly by Sir Damien - Jangler will be a lucky animal. She was bred when we were home on fullough in the summer of 43 and she's grey. May be another 'Flying Streak' or better. At least she won't be mean like 'Blondie Jayne' and bite the stable boys hand off. What's Dad going to do with Maurice Skinner?

Located a fellow with a camera and as soon as we run into some film will send some snapshots home.

Got a letter from Al Malinow. He's quite satisfied with his new job. Benid is in the next tent to mine, we chum about a bit and drink our lives together, he's a good boy.

was going into town tomorrow with Reggie Siles, but he promised

to put on a programme of classical recordings for the Red Cross Club here, so am going to stay in and listen to the programme instead. Then afterwards will have a private concert accompanied by some good ju. Sunday y'know, gotta relax.

Ran into some Edgeworth tobacco, strip packed, that's pretty decent, so if you haven't done so, don't bother to send any tobacco.

How was the tobacco crop this year? It was so dry last summer that Mr. Moore said that the yield would be off about 10% per acre. Did it turn out that way? Is it 'pasty' and golden like the Lucky Strike ads? Ha! I suppose if the weather ran true to form it rained like all get out in the early fall.

The sore throat I told you about in a previous letter is all gone, feeling top notch again.

Your volunteer work in the mental clinic should be

interesting. write more about it. what's
the name of the attending psychiatrist.
what class of people are treated there?
also please don't read too much
abnormal psych; you're liable to be
able to see thru my thin veneer
when I get home. ~~Being~~ Being away from
you for so long isn't good, it's
damned awful in fact, miss you dear.
not complaining, just an observation.

That's all the news, going
to bed early tonight. Great thing
sleep.

I do love you

David

S/Sgt David Boletín
cas co. 19 APO 7958
c/o p.m., New York



Mrs. David Boletín
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky

PASSED BY
U 13551 S
air mail EXAMINER

2

6 Nov. 44

3

Fayne dear,

Candlelight, great, except they don't give much light. Writing to you under the stars, quite nice, clear candleholder, best bottle. School is fine except we have no time for exercise. We finish at 4:30 and by the time we eat & shower it's 6:00 and Malama discipline prevents any athletic activity, besides it gets dark early. Suppose one of these days I'll find some place where I can do some boxing and that's a good conditioner.

Had a pair of boots made. They're not too bad. Cost \$12.00.

Indian workmanship is not too good & the leather is of a medium grade. Boots are very

useful here, as mosquitoes frequently bite the ankles.

I may seem to be overly interested in insects, but I want to stay on the right side of the percentages as far as anophelis are concerned.

Saw my first movie in India tonight. The opportunity to see them is always present, but so far I've preferred to read or write letters. "Casanova Brown" and I enjoyed it. Always get a kick out of Gary Cooper, weak plot though.

I know that you write very often, but delivery is a bit slow here (understatement) But I can always look forward to getting many letters at once.

My light is losing its oomph, so I suppose I'd

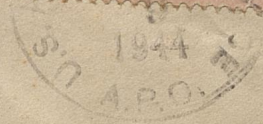
letter turn in.

all my love

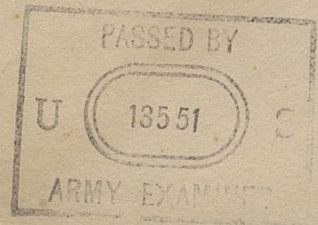
David

P.S. It's a shame to waste a whole page so I'll quote an excerpt from a letter received by Red Cross. "I have been in bed with my Doctor for two weeks and he isn't doing me any good, I shall have to try another."

S Sgt David Boletun
Co. #19 APO 7958
40 pm., N.Y.



Mrs. David Boletun
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, Ky.



3

Malicki
~~Blossom~~
Coats
Picture
Lobster
Locket

10 nov-44

4

Jayne dear,

Really living in the lap of luxury. Have a gas mantle lantern and guess where I got it. Remember the incident of breaking up a fight the other day. Well, the loser looked me up and gave me his lantern, said he wouldn't be needing it, nice huh. It's battered but still works, had to clean it up of course.

