

MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS
HAWTHORN, FLORIDA

Aug. 11, 1943

Dear James Still:

I can't tell from your welcome letter whether you had my last or not---rather doubt it.

I have put your poem so carefully away that it will take me a hell of a long time to find it. I have enveloped marked "Keep" that I bury in all sorts of places. When I find it, I'll send it on.

But what a fiendish thing for a poet to do---send a lady a verse, keep no copy, and then later demand it! I remember that I hesitated between putting it in a "Keep" envelop, and slipping it in one of your books. Should have done the latter!

My darling husband, being past the draft age (42) up and volunteered for the American Field Service as an ambulance driver. They operate in the front lines and their casualties in the last war were

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twice the ratio of Army casualties. But he felt he couldn't sit down comfortably while other men did his dirty work for him. I admire him for it, but am desolate. He is on his way overseas now, headed either for India or the Middle East.

Fortunately, I am ready to begin work on a new book, which will keep me from going crazy.

~~I was so glad to hear from you. I am at my~~
cottage on the ocean for the summer, where the porpoises feed and play as close in as the third wave. And my supper last night was bread and milk and green-turtle eggs. In the fall I shall go back to the orange grove at the Creek.

With best wishes,

Marjorie R.

South Amherst, Mass.
August 13, 1943

Dear Jim,

One should not be surprised at anything today. So when a note (headed with sublime simplicity "Africa") came from you the other day, I was not so much surprised as delighted. Delighted to hear from you after a silence of two years and more, and delighted to hear that things go well with you.

I was in the army from October 12, 1942 to February 17, 1943. For the past six months I have been working on a poultry and apple farm in South Amherst, and boarding and rooming with a nice old lady two and a half miles away. Each day I have five miles of bicycle riding and nine hours of work. I guess it's doing me good, even though it takes my strength and most of my time, makes me too tired to write much when I do have a bit of leisure, and stiffens my fingers for fiddling.

From early November till the time of my discharge from the army I was stationed at Camp Breckinridge, Ky. I wish you had been home and I had been visiting you at the other end of the state. I have to remind myself constantly that Camp Breckinridge is NOT Kentucky. I rose to the exalted rank of Pfc. But staff sergeant! I confess that it makes me a bit uncomfortable to address you as such. I remember other sergeants.

For the fun of it -- that's as good a reason as any -- I published under my own auspices a few weeks ago a new collection - quite small - of some recent poems. "The Sound I Listened For". I'd love to slip a copy in a brown envelope and send it to you. But would it ever reach Africa and you?

Here where I room and board there is a small barn unused except for the storage of some hay. I am privileged to consider it my study, workroom, practice hall, and general refuge from the conversation of woman folk. Here I sit at this moment, surrounded by hay, and with the wind blowing through the big partly opened doors. It's a dark, sort of occult night outside. If I were just a little psychic now, I might --- well, I remember that when you spent a night in the old house where I used to live ages ago you told me in the morning that the old woman who lived there before I did came and gave you a gentle shaking. Sometimes I have wanted to give you a gentle shaking, and I haven't wanted to die before I did it. But not tonight. Tonight I have only blessings to bestow. Blessings on you, and plenty of luck.

Bob

Sunday Aug 15th
[1943]

Dear Jim,

Your letter came today. It was like a surprised package, each wanted to read it first. And we enjoyed it very much.

We had a full house this week end. Hervey + Gladys came up. Earl came in last, he is off for a few days. So they were here. Wish you could have joined us. Patsy + Tommy is still here. Helen + Earl went home with Hervey to stay a few days. Hazel went as far as Brownville to visit with Ernest Shayer's wife.

All are trying to get their visiting over, school starts the 27th of Aug. Patsy can hardly wait. She starts too!

I can hardly believe summer is most over. Although Mel ~~has~~ already planting the fall crops and it will soon be time to put out berries.

I just love this time of year. Neither too hot or cold. There is half grown rabbits hopping around. And coveys of quail here + there. Especially late in the evening when they are calling to each other, seems as though the sound travels for miles.

All the year one bunch comes through the yard night and morning.

Had a long letter from Corner last

week. said all were well but busy. we just
written my. Probably she will answer in
a month or so.

Our dry spell has at last broken and
we have had a down pour for the last
24 hours. just good sleeping weather
if one had the time. I always have
something planned to do, or a story
to read. To much sleeping seems a waste of
time.

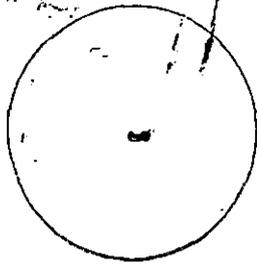
Glad you have plenty of reading
material to pass of the time as I know
you enjoy that best of all.

