

April 2 - 1944

~~Dear James~~

How are you these beautiful days I hope this letter found you in best of health. We are all O.K. so far. The Valley is begin to look very pretty and althrough scare of men. Have you been getting <sup>letter</sup> more or not. I have written you several times I hope ~~the~~ <sup>you</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~Ellen~~ <sup>Ellen</sup> ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~day~~ <sup>day</sup> ~~saying~~ <sup>saying</sup> she reciev a letter from you. I am very ansion to hear from you and the instee place your vein to. I know you have inby every minute fit in one way. I think it time for you to come home for a rest as you know but daddy is getting old in age. I e worrie more about you than all the best. Well I devotion the Church last Sunday for you and my boys. I think it was siky pretty. I had a big case of pink gladioli <sup>by you</sup> and had three roots of red hydrangea two fern. I asked our daddy his wife also Allen + Lois. they ~~all~~ <sup>all</sup> ~~took~~ <sup>took</sup> ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> ~~cook~~ <sup>cook</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~dinner~~ <sup>dinner</sup>

I guess you heard about Charles getting  
married Christmas. He married a painter  
of Washington. They brought them a home in  
Portland Oregon. We have not seen our new  
daughter yet. But we are anxious to see her.  
Alvin and Jessie is in Fairview thirty miles  
apart. They see one another very often.

Katharine is still liking her work fine  
and will be through training next January  
Martha is almost grown. tall as I am weight  
1.30 I weight 168. mean as ever. Well I am  
take life easy these days the house keeps me  
instead of me keeping it. I am on the go all  
the time while I not working. We are getting  
six days now. Buy a ton once a month.

By the way the flowers seed you gave me  
two years ago came up last summer certain  
was pretty. The dacton butt was a pale blue  
The sunflowers look like an old maid a deep  
red. I am very fond of flowers here late and  
also a good garden. Mrs Waller is still here  
will be the certain but I know not.

so don't worry well her health is very good.  
I look for Chas & family down this week but  
don't know why they didn't come. Parmer  
wanted to come to see us before he had to  
leave for the navy. He certainly is a sweet boy & also  
the girl too. Mr. Sister Lois is really a fat lady  
& it is really a church worker and I think he  
sure is good for that type of work. We all here  
go to church twice on Sunday. I know it  
for you all to go I am going for you all and  
think of you all boy fight for us. I hope  
it won't be long before this thing over with  
tell it p-p-m and time for B. y. p. n. better  
close for this time. You'll like to hear you  
Be good & I am with you always in pray  
May God bless you through & out years to  
come.

Love

Lois

TO: Hq + Hq Sq. 8th AOG AAF  
AOG 606 c/o P.M.  
Miami, FL

**D D M**

395 Clinton Avenue  
Brooklyn, N. Y.  
April 11, 1944.

Dear Mr. Still:

I am so sorry that malaria has you in the hospital and sincerely hope the "bout" may be short with the honors going to you. I have a young friend in the Marines who went all through the Guadalcanal invasion and fortunately had nothing worse happen to him than malaria and the bite of a tropical insect of some sort. The latter was troublesome enough to get him sent back here and given duty at the Marine base at Newport where he is eating his heart out because so far he hears nothing of active duty.

Several days ago I sent you from Mr. Loomis a box of the "Pocket Books" through the publishers and I hope they reach you promptly. I wish you had them while you are hors du combat. We find that they will send a package often without a request so they will be going to you and Billy Carr from time to time. I wish I knew which titles you would prefer, and when another list comes I'll get Mr. Loomis to enclose it and if you care to check any that appeal to you I'll order them.

Billy is having a very active time and I imagine went through quite an invasion, being now in New Guinea. Fortunately, he said, his unit came through intact. We hear from him very regularly, mostly V mail, which comes through very quickly.

Three lots of "Who Dats" have come and I am filing them away for you. They are very amusing and I know you'll be glad to have them when all this is over to remind you of events to tell your grandchildren-maybe.