For the first time in years, I'm kind of at a loss for letter writing material. My main activity can't be reported, not because it's anything unusual, but it's not allowed by the censor, so I can't tell you much about Signal School.

Had half way decided to go to Services in town, but wanted to write to you and do a little reading so decided against it. Glad I didn't go now. Also less of sleep is pretty bad in this climate, (I know what you're saying) less of sleep for OB is bad in any climate and maybe you're right.

Get a thrill out of your showing
your musical talents. Put a lot of
time on your piano playing, know
you'll enjoy it and at last I'll have
an (accompanist) in the family. Should
be able to irritate people for at
least a black around.

Guess this feast and famine
proposition with letters will
continue until I have a permanent
Apo. my mail gets kicked around
a bit at present.

as I understand it, I'll be
lucky to get the packages you
sent last month by late December.
But I always have something to
look forward to.

Goodnight sweetheart, going
to read a little. I love you

David

S Sgt David Balatin
Co. CO # 19
APO # 4958
70 P.M., New York

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
194
NOV
17
1944
A.P.O.



Mrs. David Balatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.

PAID BY
13551
ARMY EXAMINER

4

13 Nov. 445

Jayne dear,

Got through the ^{new} line early today, so have a bit of time. I'm eating my dessert while writing, it's a toffee roll. They melt in your mouth, they also melt before they get to your mouth. We play a game with candy bars. One man is "it", he's blindfolded. We then give him a candy bar to eat. He guesses if the paper wrapper has been removed or not, if he guesses correctly we cut the string from the center of the bar & he gets to swallow it.

Glad you got your Xmas present. If you don't spend at least part of it for something you want I'll be very unhappy. Write and tell me what you got, that's an order.

Got some mail this morning, latest letter was Nov. 1, that's really going some. Better be careful what you write, "People will say we're in jail." on the other hand I guess you don't have to be so careful, the rumor about us has probably gotten around.

They rigged up a public address system here at Signal School and during the noon lull they broadcast recordings, usually juke. It's real nice, they've got a terrific collection of recordings, Shaw, Goodman, Duke spots, Andrew Sisters, the whole set up.

prophets are never honored in their own country. Reggie was stinging some wire so his outfit would have all the power. I made the splices for him and showed him how to bring his wires into a fuse box, and you were hesitant about

my fixing a light cord in faplin.

I'm working on my short story. So far it isn't too bad, but the situations are so fixed that it wouldn't pass the censor because places are mentioned, so I won't be able to send it home when finished. Besides it would be kind of a dirty trick to make a censor wade through thousands of words. It's a thought though in case the unit censor crosses me, I can always get even by submitting my story. It's a cruel way of getting even, but —

Very proud of your successful Community Chest Campaign. It's ever so about all work. In order to be a good leader you have to set an example for your group. Of course there are many angles to leadership, but the one thing does stand out, you'll gotta work.

Have a disagreeable job planned for this afternoon after school, that of airing my clothes. It must be done at least every three weeks to prevent molding. It's very damp here in the morning.

Still haven't gotten to take any snapshots, but it's still on schedule, maybe not tomorrow, but soon.

Noon hour over, back to the daily chores. Thought — too bad the people moved out of the ^{big} house on the Clark Farm a couple of months ago, I'd have been interested in helping them with their work now.

I love you
David

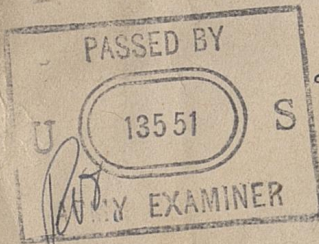
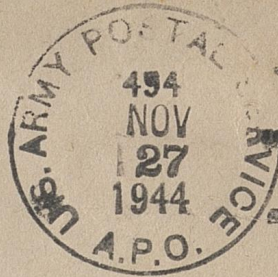
couple of things I wanted to mention
and forget. 1ST, don't send time or coconut
they're both available at present thru
Special Services here.

Please thank Dad for getting me on
the mailing list of the Thoroughbred
Magazine. That's something I can't get
here and will enjoy reading.

The races will have come &
gone by the time you receive this.
Hope you did all right, hope Dad's
mags cooked with oats.

