

Fairfax War Service Center



CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

FRED J. BALLENGER
A. T. HANSON
SAM MASON
JOE L. JENNINGS



AND RED CROSS WORK ROOM

FAIRFAX, ALABAMA

MRS. CHARLES HOUSTON
SECRETARY

April 8, 1943

Dear Guys and Gals:

It has been a pleasant week. There have been many interesting letters coming in from around the world. Really, that makes our "mainest" news always. Charles Edwards, still in India, writes that he is getting his mail regularly, and gets quite a kick out of reading the news of all of you. Brother Pinkard writes real often.....think he is seeing the most of North Africa...James Still, also in North Africa, writes that if any of you turn up at APO 625, please look him up. Robert Waller says, from a fox-hole in N. Africa: "If you fellows don't hurry on over, there won't be anything for you to do when you do get here!" All of the letters show a wonderful spirit, and are a boost to receive. You see how much fun it is writing to you, and hearing from you.

Here at home, the trees around the boulevard are a pale green. The dogwood is blooming, and the shrubbery. The mill put out about 100 new dogwood trees last week around the boulevard, and in the "field" in front of the mill.

Another sure sign of spring is the kids playing ball. The park is full of them until dark every night. Sam has 8 teams of the boys from 8 to 14 playing softball on the court back of the theatre. They all have new bright green jerseys, and are as proud as punch of them. He will have two teams of girls who will play a valley schedule, and is planning to have one club team, and one American Legion team, made of ages 13 to 16, playing baseball. They also will play other valley teams. And the Choral and Glee Clubs are planning an Easter program at the Methodist Church, and are working on a nice May Day program. You can see that things are busy at home!

Went to Lanett with Mr. Jennings, Hanson, Piper and Tillery to see the fellows off last Thursday. There were three busloads of them, and that made quite a crowd. From Fairfax, Horace Barnes, Bobby Fink, Calvin Abner, Tommy Dean Griffin, Richard Brooks, Delcer Sanders, and Hugh Eastridge were accepted. They will go to Atlanta this week, so will send you

Their addresses later.

Notes of the Service: You will notice in this week's paper that Fairfax has a Major now. We are very proud. Congratulations to Major Lewis and a salute from us all! (Nice you don't have to return them, eh, Yale?) Thomas Goodwin has been in the hospital with a bad knee....James Emfinger is improving from a recent chest injury on the airfield in Stuttgart, Ark.. Another Wedding! Otto Stough is home on furlough, and married Monday.. Good wishes to them.... He is to report back to Homestead, Fla. this week... Allen Smith, and Jessie Waller came in yesterday, fresh out of boot camp. They both have nice coats of tan...that San Diego sun sorta bears down, I believe.... James Gaylor writes he has been learning things about machine guns, and at pretty close range.....Johnny Ranch was here Monday. He says his days are full, entertaining the fellows who go through McPherson. He is doing a swell job; and he really loves it...Wyche Johnson was home over the weekend...he has gained 18 pounds...quite a difference....Keesler Field is doing all right by him!...Tony Beck writes that he and Hershel Brown are still together; that North Africa isn't exactly like home, but that they are fine. That the language is French and Arab, but sounds like Greek to them! Hinky-Dink Redd is back in Charlotte, N. C....Had sorta lost track of him, and was rather surprised to hear he was still in the U.S.

"Don't they teach you to salute in your company?" roared the Major to Patrick Malone, who had passed him without raising his hand. "Yes, Sir, replied Pat. "Then why didn't you salute?" "Well, sir, was the candid reply, "I didn't want to abtract more attention than I had to, cause I ain't supposed to be out here without a pass."

The mills are still running full time and busy. They really do a good job to keep labor to run on. The busses are still busy bringing people from far and near to their work, and the busses to town are doing a record business.

The ladies of the Red Cross committees are working hard up here, and are turning out bandages by the thousands, and also garments. And we are trying to turn out as much news as we can. Be seeing you.....

Sincerely,

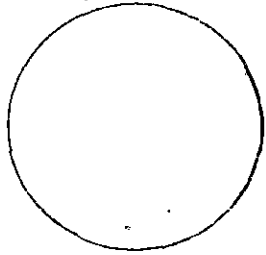
Vera C. Houston

Enjoyed your nice letter. Let us have another. Your many Valley friends are anxious for news of you. The war has made us all much closer in that respect. and it is a sincere interest, believe that.