Some time ago I gave Mr. Loomis a review of Jesse Stuart's "Taps for Private Tussie" to enclose to you, but I don't know whether he remembered. Since then I have read it and found it very entertaining. His shiftless Tussies are far removed from the upstanding family of your stories, and their ethics are not commensurable to say the least, but he has a clever idea and a well sustained plot. Most of the people I know who have read it enjoyed it and chuckle reminiscently when they tell you so.

Mr. Loomis keeps very well but of course not being able to get away on the trips he used to take

several times a year makes his life pretty monotonous. Correspondence is his main interest now and when he doesn't hear from his friends it worries him. If you could send him just a postal at frequent intervals it would be a great load off his mind.

What you say about Africa interests us all very much and I'm sorry you can't get about more to see the surrounding country on the installment plan. It must be very beautiful and with such a wonderful opportunity right before you I can understand how meddening it must be not to have time to take advantage of it. I hope you may be able to later. I knew a man who was in the last war who was mustered out over there and spent four months rambling around Europe on bicycle and on foot and said it more than repaid him for what he had gone through in France.

Do let us know how you are getting on and I hope you will soon be back to normal.

With all good wishes from Mr. Balmanno and

Sincerely

*Whitney A. Mount*

H. Custer Mich.  
April 13, 1944

Dear Jim:

I should have written this letter a couple of months ago, but my letter writing has been sadly neglected.

After four months of hard work I finally ended up with the bar. - It was really quite a job getting into the Army after that year and a half in the Air Corp. - I started from scratch in learning a lot of these boys paper Infantry, etc. - For the first month I didn't know whether I was coming or going & sometimes wishing that I was back on the beach at Gosra. - You know how much I know about close order drill - well now I know F.M. 22-5 backward. - company commander the last week of school, which included a lot of drilling. - The academic work was a little more than I expected, about 10 lawyers and couple of gents from Harvard and Yale. The class on a whole had the highest average of any class to go through here.

We got ten days after graduation and then came back to a leadership school, which included field work, lectures, and instruction. Ten of us were pulled out of the leadership school and put into the Officers' Investigations School. - Another four weeks and I will graduate. Where to then I cannot say. The Provost Marshal General has taken over all Intelligence, Internal Security, Counter-Intelligence etc. and it is now in the process of being reorganized. So anything can happen. The other day they called us together and gave us the opportunity of attending a new Military Government School for a War Eastern Detail - going to school for several months at some Eastern University which included the learning of the Japanese language. It is a good thing for those who are interested in Allied Military Government.

I told you that I would write you only if I completed the school. - I was a little busy in getting this letter off. - We have a four hour block of hours in interrogation this afternoon which is not too interesting - so I thought it a good time to drop you a line.

I arrived back in the States October 2 and school started the first of November. - After a couple of trips to Ft. Custer I managed to get a twenty-eight day furlough. I have also enjoyed being home each week-end. So Jim the four months of hard work has been worth it.

This is the first letter that I have written to Acacia for months and I was wondering if the old S.H.A.D.C. was still there. How have things been going with you? - Is the beach house still in operation and Paul and Lane still members?

Well Jim this afternoon is drawing to a close. The girls in the chess room have been busy for the first time, a nice spring afternoon. - After five months of blizzards it sure is welcome.

Drop me a line Jim I would enjoy hearing from you.

Regards

R. Meyers

Kt. Robt. F. Meyers 01728943  
P.M.G.S. CLASS D-19 BLOC. 2219  
FORT CUSTER MICHIGAN

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.