Bye again sweetheart,
David

S/Sgt David Belatin
cas. co 19 APO 7958
c/o p.m., New York



Mrs. David Belatin
285 S. Ashland
Lexington, 37, Ky.

Air
mail

5

Jayne dear,

14 Nov 44

6

By making from class like mad I seem to be managing quite a bit of time off during the lunch hour. I've listened to the loudspeaker, Read Emersons Essay on 'compensation' and have time to write to you.

The fact that there is nothing happening of interest and if there was I couldn't tell you about it, doesn't seem to bother my letter writing any more.

Bridge game scheduled this evening. Its rather amazing, we've never played for any stakes, yet the play is careful & cautious. The play is also skillful, so I guess the pride that each man takes in his playing keeps the game on an even keel without resorting to stakes.

Been smoking my pipe quite a lot lately. I'm not particular about tobacco anymore, any kind does OK, and I'm getting all I need. Every once in a while I turn a little green from smoking nasty plug, but soon I'll be able to take it all in stride.

Frank not so hot Ra, Sinatra is giving forth on the loudspeaker with

'paper Dollie' personally, I could never go for the paper variety, but maybe that's because I've been so fortunate in finding a solid real live one.

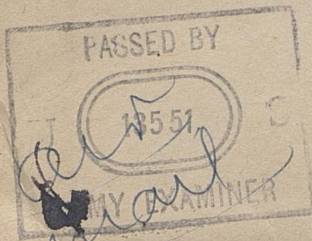
Letter writing time is running out, got to soak the mornings dirt off da' face and it's almost time for school.

I love you
David

S Sgt David Belatin
cas. co. 19, APO 7958
c/o p.m., New York



Mrs. David Belatin
285 S. Ashland ave
Lexington, 37, Ky.



6

15 Nov. 44

7

Jayne dear,

In re: the bonds, refer to one of the first letters you received from India, and there you will find the address in Chicago of the outfit that takes care of Bond allotments. If the bonds don't arrive, let 'em have a nasty letter too. The allotment is still in force, sic 'em, muph.

was relieved to read that your stomach inflammation is not too bothersome. no matter how nasty the medicine is, it can't be any worse than the local whiskey. Not funny huh? Take care of yourself Jayne.

Got a kick out of your reaction in a recent letter to my extra-curricular activities, for that's really what they are. actually I can't tell you what the situation is, time, place or anything, now, or for the future; maybe later will be allowed a bit more freedom in writing.

I didn't realize that I was asking you to break a law, I'm sorry, since I asked you to break only one you'll know what I mean (Hal)

I've never received the circular letter that W.L. Weller sends to the boys in the Service, the other fellows seem to be receiving it, so I wonder. It would kind of remind me of home for Xmas. If you'll ask around, you'll find that it's rather a common practice, so see if there's some safe and tactful way to get me on the mailing list.

Never have received any of the packages that were sent. They take a long time. Got quite a kick out of Gilbert's perpetual requests. Esther told me about them too. Actually there's very little a fellow needs that isn't available here, if you know what I mean, that is, on the existence plus ~~level~~ level.

There's a new song out about Ky., it smells fierce, had it repeated or something, they just played it on the loud speaker.

your letters are really getting solid. Wish I had some that you wrote when you were courting me. I'll bet they'd suffer by comparison, of course, you got results and that's what counts.

Bennie's wife is a bit wrong about him, he's in the next tent to mine.

My next letter to you will be the first of its kind. I've been hinting around, but I think you're entitled to a real "sugar ration" letter, the title will be, "Answer, M1 from me to Jayne." Are you waiting. Ha, it will be a real situation, I mean sensation. In the meantime be satisfied with a plain I love you.

P.S. on 2nd thought, I'll send you a preliminary poem, kind of a warm up.
David
- title obvious -

Suppose Cyrano and Romeo were courting you.
oh! what a flow of words.

icky sticky words.

the flowers, the bees, the sky and the birds.
all beautifully described and tied in central theme
and added one on top the other till they made a team.