V.C.H.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/Sgt. James Still 35133320
Hq. and Hq. Sq. 8th ADG AAF
A.P.O. # 625 1/2 Postmaster
Miami, Florida

Comey Still (Sender's name)
918 Spruce Street (Sender's address)
Gadsden, Ala.
April 9 1943 (Date)

Dear Jim,
I was glad to hear from you, and that you were back on your job after a short leave. I can't figure what part of Africa you are in yet.
I haven't heard from papa since we came back from down there.
I worked 28 hours over time this week; so I'm about fagged out.
The paper states that married men with children will be called in July + August so I suppose they will get me there because I have a low order number (529)
Looks like you boys are doing OK in Africa.

Write ^{on} notes or you can.

Lots of love
your Bud
Comey

V-MAIL

Berea, Ky,
April 12, 1943

Dear Tim: Just once I'm going to try the
kind of air travel to see how it travels.
I'm on my way home - found I could not
get out via Ill. for me to be in Mo. in the States
again for two weeks. Since I can't see any chance
of a vacation before Aug. these two days with
my Pal will be most welcome.

We've just had our 8th annual folk festival. You
went to one of the early ones, didn't you? How
wide you could see our row? We must have
had 175 dancers on the floor several times
at our special party - all color & movement.
We've done away with those demonstrations of
various schools where after the youngsters
were paralyzed for they let their institutions
down. Now it's all a party air & everyone
enters into the dances he chooses. So a
gay spirit prevails and soon everyone loses
himself in the whirl of it.

We had 17 centers represented - four more than
last - yet lack 6 of coming up to peak year. 1944
there were 5 teams out of state, some folks
from Va. even. Perhaps in these times for the great
need of the war effort to be found in this
of them. Certainly we made no urgent appeal
in publicity - they just jopped in from

- 2 -

place - a younger group of course but a few
lot of ways to keep a balance. Morris A.
was on the Hindman team. How much do you know about the poetry day
devised by God? Ben Jones saw an announcement
that at 4:30 P.M. April 7th poems by David Mearns
Jesus Christ, James Still & 3 or 4 others were
to be read. It announced the name of poems to
you was "White Highways" & after your name
"fighting in North Africa". No comment about
others
when the time came for the program - instead
of 5 poems there were three. I was some song
"Dream Reverend" with organ background. John
Yonally read well but the music didn't appeal
to me - for instance they played "Home On the Range"
before yours & then off into something else as
your poem was read. God's proclamation then
tune out these three - yours, Horton's & another
one I had heard before. I couldn't help
pondering whether they'd had copyright
difficulties. God whether yours had been cleared
Pauline Ritchie is leaving next year. Have you
in Denver, Colo. in a settlement house. She met the
director of one of our Christmas schools. I shall
try it this summer & if she doesn't like it she
return. I like to see her leave the mt. I
could place her 3 or 4 times over for there's no
leaths in such jobs now. She is so rich
in old song. Hindman group on a
Dawn

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Department of English
and Foreign Languages

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

29 April 43
13 April, 1943

Dear James,

Since I still do not know whether my letters are reaching you or not, I send another one on its unguessed course. But this is the kind of day when one should do something; the sun is shining and promises to grow warmer. One of those blue and gold and green days of spring, in contrast to the chilly weather that April has given us so far.

Everything is behind schedule among the local gardeners, as the weather has been too cold and wet to do much thus far. My garden has been plowed for several weeks, but the weather has been too bad to have it harrowed. Another day like this, though, and I will be able to get in my potatoes, lettuce, cabbage, carrots, and other early vegetables. The Victory garden season is on everywhere. We drove to Roanoke yesterday, and almost every house on the way had its garden plot of some size or another. As one old farmer in the local supply house said the other day, "There's going to be a mort of seed wasted this year."

I'm trying a few oddities this summer. One is a bean that grows with pods about a yard long. Probably it will run to much size and little taste. Then there is a species of mango which the dealer calls a vine peach. It has been conditioned to a temperate climate and is used for pickling and making preserves. I view it with much curiosity. Or will, if I can ever get my garden planted and the seeds sprouted.