I read your letter to Pat & Tom. And
just as I finished a plane passed over
Tom said do you suppose he is in
that plane coming now?

I'm sending a clipping from the
Tampa Tribune Aug the 12th concern-
ing ~~magazine~~ Winnon Rawlings.
Every one has these troubles.

We are all just fine & happy.
And glad you are to. So write
when you have the time, but dont
expect so much as I know you have
so many more to write to. Love
Ellorie.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/ Sgt. James Still 35133320
Hq. 7th Sq. 8th A.D.H.-A.O.F.
A.P.O. No. 625 - C/o Postmaster
Miami, Florida

W. Comer Still
(Sender's name)
918 Spruce Street
(Sender's address)
Gadsden, Alabama
August 15, 1943
(Date)

Dear Jim;

I had letter from Cloise this week. She had just heard from you and wanted to give me the lowdown on news and family affairs.

Every thing is very quiet in Gadsden. I haven't seen Meg and Doug for sometime now. I'm on the second shift and it's almost impossible for me to go any where.

I am figuring on a vacation soon. If the company and U.R.W.A. (CIO) will honor my application. If so, I'm going to see Pop and might go down to Fla. to see Cloise a few days.

Rance Osborne must have moved from Camp Sibert. I haven't heard from him in a couple of weeks.

Maybe you will be catching a plane home before long. Here's hoping -
your Bud
Comer.

V - MAIL

Falling Subjects: English II,
Geometry, American History, and
biology. I have not fully
decided. Some of the kids from
Kindergarten came up today.

It's getting awfully late
so I had better quit.

From what I hear
you all are doing a grand
job. Keep it up.

A friend

Rick
Arbinger

M^cRoberts, Ky
Aug 12, 1943
Sunday Night

Dear Mr. Still,

We received your letter
and everyone was so anxious
to read it that I had to
hunt a corner to get to
read it first. I am glad
to have the possession of a
letter that is headed "Africa"
(and signed "James Still")
Your dream seems so
strange and yet it is sort of
funny.

An all girl Orchestra is
going to give a "Mad as Hell"

said he did not need glasses. That if he got better he would cut grass it.

Mother is getting glasses though. Enough of our family troubles.

It must have been very interesting to see the radio and movie actresses and actors in Africa and their entertainment.

I wrote Andra and asked him if her husband was at Kelly Field. I haven't heard from her yet but I think he is.

It will be a junior in high school this year and I am planning on taking the

Fathers." It is very beautiful and it reminds me of Kindness because we sing it there a lot. This is my last Sunday night home for some time. We go back to school the 1st which is Saturday.

Ed is a lot better now. I worry a lot less because he eats more, sleeps better, and feels much better. I guess you remember Carl has a bad left eye. Mother took him to the Naz and the Doctor.



Who's Who
in the
Western Hemisphere

QUIEN es QUIEN
en el Hemisfero del Occidente

315 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Murray Hill 4-1970

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August 16, 1943

Sgt. James Still,
c/o Postmaster,
Miami, Fla.

Dear Sargeant Still:

I have the pleasure to inform you that your name has been recommended for inclusion in the forthcoming Edition of WHO'S WHO in the WESTERN HEMISPHERE by Mr. Robert Francis.

This volume is intended to aid in bringing about closer ties between the peoples of North and South America through a more intimate knowledge of their leaders in the arts and sciences, commerce and industry, politics and public welfare.

Kindly fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire at your earliest convenience. After editing, a draft of the sketch will be sent to you for correction and approval. There is, of course, no obligation whatever incurred.

Sincerely yours,


R. Rocker

Associate Editor

RR:LL
Encl.

August 18, 1943

Dear Jimmie:

Your letter of August 6, came in record time. Your package and letter arrived the same time. The package was unpacked as you suggested and the contents very interesting. They will be put away as you suggested and the significance of them will wait until you arrive back home.

I will now try to answer your questions. Woodrow had a spell while working which seems to be a stroke, but it turned out to be his heart together with sinus trouble. He is getting along very well now and still working. I have looked at your bonds as you suggested and find they date back to September 1942 and run up to the present, with Jan., Feb., and March 1943 missing. We have checked them carefully and the three certainly have not arrived. You probably had better look into the matter. --

The Yale Review Anthology arrived safely and also the Bird Books.

I made a visit to your home Sunday and everything is O.K. there. I ate some of your grapes which was sure good. There was only a few, of course, this time because of the size of the vines. I brought Rania and Morris a small pod. Edgar was home on a furlough from California for a few days. I am sure proud of Edgar for he has made good. He is now a sergeant, Commander of a 90 MM Anti-aircraft gun. I ask him how he made it, and he said other men had good education, but he had a little horse sense. After entering the Army he went to school for two months at that time he could hardly write his name. You will be surprised to know the amount of knowledge he has obtained in the thing he is interested in the big gun he commands, and he delights in it.

