

1 Feb 44
45

Jayne dear,

Runned at an impasse in work today for the first time. Until something happens to change the situation, we're strictly up to date, and have nothing to do for a few days ^(with a few minor exceptions). The Army in its wisdom has seen my lack of things to do and has made me Sgt. of the guard tomorrow, which means another sleepless night. You'd find me very dull nowadays, my mind (no laughter) is taken, (is completely taken) up with Reciprocal and Lease and I won't be worth a damn for anything else until I understand its various workings, which are devious, peculiar, and (repeating) hard to grasp.

The information I'm reading now is in restricted memoranda, therefore I don't feel free to discuss it; however, I'll find out how much of it is really classified info and then I'll tell you what I can about it. Knowing something

- 2 -

now as she said before is what I like best.

Must tell you about my latest encounter with Red Cross. It wasn't much, the director here is a former college guy, this to be a regular fellow; neat, sort of a pedantic jerk. Had some business with Red Cross which should have taken about 3 hours and its turned into 3 days and im still not finished, I had to surround the guy and hound him, but who knows, maybe he has worries, if he doesnt, he should.

This has no relation to the last paragraph, but I find myself with the nucleus of what may be a good or bad habit, depending. Have been figuring things out better than I used to before starting on them, after getting started on a project I have no regard for the other fellows viewpoint and make no allowances, but having decided which course is best I proceed to follow it and if anyone gets in the way, I get around em or blast em out. It makes a few

disgruntled guys and perhaps a few enemies, but it gets things done quickly. Suppose the best thing to do is temper it with some intelligent moderation and it'll be a good tool.

was kind of a stinker to write you a contraband letter the other day, sorry, was kidding mostly.

Got an extremely sweet letter from Aunt Edna and will try to answer it soon.

The said letter came through with two letters in the same week, nice ones too, only the real effect was ruined because they arrived on the same day. Guess this paper has some bad spots in it. Made in India without question.

There is a guy in the next tent to mine named Dodson. Hope you don't get the impression that I've become hypocritical, but have run into some mediocre folks lately. Anyway this

- 4 -

guy goes far out of his way to impress, is always speaking of his love for music and the arts, and has a bad habit of speaking for hours and not getting anywhere. All the fellows have begun to avoid him. The other day I was reading some circulars full of fancy words and was having some difficulty following the thought when in comes this Dodson and begins making clear music without so much as a, beg your pardon please. I stood it for a while, gave it some thought and decided to stop him by paraphrasing W. Churchill's famous remark about the R.A.F. I said "Dodson, never has anyone used so many words in so much time, to say so little." We still speak to each other, but in short, brief sentences, and only on business. We'll get over it and in the meantime it's done some good as he's much quieter.

Secret, don't tell anyone, but I haven't
written to anyone but you in
two weeks. Must write to Aunt
Cassie, and my folks, although
as I've said many times, I feel
that in writing to you I'm
communicating with the kid
sister and my folks.

The metronome you spoke of,
please see that you have no
further need for it by the time
I get home. Metronomes remind
me of when I used to practice
the violin and wish I was
playing football, the unhappy days.

Wish you'd quit making
remarks about Jimmy G. He's doing
O.K. under unfavorable conditions.
Let ^{you} try to be nice Henry. I'm the
tough guy in our family and you're
the balance wheel, let's not get
out of character. Actually Jimmy is
in a tough spot. You know he's
full of hot air and has a tendency
to exaggerate things. What he's

in now is big and tough, so anything he says may be true, and if it isn't, he's under enough pressure so that slight coloring of the facts is surely excusable.

By the way, don't change my magazine addresses etc. to my present APO unless you've already done so, as I may move, nothing to get excited about and if I move I'll send you a forwarding address.

Imagine it's very irksome not to know all about things, but I tell you everything I possibly can.

Fellow across the way has a special Service Victrola and some good recordings - right now he's playing 'Vesta La Sibilba' from Paglaccia, it's a reproduction of an Enrico Caruso record. It's really thrilling to hear him give out, aint it?

Have become friendly with a fellow from Des Moines Iowa, who knows some of my school friends. His name is Anderson and he's very friendly and easy to get along

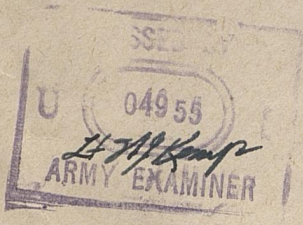
with. Was in the grocery business in
Des Moines, Is 35 years old, showed me
a picture of the store he and his brother
own and it's a real Super Market,
90 feet by 150 feet. Have learned
something about judging fowl and
sundry items such as how to candle
eggs from him. He's a Norwegian,
kind of unusual for the grocery business,
and has snow-white hair which
gives him much dignity. Altogether
he's very pleasant. Took some
pictures today with Knudsen &
Nesum, and if they come out will
send you prints. Sure hope they're
O.K. Incidentally, how about favoring
your husband with a few snapshots
of the woman I love without
whom life would be silly.

