

1 Jan 45

Jayne dear,

First day of a new year, so please excuse the following. as you know O'Boletun is leading the life of O'Reilly. my job, although a necessary one ^(sort of) of the cogs, takes little of my time, less of my thoughts, and so because I'm in India, have time on my hands, I've plenty of time to read, and try to think. Because I've met no one who could guide me in thinking, I have interpreted many things differently than in the past and so feel that since we're a unit I should try to tell you about the changes, or rather consolidations.

First of all I think I'm beginning to get a small inkling of what president Roosevelt is planning in his peace aims. The basis and the practical application. When the peace conference is over, a cry will immediately arise of power politics, abrogation of the four freedoms, imperialistic England has too far a hand, Russia is too powerful and therefore not trustworthy. all these things or rather clichés will have many supporters in our country. Mr. Hearst will blow his top (I hope) and there'll be a stir. what the aims of the peace conference should and probably will be are nowhere better expressed than in Walter Lippman's book, "U.S. Foreign Policy". Many basic of quarrel exist between

HEADQUARTERS
35TH REPLACEMENT BATTALION

Russia, England, China and usas. I want go into them. Their matters of economies, inherent political jealousies, and lingering mistrusts of past and present actions.

A good example ^{is} ¹ Russia's removal of equipment from Rumanian oil fields without consulting us, ² Englands policy in Greece, ³ Russia's treatment of the Polish question, ⁴ our invasion of ^{so called} Englands Arabian oil fields. The point is that although these things have some importance, they are as a whole completely overshadowed by the fact that our only possible road to a fairly lasting peace lies in a strong union of the four powers. Anyone who, because of one thing or another advocates any other course might as well forget about putting away their shooting iron when this war is over. might as well keep it ready, for the next war would soon be upon us. ~~Our~~ ^{our} interests are so bound up with Russia + England and theirs so bound up with ours, from a standpoint of geography, ^{and} political interest. I think both Russia and England see this very clearly and therefore those quarrels that do arise ^{in the future} will be settled amicably. Russia has clearly indicated that she does not want war. she wants a chance

to develop herself internally. England will certainly not want war and will not fool around with an attempt to get a European balance of power mainly because she knows that Russia will stand for it, and we certainly have nothing whatsoever to go to war about. Call it whatever you want, League of Nations or anything else, the solution is a union of strength and common interest. We'll quarrel, but they'll be settled quickly, because it'll be to everyone's best long term interests that they be settled. We'll scramble for world markets and will have economic squabbles, but it will be a world of free competition and a peaceful world. I've left many things out, it's just me telling you what I think without trying to be clever or complete.

There is another trend of thought I think you might be interested in. I find myself constantly reexamining my position as a Jew. It's a hard thing to put into words but I'll try. As you know, I'm a bit weak in a religious way and have always felt that there was nothing that I could sincerely tell myself to; this feeling hasn't changed much. Now here's

what I consider the salient point. Before putting it down I'll say that I realize that it's contrary to most intelligent opinion, but here it is anyway. ①

I can't find myself thinking on any question from what will temporarily call the Jewish viewpoint, an example comes to mind, England's treatment of the Palestine question. Her actions are shabby, unfair, miserably punctuated by self interest, but I do not find myself militant only because Jews are involved, I want to see justice done, but hardly more than I want justice for the peoples of France, Poland et al., and if it came to a question where the interests of the United States were involved opposed to the interests of the Jewish community in Palestine, for example our concessions to Arabs in view of obtaining oil leases, I have no hesitation in saying that I would not be deeply stirred as a few, but would look more to the interests of the American community. Such things occur rarely, here's kind of a summation of how my reactions are different than they were at one time. When something happened in the past, I would think, "How will this

effect me as a few, and now my reaction is, "How will this effect the United States." This is harder to explain than I thought it was going to be, but that's my position. I'm no longer in possession of a viewpoint that has a bias of background. Tell you what I'll do, instead of rambling on, I'll quickly summarize a few points and you write me your reaction and any points you think ought to be considered and we'll put our heads together. I won't attempt to discuss the following few points, I'll just put them down as I feel they effect the question. ① opinion that the above is silly and there is no choice to make, one a religion, the other not having any relationship to the former. ② opinion that outside pressures so limit your area of association that you have no choice and must inevitably be pressed into a mold. ③ that self interest would point a different course. O.K. will let that be that.

I think I'll relax tonight and read Benchley. By the way you'll be glad to know that I'll



UNITED STATES ARMY

been wearing my spectacles for
reading + close work. I have found
that I can read for hours with
no eye strain.

Thought: If all the "I's"
used in this letter were laid
end to end they would ~~not~~
rise to an egouanial mountain,
forgive me, but remember it was
a purely subjective letter.

Goodnight sweetheart

I love you

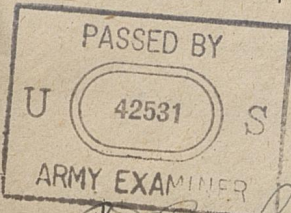
David

P.S. won't be able to write for
a few days

Sgt David Balatin 35478690
185th QM CO (D.S.)
Replacement Depot #4
APO #213, 40PM-N.Y.



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



1

8 Jan 45 2

Jayne dear,

Got my assignment today in QM Records. It's a challenging, interesting job. Feels good to be back in business again.

Sunset today was impressive. Mountains, a lake, a big orange sun, even your unattractive husband stood by and admired. This is certainly the prettiest part of India that I've seen, but it's really cold this time of the year at night; however since the army is generous about the issue of clothing I've got enough stuff to pile on so that I'm comfortable.

Wrote a letter to Al Malinow this evening. Haven't heard from him lately, probably due to my two transfers. I'm expecting mail to catch up with me soon, and that, of course, will be the day. I've given up on the Xmas packages, maybe they'll

get here one of these months.

There are some Kentucky boys here, but though some are all right, many of them are kind of hard to get along with. They're mostly from Eastern Ky (hilly section)

Received a copy of the Shoroughbred Club letter, found it very interesting. If they're still functioning after Jan 3rd will you give them my new address. Also, send my new APO to the magazines.

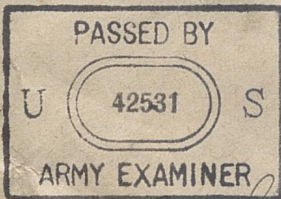
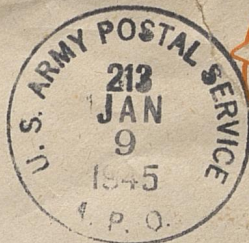
Finally found a fellow with a camera and should have some pictures soon. I dig the snaps you sent me extremely often + review them. Take some more + send them when you can, they're quite a help.

Goodnight sweetheart

I love you

David

S. Sgt David Belotin 35448690
185th QM CO. (D.S.)
Repl. Dep. #4
APO 213, 40PM-N.Y.



O. Burke

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

2

~~bridge hand
Louis - store~~

~~Send back
Hotel
hand~~

~~2 days~~

~~draw~~

~~say~~

looking
above

10 Jan 45 3

Jayne dear,

notice the heavy script of my pen. It was getting finer & finer, but I finally broke down & cleaned it and the pen here had some posher 51 ink, so it writes normally again. I hate to say anything about not having lost it yet, but even if I lose it tomorrow, it's been longer lived than any of its predecessors.