Our schools are progressing as well as possible with almost 1/3 our regular teaching staff missing. I am having tough going and I hope to do the best job possible. It looks like things are going good over there now, and we all hope it will continue. - 195 goes in the September call which takes all married men without children.

With the best of luck to you and I will try and write sooner next time.

Sincerely,

John and Family
Bethro

Room 5 Beldt Hall



U S NAVAL RESERVE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, N.Y.

Aug 21, 1943

Dear Jim,

I have been wondering about you for a long time, not being able to find out just what had become of you.

Glad you are situated well.

Have been here 3 months the first and have two to go since I shipped a month because of illness.

Work is tough tho' pretty interesting - an awful lot of concentrated study.

Jan and both children are here and like it fine. They will go to the ocean's edge for I presume that I shall get sea duty - that is what we are here for.

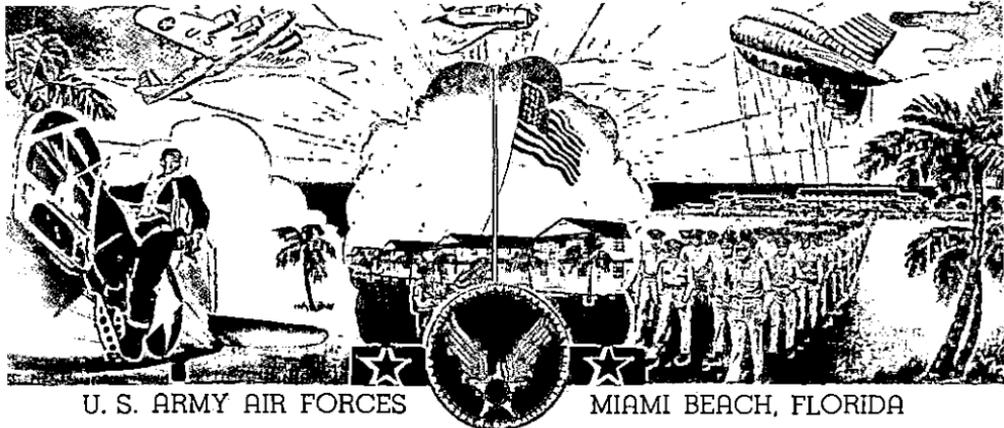
Naturally I haven't had time for much artistic inclinations for some time past. That is the only regret.

Will hope we meet soon, and at least drop me a note often.

By the way I finished the M. A. before coming here. So you can see last year with all the carving, babies, study, and Navy & bank I was a busy man - no wonder I needed a rest.

Sincerely,

Arthur Stewart



U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

Sun. Aug. 22, 1943

Dear Jim,

As usual, it was wonderful and good to hear from you, especially this time when your letter was forwarded to me at the Regional Hospital here. I am here under observation for "hypertension" and expect to be released for active duty in a short time. Only this morning I mentioned you in a letter to my publisher. The Caxton Press of Caldwell Idaho has finally accepted my novel "A Branch Shall Grow." It will probably miss fall publication, but I expect it will appear on their Spring lists. I have had a book of poems, "At The Gates" accepted by the Press of James A. Decker. It looks like my luck is coming from the West. After this war, Jim, I am going to accept your once offered invitation to visit you in your

Kentucky wolver. I know that to you all
this talk of the acceptance of Miss must
sound as though I've been a very busy
boy. Actually it took 3 years and 2 months
to place the novel, and, about half a year to
place "At the Gate".

Apparently I am following
your Army footsteps. I applied for
Administrators school since I am
nothing at all of a mechanic or
radio man. I hope I get it after I
complete my basic training.

John Gross is in the Navy
~~and I haven't heard from him for a long~~
time. I believe he is in for some kind of
special training by now. Tom Pideant
is a Lieutenant in the Army, a special
service officer I believe. No word from
him either. I saw Betty Carner a
few months before I left for the Army in
July.

So far I haven't been able to
stir a line about the Army or anything
else. Write me here when you have
time. My wife & I often think about
you.

As always,
Boris Tashin

27 August 27 - 1948

Dear James

Just a few lines to let you know I hadn't forgot you. I hope this letter find you in best of health and a easy time. We all are doing just fine so far. Martha and I spend our day. Eve with Lois + Allen. Aunt Rennie. Pimbley was there. She certainly is a interesting person to talk with. We all went to church that night for the first time since I left Shawmut. Our day is doing just fine and fat as a pig. I spent the weekend with my and the family a month ago. I certainly did have a good time. La me comes with. It is a bragged and am the same old Sir you left a year ago. Kimble and I are all teacher young girls and boys intermediate B.Y. P.H. My family just there goes to church twice on Sunday.