I love you
David

S Sgt David Bolatin 35478690
135th Am Co. (D.S.)
Repl. Depot #4, APO 213
c/o p.m. n. y.



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



3 Feb 45

Jaime dear,

Letter from Edmie finally arrived. His parting shot was that he could beat me in my best card game, pick it and set the stakes. Unless 3 years in the A.A.F. messed him up, he's probably right. We've played bridge with him, but I don't think you've ever seen him operate at a cent a point. He's double solid. We always regarded him as the best bridge player I know. He didn't say anything about Judy, not even that he had seen her. In any event, I would say that he isn't in the marryin' mood, (personal opinion exclusively)

Got another letter from the Thoroughbred Club. It sounded like a funeral dirge, but the Sec' said no matter what happens, even if it's nothing, he'll continue to report it. It seems funny having had quarter horses at Mr. Mack's.

While on guard duty yesterday I ran into Harvey Hudson while

- 2 -

he had a camera and some film.
So he insisted (after I sat on his chest
& beat him) that he be allowed to
take a picture of the guard .45 pistol
& all. (Same will be forwarded if & when developed)

Had an interesting discussion
with the Field Director of Red Cross
here. I was trying to conclude
our business with him and he
was waltzing around with Matilda,
so to speak. So I put a time limit
~~on~~ on him and he became angry.

Then to add insult to injury I
told him why he was angry. That
should have boiled him up, but
instead it calmed him and we discussed
the causes of anger during a discussion.
He was interested in my contention
that he personalized his argument
too much and that when it was
defeated by logical processes, he
was unable to give it up gracefully
because his ego was too closely
involved and that he should
assume a more objective attitude.
He took it all gracefully, and we
parted good friends.

- 3 -

I'm going to cut this sheet and
make an honest attempt to write
to someone else, which I haven't
done for weeks.

So, 9 'night honey. I love
you.

David

gt David Bolotin 35478690
5th Ave W (D.S.)
Apt #4, APO 213
10 P.M., N.Y.



PASSED BY
42620
ARMY EXAMINER

90K

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

2

4 Feb 45

Jayne dear,

It's no use, after I finish my evening letter to you, that's it, can't seem to write to anyone else and it's kind of unthinkable to write to anyone before writing to you, so I'm at an impasse.

Worked this morning on odds and ends, played volley-ball part of the afternoon and spent the rest of it trying to tighten the ropes on my tent, (succeeded of course) (big job)

Sunday is a good and at the same time a not so good day here. You have time on your hands (in the p.m.) but you also have time to miss a near perfect wife more than ever.

I say near perfect because of the hand you sent me in your letter of the 18th. It can easily be made, all you have to do is ruff the first king of club lead in the dummy. Play the ace of spades, discard the ace of diamonds on it, ruff a spade in declarer's hand, play club ace, then club little, ruff in dummy, then

while nobody is looking, pretend the lead is in declass's hand and run the rest of us off. God what some people would do to achieve 'boomies' no money, I couldn't figure out how to make it, there aren't enough entries in the declass's hand I needed, I am present to set the clubs up, the diamonds won't work because, well I'll just admit failure and let it go at that. I'll try to figure it out if spare time pops up. I haven't played a lot of bridge for months, and it doesn't look like I'll have much of a chance.

Really surprised the last package arrived so quickly, will send more if I ever get anyplace where I can buy things.
(Shame, shame, I'll send Shirley another one.)
Looks like the packages sent to me have been lost. Think it would be a good idea if you sent me a list of the people who sent me packages ^(those you know) so I could send them thank you notes. The fact that the

3
packages didn't arrive isn't their
fault.

Heard it's been very cold in
Yerington + Fenwick, poor you, it's
been very warm here during the
day and cool at night, if someone
would repeal the breeding laws of
mosquitoes the climate would be ideal.
I like hot weather so the days don't
bother me too much.

Speaking of typing, you seem to
be doing fine. Now I can kill two
birds with one stone. First I'm
still not smoking, and secondly
my typing speed has gone up
considerably, which I attribute
directly to not smoking. Make fewer
errors and can rattle off standard
copy right now, (quickly). I suppose
I'm attributing assets to non-
smoking which may not exist, but
I feel fine about it. Your typewriter
commando says g'night and that
he loves you - madly.

David

Ssgt Bolotin
185th QM Co (D.S.)
Regt. Dep #4 APO #213
%open - ny



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

Wash.

6 Feb 45

Jayne dear,

wrote a letter to Edwin yesterday, now a year or two more can elapse between letters. Just hope whatever I have to say to him can be done by word of mouth soon.