It happened today. Many letters all the way up to the 23rd of Dec. One from Mother, a Xmas card from the Muellers, a letter from the Sedels and some wonderful ones from you. The enclosed cartoon illustrates the way I felt very aptly.

As usual I slipped up on the folks anniversary, which gives me an idea. How about sending me a list of everyone's birthday, anniversary, and/or anything else that I ought to keep track of and I'll commit it to memory (aided by a notebook). You may leave out the events I can't

possibly forgot because you've mixed up in them.

Saw 'Mr. Winkle Goes to War' last night. Don't know how I avoided seeing it before. Found it very good entertainment and got quite sentimental over the whole thing. We have a nice outdoor theatre here and I attend the pictures religiously three times a week.

Due to the season it's dark here until quite late in the morning; therefore I've learned to shave in the dark.

Incidentally I've been weaned away from electric razors and can shave comfortably with a safety razor.

I never did have a talk with ~~the~~^{for} Sparks before I left Karachi. I suppose it's just as well, but I'm still curious about some of the remarks he made & would like an explanation. Perhaps I'll write to him one of these days. That reminds me of a

line I used in a letter to
Al Malinow, hope you think
it's OK - here goes, quote.

"Besides his other qualities
for had possession of an
abundant supply of whiskey,
and better still was sincerely
generous with it, altho I half
suspect that he took a dim
view of the situation while
his ^(Indian servant) ~~beast~~ was missing my
13th highball, but I put it
down to some outwadded super-
stition" well anyway, it
sounded good when I first
wrote it.

Earlier this evening I read
a few short stories by Thomas
Mann, Sherwood Anderson, Willa
Cather. They were all about
disordered people who lived
gruesome lives amid beautiful
things in a miserable way, or
maybe I don't understand the
artistry involved. I like
characters to possibly appear
evil, but have some saving
grace, some noble quality

that saves them from complete unhappiness or complete evil. me + Sarayan.

Now comments on the mail. I'll not send anymore free mail if they take that long. No, you may have Harold for tea or bridge or any occasion at all. Also congratulate him for me about his brother's promotion, I think he'll make a good officer. Sorry about "the singing bird", I remember meeting him at Churchill Downs. He was so full of enthusiasm (and malarky). Also congratulate Harry Miller's dad for me. Mother wrote that she + Dad are going to treat us to a fishing trip down at Homersassa after the war. That's elegant, but seems so far away. Soooo, you can now fasten your own back garters, this self sufficiency must be carried too far, please save some things for me to do. Hummm, I'm embarrassed.

The smuggling that went on over the hump is, in my opinion,



C. B. I.

not good melodrama. It is a mean story of little, greedy people who were selling lives of a hard fighting people for money. perhaps that's melodramatic

but not good melodrama. No, not much was said about it here, not much is said about anything here, except grub and home. If you'll remember back a few months ago to the lecturer you heard in Fairsville, he was right about the average soldiers reaction.

The maid sounds like wartime 'essatz', but a maid's a maid's a maid. (that's right I just read an account of allied troops entering Gestard's village in France)

It's bedtime, the infallible test is: when the end of the nose is cold. I have two tentmates. One has a short or pug nose ^{too short for accurate prediction} then there is my nose (too long for real accuracy) but the third roommate's nose is teleat, so he tells us when bedtime is here. He now says it's here.

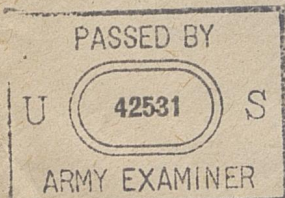
Goodnight sweetheart

I love you
David

Ssgt David Belatin 35478690
185th QM CO (D.S.)
Replacement Depot #4
APO 213, C/O PM, N.Y.



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



Rec'd

3

~~Wishes~~

Wishes

~~Bel. a letter - a talk~~

Wishes

Wishes

Wishes

Wishes

Wishes

Wishes

Wishes

Wishes

Wishes

12 Jan 44

4

Jayne dear,

Received 3 more letters from you today, one from Mae Jackson and one from Aunt Corrine. The load is really getting heavy. I'm so used to sleeping without a mattress that the one I have seems uncomfortable. Woke up this morning with a cramped muscle in my shoulder, but it's fine now, blame it all on the luxury of soft living.

Your letters today were 6-9-25 Dec. quite a spread, but I'll gather most of the ones in between.

Your comments on Essex were interesting. You will recall my account of an evening at my last post when a wealthy Essex merchant was among those present. His comments gave me a clearer picture of the situation than newspaper accounts did. His sympathies were all with the E.L.A.S., he contended that they were a demoralizing

part of the population numerically and that in the end, their policies would prevail. I asked him what effect the somewhat communistic attitude of the revolutionary groups would have on these ^{IC-elim.} vested interests ~~TSK~~.

He said that in his opinion private enterprise, if not contrary to the public welfare, would be unharmed. He further stated that when confronted with world opinion England would mend her ways, because of necessity and this has actually happened. You see England is fighting tooth and nail to have governments of a known and friendly quantity ^{especially} in all areas touching the Mediterranean and also wherever else she can get them. ~~But~~ this is understandable from her viewpoint, but public opinion in our country will stand for no nonsense. The average man in England is not in sympathy with power politics and I think that the present policy that England has of supporting govts friendly to her regardless of how the people of the country involved

feel will mend itself soon, because of sheer necessity, and because of American public opinion and because of Russian state policy. All this goes back to the total picture of a free slugging match that is going on among nations for economic advantages after the war. It doesn't seem to be hurting the war effort. England is fighting a tough battle for economic survival as a world power. She had liquidated her overseas investments to fight the war & finance it. But she's going to have to watch whose toes she steps on in gaining economic existence. We are fully aware this time of what's cooking and altho we realize and Russia realizes that the only kind of a stable peace will have to include a powerful England, still we're going to insist on fair play to the small nations, and England will have to play the game according to the rules. This time I hope we won't draw back into a shell and tell

the other nations, that we will have nothing to do with them. we'll have to join in the game, keep a wary eye on the others and just wait for the world to grow up, or maybe even help it along. Maybe I seem callous to you, taking a long range view of things and not mentioning the maladjustment & sufferings of people that go on today, actually that isn't the way I feel. I still hate those things which unfairly hurt people, but I'm just trying to see the complete picture, which you can't do if you allow a river of blood, ~~to blind you~~ to blind you.

Enough Blaney, Aunt Corine's letter was o.k., enjoyed it and will answer it soon. Zankov's letter was subtly clever as usual. Conway had just left Crowder (finally on 11 Dec) Mac is a tech Sgt, Harry Kaplan is in New Jersey working on a contract termination project for the Army, Blass

Barry was getting ready to emerge. Elmer Futz is still there. He's in charge of something in the new area and they (quoting me) placed him carefully in a job where he can do little damage to the war effort, he became a 1ST Lt. Mae can't find anyone to play golf with and wonders how we get along without the added income which we received from the golf bets, he wishes you well, in fact he devoted a whole paragraph to it. So much for Mae.

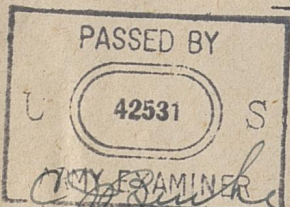
Your letters are really swell honey, I read them over and over, and if such a thing is possible, I love you more with each letter you send. (Such a thing is possible I assure you) So there that's awkward, what I'm trying to say is that I just plain love you more & more each day.