From

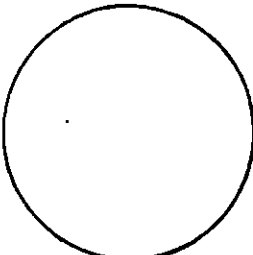
Robert L. Kincaid  
(Sender's name)

Harrogate, Tenn.  
(Sender's address)

April 13, 1944  
(Date)

To  
T/Sgt. James Still 35133520  
Hq. & Hq. Squadron 8th-A.D.G.-A.A.F.  
APO 606  
c/o Postmaster  
Miami, Florida

No.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Hotel Biltmore,  
New York City,  
April 13, 1944

Dear James:

I saw Mr. Guy Loomis today in Brooklyn and he told me he had heard from you recently and that you were having a battle with malaria. I hope by this time you have entirely recovered. I suppose malaria is not as bad as some things you can pick up in your present climate. I had the stuff once when I was a youngster in South Georgia but do not remember that I had any after effects.

I am surprised that you are still in Africa since all the big doings on the continent. You should have picked up enough local color from the "dark continent" to write two or three books when you come back. Unfortunately, all of your experiences are out of your native field, and if you stay in your old field, you will have to learn all over again.

Every now and then some boy's name from Southeastern Kentucky pops up in the news. Ernie Pyle had a story about a fellow from Wallins Creek, the other day. To my mind, Ernie is doing the best job of any of the correspondents, because he writes about the common things of military life. I greatly enjoyed his "This Is Your War," all about the African campaigns. I suppose you fellows have read it by now, and you know wherein he is short. When are you going to give us something?

I was out on Long Island recently and talked to a library club. I told them about your book, "River of Earth," and I think it resulted in some sales. My topic was "Literature of the Southern Mountains." Of course I included in my discussion Jesse Stuart's latest and Book of the Month Club for December, "Taps for Private Tussie." If you have not read it, it is a robust, rip-roaring story of a mountain family on relief who came into some insurance money from the government. It is a satire. Sort of a "Tobacco Road" thing. A fine piece of work, but the trouble is that most readers on the outside regard it as a typical mountain family's story.

Incidentally, I heard from one of our former news boys the other day who went to Berea and is now in the service, and he says, "James Still is still tops for me, among all of those who have come from L.M.U."

Speaking of L.M.U., we have only twenty young men there now, and about 150 girls. I suppose we will have to have a girls' school until the end of the war. We have had one financial break recently. A man in Wilmington, Del., died and left us a bequest of \$250,000 for endowment. He was my prospect, whom I have cultivated for the last seven years, and that makes me feel pretty good.

Mrs. Kincaid is well and we are reconstructing our lives since the death of our boy. Helen, our daughter, is school nurse at Middlesboro. Husband in the Pacific. And with all good wishes, I am, Sincerely, Robert L. Kincaid

V...-MAIL



Put away enclosed post cards for me -  
Under separate cover am sending a picture taken  
in Egypt; - Sphinx on left, the Great Pyramid in right  
AFRICA background.  
14 April 1944

Dear Jethro:

I'm out of the hospital, and back on duty. Must still report to dispensary daily for 6 green catty-cornered pills of ferrous sulphide. Glad to stop taking atebine as I'm yellow as a sunflower from being so chuck full. Feel a bit weak yet, and am not quite up to former self. Should get my land legs back in a week or two. Here's hoping I have established an immunity to malaria.

Colonel Tellman, our Group Commander, went to the hospital with the "bug" yesterday; Captain Rankin, the Adjutant is in with jaundice, and Captain <sup>Burgess</sup> is filling in for him.

Have just had a haircut—a Wog haircut, or properly a hair-gap. I thought about saving a few locks for old times sake for by the time I get back to the old country there won't be anything on top of my head.

It has been beastly hot here for days, the hottest weather we've experienced over here. So long as there's a breeze it is bearable. But about bedtime when the breeze dies and the mosquito nets must be down the huts are like ovens. Yet it is not so torrid in my hut as it was in the hospital. There my pillow would get sopping wet every night.

The weather is beginning to look heavy to the East and I hope there will be rain tonight.

My proposed trip to Eritrea on the Red Sea was knocked into a cocked hat when I got the "bug". May be I can go in May, June or July. But not before I can walk a hundred yards without panting.