In your letter of the 17th you speak of a forum and panel discussion in which the points, can we trust Russia, can Russia trust England, and so on. ^{was brought up} The point as far as I can see it is this. If you will recall my letter of early in Jan., I gave reasons why we have no ^{major} conflict of interests with Russia, but whatever conflicts there are between the three powers, I believe they can now see that their only salvation lies in cooperation. All three governments can see realistically that a false move will plunge the post war world into chaos. They don't have to trust each other, they can hate each other, but they realize that without united action, the period after the war

- 2 -

would only be a breathing spell. The
notion that refused to cooperate
would ~~not~~ ^{have} to make friends with
Germany, & learn her ^{to obtain evidence of power} and poof,
another war. God knows this
war isn't half over and the
memory is still a bit sharp for
cute maneuvers; but, as soon as
the tension is over, the jockeying
for position will begin in earnest
instead of under cover, but as long
as the leadership of the three
nations remains in the hands
of men who are more worried
about actualities than ideals, then
there is little to fear, hang together
or hang separately, stilled but apt.
Everyone knows it, but some of our
isolationist colleagues refuse to
see it.

The hot stove luncheon
league is still going full blast
I see. Maybe someday everyone will
pay off their social debts and
the catch all depositary will

less its usefulness. Definition of a luncheon (Dixington-style) - a social event in which many people congregate who have little in common; by having a good sized crowd, tedious talk is avoided with any individual and people do not rub off on each other, it also provides an excuse for not marketing for the day. Honestly dear, I'm kind of half kidding, but a luncheon says, "I don't know how to entertain you, and it's my turn, how about calling it square for a meal and trimmings."

Suppose you've wondered why I haven't mentioned Russia's drive into Germany. Everyone is keeping their fingers crossed, hoping this is it, and seeing almost conclusive proof that it is, yet refusing to believe it. It's a question of how much of the Wehrmacht's army was drawn up in Poland, Rumania & E. Prussia.

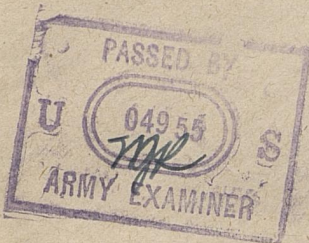
Being to bed as of now.

I love you sweetheart
David

Sgt David Balatin 35478690
185th QM Co (D.S.)
Repl Depot #4, APO 213
40 J.M. - N.Y.



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



4



C. B. I.

9 Feb 45

Jayne Sweet,

Back to my old trick of scrapping
with pompous people (verbally). The Red
Cross Director on the post got so angry
the other night that he began sputtering.
He was professor of German at Gettysburg
College before entering the Red Cross
and is steeped in the traditions
of German 'Sammlichkeit.' We were
discussing war guilt and he started
with the ^{only} 10% of the German people
are guilty stuff and many things
along the same line. I really blasted
him with fact & sarcasm and the
conversation got a little impolite. His
main defense was "you wouldn't
understand," ~~and~~ ^{but} I wouldn't let him
retreat into the usual clichés and
fog, but made him finish each
assertion logically, and found his
mental habits quite bad for a man.



C. B. I.

of his background. He kept going round & round, used emotional arguments, made points on prestige only, kept extending my arguments and then attacking them. For example, I said that I doubted many of his statements concerning the typical German mentality, because he was whitewashing it altogether, whereupon he gave me the prestige argument that he had, "given many years to the study of these things." and I supplemented his sentence by saying that they seemed to have been wasted. Then he accused me of doubting all authority and pointed to my lack of willingness to accept any of his statements as a proof of his assertion. You see the device he employed, I said that I doubted some of the things ~~that~~ anyone said, and he immediately pounced on my statement, pretended that it had been that I doubted everything I heard, then proceeded to disprove that ~~that~~ after he had finished, I applauded ^{enthusiastically} and complimented him on the fine



job we had done of creating a premise
 all by himself and then attacking
 it so early. And that sweetheart
 is what finally blew the lid
 off. He stomped away spitting
 C.B.I. And wouldn't talk to me anymore.
 You it wasn't polite but it was sure
 fun. I'll be polite to anyone who'll
 forget to be a pompous ass, but he
 needed shaking up probably as badly
 as I need it. Anyway the next
 morning, bumped into him, he was
 nice, even warm in his greeting, maybe
 he's all right, a man with a warm
 heart + a cold brain.

Got a letter from Constance.
 the child is entertainingly nuts, and
 sounds like a real whatevite (is
 that good). Received a letter very late
 today, 13th of Dec., you asked about
 1st 3 Grades pay + I've already
 answered the question, good luck.