David

S Sgt David Belatin 35478690
185th QM Co (D.S.)
Replacement Depot #4
APO # 213, c/o P.M., N.Y.



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



4



C. B. I.

Jayne dear,

13 Jan. 45

Going to the movies tonight, picture called 'marriage is a private affair', but a note on the days activities first. Worked hard at my bookkeeping, which I shall tell you all about soon. Got up this morning & suddenly decided to give the 'stop smoking' department another whirl. So I loaded up with gum, lemon drops, V-8 vegetable juice, candy, at the cost of about 5 Rupees and every time I thought of smoking I'd eat or chew something else. This is no exaggeration. I chewed three packages of gum, ate two candy bars, 1 package of mints and two cans of V-8, but I didn't smoke any cigarettes. These ^{attempt} will probably last about a week, because there's little to do after working hours except read, and while reading it's hard to resist smoking. So since cigarettes are at ~~1.50~~ .06¢ here and I spent \$1.50 keeping away from them today, I sustained a slight loss, but it was worth it. I'll let you know how this latest campaign turns out.

Have run out of things to read,



so will make a trip to Red Cross tomorrow and case the joint (for literature only)

C. B. I.

Can't resist it any longer, must tell you about my work. I walked in about a week ago and the captain in charge, (nice, hesitant, dim) introduced me to the corporal in the M/R^① section (nice, average, cheerful) and asked him to explain the work to me. After about an hour this was accomplished, it's not^{too} complicated, but is tedious work. Then I began asking questions that popped up in my mind and found the cpl. didn't have too much insight into his basic problems, and further that the captain had neither insight, energy and/or whatever else is needed. This next part will really sound like plain babble, but it's honestly true. The cpl. and I spent a whole day thinking and writing down plans of attack that would solve the problem. The next day we constructed work sheets and commenced operations having arranged a definite plan of attack. We worked steadily these days, and finally arrived at a figure for all accounts that would give us a comparative figure so that we could determine the exact status of property as of ~~the~~^a certain day.

① I forgot, that's Memorandum Receipt, so you'll know who has which part property.



C. B. I.

we then called in account holders and they were all co-operative and agreed to clear up the discrepancies uncovered by our investigation. So now we'll start to fix our postings & T-accounts & making out reports and in a matter of a few days will be in good shape for the first time since this camp was opened. For my accomplishment I have been rewarded with the dislike of pretty nearly every man in the office, (new broom sweeps clean) etc, etc. which is O.K. I suppose, but slightly uncomfortable, anyway I have more time for reading and will find some friends sooner or later. Well show this to all you see. Book-keeping is awful, but it's easy & logical. I'm sure I won't be in it long. Goodnight darling.

I love you
David

Ssgt David Belatin 35478690
185 QM Co. (D.S.)
Repl. Depot # 4
APO # 213 C/O PM, N.Y.



Mrs. David Belatin

285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.

PASSED BY
U 42531 S
ARMY EXAMINER

K. Clark

5

mail
O.C.S.
Tuxedo
H.S.
wife



C. B. I.

15 Jan 44

Jayne dear,

Just like a solid stream ^{three} ~~two~~ more
letters from you today, ¹² 120 + 24 Dec, ^{and} one
from David Weil. The one from David was
so different from the kind he wrote
years ago. This was a factual recital with
solidity & fatherhood peeping round every
corner, only natural I guess.

And now a latest account of the
battle with the foul weed (bless it). Three
days without a cigarette, and doing nicely
thank you. The first two days were
mighty rough as I've already told you.
Today wasn't too bad, I only thought of
smoking 50 or 60 times. The trouble is
every guy at the office smokes and there's
one going all day long. I'll keep you
informed and will readily admit defeat
if & when it occurs. I'm picking a
belwa time & place to quit, but no time
like the 'pleasant' I haaaa.

My dear wife, let me state once
and for all, honest honey, I don't care
if the Lt. Commandant is a charming,



C. B. I.

know gentleman and I really have no objection whatsoever to your going wherever or with whomsoever you wish, it's because I have learned to trust your judgement quite completely, just keep the standards you've set for me. Can be really be as handwritten as you claim, my, my, no saying grace, huh.

The clipping in the paper was precious, since the latter part was so completely unrelated to the first part, that's Uncle Ben's work for certain. (your name was spelled wrong)

The time it takes mail to arrive is not governed by logic or any other stable factor. It's all controlled by a giant ouija board, a cpl & a 2nd Lt. The cpl. hands the letter to the Lt. The Lt says "aha!" the cpl says, "yes sir, aha!" then they throw the mail on the ouija board and time & gravity do the rest. Actually a plain board would do instead of the ouija board, a put. could be substituted for the cpl, but pray allow the Lt to remain, "Sic Semper Sic" ①

① meaningless, but lends a lovely touch.



C. B. I.

I'm glad to see you doing volunteer work for Red Cross. It's useful work and you'll probably learn many things. Many army men do not think a great deal of Red Cross. Their administrative expense is much too high for the amount of good produced, due to inefficiency, duplication of jobs etc. They use special service army equipment quite heavily and spend very little of their own funds, except on administration + personnel. Gals like you that do their work for them in the States are to be commended, not so the average Red Cross professional, by that I don't mean people who intend to devote a lifetime, to Red Cross, but wartime professionals. One case in point + I won't discuss it further. As you know, at one time I did some work for Red Cross in India + had ~~several~~ occasion to talk to one Red Cross Representative, she was dissatisfied with her quarters. They were the best on the post, but she wouldn't be satisfied with them. She kept bothering the Colonel of the post until he got disgusted, closed one of the Red Cross Clubs + told her to use it as living quarters, ~~and~~ and open a new club at another location.



C. B. I.

So we took the troop of 8 workers & actually moved into the club, using it as quarters & the club itself closed until a mess hall

could be remodelled into an Exalted Men's Club. That's only one of many things, but I can tell you this, the Red Cross is doing a top notch job now here as far as I've heard, front of front line to rear echelon & they're spending a lot of dough to accomplish little. A shake-up of management a little publicity, ^{as} amount spent for personnel as compared to amount spent for actual function & material, would do wonders, & make the organization much more efficient. (always reformin')

Today I further increased myself to my office colleagues. One of them was talking about "that wonderful patriot (Harry P. Garg)" whereupon I inquired whether or no I might comment, and being given permission I launched ^a vicious, mean, hard punching description of the activities of Garg, local & national, and told him down as the rabble rousing



C. B. I.

fascist minded, ^{or} rather that he was.
(May he rest in peace) (May all
those living like him Rest in
place beside him, soon) So anyway

this guy I addressed my remarks to
gets a hurt look and is now 'not
talking to me n' more!' (Cousin of
Wiley I hope I believe)

yes, Charlie ^{or had} has the negatives
of the pictures you refer to, but I
haven't any idea where Charlie is,
also, Bob Moller + I were separated
long ago. You might write to Charlie
at my old company at Crawley, but
I doubt if you'll get the negative as
he's probably thrown all that stuff
away.

Alice + her blue jeans +
short tail out sounds cute but
damned outlandish, (also cold) for this
time of year in U.S.A.

So "meringue glacé" is ice cream
+ egg kiss to me, actually you're
literally wrong, it's "impossible tzigetall"
especially in India. Glad your
luncheon was enjoyed, incidentally



C. B. I.

6
please don't mind my half baked
humor, remember, you're my only
outlet.