Ever,  
[Signature]

[Signature]

Central Africa  
15 April 1944

Dear Marion and Matt:

Long have I intended writing a letter to you. But my failure to write has not meant that I did not think of you often. I recollect the wonderful fried chicken on your table in the head of Dead Mare and the blackberry jam and giant hot biscuits with yellow butter melting in the middle. These are old times now, but not forgotten times. It is good to have these things to think about. It makes the present bearable, the future hopeful.

How are you liking McRoberts? I can't believe you could be as completely happy there as up in the Dead Mare, but then these are busy times and mining coal is one of the ways of carrying on the war effort.

Wish I could be there with you all tonight, to sit around and talk, and drop over to Woodrows for a few sets of rock.

Pauline wrote that you said my house looked as though it ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> waiting for me to come home. Well, I hope it keeps on looking and looking until one day I do come around Redwine Mullin's curve--and there it will be!

I have been in good health over here except for a recent spell of tropical malaria fever. Spend 13 days in the hospital. Am now back on duty.

While I shall never get through regretting this war, ~~but~~ for me personally, it has been a great experience, one that could not have come in the ordinary routine and run of a lifetime.

I hope you are both well. Give my regards to Paud.

Ever,  
Jim

918 Spruce St.  
Gadsden, Ala.  
April 15, 1944

Dear Jim;

I was very sorry to hear that you have been sick, and I hope that by the time you get this letter, you will have recovered.

All the folks are fine so far as I know. The only word I have had from home was two weeks ago. They were all ok then.

Jauise got a letter from Tom. He has landed safely overseas somewhere. I don't know where. I would like very much to get a letter from Tom. He just doesn't seem to understand what our family means to us.

I played golf with Doug & Peanut one Sunday morning. We sure enjoyed the outing and being together. Doug is crazy for Peanut to go in service. Saw ole Doug.

We just don't get any more news that seems so important. I suppose "It's the lull before the storm." We are waiting.

I think you should get to come home for a rest, now that you have been overseas so long.

I could use about a two week rest myself. Can't seem to shake of the cold I have had for some time.

Rose Marie is sure growing; you would hardly know her. She is doing well in school and music too.

I am sending you some more floss. If you get too much you can share it with your buddies.

Write as often as you can and take care of yourself.

Lots of luck to you  
as ever  
Comer.

MR. & MRS. DOUGLAS H. BARNES

924 AVENUE D

GADSDEN, ALA.



2820-J

April 18, 1944.

Dearest James,

So glad to hear from you and very sorry you're sick and so in hopes you are well and out again but be careful don't get out too soon. after my day's work and a nice hot bath ever hour wash my hair I'm feeling fine. and that our ~~was for the rest of the family~~. Peanuit went to comers only saw Mrs Adams but they are all well. Louise has just gotten a letter from Tom. He's well and sending his address. I can't find his address just now <sup>it later</sup> will see. The children are all in school. We have our garden plowed up but it's rain so much we can't plant it. We are going down home in a bout two weeks also to Columbus Ga. Louise has made some peanut butter cookies they are real tasty wish it was possible to send you a pkg of them I ames if there anything we possibly can get that you won't mention it. In a few days I'll send some dent's floss in a letter and sending you a clipping sent of the Chambers County News.

Douglas and Peanuit are playing golf they really like the sport. May 15 is Peanuit's birthday. 18 years old. I'll write soon and love you I mean it

MRS. JULIA R. GUNN  
HINDMAN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL  
HINDMAN, KENTUCKY

April 18, 1944

Dear James Still:

Not liking the sickly tone of your letter, which reached me so quickly I could scarcely believe it, I am writing this soon to try to find out how you are. I'm hoping you will send a card or line, saying you are better and out of the hospital. How I detest the smelly things! Yes, believe it or no, your letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> reached me Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>, only 7 days after it was mailed! Now get that malaria Bug out of your system as quickly as you can - and keep away from it - if you can.