Getting my ear bent by a
 friend, he's talking and ~~improving~~
 writing + nodding whenever it's
 essential. He's a bit repetitious
 but what the heck, he's a good



fact there's no one who hasn't heard the stories I suppose, but me, besides which he's giving me beer (backsheesh)

C.B.I. which is really great considering that it's severely rationed.

Received letters of the 19th & 22nd and they're really precious. Dragged your picture out at noon, read the letters and looked at the picture and felt gloomy, very possibly because I love you.

Should be able to send a couple of snapshots in my next letter as they're due back tomorrow. This being India, they may be a bit late, but will send them S.A.P.

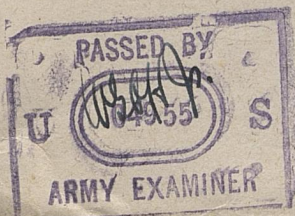
Did I detect a faint perfume in your letter of the 22nd, kind of lady sister, wow, please cease.

Goodnight darling
I love you
David

555t David Belatin 35448690
185th Qm. Co (D.S.)
Repl Depot #4, APO #213
c/o pm - n.y.



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



5

12 Feb 45 6

Jayne dear,

There's an indisposition
that you get from being
here. It's not too important
and I haven't spoken of it
much, but it does exist.

I haven't read anything for
over a week, writing letters
is not the spontaneous
pleasure it was at other
times. The failings of those
whom I associate with
are less tolerable than
they were, my own failings
are also harder to condone.
Instead of solid Jackson,
it's now stolid Jackson.
In other words I haven't

received any mail for two days after a solid run of two weeks. Spoiled rotten. Besides I'm run out of stimulating literature for the moment, this would really be the spot for the books you sent to arrive.

Since there is nothing to do here but read, write & work, the absence of any of the three ~~things~~ means that a person gets off his feed.

Now I'm sorry the Red Cross Field Director, & I aren't speaking. He's at least a good target

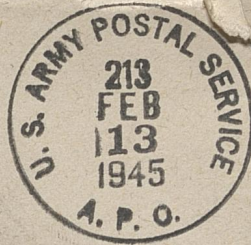
for mental sabbies, well
he's leaving anyway, so no
matter.

wrote to aunt Corine
& uncle Melvin yesterday,
and my folks.

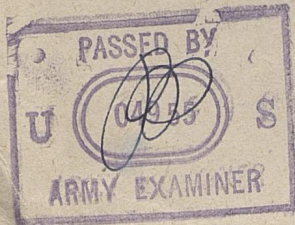
please don't mind this
short note, I'm just
backing up for a fresh
start. more tomorrow.
I love you sweet.

David

Ssgt Balatin 35478190
185th Am Co (D.S.)
Dep. Depot #4, APO 213
40 Pm - may



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



6



UNITED STATES ARMY 13 Feb 45

Jayne dear,

On guard again, this is getting to be kind of habit forming. With a little more practice I should be an efficient Sgt. of the Guard. Took some pictures with the guard pistol et al, but they haven't come back yet.

Happened to get hold of a magazine called 'Extension,' it's a national Catholic Monthly. The first article I read was in support of anti birth control measures. It states that Mass. + Conn. ~~do~~ do not have birth control clinics, yet they have "A lower birth rate than the surrounding states." That's kind of a poor argument, as the logical end result of birth control, applied efficiently, is less children and lack of it, more children. It looks to me like the Catholic Church, in attaching itself to dogma of this



UNITED STATES ARMY

kind is defeating its' own purpose. Obviously, without devoting too much time to it, it can be seen that for some people, and at some time, birth control is logical, and at other times it is harmful, but to state baldly that it is always useless & harmful is not only poor logic, but poor policy.

another thing I noticed was a criticism of "Since you went away" (the movie). The ^{main} point made is that it is a great movie show & will make Mr. Selznick a fortune, when it could have been "a great motion picture." The reason for this is, "For the only fortress from which suffering mankind may look ... needs have high towers of faith. This film has none." In other words, instead of sticking to moral values strictly, the film also entertains,



UNITED STATES ARMY

which this periodical doesn't like at all. Mr. Selznicks name is mentioned about 30 times in this short article, each time in connection with either ① making a great deal of money, or ② defeating and obscuring moral values.

I suppose each person must limit himself to a certain sect and group, but it's really painful to see the obviously false stuff that's necessary to give each group its 'identity', so that it cannot comfortably intermingle with others to any great degree. There are enough legitimate differences that people can honestly & logically have without creating or using 'made' ones.

played poker for a couple of hours last evening. The stakes were equivalent to a .10 and .20 game. Came out even. The type

of poker I play nowadays would amaze you. am conservative, watchful, and play percentages only. play for low stakes, not very often, and have fun doing it. I ain't typical is it. Since I stopped smoking and gambling for steep stakes, you may have very little reformatting to do; however, never fear, I'll preserve plenty of my usual faults for you to work on.