Speaking of rank, in reply
to your question, no, there'll
probably be no raise in rank for me.
The way things are going I've been
lucky to hold my own. Although
they say you can't keep a good man
down (the question is, when "they" made
the statement, did "they" know about
the army) So you chased one of
Alice's gatherings, don't get that ancient
attitude money, I've got some mighty
young ideas.

Let's not be too critical of the
old Dorkish letter to Dad, I could read
most of it. as long as Dad could read
the part about the shirt everything
was okay.

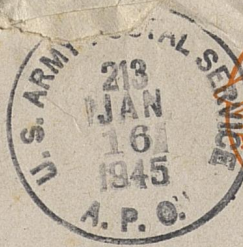
That's all, goodnight darling.

I love you

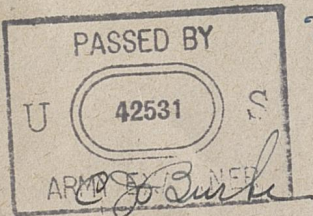
David

P.S. Reason I'm putting I want to
finish "How to Think Straight" by
Robert Thouless, let you know
a' opinion in my next letter.

S Sgt David Belatin 35478690
185th QM Co. (D.S.) APO #213
c/o pm - n.y.



Mrs. David Belatin



285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.

6

~~ant k.
making
H.S.~~

book
your ideas

Index

17 Jan. 45

7

Jayne dear,

Latest bulletin, haven't smoked yet, still reaching for a Wrigley instead of a ciggy. Now, of course, comes the dilemma. What shall I do with the 3 cartons of cigarettes I so carefully saved. If I give them away I may want them, if I have them I may use them, what to do, what to do? I think I'll wait another week and see how things turn out. This morning I trotted down to work, about a ^{half} mile. Wind's improved and it's good exercise for my right leg.

While at Iowa, I roomed with a fellow named Victor Markson. He's really a good fella and although I haven't seen him for 8 years, kind of got a year to hear what's happened to him. We used to conduct what really amounted to a mutual uplift society. We kept my nose in my books (being older than I) and I gave him so much trouble that he adopted a fatherly attitude, and was serious about his studies too. Anyway, he became an M.D. I'll let you know if he answers

my letter.

We finally got straightened out about what magazines you were going to send didn't we?

By the way Miss Soldiers Aid Bureau, you had a slight error in your interpretation of a 1st three graders pay. As it stands today, he may make a choice between receiving \$38.75 (31 day month) quarters, or \$28.00 (part of \$50.00 given gratis by the govt in a class "7" allotment. The thing that mixed you up is the "in lieu of quarters" paragraph. The govt is supposed to furnish 1st 3 graders a home on the post on which stationed, or if this is impossible, an amount of money equal to daily quarters allowance or \$1.25 per day, this \$1.25 per day is called "a monetary allowance in lieu of quarters." Now, if a first three grader has a child, he can waive this quarters monetary allowance & obtain in its stead, a class "7" allotment, for with a child he gets \$28.00 from the govt, plus \$30.00 for the child. anyway he has a choice

between monetary & class "7" allowance, there is one restriction. If he ever chooses class "F", he can never return to monetary allowance. We, not having a child, are still receiving \$38.75 monetary allowance since we would lose \$10.00 per month if I chose the other plan. Malum, Mensahib, it's slightly confusing, but that ought to make it crystal clear.

I haven't commented on Alan Frank's suicide for one reason, the appropriate comment is too obvious. I'm sorry for him and somehow feel that it could have been prevented by real understanding of someone who was willing to devote time & patience to him. He was perfectly rational much of the time and without knowing, I would guess that his suicide resulted from the fear his rational self felt for his irrational self. Mastly & I once discussed him and Mastly told me he was a split personality case, schizophrenia (mild), and that at the time he was doing fine.

There's a U.S.O. show in camp tonight but I'm not in the mood. I'd rather write this letter and finish a book I've been reading that's interesting. "How To Think Straight" by R.H. Thouless. It follows the

methods of applying logic rather than emotion to thought. The deals with primary logic, ^{fallacies} such as the syllogism with an undistributed middle term, circular argument, begging the question, tabloid thought, etc. The book is interesting and if you want to read it do so and will discuss it.

One of the boys in my tent was raised on the farm. He's not talkative, I'm trying to get him to talk about farming, but haven't had much success so far, he went past way through vet school before being drafted and should know something about both soil & animal husbandry, but he won't talk (will see about that, maybe the thyroid degree huh)

I hope you don't disapprove of my new policy of taking two days instead of one to write. ~~It's~~ actually it's like writing every day and mailing 'em every other day. In this way more news accumulates + (I hope) the letters are more readable.

I'm getting a bit anxious about my Xmas packages, hope they were

wrapped securely and didn't have anything that would spoil. Aunt Edna's package was the only one that arrived, I hope the books you sent get here soon. probably start arriving by the end of this month, Fr's sewing sakes, don't send anything else, if it takes 5 or 6 months for packages to arrive it seems silly to send them, besides I don't need anything. (or would they accept a 112 lb. [Ⓛ] package of goodness for shipment to India) ~~the~~ ^{the} packages for you are probably taking just as long, I suppose.

Last night I slept on a sheet for the first time in 6 months. we've been issued two of them. The body of a soldier becomes pliable and adaptable. (as applied to the body) Things are neither good nor bad, comfortable or uncomfortable, they exist, and you accept them. of course you're expected to gripe, and that's the end of it. I don't even gripe because I expected to find things much worse than they are and really am pleasantly surprised. of course the lugaboo that everyone

Ⓛ a guess based on last available statistics plus current rumors.

roads is monsoon season, but
will see, maybe that won't be so
bad either. It comes ^{late June or early} in July I
believe and lasts thru mid-Sept.
That's a long way off, in the meantime
maybe F.D.R. will work out a deal
to fight the war in a non-monsoon
area.

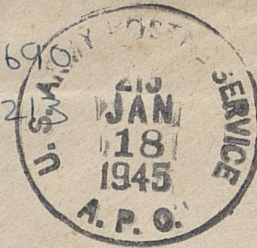
Goodnight sweetheart.

a beer, some reading & bed. Yes
I still drink some beer, thought I
better hold on to at least one vice
so you'd recognize me.

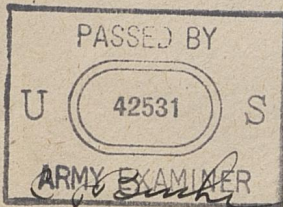
as of 17 ~~Jan~~ ^{Jan} 9:45 p.m. I still
haven't smoked & haven't been too
tempted. No coughs, better taste
in the morning, sense of control
over habit, better mind, and
feel better generally. I shouldn't be
writing all this, I'm gonna feel foolish
if I slip back into the habit. Also
if you let mother see this and she
starts on Dad again about smoking
so much, I'll crown ya', no I won't
crown ya' 'cause I love you too
much, but I'll be tempted to.

I love you
David

S Sgt David Belatin 35478690
185th QM CO. (D.S) APO # 2
c/o 7m. n.y.



Mrs. David Belatin



285 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, 37, Ky.

7

Jayne dear,

19 Jan. 45

8

First of course the daily bulletin on the reform of O#A#V#I#D. Reactions fine, greater zest for living, better taste in morning, sold cigarettes for 8 Rupees (4 costans), so die as cast. On the debit side, I seem to have a slight sore throat, but do not associate this with 'the great reform'. Am beginning to look on the whole thing with an objective attitude, it's still a battle, but I think the war overwhelmingly. May I hasten to add, I don't go around trying to influence other people, but do have a chestnut cat attitude about smoking (which I keep well hidden).