War news has been of no importance for the last ten days at Hindman, for there is talk of nothing but the "awful" situation in the school. As you may have heard, the Principal is no disciplinarian, and waited far too long before asserting her authority. When the situation became too tense, four boys and a girl were suspended. This started the pot a burning and a burning it still is. One of the insulted, outraged fathers, Arthur Perkins, got legal help and threatened suit. Meetings of teachers and the local or County Board followed and "sides" were taken by almost every family and individual in the school. The Principal resigned, school was closed and confusion reigned. Things quieted down for a while, but not A. Perkins, who is taking his case to the Dist. Court, and a hearing of witnesses.

MRS. JULIA R. GUNN  
HINDMAN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL  
HINDMAN, KENTUCKY

(to in justice I presume, since nobody witnessed any thing) is to be held tomorrow at Prestonsburg. School was held Monday as usual - and we are all hoping the case will be dismissed or called off before there is any more publicity.

---

The next day

There was no hearing, and since French Combs, who was inclined to side with A. Perkins, -being a relative, -after hearing that young Gordon had been sent home from Berea Academy, declared he would have nothing more to do with the case. So it will all blow over, we hope, and they will hold commencement as they have always done.

After weeks of rain, snow, and cold weather, when we should have been welcoming spring, she has really come and is as lovely as ever. The campus is beautiful and fragrant with apple blossoms, forsythia, bridal wreath, narcissi, hyacinths and tulips. Red bud and dogwood are blooming on the hills and one longs fervently to be outside of walls. Do let me hear that you are better, and my best wishes always.

Your friend,  
*Julia Gunn*



# Knott County Board Of Education

JETHRO AMBURGEY  
SUPERINTENDENT

HINDMAN, KENTUCKY  
April 19-1944

BOARD MEETS:  
FIRST MONDAY  
EACH MONTH

Dear Jim -

Will you be surprised to know Morris is graduating from High School May 5th. He weighs 140 lbs. much more than his dad.

Sorry to hear of your sickness; hope you soon will be alright. Be sure and let us know if anything serious develops. It must be some climate there.

Was at the K. E. A. last week end and had a real good meeting. The best I ever seen known, am scheduled to be in Frankfort to morrow the 20th. Roma will go with me. Love

It seems as if you plenty to do and never can get it all done and of course never will. Will write again soon, and please let us know often your progress of Malena. Your bonds come regular, but Jan. Never did any.

John + Family

April 23-1944  
7-p-m

Dear James

I certainly was glad to hear from you last week. After so long a time. I knew that something was wrong with you. Because you hadn't written. I hope this letter found you in better shape than ever. We are doing just fine expect bad cold. The certion are having plenty of rain here late. I think we will have a better garden this year than we did last year. I am going to can every thing I can for what I did canned sure did come in handy. I really do think more about you and the boys having to work so hard these days without ~~much~~ much rest. I been praying and hope that you all get back <sup>home</sup> once more. Just put your faith in the Lord and he will see you though each family is suppose to decorate the church three a year for the boys. You wouldn't know the Valley much for they have in pool the place so much

By the way Allen & Dora came for a while  
Sunday after-noon. Her health is not  
very good. My health is better than it was  
last year. I am doing my washing for  
three and work six day a week. and also  
get a bon every three week. When this  
war is over with I am going to buy on  
a home, edge of town where I can  
have a cow & pigs and also chickens.  
Does not seem right for Martha to be  
fourteen the 26 of April. She is head  
tall than I am weight 130.

I am giving her a surprise birthday  
linner Wednesday. I thought I ask  
three of her friend out for dinner.  
All the boys is out at sea they are O K  
lost time I heard from them. D. K. went  
to see Kathrine last week end. She is still  
liking her Nurse job fine. It was a pleasant  
day on Easter Sunday here. I wish you  
ould tell me what sort a place Africa  
look like. and out the place too if you  
can that place sound like a dry country  
to me. take care of your self and I am  
with you <sup>my</sup> prayers always

Love Sis

Lonie