Got hold of a handy little item yesterday. It's a combination riding crop, black jack, walking stick and cattle prod. Just the thing for Dad, only there are probably only twice as good in the states. If I run into any of good quality, I'm going to send him one as they're light, easy to carry and ~~so~~ would be useful to him.

please send me some more snapshots, 'cause I like to look 'at 'em, 'cause I love ya'

David

S Sgt David Belatin 35478690
185th Am Co (D.S.)
Repl Dep # 4 APO # 213
c/o pm - ny.



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



7

14 Feb 45

Royal Imperial Foodstuff & Hot Stuff Inc.
Somwar, Inindia

Dear Stockholders:

In these days of absentee ownership, it is only on rare occasions that the active manager is able to correspond directly with the stockholders of a large organization.

As you will recall, prior to noon 13 Feb 45, I was in the army and performed army functions. On that day I received many packages. Since then, all of my efforts have been devoted to unwrapping and assorting the contents of the aforementioned packages.

Feeling that this thing was too big to handle alone, I took the liberty of incorporating, and in fairness to the various contributors, felt that they should be allowed to get in on the ground floor of the enterprise. Therefore each of you are now declared to be in possession of 10% of the Capital and voting stock of this organization.

There is among you one honorary member whose Xmas package arrived before Xmas, and therefore has already been consumed in various operations. I will not embarrass the individual concerned except to reveal that this person can also obtain (on occasion) theater tickets, railroad tickets, reservations asst'd, etc. Now it appears that his or her field of operations has been expanded to include the U.S. Mail. He or she can get it there quickly.

In comparing the investment that all of you have made in founding this corporation, it might be noted that there is a uniform good quality in all the products involved.

And now down to business. In a firm of this kind it seems best to strike a daily trial balance due to the quickly changing position of stock on hand.

Uh-----Pardon, ladies and gentlemen, but our organization is now defunct, (for obvious reasons); however, let us always remember that it performed a noble function during its existence. (WE AIN'T NEVER BEEN FULLER OF FOOD, MY TENTHATED THANK YOU AND I THANK YOU) .

W. Anderson
Branch Mgr, Liver and Sardines
C. O. Hastings
Zesta Cracker Dept.

B. J. Matthews
Herd & asst'd Candy Dept.

J. Sklar
Pipe Tobacco Dept.

W. B. Bolan
Formerly human, now Sgt US Army
Formerly Mgr, Roy. Imp. F & HS INC .
J. Marx
Peanut Butter and Jam Dept.

E. Spasman
Chewing Gum and Cigarette Dept.

Alfred Schuffen
Mgr. without portfolio

S/Sgt David Bolotin
S/Sgt David Bolotin, 35478690
185th QM Co, (DS)
Replacement Depot #4, APO 213
C/O PM, New York



Free

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



13/1/3

13/1/3

8

16 Feb 45

I

Jaime sweet,

Hope everyone doesn't think I'm cuckoo with my form thank you letter, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. Despite the fact that the writing paper you sent is wrinkled, am going to use it, 'cause you sent it.

Everything in the packages was so well chosen and usable I got lumps in me throat opening everything.

There was one casualty. we now own the only deck of chen cards in the world that give out with the odor of peanut butter, having been immersed in it (completely) for these many months. It made me ~~unhappy~~ very unhappy to waste all the peanut butter, but the glass was smashed and it couldn't be helped.

Might as well confess, you can tell by the mangled writing etc. one of the fellows got hold

good
-2-
of some whiskey and she had a
few drinks, but wanted to write
to you anyway, so if it's slightly
messy forgive me.

she wilderness doesn't form
bad habits, but it does make
you feel like kicking your
heels up every so often.

Goodnight darling, I love you
-paul-

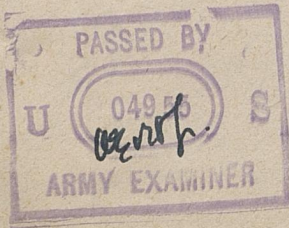
S. Sgt. D. Bolatin
175 Qm W/DS)
Repl Depot # 4, APT 213
• c/o pm - ms.



Mrs. David Bolatin

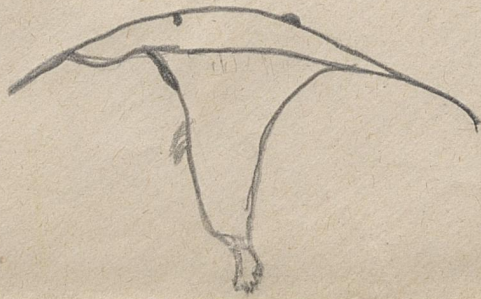
285 S. Ashland Ave.

Lexington, 37, Ky.