Reading seems to have come to a standstill the last few days. Have had a tremendous number of figures to put into the right slot in my bookkeeping department. Haven't any help right now. The corporal whom I mentioned is in the hospital with dysentery and the work goes more slowly, but it's really nearing completion & everybody seems happy. Tried a 'Dale Carnegie' trick at the office the other day, and it worked

- 2 -

asked ~~me~~ a fellow for some advice on a weighty problem and thanked him very kindly for his help. Now we're palsy walsy.

The officer in charge of the section is quite a combination. He's very young (about 21), is quite able, admits errors or not knowing things gracefully, maintains a goodly amount of silence, is cooperative, asks many questions, and is openly impressed by any evidence of logical thought or action, we get along well, I admire him because he's honest. If you'll recall I mentioned a captain. He's the post property officer and is in charge of the M/R section that I work in, but the Lt. is QM officer for the post. Enough for that.

I think I've told you about my veterinary roommate, & truck driver roommate, now let's deal with the 3rd one. He's semi-literate, of French extraction, from New Iberia in Louisiana, has a bad speech impediment, speaks jargon, creole French and poor English, is a typical yardbird, has a good opener for canned beer, and is therefore

very acceptable socially. He's quiet,
seeks his own company and we get
along well.

Well, I'll have to save my
money. I bet a fellow \$50.00 that
hostilities would cease in Germany
by June 6. I base my opinion on
our ~~ability~~^{demonstrated} ability to close the gap at
the Meuse River, and Russia's
surge into Southern Germany around
Cracow, ~~to~~ and a few other factors
which are too much ^(composed of) opinion to
state. He's hoping I picked a good
date. It's somewhat optimistic but
for betting purposes I had to be
optimistic.

Just filled my pen and it's
really giving forth, I hope it's
because this paper's of poor quality.

The mail will probably slow
up for a while now, I'd imagined
for a time I was in miracle land
with a letter or two coming in every
day, but it was only temporary.

Received a letter from Malinew
and am afraid he's become a bit
maladjusted. He complained of having
nothing to do, had no word of

cheer, is unhappy then & then.
I'm sorry for him, India is no place
to get down in the mouth, there
isn't much here to cheer you up.
I'm going to write and suggest more
reading to Al, a more tolerant
attitude, some sublimation, and
the thing that would help him
most, namely a wonderful wife
like you, immediately after the war.
Of course, I'll stress the (like) you
part, 'cause he might make a
mistake.

I'm now over a slight case of
Dhobie (native laundry) itch, so I guess
it can be told. It's uncomfortable
while it lasts, but doesn't last
long. It's the result of unsanitary
laundry conditions. If we had
facilities for washing & ironing our
clothes (and the time) I'd do them
myself.

One of the boys from the next
tent got a Xmas package, so we're
going to have a little feed tonight.

By the way, you mentioned
the gold boxing gloves. I wrote
for them, and should hear soon

you'll have to buy the good behaviour
ribbon & the asiatic-pacific
campaign Ribbon, these are none
handy here.

Well, the feeds about to
begin in fact it has begun and
I'm losing out. the fact that
it still takes time to tell you
that I love you while everyone
is wolfing food should be
definite and final proof.

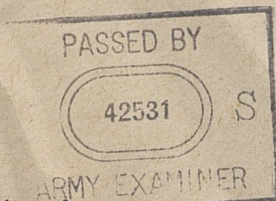
but I do love you

David

Sgt David Balatin - 35478690
185th Qm Co (D.S.)
Repl. Depot # 4 APO 213
c/o pm - n.y.



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



W. Babbitt

8

~~Oliver
check
it~~
50



C. B. I.

21 Jan 45

Jayne dear,

Dear sweetheart, I received three letters today, one dated Saturday Dec 30, one dated Sunday Dec 30, & one dated Thursday, Dec 4. A quick glance at the Dec 4th one showed it should have been dated Jan 4th. That's the one with the bad news. He was young and seemed in good health when I last saw him, he was Mother's last brother, all gone within ~~nine~~ ^{nine} months. I hope Mother is holding up all right, know you're doing what you can to help.

I'm sending back the clipping on Meandyou. Dad always said that he had the speed, but old pesky Pete needed the right man to calm him, not casting any aspersions on Mose, but ask yourself, if you were a horse, wouldn't Mose frighten you too.

Thanks for the New Years message, I've already written mine to you



C. B. I.

It's old news now, so won't mention it any more until I fall off the wagon, but am still a confirmed non-smoker and it looks like it may stick. Guess it'll really seem funny when we're raising 50 or so acres of fine lushly mat to smoke. I'll do like Ferdinand does, fool the public by keeping one in my mouth.

By the way I got a kick out out Mose' contradicting himself about mistep + meandyou. So be on the safe side we should always say (one) of the fastest.

But Mother + Dad had a big time at the Schloss party. Did many lose enough weight to really cash in yet, as I recall it, her Father was donating so much per pound lost. You know the Readers Digest has a ~~contest~~ contest on, in which they give prizes for small businesses, I've a good notion to write + suggest formation of a "Reduce M. Schloss Inc." they could take a 50% cut on the revenue her Dad contributes + really have a going concern.



C. B. I.

you can tell my sister for me that I'm very angry 'cause she hasn't answered my last letter.

So, the cases you deal with are confidential, keeping secrets huh. Well I'm proud of you. Half the gals who handle Red Cross cases of that sort can hardly wait to run home & tell their friends how the depraved lower classes creep about. They have no sympathy for the people whom they're supposed to be helping, just a neutral, rather unhelpful, curiosity.

I don't know if I'm classified as Quartermaster or Signal Corps. Will find out & let you know one of these days, although it really doesn't matter. Am going to Bombay, where I plan to meet Al Malinow for a one or two day holiday. Will probably drink some, find a piano, and disturb people for miles around. (not his piano playing, but my singing)

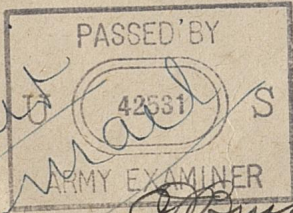
pardon the short letter dear, but want to write my Aunt a note of sympathy and you know how difficult that is. I love you sweet one,

David

S Sgt David Balatin 3547869
185th QM Co (D.S.)
Repl. Depot #4 APO #213
707m - N.Y.



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



1

22 Jan 45

Dear Jayne,

A guy is standing popeyed while I type this. Walked into the office this morning, told the typist to take a vacation, would call him when he was wanted. So the guy is very unhappy, it's the first time he's been away from his desk for ages. It must have something to do with the caste system, you can loaf at your desk, but musn't walk away from it. Got up extra early this morning, have been causing everyone trouble ever since. Was kidding the chief clerk up here at depot supply, told him there would be a few changes made, first of all, all supplies would be moved out of the warehouses, rewarehoused, nomenclature changed, tear up all the stock record cards, start new lad, you have too many mistakes on your present setup, as I was kidding him about ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ tearing things up the two officers walked in, so I turned to the Chief Clerk, (name is Dean Zutes) and asked him why he didn't tell the officers what he had said behind their back to their face. The funny part of it is that they are both jerks and he had told me plenty about them, he got red then white, and everyone smiled uncomfortably. I'm in great form today. Didn't do badly last night either, never rest when you can be making an enemy. Feel rugged, since I didn't make the boat on the 23rd, I'm sore at the world, do you blame me, we've been out here longer than any other group, the average has been around 13 days, and we will be staying 31 or more, grrrrr, I'm mad at the world.