One part of the army unit for the new educational program is now settled at V. P. I. It is an assorted group of students ranging all the way from those having post graduate status to others with only one or two years old college. This quarter I am not teaching under the program, as there are so few of them. The basic courses of the program will begin here in June. I shall be busy with them if I am still here by that time.

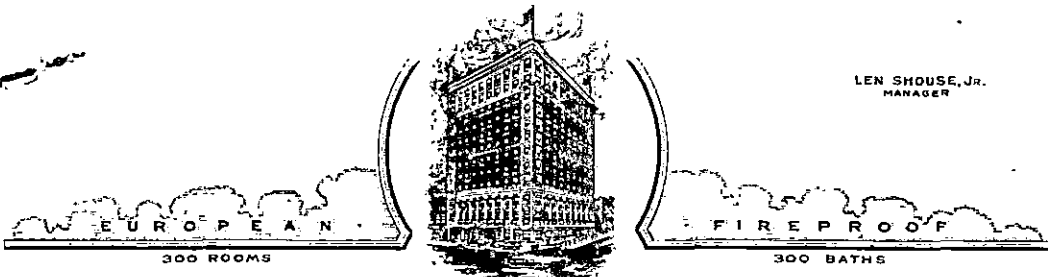
But I hope -- again -- to be somewhere else by then. I have renewed my skirmishings with the Navy, and I am going to Richmond next Monday for a new set of physical examinations, interviews, and tests. I am volunteering for a detail usually considered dangerous on the chance that there may be fewer applicants in that particular division. By the time you receive this I will probably be either rejected flatly or else involved in the red tape. You might wish me luck.

I am Davis of Harcourt, Brace wrote the other day. He said that Katherine Anne Porter's mss. still hadn't been delivered. The war will be over and the peace signed before the book appears. Is she a sensitive person who shrinks from showing herself to the world? Or is she, as her publisher says, a super-conscientious worker?

Why not write a line one of these days? Meanwhile, best of luck!

Yours,

Darwin



Hotel Lafayette

LEXINGTON
KENTUCKY

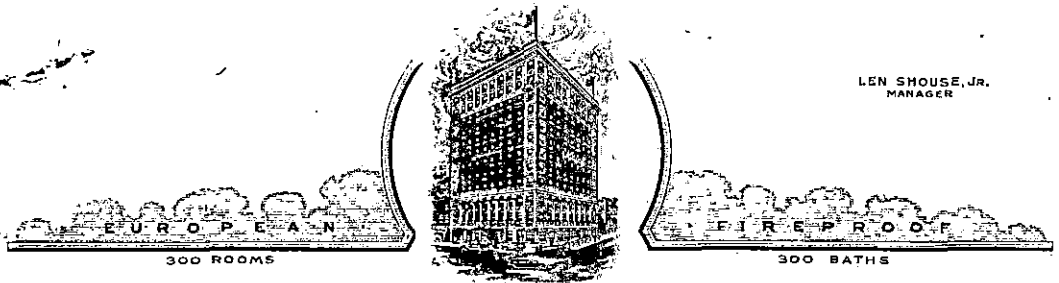
4/14/43

Dear Jim

Morris and I are on our way to Louisville for the K.F.A. We stopped here for the night and on to Louisville to-morrow morning. We had to be at Louisville 1:30 Thursday which we felt we could not make it very easy by leaving home the same day. It snowed on us all the way, I mean a real snow storm, something unusual for April 14. We will not get back home until Saturday. Wish you were with us. Only two making the trip from Hartt County this year, myself and Alice Stone from Lotts Creek.

Morris has gone to the show and I am almost ready for the bed. It now being almost 9:30. We went to your house the last week end on Sunday. Everything looking good about the house.