7

Please
high for
dent. honor.



Free,
Dove W
T.D.

18 Feb 45 2

Jayne dear,

Received four letters today, Jan 29 and 30th Feb 1 + 2. Pardon while I eat some canapés spread on melba toast. Even after the feed I had for the fellows, there was plenty of food left over to last for weeks. A sandwich anytime I want it, 'll be spoiled!

Knowing that Mr. Boston is thinking of leaving the Mississippi farm recalled a set of my own reactions to me, having to fire someone, or if someone quits that you trusted are two experiences that always caused me ~~me~~ much grief. In the former case, you must (for business reasons) have (or apparently have) another person, and in the latter case, someone with whom you've worked and planned kind of deserts you. Both situations are bad. I hope Dad gets an able replacement for Mr. Boston.

The picture of you is clever, it sure isn't a pin up job, but it's fun, the kind of fun that being without isn't desirable.

In one of your letters, you mention something about the Red Cross + assistant Field Director etc. You know I've always been proud of the fact that you've done so much useful volunteer work not only in Red Cross, but in other things. Time + effort are great contributions and are worthwhile gifts of charity, but there will be no further mention of you joining the Red Cross on a professional basis. I could write a volume on the many, many things that are undesirable about it both from a practical + from an emotional viewpoint; suffice it to say ① the work itself is useless ② it is difficult ③ it is wasted effort ④ it is not appreciated ⑤ you're not the type ⑥ and on & on. I didn't mean that about not being willing to discuss it with you, but from observation it's really no good, and hasn't a thing to recommend it. All the above points refer, of course, to

the overseas entertainment branch of Red Cross and not to their other functions. Let me know if it's a passing fancy and if it isn't, please pass it.

The packages were really well chosen money, the books are all very readable. Started on Ernie pyles 'Brave Men'. The bookmark is the card from 'Mother, Dad + Alice'. Think it was really nice of everyone to send me things.

Going to bed early tonight as tomorrow I'm on guard and the 24 hour hitch is long + dreary. I love you.

David

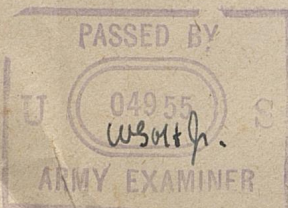
S/501 David Belatin
185th Am Co (D.S.)
Repl Dep #4 APO # 213
c/o Pm - N.Y.



Mrs. David Belatin

285 S. Ashland Ave.

Lexington, Ky.



2



"Sir, I'd like to put in for O.C.S."

19 Feb 45 ³

Jayne dear,

Finished 'Brave Men' by noon today, enjoyed it, learned little felt depressed after finishing it. can't explain, that's kind of a contradictory set of reactions, isn't it.

Hope Dad didn't do anything drastic to the Gov. of Miss., actually your contention that racial prejudice is ^{especially} bad there isn't quite true. Senator Rankin doesn't represent as big a percentage of public opinion as most think. I think it's the old story of a good political machine, plus a good promoter plus a dormant voting public. Then too, suppression of the negro is blown up to big proportions ~~and~~ and because of the high ratio of black to white in Miss. there's ^{a tiny} a half economic truth to give ~~basis~~ to Rankin's rantings and that's all he needs.

Hope you like the enclosed snapshots, they were all taken facing into a strong sun, thus accounting for the squint. Will take some more if I can ever corral the fellow on my

- 2 -

right in the group snapshot. He's the man with the camera & film & a nice boy to boot, I've spoken of him before, name's Knudsen. Fellow immediately to the left is named Hestum, like him too, on the far left is Sklar, whom I dislike because he is densely ignorant, loud, double dealing. Peculiarly, it is unwise to show dislike for anyone in the army. The best thing to do if you dislike a person is to avoid them as much as possible, gotta work with 'em.

I know you haven't had time to receive my answer to your comments on D.C.S., enclosed find a cartoon that kind of gives the humorous side of it, ~~of~~ I'm sweating the war out as is. It is sometimes irritating, and has been a little hard to take; as far as my job is concerned, you're right, but, I might have ^{and} just as unimportant if I was an officer. No more about it in your letters huh. Maybe it's a mistake, but it's too late to do a thing about it.

Sorry the letters are late and irregular, I'll keep writing 'em, and maybe the delivery will improve.

Goodnight darling, I love you.

Janet



S Sgt David Bolotin
185th Qu Co (D.S.)
APO # 213, Reg. Dep # 4
c/o pm - ny.