Guess I'm hard to get along with in my present mood, raised hell with my bridge partner, accused him of playing for the opposition, he did make several costly errors, but haven't said a word to him before, just felt nasty yesterday. Think I've vented my rage on things in general and can resume a normal manner.

A great honor has befallen the QM in Calcutta, the meritorious service award, so now I can wear a wreath on m'coat, The only trouble is that you don't get points for the award, for it would have been mighty welcome, would have gotten on the last boat.

S'long for this morning, they finally figured out something for the typist to do, so will have to give up the typewriter.

I love ya

David



C. B. I.

22 Jan 45

Jayne Sweet,

In rereading your letter of Jan 4, I noticed (more than at first reading) the parts about Jimmy + Maxine + Maxine + Maxine. Kind of a cross section of battle. one C.D.P., one section 8, and two in battle. Speaking of battle, I feel the same about it as always, but have been thinking about it some. A baptism of fire is at first glance good. It will temper a man as steel is tempered in a heated crucible. If he has the right ingredients, he will be strengthened, if not, he will crack, but looking closer at the thing, what are the right ingredients? ① physical bravery, or the ability to see horrible things and not flinch? The ability to inflict death on the enemy again + again, and still be prepared to kill? ② a mind that is able to shut out the past training it has had in civilization? ③ actually battle is neither a test nor ~~is~~ is there



C. B. I.

anything about it that recommends it to me. It is a mean, ghastly, uncivilized, but necessary thing. It is necessary because it is the only way to combat certain evil forces that have been loosed on the world. I am glad that it hasn't been necessary for me to be in the front lines so far, I will do my best if ever called to serve as a front line soldier, so there it stands.

Morrin Bing is right, that is a logical practice + protects the soldier. I'm sorry that Morry Kaufman's lung flared up again, he was about due for a promotion I suppose. I think you're far too critical of Jimmy + for the wrong reason. He isn't a goldbrick, he's the kind that talks much + does little in proportion to the talk, but he's conformed to army orders very well since his induction, and from his present situation I think it'd be quite safe to say that he's doing his part. Incidentally, remember this, if he wrote that he was wounded, it would have to be true, because his letters are censored by his unit.



C. B. I.

Commander & if we put that kind of stuff in and it was untrue, ~~and~~ it would not work well.

Reading some short stories by Thomas Mann, (gosh he's prolific) and one in particular "Tonio Kröger" hit home. The contention is that an artist and writer to be outstanding must be ^{always} with the torment of knowledge & the curse of creation, and cannot live normally in other phases of life. He drew one picture of a business man poet, who thought he could, "pick a single leaf from the fabled tree of art" successfully, but Mann contends that it can't be done.

I suppose it's true that as far as genuine, (live forever) writing is concerned that's true, a whole lifetime of thought must be devoted to it & pretty nearly all other emotion must be transmuted into the creative channel involved, but you can still knock off some pretty neat stuff in your spare time if you keep your mind working and aren't afraid to apply the seat of the pants to the seat

of a chair.



C. B. I.

Things are still about the same in my work. The corporal came out of the hospital & had guard duty the same day, so I still haven't had any help the last few days; but, despite the slump things are progressing.

Goodnight darling, my roommates are getting very unhappy about the light being on, not that I have too much more to say, except that as always, because of certain things you've done & because of certain things you are I love you.

David

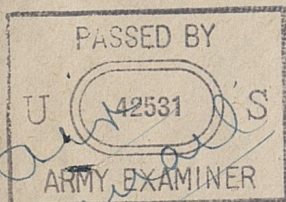
S Sgt David Belatin 35478690
185th QM CO. (D.S.)
Repl. Depot # 4, APO # 213
40 pm, N.Y.



Mrs. David Belatin

285 S. Ashland Ave.

Lexington, 37, Ky.



C. B. Buck

2

Assent
Bombay

24 Jan 44

Jayne dear,

Had a U.S.O. show the other night, light opera, a male tenor, and pianist, a soprano, a contralto and a girl violinist. They did well, used very light things, Victor Herbert, sang some duets, pianist played Chopin's Scherzo. It was well received, most of the fellows felt that they had been both courageous & dutiful, didn't talk like they wanted anything of the sort repeated. I half suspect that they did like it, but feel that it's not manly to profess a liking for that kind of music. The soprano was good but had a quaver in the upper register, the contralto was very pleasing, the tenor was somewhat nasal, but it didn't keep him from sounding O.K., the pianist was excellent, as little as I knew about it, I could recognize his artistry, excellent technique, and he got good results from a battered piano, played really fine. The girl violinist was pretty average, she did well on muted notes & is in complete control of her instrument, but she was

- 2 -

just knocking out a song, no enthusiasm,
see, I'm getting critical, but that's the
impression it left. The U.S.O. ^{shows} ~~is~~ doing
fine, they come out to the theaters
of war; in the CBI they take a
chance of contracting malaria, they
live under some unpleasant conditions,
they travel all over the place on
railways that are not super de-luxe,
they don't get much pay. all in all
they're doing a good job and the
fellows appreciate it. For example
at my camp mine is isolated & it gets
awfully monotonous for the average
fellow, especially an unmarried,
young man, who does not have
many resources for self-entertainment.
The fets & stews, the movies help
and the Red cross helps, then with
the special show units, he'll usually
manage to keep his equilibrium.
as for me, a letter from you every
week or so and my morale problem
is non-existent.

I have been working at the
most monotonous kind of job ~~now~~,
have everything figured out, now

comes the pastings & the routine stuff to mix everything into shape. It's really not bad, just not as interesting as figuring out a complicated problem successfully, in other words, it's kind of a let down.

Saw "Caravana Brown" for the second time tonight. Frank Morgan does his part perfectly, he had me rolling, really funny I thought.

So tonight sweet, just thinking as I walked to my tent after the snow, how beautiful it is here.

Colorful mountains, now dark, but outlined by a brilliant moon, the silver ribbon of Lake beneath the mountains, yes, if you were here it would be beautiful, but now it's only a barren, lovely place with some scenic value.

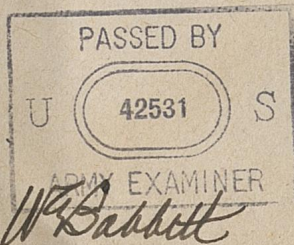
I love you

David

Sgt David Balatin
185 QM Co. (D.S.)
Repl. Depot #4, APO #213
40 P.M. - New York



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



3

Cig
wofekoy 50

7th. 26 Jan 45th

Jayne dear,

Feel damn good. First of all today I received three letters from you, one from mother & one from Dad. Secondly I had 10 hours of sleep last night. Then two other things happened today that really bolstered the old ego. If you'll remember, I told you something about the other fellows in the office seeming rather unfriendly after the new broom sweeps clean technique I'd been applying. Well anyway today the St. in charge asked me to take over purchasing, contract and sales work for the post and also to look up Regulations concerning Reciprocal (reverse) Yard base. Now I'll pause for a second to ask you to please not think that this is a funny ls. dissertation. I'm telling you about it

because Jim proud of it and because
if I didn't tell you, you'd never
find out. Anyway, let's continue,
this work is being done by a
captain who now has other
duties that will make it
impossible to carry on in this
work & the ^(in charge of Post QM) Lt. is afraid he's
not going to get another
officer, so he wants me to do the
job. I've been reading regulations
& procedure and looking through
files like mad as Jim entirely
unfamiliar with this kind of
work; but, after working on it
for 8 hours Jim beginning to
get the idea, and feel that it
will be interesting & stimulating
work. I only hope another
officer isn't shipped in from
outside to take over. Well
that's one thing. The other
is that when the cpl Heard ^(with whom I work)
the Lt. ask me to take over
purchasing, contracts & sales,
(hereafter we will use (PC+S))
he raised quite a fuss and

said he'd be dumb to think as
now our accounts were straight,
and he was happy for the
first time in many months
and that I'd been so helpful
etc., (I know it sounds like
pure baloney, so help me, every
word is true) Even the censor
will find it hard to believe
all this, but, it's still true..