(OVER)

The truth isn't far.
From what these boys would say,
The actual fact is that your smiles,
Like the light of day
And your eyes, cool, green, deep
Yet clear and honest
Each glance from them
A shrewd promise.
Being away from all these things
Is really fraught with pain.
In other words, the truth is that
I really love my fair one.

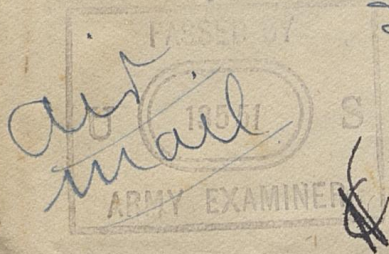
proverb "True com after, cloaks true love."

(OVER)

S Sgt David Balatin
cas co #19 APO 7958
c/o pm, New York



Mrs. David Balatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.



7

16 Nov 44

Jayne dear,

Every time I start this letter I blush. Remember, this was to be the heavy 'Sugar Ration' letter. Don't mind the censor reading it, but in your last letter you mentioned that you're saving the stuff I write to you. Twenty years or so from now, our kids (may we get them started soon) will go rooting through their man's stuff, find some of the letters, and indict their pop for being super corny. They can't object, however, to a few simple statements. The three years that we've been married, have been best years, that sounds ungrammatical, but I just had to stick a superlative in, 'cause that's the way it is, just plain superlative. I miss you very much, and that's the thing that makes the going a little rough, yet on the other hand, it's good to know that when the shooting stops, you'll be there to come home to and that makes all this well worth sweating out. Now, future children, that really isn't so terrible, considering that I love your Mother very much, I think a great deal of

- 2 -
restraint has been shown.

Not much happening in the way of news. I get mail regularly from Al, he's a faithful correspondent. Got a letter from Shirley, kind of cute. That's about it. At the cost of being repetitious I'll say

I'll say

I'll say

I love you

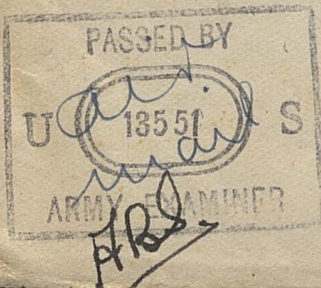
I'll say

David

S Sgt David Bolatin
cas co 19 APO 7958
c/o pm, New York



Mrs David Bolatin
295 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky



7

unhappy. v sep.
but happy. v love

negative unity
since v see. & well being
saying

United States Armed Forces.

18 Nov 44



CBI

Jayne dear,

I'm a bit tired tonight. Did some handwriting analysis at the Red Cross Club and it turned out to be a very interesting set up. They had a birthday party for Nov. It seems that the program director scheduled only one thing so I had to carry on for 3 solid hours. Well, you know that I haven't the faintest idea how to analyze handwritings, but everyone seems to accept generalities personally and therefore most anything goes over all right. Anyway I had an innovation. If the man who was being analyzed so desired, he could ask a question. Anyway the thing turned into a well controlled discussion of personalities, how to deal with people, personal behaviour problems etc. The fellows seemed to enjoy it,



- 2 - United States Armed Forces.

they all stuck around the full time and it was a success generally. It's a good way of beginning constructive discussion and some good was done for the men present by funneling the ideas of all into a central chute and bringing them together in an organized way. So much for that.

Tomorrow being Sunday I plan to sleep, precious, desirable sleep. (until noon) Then in the afternoon Reggie is playing some of his recordings, Brahms, Tschaikeuiz and he's got a Sibelius Recording done by a British Symphony/Orch. Knowing nothing about symphonic music, I've still been getting a deep satisfaction from just listening. Somehow it brings me closer to you because I know how much



3 - United States Armed Forces.

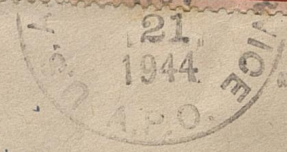
you enjoy good music and its
very satisfying to find myself
developing quite a taste for it.
so build our library of Recordings
up, they'll give us many a fine
evening.

well sweetheart its about time
for bed. good night - I love you
David

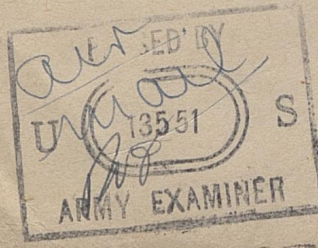
P.S. In a special super message
let me tell you that the snapshot
(which I received today) was
just right, super good, swell,
tops. Haven't looked it over
real carefully yet (only spent
2 hours looking at it today)
thanks honey, take some
more please.