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

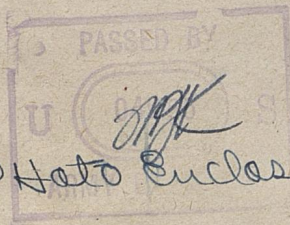


Photo Enclosed

3

20 Feb 45 ⁴

Jayne dear,

I have been on a diet for several days and it's all a mistake. It happened thrushy. was greatly concerned the other day when my drawers wouldn't button. I have just discovered that I got the wrong ones from the Shohie wallah, (am putting on weight, but not too much)

am running a lending library (practically) with the books you + mother + Dad + Alice sent. They're in great demand since they're not available elsewhere.

The thought for today is that I haven't seen you for 8 months. you can dismiss it from your mind, try to keep yourself busy, do a million + one things, but in the end it's impossible to get away from a sort of frustrated feeling that comes from being away from you and home. It's nothing that

will unseat a persons reason, and you must realize that everyone else has the same reaction, but it's a no, good, low down feeling. that won't end until the road signs say 'entering Lexington, Home of U.K. pop. 60,000.'

mail has slowed down considerably in the last week. For a while they called me automatic 'B' 'cause I automatically got two or three letters every day. Living in the hot, dry climate of India, I've become camel-like, they do it with water, I do it with the sweetness of your letters, just soak it up so that it lasts a considerable time.

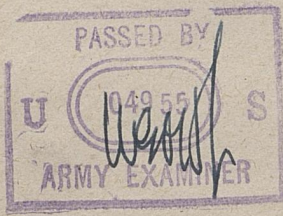
Am on guard again today, becoming an old veteran. Feel like a frontiersman with a pistol at my side.

5' long honey, more tomorrow. I love you.
David

Ssgt David Balatin
185th Qm Co, (D.S.)
Repl. Depot #4 APO 213
C/O pm - n.y.



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



4

22 Feb 45.

5

Jayne dear,
worn out today, had to fool with
immense pastings to see if they
were correct, and if I found them
incorrect, had to trace the error.
worked on it yesterday too and
should be finished in another
day. When I've checked each
transaction, the books will be
perfect. (My contribution to the
war effort).

Received 3 w' desful letters
this morning, from little you.
Then the medical corps heard
of my happiness + scheduled me
for three 'shots' this afternoon.
Typhus, Cholera + smallpox.
~~shots~~. Had a smallpox ^{shot} only 6 months
ago, they're keeping right after me.
Feel pretty good, a little drabby,
but that's probably due to the
tedious work I've been doing.

You really spend a lot of
time at Red Cross, good going,
but remember, strictly on an
amateur basis.

This evening Harney Knutson had a birthday party, he uncorked a bottle of de luxe, super, one drink, Hi de ho. The fact that S. Washington had his birthday on the same day helped matters along. I came up to my tent early in order to conform to my new training program. Since I quit smoking I've been putting on weight. So the new program is to avoid same getting out of control. Run a mile or two in the evening, box two or three rounds, cold shower and then one of my friends carries me up to my tent. No kidding, it's a healthy life (and I don't have to be carried to my tent.)

The reason I don't write more about my work in the office is that usually my letters are censored by the Lt. in charge of my section ^{at the office} and he would take a dim view of such a

procedure. He's out of ~~the~~ camp on
pass so I can brag a bit about
my work, and still keep the
atmosphere modest.

Received a notice from
Coronet. Thanks honey.

In your letter of the 5th
you say something about soldier
morale (this soldier). Hope I
haven't given you the wrong
impression of this station. It's
isolated, but it's healthy, and
things could be much worse.

Goodnight honey. The
three shots (medical) and
three shots (H's birthday)
plus tedious work plus
exercise have made it
necessary for me to turn in
early. I love you.

David

S Sgt David Balatin 35478690
185 amco, (DS)
Repl Depot #4, APO #213
C/O Rm - ne y.



Mrs. David Balatin

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

PASSED BY
U 42620 S
ARMY EXAMINER

DPK

5

23 Feb 45

6

Jayne dear,

Received a V mail of 7 Feb today. Not bad time. I enjoy your other letters so much more than V mails, it seems to lack the personal touch.

Sort of tired today, was on guard last night and it's a wearing process. Received the Shorewood Surf Club letter and found it very interesting. Mr. Owens is going to have to really dig into the past if racing isn't resumed during 45. There's every reason to hope that it will be (personal opinion)

Have been confining my reading to a scintillating prose job entitled "The Army Clerk." Have to find out a few things about administration.

was surprised that Black Plunkett resigned from the Army. I don't have a lot of sympathy for him. He shouldn't have lied about his age in the first place and having done so, he's showing

²
mutable character (more points)
a yellow streak in revealing it now.
We probably found that during
~~the~~ was its possible to get hurt.

Send honey, do you mind
if we make this a short one.