I can work better when I go to the
old house on Sunday.
You ask about canned. I really
have canned more than I ever
all first year put together.
I have four hundred ten jars
and also some dry pea and butter
I had the nice garden I ever
had in a long time. We have
plenty green peas coming
in all time till frost
I have two surviving tomatoes
stalk tall as corn I stalk yield
five bushel on one stalk. This
gave me the plant. I was the
only one had any luck so far
you sure would laugh at my
garden. The way I have it
you boys busy get this thing
over with I am anxious to work
for you all over more.
Yes Mrs. Waller is still here with
us. She is a great help to me
and I will be with her.

informed spirit last week and
with Katherine. She received your
letter and certainly was glad that
you wrote her. My Naval boys
are doing fine just fine last
time I heard from them. I am
am proud of you all.
I am hoping and praying for
you all safe return soon.
My James I remember you on
your birthday gather a pretty
bunch of ladies and ~~men~~
Boston Willows was at home
from the naval last week. Kirk
is the oldest child. His brother
Person is in the army. He married
James Johnson wife's sister
I don't ever hear from Ellice
at all. I guess she might
address

Alvin Dural Waller
U.S. Naval Air Station
T.S.-18-B
Corpus Christi Texas

- 2 -

Charles E. Waller
U. S. S. Casablanca
c/o Field Postmaster
San Francisco,

Jessie W. Waller
U. S. Naval Rec. Station
4th Division
San Pedro California

I know my boys will be glad to
hear from you. We are working
five day now. and have some
pretty weather

If you have any picture made of
of your self here later I would
like to have one.

I guess I better close before
your eye get back reading
this letter. Excuse this period
write for my pen give out
So be good and do your best
I am with you on mind all
time. I thank you so much the
time out write to me. Love

Tom

Hadsden Ala
Aug. 29, 1943

Dearest James,

I hope these few lines find you well and still enjoying site seeing. We are all well at the present time. School will start in one more week Peanut has all ready worked his notice so all three will start at the same time. I got a long letter from Lois and also Elmore who is well. But Lois is not doing so well at the present time. Rosemary had her tonsils removed Wednesday she is doing nicely we see them when we go over there. Well Douglas and me are putting on our middle age fat now as I weigh one hundred and sixteen lb and girl. The children have grown a lot too. Barber, Sue, has grown tall, Louise has fleshier up with her height. We are getting under our house bricks up man I be our house will be warmer this winter. Trip really came a lot to this summer James my letter is lots better now I keep putting off the appropriation any way I dread it. We sure are having plenty of hot weather although we had a cold burst yesterday it rained so hard until you could not drive in it at all. Peanut is driving now. J. S. Brown Peanut boy friend is home on a furlow after getting hurt while in service. Write up to O. Lots of love be a good boy and remember you all are thinking of

To: H₂ + H₃. Sg. 8th ADG
APO 625
Miami FL

[1943]

August 31

Dear John, Jim, George & Art,
I'm in Texas burning
up. Your memory of Texas
last August will remind you
of how hot it can be. I'm
in Roton a couple days at Chra's
home - on our way to Salt Lake
City. This weather is terrific!

Well, they finally
graduated me. It was a rough
90 days but not too bad. I'm
kinda' like one boy said, if
they call me a 90 day wonder
I'll say yes - it's a wonder I
lived through 90 days of it. I
was commissioned the 21st and
received my orders. Assigned to
the Overseas Replacement Training
Center, Kearns Field, Utah with

10 days delay. They gave me the
10 days for they figure we're on
our way overseas. Practically all
the foreign service men have
sent to these O.R.C.'s. I
heard that Munster went to
one at Jefferson Bonacks, but
I didn't get to see him to
find out for sure. A few of us
will remain at those places
as permanent party but the
bulk of us will soon be
travelling again. I hope I may
see you boys before long if
~~not~~ probably as I pass through
there.

I haven't heard a
word from Al since that
night he called me in Miami.
I hope you boys have more
news about him.

5
Dell Ray Carter I saw
his father here yesterday and

talked with him quite a while
Jim, & I've been reading
some more of your works. I'm
afraid I must admit I'm pretty
well sold on the Still style.
I'm enjoying them immensely.

It looks as if the war
is progressing fairly well. Our
biggest concern is Prussia. Churchill's
speech from Canada today seemed
to me to be a great appeal
to Prussia. The Allies are worried
about her. Other big news is
the Sumner Wells - Cordell Hull
split. It is too bad, but no
one knows much about the
details. Drew Pearson is certainly
after Hull now.

Now that I'm out
of school I hope to be
able to write you boys
individually, but I wanted
to get this note off to

you to let you know &
may see you soon.

Best of luck to all of you.

Arnold

Had a card from Ruth, John.