PPS. Got a letter from Gene Sedell
very non-pitiful but nice.

S/Sgt David Belatin
Casual Co # 19
APO 1958
40 PM, New York



Mrs. David Belatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky



2

Bach
Jenische
H.S. Selma

Concert

Con.

analysis



United States Armed Forces.

21 Nov 44

Jayne dear,

was in a letter writing mood last night, wrote to Irene + Rang, and Dave + me.

played 3 volley ball games this evening, won 2, but lost 1. Got a good workout anyway. In answer to a question asked long ago, my stomach is flat, but that's all.

Received two letters today, written on the 7th + 8th. anxious to learn how 'Her Answer' did at Churchill Downs. She hasn't started before has she.

glad you sent the tobacco, altho after asking for it, decided that it was quite a bother for you to send it. Thanks honey, I'm looking forward to real smoking now, and the food will really be welcome.



CBI

- 2 -

United States Armed Forces.

was invited to a budge game tonight, but didn't feel like it. I thought I'd rather write a letter and go to bed early.

Don't think I've mentioned the weather lately. It's nice & hot during the day; but very cold & somewhat damp during the night. Sleeping in tents with the sides up, it's really a scramble to keep warm during the night. Besides sleeping in winter underwear, ~~we~~ use 3 blankets, 1 raincoat and a machinaw. That's a story in itself.

My gas lantern had some minor defects so I worked on it & now it's a total loss. up to my old tricks again. So I've decided that candlelight is romantic. If it only gave a bit more light.

Remember the Necco Sugar wafers we used to eat when we were kids, well there's the man candy here,

United States Armed Forces.



since chocolate melts too quickly
to be used here.

Got another note from Al.
He can't tell me a thing about his job.
-no war secrets of any kind will ever
filter through if men are as careful
in their speech as in their writing.

That's the news for today.
Time sure slips by, it hasn't seemed
like any more than two years
since I've been away from you.

I love you
David.

11/21/44
S Sgt David Belatin
cas co. 19, APO 7958
c/o pm - new york



Mrs David Belatin
285 S. Ashland ave
Lexington, 37, Ky.

air
mail

3

23 Nov 44 4

Jayne Sweet,

Feeling in a very expansive mood, what with a terrific dinner under my belt and time to think of you. The menu, Turkey, cranberries, potatoes, corn, peanuts, hard candy, pineapple + coffee. It was kind of all together, mesquite not being too soomy, but it sure tasted fine. There was no dressing on the Turkey and I had a nostalgic feeling for Fenox's turkey dressing. I also missed Ilos's good natured special wide Thanksgiving sewing pin. You might wish them a good Thanksgiving for me.

Remember two Thanksgivings ago. I was pretty heartless in those days wasn't I. I think there'll be some changes made. Still get an embarrassed feeling when my actions come to mind. The dinner last year was better. Vestal Wilson supplied the Turkey + you made the trimmings that was fun. Then when we were home on furlough that fall. Dad giving me enough Drumstick for a squad of men, then when he urged me to

take seconds I delicately accepted after much urging. Dad's technique of just putting it on the plate did the trick. Islas' unbelieving stare when he saw the amount of bones on my plate and I still took more vegetables etc. Then the secret hand holding me did during dinner and the way mother quietly, without ceremony ate her just share of things, Esandua also made steady progress with her meal and Alice flitted hither & yon from one thing to another, kind of like a bird, and one person at the table fooled around & stalled until the 'belly' test came. So you see, I ate Thanksgiving dinner here, but my mind kept drawing pictures of home and you and today I missed all these things more than usual, and usual's quite a bit; but it's fine to have the firm conviction that whatever I have to sweat out here, looking forward to the time when I can come home is all the mental sustenance I need.