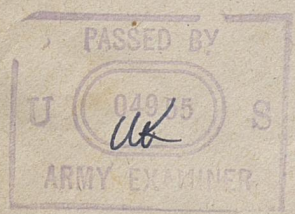
I love you just as much
as I do in long letters

Goodnight sweetheart
David

Sgt David Belatin
185th Com Co (D.S.)
Repl. Dep. # 4
c/o pm - n.y.



Mrs. David Belatin
2855 Ashland Ave
Lexington, Ky



6

25 Feb 45

7

Jayne dear,

Feb 10, 11 and 13 rolled in this morning. Things are really looking up in the world of letters. Got a big kick out of M. Shuster's letter, think it's much more literate than Black Plunkett's.

Am drumming up ambition to write to Mother and Dad. Received another letter from Mother this morning. Haven't written to Al lately, ^{either} he'll be very unhappy. Seem to have lost the letter writing touch. Of course writing to you is not subject to whims and moods it goes on because you're the one person to whom ~~that~~ I always have something to say, even if it's that I love you. Usually it's that and more. We've have a community of interests.

About Red Cross. We're speaking of two different functions, ~~the~~ my criticism applied only to overseas recreation functions, not to the

- 2 -

central office + field directors
work. My only criticism of that
phase of R.C. is the high % of
income that is eaten up as
administrative expense. Too little
~~goes to~~ ^{goes to} the ultimate consumer
in the form of goods & services
in proportion to the input in
money & free service. It's a good
thing in other words, but not
an efficient one. (Don't show this
to your Red Cross friends.) If you
want to tell them about it, say,
"I heard." after all, my morale
may someday get so low that I'll
have to avail myself of Red Cross
service (hope not.)

I'll look up Mr. Rosenbaum's
'tight' friend (given the opportunity),
sounds promising, to get tight he's
got to have whiskey. No dear
I'm not a dipsomaniac, drink
very little more than I did

at home, which was little enough.

Am acting as 1st Sgt for my unit. It means nothing except the compilation of a few reports and a little extra work generally. There is no allowance for the actual advance in rank, not that it matters.

Birthday presents! Don't know what to ask for, don't smoke, (2nd anniversary ~~due~~ soon) & wonderful isn't it. Never cease to marvel at the ease with which I was able to quit, (given an opportunity, always manage to mention it). Honest fame, just don't know what to suggest, send what you'd like to, send nothing, it really doesn't matter, the fact that the day is remembered is certainly enough. That's all the news that's fit to print.

I love you
Yours

Ssgt David Belatin
185th am co. (A.S.)
Repl MRP #4
C/O Joe - my



Mrs. David Belatin
285 S. Oakland av
Lexington, Ky.



7

27 Feb 45

Jayne dear,

Ran out of work today, don't know if it's good or not. If I write your letter during the day then it'll interfere with my usual evening work routine, but let's chance it.

Saw "The Merry Marchants" again. In my first camp, I was at the first place on the movie circuit and now it looks like this station is at the end of the circuit, so I've seen the pictures that get here already; however, it should run its course soon and new pictures will be coming through; in the meantime, I can kind of memorize the old ones.

Your writing about Dad's desk & made me homesick. Don't know if I've ever told you how I feel about clean desks, & table top filing systems. It's like this, if a man's desk is clean, he has

- 2 -

① either nothing to do or ② he's done everything. ~~if~~ of a man's desk is littered he either ① has more to do than he can possibly handle or ② he's not busy and is trying to appear to be. Anyway, you can't win. One more factor, since the learned filing, with suspense files, policy files, Dewey Decimal Systems, tickler systems etc, I remember fewer things because my memory's out of practice, conversely, a man who doesn't have a complete filing system will probably remember things better, I repeat, you can't win. Each man to his own system, and let results be the judge of method.

Did a little sewing yesterday evening, reminded me of you, checking laundry before putting it away, an unbroken butter is a challenge to the Oholie Wallah. If he delivers the laundry in a downcast spirit, you know that he hasn't broken pot

on buttons for the week.

Worry about books, the ones you've been sending are excellent and I've enjoyed them, but they're kind of similar in type, if you could find one with a little more thought to it, I'd enjoy the change, poorly expressed, hope you get the idea.

About magazines, the ones you're sending are sufficient, I can get copies ~~of~~ ^{from} Special Service of "Battle Baby Editions" of Newsweek & similar current magazines, so there's no need to get any others.

Think your idea about the \$500.00 is a good one, but, I was under the impression that it was a gift. Be sure Dad isn't under the same impression before you offer to repay it. Repaying a loan is obviously the right thing, but, returning a gift is a bit insulting.

My crystal is still OK, but it's cracked in four places.

- 4 -

Should be able to get one put
in soon, it's nothing to worry
about.

That's all the news that's
fit to print, in fact, that's all
the news. I love you dear

David

5 sgt D Balatin
185th Gm Co (DS)
Repl det #4
C/O Pm - my



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



8