"IN THE HEART OF THE BLUE GRASS"



Hotel Lafayette

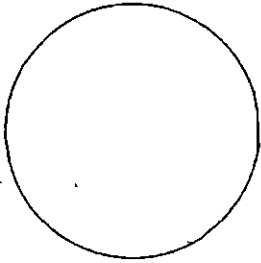
LEXINGTON
KENTUCKY

We had dinner at Melon's and during the meal I felt something pulling to my pants and it was Timothy up to his old tricks, wanting something to eat. By + by Royce come in wanting his share. Royce is large and pretty as ever. Morris has a little pup and just now large enough to carry our socks and shoes all over the place. Morris has a lot of fun with him. His name is 'Sagewood'. We have our house pointed, a rock wall built in the back and now doing some papering. Being a little house closing for spring, but to-day does not look like spring work. I received your first bond to-day. I will be looking for more soon and I will take care of them.

With best regards to you.

John & family

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/Sgt. James Still, 35133320
78 + 89. 5g. 8th ADY, AAF
A.P.O. Box # 625
90 Postmaster
Miami, Florida

Mrs. M. H. Sharpe
(Sender's name)

Bushnell, Fla.
(Sender's address)

Ste 1, Box # 73

April 15 1943.
(Date)

Dear Jim

It's April, but you would think by the way the wind is blowing, ~~you~~ it was March.

The delay in my letters was due to the fact that I got my hands covered with poison ivy. I can't imagine how or where I got it, any way they broke out and swelled up in a jiffy. It all gone now, and I'm back doing the daily ~~alozzen~~. Beans + Tomatoes are blooming.

Mal is sitting tobacco, Berries season is over, but still there is lots of ripe berries on the vines. Cucumbers heads the list selling at the market now. Some squash and other vegetables.

My garden is coming along nicely, and chickens growing fast.

Have just written Inez. Hardly ever hear from any of the rest, after its several months.

Herry + Gladys came by last Saturday. Gladys' brother + Brother-in-law was home for the last time in quite a while so her mother had all the family home for a few hours. All had jobs that they couldn't leave. It took most of the time getting there and back. We are all just fine, and always think

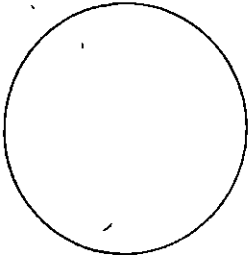
of you.

V - MAIL

Love Ellene.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/SERGEANT JAMES STILL #35133320
Hq and Hq. SQUADRON 8th A.D.G.-
A.A.F.
A.P.O. 625
C/O POSTMASTER
MIAMI-- FLORIDA.

GUY LOOMIS

(Sender's name)

P.O. BOX. 98

(Sender's address)

brooklyn n.y.--- U.S.A.

(Date)

April 18th-43

My dear Jimmie

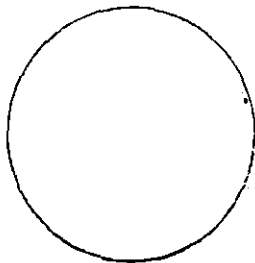
No recent letter so am wondering if you are in action. Last letter was, I think, # 4. Sent you a regular letter a short time ago enclosing an analysis of your handwriting. Waterman's Pen Co is putting on the show. ^{Rt} Ten cents and the carton of a ten cent bottle of ink brings it. Am wondering if you think it fits your case. Miss Mount, Kate Loomis and Mrs Watkins picked you out as the victim. No news of any consequence to send you. We are being rationed more and more each day. The Bossert is beginning to cut down on portadons but we do get enough to eat. But meat is very scarce. Wanted some catsup yesterday when my lunch was ordered up to my room but back came the reply "none to be had". But the dry cereals are not rationed so we can fill out with them. Neither is milk but with no ice box it is impossible to keep it very long and they have cut out pint bottles. But there is no kicking, so far as I can learn, for we are much better off than many of the Allies. Sent some work trowsers to Hindman and asked them to try to get some to your neighbors on Dead Mare Branch. The laundry said some Oil Station had gone out of business and had abandoned them. And they were in good shape. On our "A" Book we get 1 1/2 gal gas weekly so we are not doing any touring. Just use the car for essentials for I dont want to drop Harry out for, being alone, need some one on whom I may count day or night. But all is well here. Hope you are in good shape.

Affectionately yours

V - MAIL

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No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

W. Comer Still

(Sender's name)

918 Spruce Street

(Sender's address)

Gadsden, Alabama

April 27, 1943

(Date)

Dear Jim,

I was glad to get your letter dated the 18th of April; also the paper, Who Dat? It had quite a number of categories didn't it?

all is well here in the Ole Home State. You seem to have softened the hearts of some of the people back home with your short note to Mrs Houston.