I love you
David

Ssgt David Balatin
cas. co. 19, APO 7958
C/O P.M., NEW YORK



Mrs. David Balatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.



4

25 Nov. 44.



United States Armed Forces.

Jayne Lee,

Whoopie, Saturday night, that means I can stay up late, read if I want to and write to you.

was interested in your bracketing of fake Lowenstein + Clifford in your letter from Louisville. Too bad I wasn't at the races to help you pick em. You could have lost at least twice as much. You didn't mention any of Dad's horses, so I presumed he didn't have any entries while you were there.

Haven't conditioned myself to being lonely yet. Still have forlorn moods at times. Imagine that adjustment comes gradually.

Been smoking Edgeworth's packed strip tobacco in my pipe. Sometimes I suspect that they leave a good deal of the stalk in the tobacco. It tastes



United States Armed Forces.

fine for a while, then suddenly you get a pipeful that tastes like long grass, and is somewhat nauseating.

I wrote to the aunts some time ago, you never mentioned their having received a letter & they haven't written, been wondering if the letter was lost.

Incidentally recalled your complaint about a horse going to the post at Churchill Downs at 5-2, then paying \$6.20. That's not far off, only 80¢, tak tak. Remember, they don't have a tote in Louisville, that much difference could easily occur in the last tickets ^{purchased} before the start and after the final odds are posted.

Will probably listen to Reggie's regular Sunday afternoon concert tomorrow, maybe find something to read, haven't anything good sight now



C-B-I

3-

United States Armed Forces.

Read 'Life in a putty Factory' by
H. Allen Smith. Humor that sticks
to your ribs, pretty bald in spots,
but always funny. ~~There's his~~ story about
the practical joker who wants to
purchase a complete section at an
opening of the 'met'. Have everyone in
the section with bushy black hair
and place bald headed men in such
a way that they'll spell out a four
letter word and he wants to use
Nicholas Murray Butler to dot the 2.
picture yourself in one of the galleries,
aint it awful.

Listening to a recording of
all temptations on our loud speaker,
something by Rachmaninoff, didn't get
the title, he does 'Fanny O' Zoell'
better.

Feel much better already,
just writing to you is enough to



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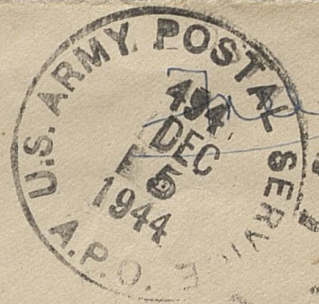
dispel the gloom.

(and misery)

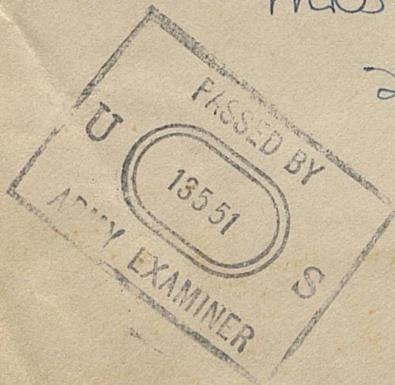
How did you find aunt Fanny
& aunt Caroline? Your mention of aunt
Ray reminds me of her embarrassing ^{question}
one day, I think mother was there,
she wanted to know why I was
going with Ray Sabal and you at the
same time (an obvious misinterpretation
of facts) myf sed.

That about exhausts the
events of the day, think I'll turn
in early tonight. Have added my
raincoat to my bed casing. That
does it, really keeps the chill out.
But all things considered, it's a
mediocre substitute. I love you
David

S Sgt David Balatin
~~CO~~ CO 19 APO 7958
C/O pm - new-york



Mrs. David Balatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.



5

27 Nov. 44 6

United States Armed Forces.



Jayne dear,
just finished playing 2 more
volleyball games, won one + lost
one. I spent most of the time on
the ground. They kept hitting low
ones + the only way you can get
them is by diving low at them.

Spent kind of a lazy Sunday.
Talked to a couple of fellows, read
some, played cribbage + did nothing
in general. Makes a pretty long
day of it. Didn't write 'cause for
once the day was really blank
and when I tried to write I could
only say that I love you, so I'll
say it twice in today's letter.