Speaking of wading through
army circulars, I was reading
one today on Reverse Land
base, (it isn't restricted so
I can tell you about it)
(censor please note). anyway
the writer was doing his
best to impress, and some
real phony sentences resulted.
For example, he speaks often
of "urgent + Emergent needs."
I blinched twice before I
recognized the archaic form
for 'emergency', he speaks of
indigenous products and

Ad Hoc demands, and demurrage charges. They can all be figured out quickly, but the terms are what manueck of Texas called "boobledigook" language. Local products, periodical demands, damage charges would be much more practical, these terms and others like them ~~can~~ can fog up a simple thought like in London.

From the afternoon of the 24th to afternoon of the 25th I was Sergeant of the Guard. The duties were interesting, and I got to wear a .45 pistol, but it wasn't necessary to fire it or bat anyone on the beam. Got only 4 hours of sleep that night and met the C.O. of the post. He's a west point man, further the affiant saith not. (not knowing anything else to say)

Your letters, are beautiful, I have them before me, in blue and in white, large thick sheets, small thin sheets, every kind of stationery. Even if they were written in undecipherable hieroglyphics they'd be wonderful because they're from you, but to make the whole thing even more assumptions, each letter is readable, they're well written, interesting, and no matter how many times or in what manner I say it, you'll never quite know what they mean to me.

6, 7, 9, 10 and 13 January are right here with me tonight. I think I'll look through them & see if there's any question that needs answered.

On 6 Jan. you didn't take your savings off before going to bed, (is that bad?) Mrs. Cogswell is now campus mistress (financially speaking) if she's

resignedly as home service sec.
& doing the same work as a
volunteer; who knows, maybe
we have in her another heroic
woman to add to the lists (but
why —) also we fixed for
Yeikman in the car going to
Fairville, ^① ah-ha? Really glad
you sent Seymour's address; am
going to write to him tomorrow
and I don't mean Maryland.
Your mention of my shopping
trip reminds me that shopping
in India is undesirable. These
merchants lie as a matter of
course & laugh when you point
out the falsehood, nothing bothers
them (except when you don't buy)

Speaking of Bobby, I like
the boy. altho I believe Dad
is right in being perturbed because
Alice is so young, still I feel that
they're good company for each
other and must have a

① I was feeling badly the day this letter
arrived & it pained me up. also (note to
Census) for L. is over 25 & not insensitive about
sentence.

Community of Interests or they wouldn't spend so much time together. of course in assuming that they don't meet all the time & talk to each other every once in a while (a dangerous assumption in these times). I feel ~~that~~ ^{that} the situation will adjust itself with the passing of time and that Dad is wrought up without good reason. of course, he can always point to an incident, similar in nature, when a guy named David Wood & won the fair game (or was it the other way around) incidentally these are times when I think of the discussions Dad & I had ~~before~~ prior to our marriage. Some of the things I said give me mal de tête. just hope Dad doesn't remember them. My only hope is that in still not as dumb as I was then, please Allah.

Got a letter from Al M.

Upon rereading this, I feel that I snafued the sentence up a little since in not married to Dad

the other day. He's had the whole
itch too, we must be twins.

He's been doing quite a bit of
riding & says there are some
good 3 gaited mounts at his
station. at my station we have
feet & bicycles available, neither
of which are a relaxing method
of getting around.

on Sunday Jan 7, you
said you were writing to me
while mother was dressing,
please thank mother for taking
a while to dress as it was a
good long letter. That hand
you described that Herschel
held in your summy made me
kind of homesick. I remembered
the night Ed Myers imitated
Herschel playing your summy at
the club gathering. In this
letter you refer to my sweetheart
as a chew hound, now honey
you're not a chew hound, one
in a family's enough.

Boy, it's a good thing tomorrow's
Sunday, it's been a hard week.

and I'm sure tired. (I said
it again.) Good night
darling, actually have much
more to write, but should
have a busy day tomorrow
and must get some sleep.

The enclosed

cartoon reminds me of all
the dishes I don't have
to wipe. as much as I
dislike Nash promises &
statements made under
emotional stress, I would
wipe dishes until I
dropped if I could talk to
you for five minutes and
just look at you.

I love you

David

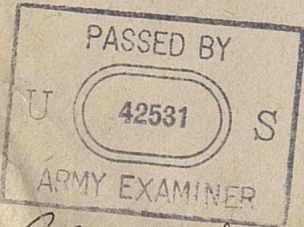
P.S. as I was closing this
letter I caught a powerful whiff
of perfume. (this is it I
thought) I'm going nuts, (OVER)



S Sgt David Boletun 35478190
185th OM CO, (P.S.)
Repl. Depot #4, APO # 213
c/o pm - n.y.



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



Rec'd

4

27 Jan 45

Jayne dear,

my latest contribution to the local paper is a poem. Entitled, "Because the Eagle Scares, Why Should you," or "payday aint my Day." Incidentally, I havent played one hand of poker or any game of chance since entering this camp, this is purely a literary effort & is absolutely non-autobiographical. Ya poem:

Play 'em real close to your chest.
Put a hand thats weak away to rest.

Wait ~~up~~ until you have a chance.
Dont try to dance in every dance.

If y' bluff in' boy & chase a pair.

Scaul & rant with tangled hair.

Raise to scare a murrut out.

Pretend a hand thats weak is stout.

If y' do those things, then you'll find
That 30 days of army bind

Avail you little, in fact nothing,

All this war can come from bluffin'!

I would suggest that either send a copy of this to Seymour. Things are about the same in my work. Spent a long time reading (PC+S) today. But was frequently interrupted to take care of matters in the M/R section. Had a strong desire to smoke while reading, but didn't. Gum chewing has decreased to a pack a day. My rationing worries are over. I can trade my cigarette ration for other things on the ration list & I really feel better since quitting. Am wondering how it will effect the colds I used to get all the time. Have to wait & see.

Ill bet the folks (mine) are angry with

- 2 -

me because of impregent letters, but after I
write you the news it seems silly to repeat
it in another letter when you read the
letters to the folks.

Your mention of Rasel in your letter
of the 13th makes me shudder. If his
game overseas he may come to this theatre,
that would be awful as I'd probably jump into
him, fate being what it is.

Today is the day, I just have to write
to all my folks + mother + Dad + Reggie, etc.
I owe everyone a letter, so pardon the
brevity of this.

Goodnight darling I love you

David

S Sgt David Belatin 35479610
185th Qm Co (D.S.)
Repl. Dep # 4, APO # 213
c/o pm - my.