Mary and baby spend the week end down home. all were doing fine.

Jim I will try to get the film at Camp Sibert.

I had a letter from Lance Osburn. He is stationed at Camp Sibert. He's in officer training.

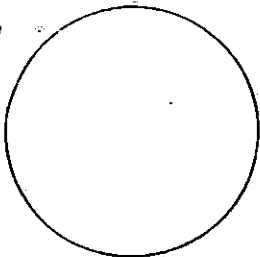
Write as often as you can and as much as you can

Lots of love
your bud
Comer

V-MAIL

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No. _____



CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/Sgt James Still. 35133320

Hq & Hq Sq, 8th ADG AAF

A.P.O. Box 625

C/O Postmaster. Miami. Florida.

J. Alex Still.

(Sender's name)

R F D. no. 3.

(Sender's address)

West Point. GA.

4.29.43.

(Date)

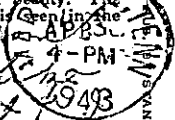
Dear Jim ~~126428822~~ I got your letter that was mailed the 19th the 26th. you can see how long it takes your letter to come. Yes you wrote me about your house being robbed, I am glad every thing came out all right. Tom did not get to come home, he wrote for me to send him money to come home on I did. He wrote and said he got the money but could not come home at the time, "el as to my buisness I am triing to sismitise my buisness as much as posible, I do not cater to every beck and call as I use to , My buisness has incras 25 per cent sence the war. I do not make any more trips than I did I charge more for what I do and collect better. Alfred stilã writes ar wire me for money about once amont. I send it to him, I have thought someny times that I would not send any more but I do.

Asever POP.

V...- MAIL

Winding gracefully along the rippling Oconee
 Luffee River, the Newfound Gap Highway near
 Spunkemont, N. C., is one of real beauty. The
 main crest of the Great Smokies is seen in the
 background.

look much like
 Africa, does it.
 must admit that the
 war has changed this
 country but there are
 still too many passive
 people. Here's hoping
 you are holding your
 own in the future.
 Will write you a letter
 soon. Good luck on your
 J.C.C. R. L.



THE NEWS STANDARD NEWS AGENCY, KNOXVILLE, TENN.-BIRMINGHAM



POST CARD

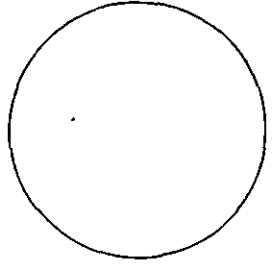
1 Lt. James Still
 8th Air Depot Group
 P. O. 625
 Miami, Fla.

525 - NEWFOUND GAP
HIGHWAY NEAR
SMOKE MOUNT,
GREAT SMOKY
MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK



Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.



Street Sgt JAMES STILL 35/33320

High Sq 8th A D G A A F

A.P.O. Box # 625

Post MASTER, MIAMI FLORIDA

MRS D. H. BARNES
(Sender's name)

927 AVE D
(Sender's address)

DAPS DE M. ALA

APRIL 30, 1949
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dearest James your letter I received on my birthday was sure a grand gift. By all means possible we will get some film if there is in. Barbara Sue is sickel to death over here please she cant hardly wait. James I know you wont to spare me for slowing up in writing but if you will for give me I wont let happen a gain. But really I've been sick more sarness than I really thought. Kidney poison. But it's all clear now. I've gone back to work and am giving 20 percent of my pay each week for Londo. also Douglas Comer. spent the week end with us as money spent the Easter season in Fairfax Ala. she did not see any of the folks. she did not ever call Dad. James will game out of coffee for seven days we drink ice tea and cocoa. I read your letter in the paper speaking about the little fellow in company. I cannot my letter out at Comer we read each other letter. I also read the your daily news enjoyed it. Peanut will go to work in the shop for Douglas when school is out just for the summer. He's anxious to join the navy but we wont him to get that two year of high school. ^{It's a good work all ways} even knowing asking ^{god to see you} I think of you ^{and}

V...-MAIL