Probably go to a movie
tonight, don't know what's playing,
but it's something to do.

Been looking over the local
language again. Know the basic



United States Armed Forces.

words, but can't understand anything the Indians say.

Found some old magazines around that I hadn't read, they'll keep me busy in odd moments.

Useless department, a fellow gave me a package of paper to print photos on. Without a camera or films I can't do much with it. I'm still hoping that some palsy walsy guy will come along with a camera & films.

Well, guess I'll put my mosquito goo on and leave for the cinema. Hold it, a fellow just walked in & told me that there'll be no show tonight, they're painting the screen or something.

The mail delivery department is getting weak again. Got about one letter every five days.



C.B-1

United States Armed Forces.

one of these days all the
back mail will come in and
I'll spend hours enjoying it.
But in the meantime it's kind of a
sad world.

well honey that's it.

I love you

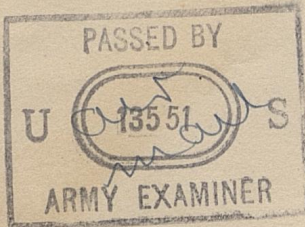
David

P.S. Knew there was something I
forgot. In your letter of 6 ~~or~~ now
you mentioned something about a
change in war bond allotments. There's
been no change except the bonds are
not sent out until we're actually
paid, and I haven't been getting
paid at the end of each month. So
there'll be a delay, but the bonds
will finally arrive. If they're too
long in coming look up the address
of the war ~~and~~ Bond allotment branch
in Chicago, I sent it in one of my
first letters from here.

S Sgt Edward J. Bolotin
cas co. 19 APO 7958
C/O P.M., New York



Mrs. David Bolotin
285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky



6



29 Nov 44 ⁷
United States Armed Forces.

Fayne dear

Big day today, two letters from you, one from mother & one from Aunt Juliet, really picks a fellow up. Mother's was addressed to 7598 so it took quite a while to get here.

Dave K's predictions were interesting, probably have a logical basis. Your analysis is good too and is probably true, although you were wrong in making your final (third) assumption, after all submarginal land doesn't follow economic impulses immediately, there's quite a lag.

Sorry for the downcast tone of the last few letters. I suppose the adventure wore off and I finally realized that ~~that~~ a long time's going to elapse until I can come home & it's going to seem longer than it is. However, things can proceed



- 2 -
United States Armed Forces.

on an even keel again. The realization of a problem is always a good start toward its solution.

Sorry you had a mediocre day at the track; see, that proves that it wasn't my selections that were at fault. What kind of a race did Dad's horse run, I mean 'her answer'. Did she improve her position? Was she ridden well? What was Maurice's answer like?

was really pleased to hear that Edwin + Judy are engaged. When it becomes official let me know so I can write to them.

Got a kick out of your meeting Mrs. K. The old gal is really as nutty as a fruit cake. I remember when we used to play gin rummy when I first moved to Louisville, she'd never show me her hand when I knocked, and I was too



C-B-I

- 3 -
United States Armed Forces.

timid to ask.

There's a newspaper reading light
moon out tonight. A bath of silvery
light sure helps the scenery here.
Not getting aesthetic, just a random comment
the moon's only a night light when
you're not around.

Hey toots, we never argued
about how much I could bet on the
horses, you said your say and I
bet all I had anyway, mighty fresh
about I, it's the distance.

Believe I'll turn in early
tonight, played a game of touch football
this afternoon so am properly tired.

Goodnight sweetheart

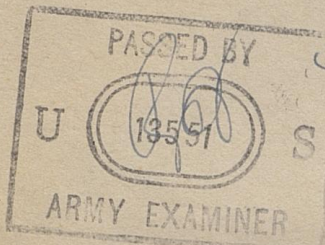
I love you
David

P.S. out of air mail stamps, compare
the delivery date of this & air mail

S Sgt David Bolatin
cas co. 19 APO 7958
40 pm, New York



Mrs. David Bolatin
285 S. Ashland Ave.



Lexington, 37, Ky.

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