Mrs. David Belatin

PASSED BY
04955 S
ARMY EXAMINER

285 S. Ashland Ave

Lexington, 37, Ky.

WSOHq.

5

28 Jan 45.

Jayne Darling,

Didn't have to go to work today, slept until 7:45 and loafed all morning, played baseball out in the sun & got pretty well baked.

Read a little, drank some beer and just generally relaxed. Good old Sunday nothing like it. I also reread your last few letters, at the cost of being repetitive. I'll say again, they're wonderful. The boys were complaining about not having any valentines to send home, so I volunteered to knock out some dogged verse for them.

It took about an hour & they were well pleased, that, of course, reminded me that I hadn't asked you to be my valentine for the current season. Now there's no use trying to write poetry to you, valentines can't be had here, so, I'll have to be sort of a plain statement. I love you because you represent everything that I think of as good, will you be my valentine? No, I don't feel

- 2 -

silly, it's a good way to find out
where I stand with you folks.

I'm waiting up for my boys,
they've gone to a picture show tonight,
and they'd wake me if I went to sleep
now.

Do you mind if I write the
poems that I made up for the boys.
Don't read them if you don't want to,
I was thinking of you when I
wrote them. The first is for
Harry Hudson. El is his wife
& Todd & Donna are his children
they're from Minneapolis.

No happier a clan could be
than El, Todd, Donna & me
joyful time, we didn't know
that off to war I'd have to go.
(Editor's note: we sure suspected
it though)

Now that I'm far away from you
in the heart of never land
the days roll on so endlessly
like timeless flow of grains of sand.

as each grain of sand goes by
Representing time & space

I keep thinking of the kids
and of El (my wife) (let grace)

Now lets not get so high & mighty
not so fast & not so flighty
Aren't we forgetting something
On what day's papa Knudson King?

wrong again, not papa's day
no, that was really just a stall
if I hadn't used King in that sentence
I'd have had no rhyme at all.

I'm referring to a day
Even if I'm far away
when I can ask and more my sweet
if there'll be another year long that

I'm asking you,
I guess it's time
if you will be
my valentine.

-4-

This next's for a bird from close
to Minneapolis named art. Henny.
His good friends name is "Honey".

Valentines are hard to make.

Filly patterns done in lace.

Dainty ruffles round the edge
verses that are set a pledge.

now I don't mind the sentiment
or even the time I'd have to spend

But I can't get the talent 'Honey';

with scissors pen & paste that's sunny.

I could work the whole year 'round
at the end it would be found
that I hadn't completed a valentine
asking you to please be mine.

Instead of wasting time & paper
I'll forget that kind of paper
and simply write a verse or two
for one "Honey", namely you.

I keep writing to ya' often
thinking of ya' all the time
it's not just ~~one~~ day that I want ya'
'For to be my valentine

It would suit me ⁵ far, far better
if you'd be my valentine
today tomorrow & forever
I'm asking "Honey" please be mine.

Finis.

Then there was another poem
for a guy named ~~them~~, I'm only
kidding, no more, we will
resist the temptation to go from
better to worse. The theme of
all this is, "Will you be
my valentine?" anxiously
awaiting your reply, I remain
very much in love with you.

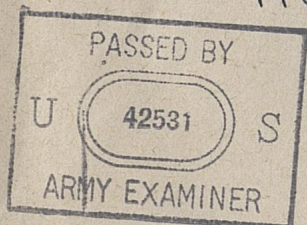
Your husband

David

Ssgt David Bolatin, 35478690
185th Am Co, (D.S.) Repl Depot #4 APO # 213
40 pm, N.Y.



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



W. Barrett

6

30 Jan 45

7

Jayne dear,

In case you need some statistics, this is the 1977th day of world war two and we have been (I mean you + I) involved 1002 days and we (I mean U.S.) have been in it actively for 1514 days. Makes ten nights in a barroom seem like nothing. 1000 days + nights is a wealth of time squandered, but the choice wasn't ours.

Received your most interesting letter ^{of 15 Jan} and you're right about being lucky I wasn't there to stop you, for I surely would have in several places. Your worry about the small nations is justified, I was only looking at things practically. The small nations, because of the very fact that they're small, have many small worries, large ones too, but altogether troubles a-plenty. When they bring their small troubles before a big conference, they invariably glut the agenda so that important things, things that matter for the many, are neglected while the problems of the 'few' are settled or rather, muddled over. In my opinion the small nations should have a small voice. Under intelligent supervision by 4 enlightened powers, their lot would be far better than it is today when

They get swept into every conflict, willing or not. I won't go into it much further, but the solution to the problems of small nations is not in an equal voice in world affairs. Your statement which I'll quote ~~is~~ in a minute was below par Henry. Let's not try any circular reasoning on the old man. You say "If all the people of Europe had been religiously & socially tolerant, there would be no war today," I know there are many more factors involved, but feel that the underlying principle is basic." Now sweetheart, that's true, but let's paraphrase your statement as follows, "If all people in Europe were good, then the actions of all people in Europe would be good." You've said nothing more than that. Racial and Religious tolerance require, reasoning, intelligence, logical relationships with others and pretty nearly every other good quality known; therefore, given all good actions, you could have only good results. Don't pull that stuff on the old man. (I'm only kidding)

His statement (which I'm in a critical mood) is as full of holes as a Swiss cheese & smells worse. Come to think of it, perhaps I'm too critical on a partial quote. Will you do me a big favor? Ask Miss Julian

when he has time, to write to me and elaborate on the brotherhood of man would mean no need for a variety of religions! He might as well find out in a hectic now. please ask him honey, I know he's busy, but he might find time to knock out a short letter on the subject, me being a prospective future member of the fold.

Ok, just one more thing. you instruct me not to deny myself any pleasures in order to purchase gifts. First of all, there are no pleasures here to deny yourself and secondly in order to buy a decent star ruby it would take my army income for 5 months. so somewhere along the line we missed a point. I know you didn't mean the few sentences about gifts the way they sounded.

How does it feel to be in a good scrap with your husband again? I hope you don't mind, these are two reasons for this teasy outburst. one is because in my opinion there were some slight flaws in your reasoning (boy am I gonna catch it) and then too, I

realized that I've been presenting only the good side in letters lately and allowing everything controversial to go by the boards. Actually, I enjoyed our arguments too. They're a healthy sign growing pains in a going concern. But if ^{you} say anything mean to me, I'll cry. I'm getting soft in the head from the sun.

I'm now a resident of 'snob hill'! First three grades only. It means conditions that are less crowded, we live up on a hill all alone. It also means that I have to walk down the hill to visit my friends, also to the car, (naughty). I have two new roommates. A fellow named Ray Schwartz from Oakland Cal, a sports writer (athletics, ha, ha) clever, O.K. guy and a fellow named Steve Mayer who is from Mudgett, I couldn't resist, actually he's O.K. too. I'll write you more about living conditions as they begin to be lived.

Goodnight sweetheart, going to read a little & go to bed.

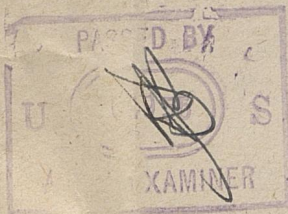
I love you, I love you

David

S/ S. Sgt David Balatin, 35478690
185 @m co. (D.S.)
Repl Depot #4 APO #213
c/o pm - n.y.



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



7

sewing
letters
just as from
argue-7
Jan
1870

473

picture - Jenkins
bad habit of pouring
out before

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